

December 20, 2015



# DeGaulle Drive

## CHURCH OF CHRIST

4700 GENERAL DEGAULLE DRIVE

NEW ORLEANS, LA 70131

www.DegaulleDriveCOC.com

### SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

#### SUNDAY

Morning Bible Class	9:00 AM
Morning Worship	10:00 AM
Pew Packers	5:30 PM
Evening Worship	6:00 PM

#### MID-WEEK

Tuesday Ladies Class	10:00 AM
(September—May)	
Wednesday Bible Class	7:00 PM

#### ELDERS

Wes Arabie	504-858-2881
Bill Burchett	504-393-2409
Howard Goodale	504-272-0502

#### DEACONS

Steve Tucker	504-812-2617
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#### EVANGELISTS

Scott Cain	504-392-4110
Wes Arabie	504-858-2881

EMAIL: office@degaulledrivecoc.com

#### WORKS SUPPORTED:

##### Benevolence:

Childhaven of Cullman, Alabama

##### Media:

Gospel Broadcasting Network  
In Search of the Lord's Way  
The Old Landmarks  
The Truth in Love

##### MISSIONS:

*Budapest, Hungary:* Curry Montague,  
curry.monta@gmail.com

*India:* Ron & Karen Clayton  
RCIndia@sonet.net

*Padova, Italy:* Jeff & Tia Brauer Family,  
brauer@padovateam.org

*Marshall, Texas:* Azael & Dinora Alvarez

##### PREACHER TRAINING:

Memphis School of Preaching

## **BUILDING A HOUSE OF PRAYER**

Part 1

Allen Webster

Is the congregation you attend a praying church? "We always have an opening and closing prayer," you say. That's good, but is it enough to qualify us as a praying church? Do we have special periods of prayer set aside for members to get together and pray? Does anyone go to them? Are there opportunities for members to make prayer requests and lists kept and distributed of them? How many Bible classes, sermons, and bulletin articles in the past twelve months emphasized prayer? What percentage of the membership prays daily beyond offering thanksgiving for meals? God's house is many things, but it is nothing if it is not a house of prayer. Many congregations would benefit from giving more emphasis to prayer. One said, "To pray without action is hypocrisy. To act without prayer is pagan." It's easy for a Christian to be guilty of both.

Do you remember what the Lord said the day He cleaned house at the temple? (Matthew 21:12-13). Try to picture Him standing to one side of the Court of the Gentiles and watching the Jews buying and selling sacrificial animals. His anger grew as their profits amassed. One historian tries to paint the scene:

Money was changed from foreign currency into the half shekel used to pay the Temple tax. These actions were seldom quiet and not always honest. As He watched the buying and selling, the haggling and cheating, His displeasure grew. If those who passed Him by had noticed, they might have seen Him flex an arm made strong by years of carpentry. They may have seen His fists clenched in frustration and anger. Now His eyes looked around the area, searching for something. Then, He saw it, a piece of rope that had been lost or discarded by one of the merchants. Picking it up, He doubled it, making it a whip, suitable to drive cattle out of the Temple area. Now He quickly moved in actions that were startling and upsetting even to those involved in the clamor of the buying and selling. With a strong hand, He turned over the tables of the moneychangers, scattering their stacks of coins. He untied sheep and cattle and with one flick of His whip, sent them into the narrow, winding streets of Jerusalem. With a voice of authority, He commanded the sellers of birds to take them out of the Temple.

What was His complaint? What set Him off like that? In a voice loud enough to be heard clearly above the turmoil, He announced His protest by quoting Isaiah, "My house will be called a house of prayer, and ye have made it a den of thieves," (Isaiah 56:7; Matthew 21:13). He was talking of Herod's temple, of course, but His new temple, the church (Ephesians 2:21), is no less a house of prayer. If we cannot truthfully say that the church where we worship could be called a house of prayer, how do we expect God to bless it with growth?

