

April 28, 2019

CHURCH *of* CHRIST



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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

SUNDAY:

Bible Classes.....9:45 a.m.

Morning Worship.....10:30 a.m.

Evening Worship.....6:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY:

Bible Classes.....7 p.m.

Minister, John Keith

(304) 266-9027

WELCOME!

We of the Cambridge church of Christ
invite you to all our services.

"...the churches of Christ salute you" (Romans 16:16).

THE REASON FEWER AMERICANS THINK RELIGION MATTERS.

J. Warner Wallace

The Rise of Informational Autonomy—The trend away from religious belief hasn't decreased steadily without interruption. In some survey years, the number of people who claimed religion was very important to them actually *increased*. There was an observable jump in religious interest, for example, following the 9/11 terrorist attacks. The Gallup poll recorded this jump at the time (64% said religion was very important to them following attacks, compared to 52% who said this in 1978). Many churches experienced this increase in interest firsthand. **Church attendance “boomed”** after 9/11, as houses of worship were “jammed with parishioners seeking refuge, community and a place to grieve.” But just twelve months later, church attendance was **back to normal**.

9/11 revealed the relationship between religiosity and *autonomy*. When we feel like *we are* in control, like we can find the answers *on our own*, we are less interested in what religion has to offer in these areas. The more powerful we think *we* are, the less likely we are to turn to a *greater* power. If, for example, we think we have all the answers (or can get them on our own), we're less likely to turn to religion when we have a question.

The information age has only exacerbated this reality. Almost anything we want to *know*, want to *own*, or want to *do*, is available online – whenever and *however* we want it. We now have autonomous access to information in more ways than we've ever had before. Unsurprisingly, without a national tragedy to shake our sense of informational autonomy, fewer Americans say religion is important to them.

The Rise of Moral Autonomy: The second part of the Gallup Poll surveyed the degree to which Americans think religion can answer today's problems. “For the first time in more than six decades, less than half of Americans, 46%, say ‘religion can answer all or most of today's problems.’ The public is now more closely divided than ever before in its views of religion as the answer to what ails society.”

To be sure, autonomy has a role to play in this part of the survey as well. *Moral* autonomy has been the driving force in America for decades. A recent **national survey** found that “according to a majority of American adults (57 percent), knowing what is right or wrong is a matter of *personal experience*.” Americans increasingly believe that *individuals* decide what is morally appropriate, and this form of moral autonomy is even stronger in teens. **A study of Gen Z Americans** (ages 13-18) revealed that teens are more than twice as likely to believe “what is morally right and wrong changes over time based on society” than Boomers (born between 1946-1964).

Religions make moral proclamations that transcend individual belief and cultural consensus. They also make moral claims that require our *submission*. Unsurprisingly, as America shifts toward moral *autonomy*, fewer Americans rely on religious systems that make transcendent, unchanging, ethical claims and demands.

J. Warner Wallace is a Dateline featured **Cold-Case Detective**, Senior Fellow at the **Colson Center for Christian Worldview**, Adj. Professor of **Christian Apologetics at Talbot School of Theology, Biola University**, author of **Cold-Case Christianity, God's Crime Scene**, and **Forensic Faith**, and creator of the **Case Makers Academy** for kids.

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE CONGREGATION:

Many of you may not be aware of the amount of money this congregation spends and otherwise donates on a regular basis. This is a combination of money that you have given to the church and, some received from a couple benefactors who remembered us in their will.

It is sometimes a daunting task to decide how best to spend the Lord's money. Major expenditures are discussed at the monthly men's meetings and usually, there is unanimous agreement. Since we do not have elders at present, smaller, benevolent requests are decided upon case-by-case and this has fallen previously, to Norm Behrendt and now, to Josh Jamiel and me.

While we are agreed that the church is not to be a budget item for those who refuse to work, we also must be mindful of our Lord's command to help those in need.

