



JACKSON CHURCH OF CHRIST  
**Family Matters**

April 23, 2023

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George Clark  
 Nate Crowden  
 Greg Dowdy  
 Charlie Kluesner  
 Doug Lester  
 Brian Mitchell  
 Todd Newman  
 Kenny Simmons  
 Scott Spraggs

**Lessons for Today**

**AM: Brian Mitchell**  
 "Understanding How the Church Grows—Evangelism"  
 2 Timothy 2:2

**PM: Brian Mitchell**  
 "How Churches Can Deal With Sin"  
 1 Corinthians 5:1-13

**Understanding How the Church Grows—Evangelism**

One of the major flaws of the denominational approach to church growth is the exaltation of culture and individual desire above all else; including many times God and His Word. Unfortunately, our own brethren have not been without guilt in this matter and some have sought to emulate the mega-church. The mega-church method for church growth offers non-demanding, easy listening, offence free sermons. If it is controversial or unpopular, then don't talk about it, regardless of what God say's about the subject.

After all you don't want to offend anyone or make them uncomfortable by suggesting that there are any actual biblical commands to be obeyed in their lives. In other words, if you want to grow then don't preach or teach about anything that people do not like because if they don't like the message they won't keep coming and you won't grow. Sensually appealing worship services are designed to give the "worshipper" everything they want and nothing they don't (praise teams, instruments, dramatic performances, dance teams, etc.)

The result—what you will often see as a result of this kind of approach to church growth is what is commonly referred to as swelling (not real growth just the transfer of a group of believers from one church to another). When you give people exactly what they want they many times will come to you in droves but this again is not real church growth as God designed it. The problem with church swelling is that after a while the thrill of this new church and its people friendly preaching and worship usually wears off. Then family by family they leave and return to whatever they had in the first place.

Sad fact: swelling is the only kind of growing that some churches ever do. They have a failure to understand that their focus is not to be limited to what is taking place within the walls of their own building. They have a failure to understand that God has given the church an outward focused mission. The local church is God's lifeline and lighthouse to a world that is lost in darkness. God intended for the message of the gospel to be communicated by the apostles to as many people as they could tell, who would then in turn tell all they could tell—2 Tim.2:2.

Who were these men that were to be entrusted with the sharing of the message to the next generation if not the members of the local church? The fact of the matter is that some churches never really grow because of the fact that they are too concerned with their own internal needs and wants that they never take time to look up and look out at the lost of this world. "Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look to the fields, for they are already white for harvest" (Jn.4:36).

Brethren we live in a world that is in dire need of not only some good news but more importantly the Good News. We live in a world that has become entangled by the cumbersome weight of sin, which is a major cause of heartache and despair which comes from the fact that their sins separate them from God. What is the solution to this problem? It is the gospel of Jesus Christ. The gospel is the cure for all of the spiritual ailments that plague our society; but how is the world going to going to get the gospel unless we take it to them?

Brian Mitchell

**Worship Times**

Sunday

Bible Class: 9:00 am  
 AM Worship: 10:00 am  
 PM Worship: 6:00 pm

Wednesday

Bible Study: 7:00 pm

**For the Record**

Sunday Class: 85  
 Sunday AM: 127  
 Sunday PM: 73  
 Wednesday PM: 60  
 Contribution: \$4028  
 Budget: \$4831

**Think on This...**

but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

**Isaiah 40:31**

**Celebrating This Week...**

Birthdays

Kevin Bolen: 04.24  
 Eric Craft: 04.28  
 Destiny Meyer: 04.29

Anniversaries

David & Ruth McDowell: 04.25  
 Nick & Mary Brown: 04.26  
 Phil & Jennifer Singleton: 04.27

