

Miracles Today? Why It Matters

Elders

John Deffenbaugh
Wayne Douthitt
Glen Honeycutt
Rick Hyder
Bill Reiboldt

Deacons

Pete Babb
Carl Cobb
Barry Flint
Casey Flint
Josh King
Mike Kidwell
Tim Murray
Bryan Reiboldt
Jim Scott
Peter Wald

Preacher

Danny Boggs

Youth & Family Minister

Caleb Boggs

Worship Assemblies

10 a.m. Sunday
6 p.m. Sunday

Bible Classes

9 a.m. Sunday
7 p.m. Wednesday

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On Saturday, December 21, 2019, two-year-old Olive Alayne unexpectedly passed away. In response to her death, her mother went to social media and asked thousands of people to pray for a miracle...a resurrection from the dead for her little girl.

My heart breaks for this mother and father, who have lost their little girl. I can only imagine the desperation they must be feeling. But my heart also breaks for them because of the false hope they have been given by false doctrine.

While I believe in miracles, I do not believe the Bible teaches that miracles were intended for all time. The Bible records many miracles, thus whether miracles are being performed today or not is not a question of the power of God, but the purpose of God. While God gave men, in times past, the power to raise the dead (e.g. Elijah – 1 Kings 17:17-24; Elisha – 2 Kings 4:18-37; Jesus – Luke 7:11-17; Peter – Acts 9:36-42, etc.), these miraculous gifts have ceased (1 Corinthians 13:8-10; Ephesians 4:11-13).

Sometimes, people will ask me, “What does it matter? So what, if people think that God still empowers men to perform miracles today. What difference does it make?” Let me briefly answer this question and give you a few reasons why it matters.

- **First of all, it matters because truth matters (Proverbs 23:23).** While coming to an understanding of all truth is not essential to be saved, we should never be content with error, but should always live in pursuit of truth. Error, conse-

quential or not, should never be desired over truth.

- **People are vulnerable in times of heartache and loss.** This vulnerability has been fertile soil for charlatans who take advantage of these hurting people and to manipulate them to their own gain. Countless millions of dollars have exchanged hands in desperation and hope for a miracle. This desperation has made millionaires of countless “miracle peddlers” who do harm to the cause of Christ.
- **The potential for disillusionment.** What will happen to the faith of this desperate mother and father who have been taught God is still willing to raise the dead when their little girl is not raised? Will they be disillusioned? Will they lose their faith? Will they be angry with God for not doing something, he never said he would do?

Friends, pray for this mother and father. They have not only suffered the painful and unexpected loss of their little girl, but they must also deal with the inevitable suffering resulting from their belief in a false doctrine. Pray that their loss, will drive them to God’s word to search for answers and discover why their miracle wasn’t granted. Pray that they come to an understanding that their hope is in their obedience to the gospel, which promises them the reunion they seek with their little girl.

*By Steve Higginbotham
via preachinghelp.org*

His own people, eager to do what is good – Titus 2:14



Pam Babb, Fred and Carolyn Bukowich, Joyce Clarkson, Edwin & Vera Cornell, Erma Cornell, Lee Crabtree, Mary Deffenbaugh, Eli Dodson, Jaren Dodson, Joe Freund, Teresa Freund, Wilma Hill, Justin Houston, Nadine Keith, Leopoldo Lizardo, Cheryl Neilans, Dale Privett, John Privett, Susie Tomlin, Edith Toney, Ruth Ann Wilson.

Our deepest heartfelt **sympathy** goes to John Sinden and family. Bette Sinden passed away early this morning.



Every "One" Counts: Remember when you give an extra dollar each Sunday, it goes to help someone in need. We helped a family with funeral expenses. The father died leaving the mother with two small children. If you know someone who needs help, please contact Jennifer Daniels or Natalie McInturff.

Devo and Donuts will resume Tuesday morning at 7:00 in the activities center on January 7.



We started delivering **meals-on-wheels** on Monday and will do so through January 3. We are still in need of people to help. Please consider being a part of this good work. This is

a wonderful way to be a part of the community and share a smile and the spirit of God's love with those you serve. Due to the timing, this may also be an opportunity for you to make this a family activity. Sign up sheets are on the bulletin board.



This Sunday's Sermons:

A.M. *Steadfast, Immoveable, Always Abounding*
(1 Cor. 15:58, Danny Boggs)

P.M. *Why Every Church Needs Elders*
(Danny Boggs)

Rejoice! Travis, Meghan and Clint Winchester were baptized into Christ Sunday night.

We had a good first round of **Bible Bowl** on Sunday. The next one will be January 12 after evening services. Start studying Luke 6-12.

Be praying about those men in the congregation that you believe are qualified to be **elders**. This Sunday morning the adult and teen classes will study the qualifications of an elder. Sunday night, our sermon will consider the work of elders. After you have heard the sermon and taken time to think and pray about your choices, the elders would like you to complete the form and return it to one of them by January 12. You should have received the form in the mail. There are extras on the welcome desk..

Men's Breakfast will be January 2 at 7:00 at Braum's.

The Keepers and Providers groups from **Lads to Leaders** will meet on Saturday, January 4 in the fellowship room starting at 9:00.

If you have not done so, please **pick up your copy** of Tim Alsup's *The Church of Christ: Pursuing God's Goals for His Church in a Divided Religious World*. Start preparing for our special effort January-March. Pray for and invite those who need to learn the value and truth of the Lord's church. If you need additional books, see Coralee.

We will be offering a **nursery** for ages 0 - 3 during the Sunday evening study from January through March. If you would like to help in the nursery one of the nights, please contact Coralee in the office.

Ladies, if you are not a part of a **hostess group** and would like to serve in a group, please contact Molly Cobb.

If you would be willing to help clean the **activities center** for two weeks this year, contact Todd Murray.

If you would like to encourage an **International student** from Crowder College contact Keri Collinsworth.

Upcoming **Hillcrest Youth Group** events:

January 11- TSYS Ski Trip - Details coming soon.

January 17-19 - Challenge Youth Conference , Dallas

PRAYER LEADERS

Sunday, December 29:

- AM Opening: Benny Haught
- AM Closing: Adam Bennett
- PM Opening: Tim Murray
- PM Closing: Ethan Murray

Wednesday, January 1:

- Opening: Karson Thomas
- Closing: Josh King

RECORDS

	12-22-19	12-23-18
Bible Study	141	150
AM Worship	181	202
PM Worship	128	147
Wednesday	156	132
Contribution	\$8,951.26	\$8,945.01
Budget	\$7,717.37	\$7,630.58