

stationery, but precious little time and effort is expended in seeing to the spiritual needs of the flock? Are they not just “pretenders?” These are charged with feeding the flock of God (Acts 20:28), and watching for souls (Heb. 13:17). Attending to those very duties would have stopped some divisive movements dead in their tracks, and the church would not have been hurt so terribly. But too often, we have known of elders who simply “put heads in the sand” and played the game of pretense — pretending there was no problem, pretending certain ones were not false teachers, pretending the problem would just die on its own, and pretending a problem would right itself.

Satan has his devices (2 Cor. 2:11), and all are calculated toward the defeat of God’s cause. Satan’s efforts are called “war against

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the Lamb (Rev. 17:14), but that conflict amounts to “war against those belonging to the Lamb” (Rev. 12:17). All of God’s children are to be faithful soldiers in the Lord’s army, and elders are to be such as will hold the Word in their hands and to use it in convicting the man of the contrary part (Titus 1:9). Liberalism all around us, and those known as elders just “pretend” that there is no problem? Indeed, they are just “pretenders.”

(3) And what of entire congregations whose main thrust today is in the realm of the economic, or social, or entertainment of its own members? The church, like a mighty army, has been placed on the field of battle, commanded by the captain of our salvation (Heb. 2:10), and is expected to expend all in casting down and pulling down anything daring to stand in the way of the knowledge of God! (2 Cor. 10:3-5). And the church builds a gymnasium? The volley ball replaces the sword of the Spirit, the word of God? (Eph. 6:17). Given just a few years of church concern turned inward toward the members’ pleasure, and those in the church will not only not desire the New Testament truth, but they will not even recognize it! But the congregation given to the social gospel and emphasis on pleasure, is that congregation not just “pretending” when it claims to be devoted to the Lord’s will and claims to be working toward the salvation of souls? Indeed, just “pretending.”

Accountability is real, and the coming day of judgment is real. Hell is too real for any of us to spend our time in this life just “pretending.”

Bulletin

September 3, 2017

Marshfield church of Christ

610 S. Marshall P.O. Box 458 Marshfield, MO 68706

(417) 468-4161

www.churchofchristmarshfld.org

Pretending aka Hypocrisy

Sunday

Bible Class: 9:30 AM

Worship: 10:30 AM / 6 PM

Wednesday

Bible Study: 7 PM

Thursday

Ladies Bible Class: 9:30 AM

Sun. Morning Radio & TV

KTXR 101.3 FM

Lifeline, 7:15 AM

Channel 10

Search, 7 AM

Living Word, 7:30 AM

Channel 33

Know Your Bible, 10:30 AM

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The game of pretense. We know that children play the game, and in their time of life it is innocent fun. But then, there’s the grown-up world, and for those in Christ, there is the reality set forth in the Word of God. Christianity is not the religion of pretense. In mythology, and in the systems men have created, one can do a great deal of pretending because all that does exist in those forms are made up by man, but not so in the system of Christ. God is, and that is reality! (Gen. 1:1). Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God (Matt. 16:16), and that is reality! Satan and sin exist, and have their influence upon men in causing men to be separated from God, and those are realities! (Eph. 2:1). In Christ, salvation is offered to man, and that is a splendid reality! (Eph. 1:13). The saved are in Christ, and thus are in the church that Jesus built (Acts 2:47), and that is reality! Christians deal in realities.

For a Christian to be a pretender is to say, then, that he is a hypocrite. Jesus saw so much of that among the Jewish leaders of his

time, and repeatedly he condemned such in Matthew 23. That very word gives our word “actor,” and that is exactly what a hypocrite is, for he is merely “playing a part.” Above all else, the child of God must know that he is dealing with eternal realities, and cannot just pretend. It is dangerous to pretend, and foolish. We suggest some types of that foolishness:

(1) What of that preacher who still “pretends” to be God’s man, but he’s so careful to avoid preaching on the subjects troubling to the saints, or on those things that prominent people in the congregation might be given to? Is he not just a “pretender?” Rather than preaching the truth, and standing squarely for God, he’s in the business of men-pleasing. Forceful he is, in speaking forth those things wherein all around him are in agreement, but silent as a tomb when it comes to things wherein controversy lurks. He is simply a “pretender.”

