

Murray Christian Church
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FORERUNNER

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Pastor Larry & Norma Hammons
Home 267.7465, Cell 297.0999
mcc.larry@windstream.net

Church service Sundays at 9:30 a.m.
Sunday school 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.
Youth Group 3p (2nd & 4th Sundays)

Church Secretary, Stacey
Church Office 235.2527
mcc.stacey@windstream.net

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<http://home.windstream.net/church2527/MCC.htm>

From the Pastor

During my annual eye check up, my doctor advised me that I would need a procedure. He commented that I had something which happens on a “rare occasion”. He then went on to produce a slickly done, colorful, tri-fold brochure detailing the procedure, and followed with a quick assurance that he did this procedure every Wednesday at 12 noon. My mind immediately flashed to a revisiting of the phrase “rare occasion”. For a Christian, praying is an occasion - hopefully, not rare. Since time began, men and women of faith have wrestled with prayer. How do I pray? When should I pray? What should I pray? Who should pray? And so on and so on...

The church has not always been helpful when it comes to discussions about prayer. If you would like to have a discussion about prayer, give us a call anytime. When it comes to prayer, Jesus was all for it. He used prayer himself on many, many occasions. He even gave us a model prayer. You know it; the one where we don't agree on all the words. But we can agree that prayer is important, whether it be around a dinner table or in a lonely, although crowded, hospital waiting room. As we celebrate another Lenten season together, beginning with our Ash Wednesday Prayer Service on March 9 at 7:00 p.m., I want to share a prayer with you:

Lord, we are so blinded by what is visible around us that we fail to see the things of the Spirit that make the large differences in how we live and move and have our being. We

need to be able to see beyond the darkness of the material world into that which is luminously spiritual. All about us are barriers that prohibit our view of the wide vistas you desire us to see. Enable us to see beyond the barriers so that we may envision what is real and eternal.

Let us see beyond the barrier of the quick satisfaction of hate to the long joy of forgiveness.

Let us see beyond the appetite for more to the pleasure of self-control.

Let us see beyond greed to the luxury of giving.

Let us see beyond blinding pride to the healthiness of humility.

Let us see beyond profit to usefulness.

Let us see past the heat of desire to the light of renunciation.

Let us see past the glaring light of power to the beauty of service.

Let us see past the poisonous growth of selfishness to the wonder and power of selflessness.

We pray in Jesus' name.

Until next month,
Pastor Larry

Can You See Me?

It used to just be celebrities who had to live with the possibility that someone could be filming or taking pictures of them at any moment. But today, we're all fairly accustomed to knowing that a camera is likely trained on us at every store entrance, every ATM machine, perhaps even when we're trying to decide whether to run through a yellow light or not.

We're a watched society—which can be troubling when we imagine how far some people could take these surveillance capabilities. But be that as it may, there's an element of this that keeps us accountable. It keeps us honest, keeps us careful of our actions. In fact, it's sort of a reminder that God's cameras are always rolling—that he sees it all, even when no one else is looking. "For a man's ways are in full view of the Lord, and he examines all his paths" (Proverbs 5:21).

We may not always be happy about that. There are parts of our average day that we'd just as soon keep private. But the fact that he's watching is true just the same. Our job is to live in such a way that this knowledge is more comforting than convicting—to be glad that he "sees what is done in secret" (Matthew 6:6), to know that our desire is to please him and stay in close fellowship with him every minute of the day.

This devotional was taken from Joe Gibbs "Two Minute Drills for Life."

As I am entering my sixth month as an intern with Murray Christian Church I am thankful for the opportunities the people of Murray have given me for experiencing ministry first-hand. It is one thing to learn about how to do ministry in a class, but it is something completely different when you are able to interact with people face to face.

I love this devotional from Joe Gibbs because it reminds me that being a Christian is a full-time requirement, just as being a husband, a friend, and a Bible College student requires my undivided honesty and commitment all the time, not just when I feel it's convenient.

May these words encourage you to examine your unseen life and clear away any hypocrisy between what is seen by people and what is always seen by God.

God Bless,
Adam Atwell
Pastoral Intern

Please keep in your prayers...



† Bob & Barb Embury † Betty Mayer †
† Rob & Diane Ross †

Father/Son Men of the Church Banquet

Nancy Kiroff will be catering the meal for the Father/Son/Men of the church banquet on Friday, April 1st. We need 8-10 women to serve the meal and clean up. The banquet starts at 6:30; we need you at the church by 6:00. We also need a few women to help decorate before the banquet and clean up decorations after the banquet. Sign up sheets are on the bulletin board outside the office. Thank you in advance for your service!

CO-DIRECTOR NEEDED FOR VBS 2011

Please prayerfully and seriously consider this need. VBS may seem a long ways off, but it will quickly be upon us.

MCC Classifieds



For Sale: Oak two-piece desk.

Can be joined to form L-shape or used separately. This is just like the desk in the church office minus the hutch. Asking \$250. Call Sandy at 296-4362.

Hope Totes make Difference

by providing basic personal care items. We need personal care items for all ages—adults, as well as, infants and children. So next time you step into the shower or wash your hands, or bathe your baby, think of those less fortunate. We will be collecting the following items to fill Hope Totes for the Open Door Mission. Please bring your items to church any time before April 3. If you have any questions, please contact Stacey in the church 235-2527.



- Toothbrush & toothpaste
- Soap
- Shaving cream
- Shampoo and conditioner
- Deodorant
- Brush and comb Lip balm
- Disposable razors
- Laundry soap
- Ethnic hair products
- Baby/child bath products