## Serving This Week

**Announcements:** Larry Dowdy

### SUNDAY

**Greeters:** Nate & Christi Crowden

**Ushers:** Scott Spraggs/Shawn Myers

**A/V:** Phil Swiney

**Nursery:** Kim Spraggs

**Lead Singing:** Seth Spraggs

**Head Lord's Table:** Steve Simmons

**Scripture:** Greg Dowdy

**Prayers:**

**AM:** Randy Seabaugh/Cody Naramore

**PM:** Greg Dowdy/Nate Crowden

### WEDNESDAY

**Lead Singing:** Seth Spraggs

**Devo:** Gary Miller

**Prayer:** Scott Watson

**Elder Chair:** David Selvig

**Communion to Shut-Ins:** Randy Seabaugh

**Worship Organizer:** Mat Kee

## Chronological Bible Reading

**April 23:** 1 Chronicles 1-2

**April 24:** Psalms 43-45, 49, 84-85, 87

**April 25:** 1 Chronicles 3-5

**April 26:** Psalms 73, 77-78

**April 27:** 1 Chronicles 6

**April 28:** Psalms 81, 88, 92-93

**April 29:** 1 Chronicles 7-10

## Continuing Prayer Needs

**\*\*Contact the office with updates\*\***

Ron Anderson

Ginger Avery

Esther Beck

Shannon Birk

Mark Blaylock

Dalton Bryan

Reita Conley

Donna Cox

Bill Dillman

Newt & Kay Gilliland

Jalonda Harris

Allen & Juanita Hedge

Sonny Huskey

Betty Jones

Scott Lanpher

Sid Naramore

Carolyn Neese

Wanda Raper

Susan Seabaugh

Steve Simmons

Lee Simpson

Don Tawney

Chris Weaver

## Remember in Prayer

- **Francis Ivanovich** has requested prayers as he is struggling with personal issues.
- **Lynne Welshans** spent a couple of nights in the hospital after some issues with her heart. She had a procedure on Tuesday and was able to return home on Wednesday and is doing well.
- **Chris Weaver** expected to move into Life Care Center on Thursday and will be doing physical therapy there.
- **Clyde Crowden**, Ty & Laramie's baby, was able to return home on Monday and is doing well.
- **Nancy Lester** is continuing to recover well and was scheduled for her follow-up appointment on Friday.
- **Marie Corzine** had shoulder surgery last week and is home and recovering well.
- **Jerry Mitchell**, Brian's dad, is set to have shoulder replacement next Thursday.
- **Bill Dillman** moved into Chateau Girardeau last week for 2-3 weeks of rehab.
- Ashlee Garland's friend, **Donna** had a serious stroke last week and has been transferred to inpatient rehab this week to continue her recovery.

## Welcome!

- **Zach & Hailey Cloar** have asked to be identified with the congregation here in Jackson. They live in Cape with their daughters, **Addyson** and **Lydia**. Please take time to meet and welcome them to the family in Jackson!

## News & Notes

- **Children's Homes** item of the week: **Napkins**
- All ladies are invited to a wedding shower luncheon honoring **Peyton Watson** this **Sunday, April 23** immediately following morning services in the fellowship room. Peyton and Will McQuade will be married in May and are registered at Target and Amazon.
- Mark your calendars and make plans to join us for a **Potluck Lunch** celebrating our graduating seniors next **Sunday, April 30**. Our high school seniors are **Katelyn Dowdy** (Cape), **Baden Hackworth** (Jackson), **Gage Kelleff** (Jackson), **Macayla Meyer** (Advance), **Hannah Mitchell** (Jackson), and **Emily Newman** (Jackson). Local college grads are **Tori Bryan** (State Tech), and **Luke Selvig** (SEMO). Gift bags will be available soon for cards. [Others we'd like to acknowledge as they will be graduating in May: *Chrissy Gilliland* (SEMO), *Sydney (Watson) Moore* (Faulkner), and *John Singleton* (SEMO).]
- It's time to celebrate **Mikayla & Ryan Foltz** and their new baby boy (due in July)! Join us for a shower on **May 7** at **2pm** in the fellowship room. They are registered at Target and Amazon.

## Area Events

- **May 20:** *Finding Happily Forever After Marriage Seminar* at Central in Paducah with **Wayne & Tami Roberts**

## Scholarship Opportunity

- **Curtis James Memorial Scholarship:** Applications are available in the office and should be returned by **May 1** to the office.

BUT THOSE WHO HOPE  
IN THE LORD  
WILL RENEW THEIR STRENGTH.  
THEY WILL SOAR ON WINGS LIKE EAGLES;  
THEY WILL RUN AND NOT GROW WEARY,  
THEY WILL WALK AND NOT BE FAINT.

- ISAIAH 40:31 (NIV) -