### **PHASE 1: LAYING THE FOUNDATION: WHY SHOULD THE CHURCH OF CHRIST PRAY?**

Let's take this image of building a temple, and apply it to building God's house of prayer. The first step to constructing any building is laying the foundation. Upon what foundation does the church of Christ (each congregation) build its prayer life?

**The Church of Christ Must Pray to Be Like Its Founder.** The church is the spiritual body of Christ on earth and must continue the work He did when He occupied a male Jewish physical body two millennia ago. While on earth, He sought

to save the lost (Luke 19:10); so must we (Mark 16:15). He had compassion on the hurting (Matthew 9:36); so must we (Jude 22). He glorified His Father (John 17:1); so must we (Matthew 5:16). He was never far from prayer; we must never be (1 Thessalonians 5:17). Jesus was disappointed with His disciples when they forgot to pray (Luke 22:45); we must be disappointed in ourselves if we forget to pray (2 Corinthians 13:5).

Prayer is mentioned in the Bible five hundred forty-five times (in 511 verses). Jesus is mentioned in connection with prayer sixty-two times (e.g., Matthew 14:23; 26:36, 39, 42, 44; Mark 1:35; 6:46; 14:32, 35, 39; John 14:16; 17:9-11, 20). He is known to have prayed on at least twenty-two different occasions. We may think a half hour is a long time to pray, but God's Son sometimes spent whole nights in one-sided conversation with God (Luke 6:12). Much of His last hours of freedom on earth were spent in prayer (John 17), as were some of His last breaths (Luke 23:34, Luke 23:46). It is safe to say that no one ever understood and practiced prayer as Jesus did. He encouraged His disciples to pray and inspired them by His example. Luke, more than the other writers, takes notice of Christ's praying. Luke's Gospel of Prayer gives at least twelve references to Jesus' prayer life.

- At His baptism (Luke 3:21).
- When His fame spread abroad (Luke 5:16).
- Before naming His twelve apostles (Luke 6:12).
- Before feeding the 5,000 (Luke 9:16).
- Before asking, Whom do men say that I am? (Luke 9:18).
- Prior to His transfiguration (Luke 9:28-29).
- When He rejoiced in spirit (Luke 10:21).
- When His disciples asked for instruction on prayer (Luke 11:1).
- For Peter's faith to fail not (Luke 22:32).
- Before His arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane (Luke 22:41-44).
- While on the cross (Luke 23:34).
- Before eating bread with the disciples at Emmaus (Luke 24:30).

As we analyze these references, we can make several observations. First, we see that Jesus prayed before making major decisions. As His church, we need to pray before appointing elders and deacons, hiring preachers, selecting missionaries, beginning new mission works, purchasing properties, taking on building projects, and before merging with other congregations or planting new churches. Second, we observe that Jesus prayed when facing trials. When congregations go through trying times, they need to increase their prayer time. Third, Jesus prayed on ordinary days (cf. Mark 1:35). He never got too busy to pray (cf. 1 Kings 20:40). His church needs to remember to rely on prayer during non-crisis time. We must not get too busy with emphasizing the next project or activity that we forget to thank God for the success of the last one. We must not get so busy enjoying past success that we forget to pray for upcoming activities.

A praying church begins in a single closet in a single home. We can make the church a house of prayer by making our houses churches of prayer. No one can keep us from praying. The devil can't. The atheists and evolutionists can't. The ACLU can't. A hypocrite or a hypercritic can't. The liberals and the radicals can't. Do you remember how Daniel responded when all the king's men told him he could not pray for thirty days?

Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime. Then these men assembled, and found Daniel praying and making supplication before his God (Daniel 6:10,11).

Nobody could stop Daniel from praying, and his prayers were powerful enough to shut the mouth of the king of beasts. Our prayers can keep another lion at bay: the devil (cf. 1 Peter 5:8).

