

The Tragedy of a Hardened Heart

Have you ever stopped to consider those who sat in our pews in years past, yet in recent times are no longer with us? They haven’t passed away, but at some point in the past they slowly slipped in attendance, and one day never came back. It’s a sad reality that may be understood in terms of hardened hearts.

In 1 Samuel 28, we see Saul, once a bold king chosen by God, but now a desperate man gripped by fear and desperation. Facing the threat of the Philistine army, he seeks God’s guidance but receives silence. Why? Because Saul had long rejected God’s voice, choosing his own path over repentance and obedience. Seeking some type of guidance beyond his own power, he turns to a medium, a woman who claimed to be able to interact with spiritual forces, at Endor. Ironically, Saul decides to consult the very practices he once banned. This tragic scene reveals the danger of a heart hardened by unrepentant sin, seeking answers anywhere but God.

When the prophet Samuel, who had already passed away, appears to the medium that Saul hired, she is shocked! Was she surprised her ‘work’ actually worked? What we can be sure of this interesting encounter is this: God, through Samuel, delivers a final message of judgment. Saul’s persistent disobedience has sealed his fate. Rejecting repentance, Saul is left to face the consequences—like a man eating his last meal on death row.

Where do you go when you seek answers in life’s challenges? Saul’s story echoes a sobering truth for Christians today. When we drift from God, ignoring His Word or treating prayer as a last resort, we risk mirroring Saul’s hardened heart. Like Saul, some seek guidance in the wrong places—‘pseudo-Christian’ self-help books, worldly advice, or fleeting comforts—rather than turning to the One who hears the righteous (1 Peter 3:12). Romans 10:10 reminds us that righteousness comes through a heart that believes and confesses Christ daily, not just in crisis.

True repentance means consistently saying, “Lord, lead the way,” rather than returning to sins we’ve claimed to forsake. Have you ever wondered why some people seem to go back over and over again to the same sins that have caused them so many problems in the past? Why does the drunk keep going back to the bar after alcohol has destroyed his life? Because they’ve trained themselves to try to find solutions to life’s problems somewhere other than God. And when you start down that path, it becomes increasingly difficult to escape it and our hearts grow more calloused.


This story challenges us to reflect: Do we pray only in desperation, or do we seek God daily? Do we cling to sin, expecting God’s favor without change? Do we look to God when we feel down or are experiencing life’s problems? Looking anywhere else will lead us down a path of continued pain and sorrow. Yet, when we seek God, Psalm 34:17 promises, “When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears and delivers them out of all their troubles.”

Let’s remember the moments in our lives that God has delivered us, reminding ourselves to seek

**On Our Prayer List...** Linda Rodgers-NHC Place at the Trace,8353 Hwy 100,Bellevue, TN 37221- Rm-404 Marvin England  
Anita Buckner-@ home recovering . Al & Vicki Peek Michelle Lashlee Hattie Tate  
Jim Tyler-now @ Magnolia Place room 106 Betty Suddeath Bertha Bradford- @ Humphreys Co Rehab-Rm 713/  
**SURGERIES:** Becky Palk– recovering fr surg –having some difficulty from John Jones-recovering from knee surg/rehab

