

**Prayer List of the Sick and Afflicted:**

Sean Mathews recently had blood tests indicating elevated prostate PSA levels and is discussing next steps with his physicians.

Iris Hash's son, Bobby Eppards, is in cardiac rehab in Carmel following surgery.

Judy Coley recently had a procedure to insert a bladder stint. Floyd has experienced issues with his hip, requiring an injection.

Doris Parnell is suffering from shoulder pain and will have a CT scan. She is also battling kidney issues.

Deloris Hendrickson is doing better following her battle with respiratory issues.

Joni McConnell is being treated with antibiotics for a lung infection. Later she will be scheduled for a CT scan followed by a procedure to remove fluid from her lungs.

At some point in the future, she will also be scheduled to have a heart valve repaired.

Former member Glenda Coons is suffering with knee, back and hip pain.

**Pray For Our Shut-Ins:**

Karen Sproles, Iris Hash, and Kathy Malowitz

**Pray For The Mission Works We Are Supporting:**

John Grubb and his wife (Mission work in Asia), Daniel Goshorn and family (Mission work in Peru). See reports of their works on the bulletin board.

**Deepest Sympathy:**

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Evelyn Murphy at the recent passing of her cousin from Gosport, IN.

**Benevolent Opportunity**

We are now collecting ramen noodles for donation to the MSD of Martinsville school food pantry.

**New Year's Eve Fellowship:**

New Year's Eve falls on a Wednesday this year. On that Wednesday, we will have a song service followed by a fellowship with pizza and snacks.

**2026 Planning Sessions:**

On Saturday, January 10<sup>th</sup> we will meet at the building at 8 AM for breakfast served by the ladies of the congregation. Following breakfast, the men and women will have separate meetings to plan the works of the congregation for 2026. All are invited and encouraged to attend.

**Monthly Pitch-in Dinner:**

Our next pitch-in dinner will be Sunday, January 4 following the AM services. Following the meal, we will have a service in song at 1 PM then dismiss for the day.

**Men's Business Meeting:**

The next men's business meeting will be Wednesday, January 7th at 5:00 PM.

**Radio Program:**

Please remember to tune in every Sunday morning at 8:00 AM to WCBK 102.3 FM to hear our radio program which is entitled: "Preparing For Eternity".

**God's Plan For Our Salvation**

Hearing the word of God (Romans 10:17; Acts 16:32).

Believing what is taught (Mark 16:16; Hebrews 11:6).

Repentance (Acts 2:38; Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30).

Confession (Romans 10:9, 10; Acts 8:37).

Baptism (Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16; I Peter 3:21; Romans 6:3, 4).

Faithful Christian Living, after the above five steps (I Peter 2:11, 12; Rev. 2:10).

December 14, 2025

***MORGAN STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST***

**540 E. Morgan Street  
Martinsville, IN 46151  
(765) 342-6027**



**Schedule of Services:**

**Sunday**

Bible Study – 9:30 AM

Worship – 10:30 AM

Evening Service - 6:00

**Wednesday**

Bible Study – 6:00 PM

**Thursday**

Ladies' Bible Study – 11:00 AM

**Radio Program:**

“Preparing For Eternity”

Sunday Mornings 8:00 AM, WCBK 102.3 FM

**Website:**

[www.morganstreetchurchofchrist.org](http://www.morganstreetchurchofchrist.org)

Gospel Preacher – Bob Hawkins

# CONFRONTING ISSUES

*Tom Wacaster*

A number of years ago I was checking on some work following my return from South Africa. I sent out a number of resumes along with questions about the congregation to which I was applying and answered questions they had sent me. It is unfortunate that the Lord's church is in such a state of disarray that some of the questions being asked (by preachers and congregations alike) need to be asked at all. Some of those interviews were quite interesting. There were some congregations, thankfully, who were open and candid about the issues, and those calling me would ask some very pointed and direct questions (as they should). Others seem to be more interested in employing a hireling to do the work of the church while at the same time manifesting a poor attitude about issues in the Lord's church. In fact I had one brother affirm that the congregation he represented refused to be "issue oriented." When I asked him what he meant, he told me that they simply did not want their preacher getting embroiled in the issues facing the church — AT ALL! So what about issues? Can the local congregation simply "ignore" brotherhood issues? Please consider the following.

When I was a little boy, I would watch some of the old western movies and television programs. When the bad guys would flee, the men in the "white hats" would take the initiative and "head them off at the pass." Our heroes were not afraid to face the enemy head on. Great leaders of the past, in both the secular and spiritual fray, were men of courage.

More often than not, a good leader will take the initiative. They believe that an "ounce of prevention is worth more than a pound of cure." There is no such thing as "issueless Christianity." Our Lord lived among the most outspoken and radical false teachers of His day. He would speak boldly on issues, teaching the truth and exposing error. Like our western heroes, our Lord would take on the enemy and "head them off at the pass." He was the Master Controversialist. Were I to ask if Jesus addressed the "issues" of His day, doubtless none would answer in the negative.

The church is the body of Christ (Eph. 1:22-23; Col. 1:18). If we are the body of Christ, do we not represent Christ? Are we not (as we have often heard said) His hands, His feet, etc? Paul said that the church is the "pillar and support of the truth" (1 Tim. 3:15). We are to "contend earnestly for the faith" (Jude 3). How can we fulfill these two sacred obligations if we do not address issues? The late Bill Jackson was straight to the point: "We keep hearing from those who admit that the issues are present, but their recommendation is that nothing be said about it. The preacher or the editor is censured for speaking or writing on it, as if the noble thing to do when an issue rears its head is to ignore it. We wonder if some feel that by ignoring it, it will go away? The basis behind the urging of silence is that men are involved, and thus these men have their friends, associates and supporters, and they do not want to see their friends spotlighted at all. Let a problem such as Crossroads appear, and let men thus begin to promote it; then, those who try to counter it face the friends and supporters. Let someone get off on the doctrine of marriage, divorce and remarriage, and spread the doctrine abroad; again, those countering the false position must face the friends and supporters." How right he is.

The church in any location cannot afford to remain silent on the issues facing the brotherhood. We live in such a mobile society — close knit in every sense of the word. If a congregation has not yet experienced the error being taught in some places, just give it time and it will eventually arrive in your community and your congregation. So, wisdom dictates that we "head it off at the pass." Yet so often when the preacher or elders address an issue they are branded as "trouble makers" (reminds me somewhat of what Ahab said of Elijah, 1 Kings 18:17-18).

Brethren, we cannot, dare not, remain silent on issues. A strong, definitive, clear proclamation on where we stand is absolutely important. The survival of the body depends upon it.