**The Church of Christ Must Pray to Be Like Its Ancestors.** The Bible's history book, Acts of Apostles, tells us why the Jerusalem church of Christ was a great<sup>1</sup>, growing church. Even a casual reading of Acts reveals that the early church relied heavily upon prayer. They continued steadfastly in prayers (Acts 2:42). This phrase (proskartereo) means, "to be earnest towards," "to attend assiduously," "be instant in." This they did! Prayer, prayers, prayed, praying, or pray are found 34 times in Acts (Acts 1:14, 24; 2:42; 3:1; 4:31; 6:4, 6; 8:15; 8:22, 24, 34; 9:40; 10:2, 4, 9, 30, 31, 48; 11:5; 12:5, 12; 13:3; 14:23; 16:9, 13, 16, 25, 36; 21:5; 22:17; 23:18; 24:4; 27:34; 28:8)

This emphasis started with the preachers. The apostles placed prayer at the top of their To Do lists. They felt prayer was more important than taking care of the hungry, visiting the widows, and organizing the church's benevolent program. When a church fuss started over the neglect of some of its older members, the apostles refused to get involved (Acts 6). They said, "we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word" (Acts 6:4). Many churches would benefit from looking at how they ask their evangelist to use his time. If he is taking care of benevolence, tell him to stop! Under normal circumstances, when calls come in, they should be referred to a deacon (here appointed to that task). While the preacher has as much obligation to help the needy as any Christian (James 1:27), he should spend the bulk of his time in prayer and teaching. No one has enough hours to do everything. To be successful, we must prioritize our time and do the most important things first. Otherwise the urgent takes precedence over the important. In practical terms, if the preacher tries to handle church administration, benevolence, youth activities, building maintenance, and coffee shop duty, he will get to the end of his week

# NEWS & NOTE

## NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

1. **SONG LEADING CLASS:** Will meet today at 4:30 PM.
2. **GENERAL TEACHERS' MEETING:** January 10 at 4PM. All teachers & those interested are encouraged to attend.

**WORK NIGHT:** December's work night produced 27 cards of encouragement, 245 local mailings, & 35 World Bible School mailings. Thanks to all that helped in this evangelistic effort.

**NEWS N' NOTES:** Please see the board for notes of gratitude from Jessica Hidalgo & Gayle Hopkins; granddaughter & sister of Tommie Brock

**REJOICE!** We rejoice together with heaven over Eugene Carter's decision to put on Jesus in baptism! Please welcome our new brother in Christ!

**CONGRATULATIONS!** Meijah Lieteau graduated from the University of New Orleans last Friday as the first recipient of the school's music composition degree. Way to go, Ms. Lieteau!

**IT'S A BOY!** Tre'Sean Avion Garrett was born Friday at 8:31AM weighing 7lbs & 1oz. He & his mother Cyera (& his grandmother Yvette) are at West Jeff room 3125 & looking forward to going home soon.

## LAST WEEK'S RECORD

### Attendance

Bible Study	61
Sunday AM	81
Sunday PM	45
Wednesday	45

## NEEDING CARE & PRAYERS

### Our Members & Visitors

- Debbie Starr:** Has begun radiation.  
**Dan Joseph:** Dan is at home & is receiving hospice care.  
**Tony Sylve:** Asks for prayers as she continues to deal with epileptic episodes.  
**Family of Tommie Brock**                      **Bill & Barbara Burchett**  
**John & Mary Cullum**                         **Loretha "Bubba" Starr**  
**LaTonya Brooks-Washington**