June 2017 to Present	U.S. \$
Mission Work (17 various individuals /congregations)	16,930
Preaching School & Students (3)	6,800
Midwestern Children's	4,850
Potter Children's	3,500
Jeffersonian / Community Outreach	20,477
Benevolence to the Community (22)	4,063
Benevolence to the Congregation (10)	5,709
Marathon church Reconstruction	5,000
Medina church Reconstruction	500
TOTAL	67,828

As you can see from the chart, we are engaged in many good works. We would like to continue supporting our brethren in all scriptural means to spread the Gospel of Christ through missions foreign, and domestic.

I do not know how our mission expenditures compare with other congregations of similar size, and I am not sure it is any of my business. I am primarily concerned with how we are doing—and I feel we do well—but I want to be able to continue helping. To do this, our weekly contributions must meet our weekly budget (which has been carefully planned by Josh Jamiel—he's doing an excellent job). A few dollars more from each of us each week should be sufficient for us to be able to carry on with these good works—*JK*.

We encourage our visitors to fill out one of the blue cards and place it in the collection plate.

IN OUR PRAYERS: Jerry & Erma Endly, Mary Lou Huprich, Cathy Jackson, Gary & Debbie Jones, Kathy Mayo, Flavil & Verna Miller, and Wilma Roe	SHUT-INS: Audrey Burns, Jack Mitchell, Shirley Patterson and Marge Rothwell
FAMILY AND FRIENDS: Nellie Bichard, Alec Blake (grandson of Wilma Roe), Weston Boulet, (great-grandson of Shirley Patterson), Dick Caldwell (friend of the Fowler's) Larry Chips (friend of the Starrett's, Kenneth Crookshank (son of Dannelle Gilmore), Dan Doudna (Wilma Roe's relative), Bob & Patty Eddy, Tom Eddy (Betsy Cook's brother), Carmie Green (Flavil Miller's sister), Doris Hall, Herb Hamilton (friend of the Starrett's), Bob & Donna Henthorn (Laura Jamiel's parents), Darvis Kandawalla (Diann Bachmann's son-in-law), Collene Keister, (Mo Smith's sister), Les McCollum (friend of Deb McGath), Erica Rich, Mona Stoffer (Flavil Miller's daughter), Mitch Vick, Bob & Marge Watson, Kedra Wyatt and remember to pray for one another.	

- Erma Endly's "no cancer" report *may* have been a bit premature; they are awaiting more testing. Mary Lou Huprich is improving and at the time of this writing was in step-down at Mt. Carmel-East. Kathy Mayo began immuno-therapy this past Wednesday.
- Alleen Miler passed away Tuesday and her funeral will be tomorrow at the Stop Nine building at 11 am.
- All ladies are invited to the *Secret Sister Breakfast* on May 4 from 10 am to Noon at Mr. Lee's.
- Our Gospel Meeting with Phil Grear, begins next Lord's Day. There is still time to invite and get the word out. A pot-luck will follow Sunday morning services.

REMINDERS:

- ✓ **WORDWATCHER** will NOT meet tomorrow.
- ✓ Be sure and check the list of commodities that **Potter Children's Home** is requesting. There are plastics bins in which to place your donated items. A representative from **Potter** will be here **tomorrow**, between 8:30 and 9 am.
- ✓ If anyone would like to take a turn creating a bulletin board for the entry, please sign up on the board in the foyer.
- ✓ **Be sure to check the foyer bulletin board for upcoming area events.**

TODAY'S LESSONS

AM: Please welcome **Glen Hawkins** of Massillon, OH., who will speak this morning.
 PM: This evening **Jared Jamiel** will present, "A Life of Preaching" (1 Cor. 2:1-5).

❖ My thanks to these men for filling in for me while I am in a Gospel Meeting at Brookville, PA - *JK*.

<i>Bible Class</i>	<i>Sun A.M.</i>	<i>Sun. P.M.</i>	<i>Wed.</i>	<i>Collection</i>
<i>54</i>	<i>88</i>	<i>41</i>	<i>38</i>	<i>\$2150</i>