<p><b>*Sue Edmission-</b>(friend of Diane Curtis&amp;T Tummins) broke her arm-not sure they can fix</p> <p><b>*Carl Smith-</b>requesting prayers for medical issues.</p> <p><b>*Alton Gordon-</b>recuperating @ home from car accident.</p> <p><b>*Joann Anderson-</b> (Nicole Buttrey’s mom)home recovering from surgery</p> <p><b>*Norman Gentry-</b>recovering fr shoulder replacement surg he had on Aug 27th</p> <p><b>*Warren(Johnny) Proctor-</b>keep in yr prayers for his recovery.</p> <p><b>*Gary Pace-</b>(Geraldine Curtis brother)@Waverly Hills Nursing Hm-need prayers</p> <p><b>*Thelma Davidson-</b>(Gwen’s sister) @Signature Hltcare, (Rm 205) 198 Old Farmers Rd, Clarksville, TN 37043. In for rehab &amp; dialysis.</p> <p><b>*Greg Mullinicks-</b>continuing to recover<b>Caude Hurt-</b>not well-requesting prayers</p> <p><b>*Brian Gill-</b>tumor-surgery <b>*Carol Wall-</b>recovering fr Pneumonia</p> <p><b>*Jo Hall</b> (Jimmy &amp; Ronnie Tyler’s sister) heart issues</p> <p><b>*Mike Gunn–</b> got a good report-to have rod fr leg removed in Nov.</p> <p><b>*Betty James-</b>continuing to recover @ home <b>Helen Damesworth</b></p> <p><b>*Carolyn Wilson-</b>(Madison’s grandmother) requesting prayers.</p> <p><b>*Josh Barnett-</b>(Charlotte Heights CoC Minister)benign brain tumor@treatments</p> <p><b>*Chase Lewis-</b>(Vicki Peek’s family) having problems from lupus</p> <p><b>*Doug Simpson-</b>heart -(Ruby England’s brothers)/<b>Marcia Simpson</b>(Mike Burns aunt)</p> <p><b>*Whitney(Bullion)Sager</b> -home recovering <b>*Alyssa Gold</b>(R.Proctors Niece)</p> <p><b>*Shane Cobb-</b>continuing to havemedical issues./<b>Carlene Davis/Margie Gunn</b></p> <p><b>*Savannah Patrick</b>-(Rhett’s syndrome-Marsha Patrick’s granddaughter-she loves cards) C/O Jaimie Patrick—111 McJury Lane, Lafayette, TN 37083</p>	<p><b>THOSE DEALING/BEING TREATED FOR CANCER</b></p> <p><b>*KENNY FLEMING–</b>CA meds/<b>*JIMMY PHY-</b>CA treatments</p> <p><b>*LILLIAN CHILDRRESS-</b>(Sherry Harvey’s aunt) finished radiation, upcoming check up.</p> <p><b>*DALE STREET-</b>(N. Buttrey grandfather)CA</p> <p><b>*HOUSTON HOWELL-</b>CA</p> <p><b>*MACK WINSTEAD-</b>CA-continued prayers</p> <p><b>*HUDSON JONES-</b>{2yr old son of Dan &amp; Catherine, Walnut St COC– has Leukemia}</p> <p><b>*DAVID NOWLIN-</b>CA treatments-WCOC Elder</p> <p><b>*DONNA BURNS-</b>WAYNE&amp;ANN BERRYMAN’S NIECE)-CA</p> <p><b>*WANDA DOBBINS-</b>(kin to Tyler’s)terminal CA</p> <p><b>*JACKIE BORDERS-</b> Lauren Stuart’s mom</p> <p><b>*ROBERT GARDNER</b>(Friend of Bill Williams) CA</p> <p><b>*RANAE DUNCAN-</b>(Bo&amp;Amy’s neighbor)CA –currently had to be hospitalized while on vacation-asking for prayers</p> <p><b>*CASEY VAILES-</b>(Ranae Duncan’s son)also has cancer</p> <p><b>*LARRY HAYES-</b>(fr Waverly COC) in remission</p> <p><b>*MAGGIE WRIGHT-</b>(friend of N. Buttrey) chemo</p> <p><b>*ALAN JONES</b> - 4 Esophageal CA-taking treatments</p> <p><b>*DAVID STOKES-</b>(Jordan Stokes &amp; Carly Stones Dad) &amp; (Drew Swearns step-dad)</p>
---	--

<p><b>ASSISTED LIVING/ NURSING HOME:</b></p> <p><b>Humphreys County NH</b> 104 Fort Hill Rd., Waverly, TN 37185<b>June Dreaden-</b> Rm 204</p> <p><b>NHC</b>—812 N.Charlotte, Dickson,TN 37055- <b>JoAnn Haley / Doris Stokes</b>-R127</p> <p><b>AHC Decatur County-</b>726 Kentucky Ave, Parsons,TN 38363-<b>Wyle Marshall-</b>(Rm 726)-Traci Adams dad</p> <p><b>AT HOME: (PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS)- WESLEY PARRISH-</b> 166 Parrish Lane (now on hospice care)</p> <p><b>JIMMY MULLINICKS-</b>56 Mike Street /<b>JANE RIDINGS-</b>172 Indian Ck Rd</p>	<p><b>Address for:</b> <b>Linda Rodgers</b> Tracey Teichmann 1529 Eiler Drive Nashville, TN 37221</p>
---	---

<b>ANNOUNCEMENTS &amp; UPCOMING EVENTS</b>			
<p><b>Ladies: We will have a Ladies Class, this coming Wednesday night, Sept 10th in Adult Classroom I, with a lesson on</b></p> <p><b>“Marriage from God’s viewpoint” by Sister Betty Suddeath.</b></p>		<p><b>RED CROSS WILL BE HERE ON MONDAY, OCT 6TH FROM 1:30-5:30PM</b></p>	<p><b>Our church Softball Game &amp; Cookout</b> <b>Saturday, September 20, 2025</b> <b>4:30-8:30 PM</b></p> <p><b>@McEwen City Park Pavilion &amp; Softball Field</b></p> <p><b>Whither you play or not ,join us for a time of fun, food &amp; fellowship!</b> <b>All ages welcome! Sign up list in the foyer.</b></p>
<p><b>Ladies check out the back of your pew announcement sheet &amp; in the foyer for several upcoming “Ladies Day” in the Area.</b></p>			

<p><b>INFO.C.U.S.</b></p>	<p>Faith, Obedience, Character, Unity, Salvation</p>
<p>Remember deadline to sign-up for RUSH is this Wednesday, Sept 10th</p> <p>&amp;</p> <p>To sign-up for our church Softball Game &amp; Cookout on Saturday, September 20, 2025 from 4:30-8:30 @ McEwen City Park Pavilion &amp; Softball Field.</p> <p>In Christian Love, Keith</p>	

## SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

### Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup> 2025

<i>Welcome</i> .....	John Hurt
<i>Lead Singing</i> .....	Mark Forster
<i>1<sup>st</sup> Prayer</i> .....	Bruce Mayfield
<i>Sermon</i> .....	John Jones
<i>Lord's Table</i> .....	Barry Phy
	Danny Dotson      Todd Mullinicks
	Wade Tummins      Dwight Stuart
	Glenn Ross      Brent Davis
<i>Closing Prayer</i> .....	Calvin Buckner
<i>Collect Cards</i> .....	Colt Stanfill
	& Abel Tummins
<i>Greeters</i> .....	<i>Not at this time</i>
<i>Nursery</i> .....	<i>Not at this time</i>
<i>Collect Cups</i> .....	Youth
<i>Security</i> .....	Team #2

### Sunday 6PM September 14<sup>th</sup> 2025

<i>Lead Singing</i> .....	Mark Forster
<i>Prayer</i> .....	Ethan Tummins
<i>Sermon</i> .....	John Jones
<i>Lord's Table</i> .....	Billy Buttrey
	& Matthew Dotson
<i>Closing Prayer</i> .....	Joe Smith

### Wednesday 6:30 PM, Sept 17<sup>th</sup> 2025

<i>Lead Singing</i> .....	Jimmy Long
<i>Prayer</i> .....	Bill Williams
<i>Adult Class</i> .....	John Jones

*\*If you are unable to serve.....please contact  
Wade Tummins in advance. (cell 931-209-6291)*

*\*If changes need to be made in scheduling please  
contact Jimmy Phy.*

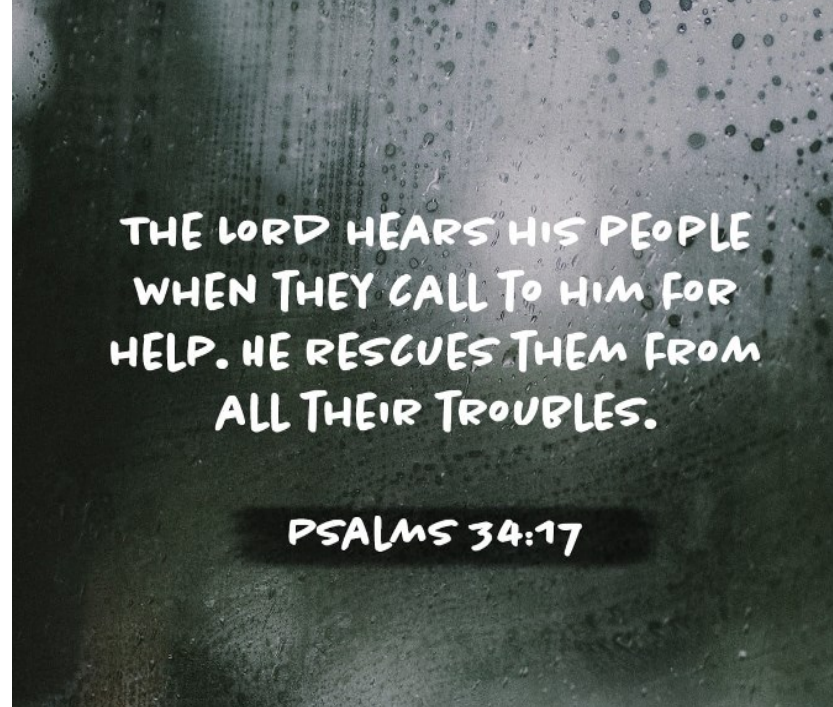
\*If you are unable to attend any service please tune in to our *Facebook* page or our *YouTube* page to watch the services. This is NOT a replacement for the command to assemble together as Christ's Body, but a tool for those who may be homebound/shut-in or sick.



**BULLETIN**

Online Church Bulletin™

Sunday Morning Bible School — — — — —	124
Sunday Morning Worship — — — — —	181
Sunday Evening Worship — — — — —	107
Wed-Mid-Week Bible Study — — — — —	131
Sunday Contribution — — — — —	\$8.699



Ministers ----- Every Member  
Pulpit ----- John Jones  
Youth ----- Keith Grigsby  
Secretaries ----- Terri Tummins  
Teresa Fleming

**{Team 1 - no cards to work on this Wednesday night.}**

**To Contact Us:**  
**9704 Hwy 70 E**  
***Mail us: P.O. Box 256***  
**McEwen, TN 37101**

**E-mail:** [mcewencofc@gmail.com](mailto:mcewencofc@gmail.com)  
*Phone: 931-582-6130*

**Website:** [www.mcewenchurchofchrist.com](http://www.mcewenchurchofchrist.com)