### Our Shut-In

**Elwanda Piskorik**

### Our Family & Friends

- Betty England:** Grandmother of Stacey England; is in ICU following a brain aneurysm.  
**Roger Ferrell:** Will need further surgery in the near future for a recurrent hernia.  
**Sean Brown:** Son of Carol Byes; installed as a deacon with the Forest Hill church of Christ in Cleveland. Asking for prayers that he may fulfill the duties of the position.  
**Mike Roberts:** Husband of Ann Roberts; had surgery & tests confirmed that he does not have cancer in his neck.  
**Joby Smith, Jr.:** Grandson of Wes & Cheryl Arabie; needs prayers & encouragement. Please send your kind thoughts to him at the following address:  
Tennessee Children's Home  
Attn: Joby Smith  
P.O. Box 10  
Spring Hill, TN 37174

- Kaiyah Alexander**                              **Family of Delmar Cooper**  
**Tony Greathouse**                              **Family of Daryl McKinney**  
**Quinn Merryman**                              **Allen Morris**  
**Mia Paige**                                         **Martha Ruddy**

### Deployed Servicemen

**Nathan Gillespie:** Nathan, Dawn, Tempe, & Dalton are serving in Japan.

Please submit all prayer requests in writing to Scott or Melissa Cain. Please supply regular updates on each individual in order to keep our prayer list up-to-date. For the sake of space, any name (except for shut-ins) will be removed after four weeks unless a new update is received. Thank you for helping us all to stay informed of the spiritual & physical needs of our members, friends, & family.

## PRIVILEGED TO SERVE

### THIS WEEK      NEXT WEEK

#### DECEMBER 20

##### Sunday AM

#### Welcome:

Wes Arabie

#### Prayer:

Don Robinson

#### Song Lead:

Howard Goodale

#### Communion Scripture:

Keith Cooper

1 Cor. 15:1-5

#### Lord's Table:

Ron Landis

#### Sermon:

Scott Cain

#### Dismissal:

Jerome Riddick

##### Sunday PM

#### Welcome:

Wes Arabie

#### Prayer:

Jerome Riddick

#### Song Lead:

Ron Landis

#### Lord's Table:

Ron Landis

#### Sermon:

Scott Cain

#### Dismissal:

Glenn Bates

#### DECEMBER 27

##### Sunday AM

#### Welcome:

Steve Tucker

#### Prayer:

Ron Landis

#### Song Lead:

Howard Goodale

#### Communion Scripture:

Steve Tucker

Hebrews 1:1-6

#### Lord's Table:

Ron Landis

#### Sermon:

Scott Cain

#### Dismissal:

Paul Macaluso

##### Sunday PM

#### Welcome:

Steve Tucker

#### Prayer:

Keith Cooper

#### Song Lead:

Wes Arabie

#### Lord's Table:

Ron Landis

#### Sermon:

Readings I Cor. 3-4

#### Dismissal:

Roland Keith

without having prayed or studied as much as he needs to in order to feed the congregation properly on Sunday. Preacher, how much prayer-peration went into last week's sermons?

Elders in the early church were men of prayer. When Paul called an elders' meeting at Miletus, he warned the overseers of the Ephesus church of Christ that false teachers would arise to teach perverse things to draw men after them. Before parting, these men bowed to pray (Acts 20:36). For what did they pray? We are not told, but the context indicates they prayed for Paul and the trouble he faced, and for the church and the trouble it faced. Are you an elder? If so, are you a man of prayer? Do you begin or end your meetings with prayers for wisdom? Do you pray that the church may be spared the destruction of false teaching? Do you pray for the straying sheep under your watch? Do you pray for your missionaries? Do you pray for the deacons helping you carry out your many works? Do you pray for the teachers in the Bible school you oversee? Do you pray for the preacher who assists in feeding the flock? Do you pray for wisdom to untangle the dilemmas (troubled families and divorces, for instance) laid before you? Do you pray for courage to stand for the Truth even in the face of wicked and unreasonable men? Do you pray for the church to grow? Do you pray that all your flock will make it to heaven? Elders, deacons, and preachers need to say more often, Let's have a word of prayer.