(2) What of those elders who have the title, and have their names on the bulletin and on the

Privileged to Serve

Worship Coordinator: David Doherty

Announcements: Bob Lewis

Before Service Greeters: Ron Peck & Becky Hyder

After AM Services Greeters: David & Debbie Doherty, Luther & Betty Sheppard

Sunday AM

Songleader: Jerry Cruise

Lord's Table

*Randy Hyder, Daniel Hyder, Travis Hampton, John Hopkins

Opening Prayer: Dennis Richardson

Closing Prayer: Roy Phillips

Sermon: Eddie Watkins

Sunday PM

Songleader: Scot Greer

Lord's Table: Terry McMasters

Opening Prayer: Thad Layne

Closing Prayer: Travis Hampton

Sermon: Eddie Watkins

Wednesday Night

Devotional: Jerry Cruise

Songleader: Scot Greer

Prayer: David Page

Statistics for Aug. 27, 2017

AM Worship	102
PM Worship	71
Midweek	75
Total Contr.	\$2206

News and Announcements

Gospel Meeting, Marshfield church of Christ, Sept. 10-13, Sun-Wed. Grab a few flyers in the back and let your friends, family and neighbors know.

Ladies will meet at 5pm Sept. 24th, in the fellowship room, to plan our **Ladies Day**. All ladies are invited to attend.

Class promotion is today.

The **Fall Hayride** at Jan Sander's house will be Sept. 30.

Ladies, please submit **generational photos to Helen Buman** for use in **Ladies' Day**. Mark them with initials, so they can be returned. See Helen for further details.

Men's Business Meeting will be changed to the third Sunday of September. We will appoint budget committee for 2018's budget

September Birthdays

Jennifer Watkins	9-6
Nicole Hampton	9-10
Ivan Thompson	9-12
Carlene Branstetter	9-14
Glenda Farley	9-18
Trenton Kanengieter	9-18
Brenda Cruise	9-19
Janet Haffner	9-19
Michelle Crews	9-25

Debbie Doherty 9-30

Sept. Anniversaries

Dennis & MaryAnn Richardson	9-10
Paul & Phyllis Fisher	9-29

Fair Haven Children's Home Needs

Taco sauce juice vinegar pumpkin miracle whip oats olive oil cake icing peanut butter canned chicken cookie mix spices BBQ sauce canned salmon yellow hominy gravy mix crushed pineapple pineapple chunks crackers liquid fabric softener paper plates hand soap shout toothpaste deodorant toilet bowl cleaner cleaning supplies fabric sheets trash bags cascade disinfectant wipes freezer bags

Prayer List

Condolences to the family and friends of **Arthur Bodine**.

Phyllis Fisher is recovering from rotator cuff surgery.

Pat Harris has not been feeling well.

Brock Henslee went home but is back in the hospital as of Thursday morning having tests.

Terry Cruise is recuperating from knee surgery.

Magdalena Ospina is near death.

Friends of the Brams, **Dan Wampler** and **Howard Dampier** are ill with cancer.

Lisa Plunkett Martin has a recurring bacterial infection which can potentially destroy her kidneys.

Marcie Marchand's mother, **Donna Plummer**, has been diagnosed with leukemia.

David Doherty is recuperating from the surgery he had last Monday.

Kay Lewis is recuperating from knee surgery.

Dianne Doty, Suzi Doty's sister-in-law, getting meds to make her comfortable with her cancer.

Donna Daily (Jerry & Pat Cruise's neighbor) is starting treatment for breast cancer.

Jim Chittendon, friend of Ron and Cathy Thompson (member of the Lord's church) surgery was cut short because of the spread of cancer.

Missy & Bobby Lewis are having health problems.

Joanne Lawrence's nephew, **Micaiah**

Sedlacek (17) has kidney failure and is on dialysis and is waiting on a kidney replacement.

Jamie Westcomb, Nicole's friend, has stage 4 kidney and liver cancer.

Stephany Rogers, Dean Sitton's daughter has had a stroke.

Connie Isis has a friend with cancer.

Beth Adams has resumed chemo.

Daniel Henslee and family, Steve & Michelle's son-in-law.

Robert Comer's step-dad **Ray** is having problems with his blood.

Tim Warden, Janet Haffner's brother, is taking treatment for leukemia.

Andy Novinger who is fighting Thyroid Cancer.

Remember the home bound

- Harry Price (Marshfield Care Center)
- Paul and Ernestine Sandoz
- Estelline Jones
- Ina Gillette (Colonial Springs in Buffalo)
- Pat Lamb (Marshfield Care Center)
- Judy Barrow (Webco Manor)
- Bonnie Doherty (Webco East)
- Zoe Lawless of Conway (Webco)
- Rosalie Rosenberger (Thad Layne's sister) is in a nursing home in Jax, FL.