**The Church of Christ Must Pray To Be A People Who Follow the Bible.** As the church is a house of prayer because of the emphasis it gives to prayer, the Bible may be called God's book of prayer for the same reason. The church of Christ has always rightfully staked its claim on being a people of the Book. We plead that all churches do Bible things in Bible ways (1 Peter 4:11). We argue that each must go back to the Bible to be right and leave nothing out and add nothing in (Revelation 22:18-19). If we are going to give more than lip-service to the restoration plea, we must not only talk about prayer, we must practice it. The New Testament uses the words pray, prayed, prayers, and praying one hundred and sixty-three times (not counting synonyms such as ask, seek, knock, and petition). By contrast, it uses baptize, baptized, and baptism seventy times. This does not mean that prayer is more important than baptism, but does suggest the emphasis it should receive in Christ's church. When the scribes and Pharisees murmured against Jesus and asked Him,

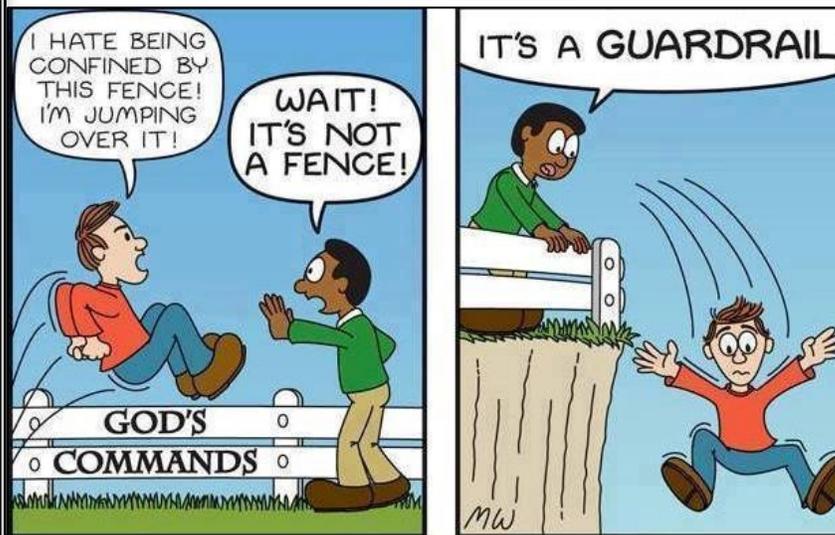
Why do the disciples of John fast often, and make prayers, and likewise the disciples of the Pharisees; but thine eat and drink? He said unto them, Can ye make the children of the bridechamber fast, while the bridegroom is with them? But the days will come, when the bridegroom shall be taken away from them, and then shall they fast in those days" (Luke 5:33-35).

Implied in this exchange is the fact that when Jesus went back to heaven, His disciples (church) would fast and pray. Are we living up to His expectations?

We are always to pray and not to faint (Luke 18:1).

*Endnotes:*

1. The word great is found thirty-nine times in Acts, and its greatness can be found by tracing this word through the text. To get started note that the church began on a great and notable day ([Acts 2:20](#)), and then, use a concordance to follow the word great through the book.
2. Some Bible scholars differ with this position. Hugo McCord, for instance, argues against it in material quoted from him by Earl West in *The Enchanted Knight* (Religious Book Service, Germantown, TN, 1999), saying that these are not deacons since no elders had been appointed to oversee them. He may be right when he says this was a sort of benevolence committee, and we would not make a great issue of it, but their qualifications are very similar to those of deacons in [1 Timothy 3](#). We do not know where elders were first appointed (cf. [Acts 14:23](#)), but even if they were not appointed by this time the apostles would have been there to oversee the deacons and keep them from being de facto elders.
3. This includes preparation to teach for he cannot teach what he does not know. It would include teaching through publications, internet, radio/TV programs, jail ministry, youth devotionals, and similar efforts.



**O, HOW TRUE!!**

He that keepeth the commandment keepeth his own soul; *but* he that despiseth his ways shall die.

- Proverbs 19:16