



Rev. Scott Stedman  
Pastor

# “Jesus on The Main Line”

*October 2016*

## Intimacy with Jesus or Darkness

You know the story. A man has been a believer in Christ for decades. To all outward appearances he's a man of Christian faithfulness and integrity. He has maintained a reputation as a fine example of public and private faithfulness to the things of God for decades. Then, without warning, it all collapses into a sinkhole of sin. Everyone wonders how it could have happened so quickly. In most cases, it soon becomes known that—like most sinkholes—the problem didn't develop overnight.

Several years ago, this man likely had a relatively consistent devotional life through which the Lord often refreshed, strengthened, and matured him. But with each passing year, his busy life became ever busier. Increasingly he saw his devotional life more as a burden—a mere obligation sometimes—than a blessing. Because of the massive doses of Bible teaching he'd heard—in addition to the knowledge gained teaching church Bible classes himself—he began to imagine that he needed less private prayer and Bible intake than when he was younger and not as spiritually mature. Besides, he had so many other God-given responsibilities that surely God would understand that he was too busy to meet with Him every day. One small concession led to another; one plausible rationalization led to the next, until the devastating day when a tipping point was reached and the spiritual weakness developed by too many private compromises could no longer sustain even the appearance of Christian integrity. And into the sinkhole fell his reputation, witness, ministry, and perhaps much more.

So many times one may hear a message from a minister, teacher, or conference speaker to continue to make intimate time with Jesus or once can easily fall into a “sin trap,” and one may find it impossible to imagine coming to such a condition: beware. This situation could easily be yours in a few years. The words of [1 Corinthians 10:12](#) are an apt admonition here: “Let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.” As the pressures of life increase and more deadlines loom, it becomes harder to maintain time for the devotional life. And herein is where the erosion begins.

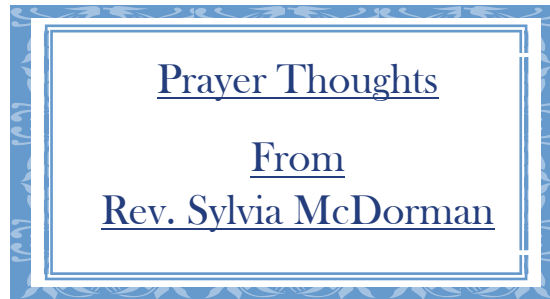
At the outset it's likely that very few will know when the hidden part of your spiritual life begins crumbling. Just as imperceptible movements of water underground can carry away the earth beneath long before anyone on the surface perceives it, so the pressures of life can secretly displace the soil of our private spiritual disciplines long before the impact of their absence is visible to others. The more public parts of a Christian's life, such as church involvement and various forms of ministry, can often continue with little observable change right up until the awful moment of collapse and the hypocrisy is revealed.

(Continued from page 1)

I’m sure you’re already familiar with many factors that undermine intimacy with Christ. Realize that it’s almost certain that the “time-thieves” trying to steal from your time with God will only increase as the years pass. Never be deceived by the temptation to think that with the increasing spiritual maturity you expect to come with age, the less you will need to feast your soul on Christ through the Bible and prayer. What Jesus prayed in [John 17:17](#) for all His followers – “Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth” – applies to us all throughout our lives.

Jesus practiced what He prayed for us. The Bible tells us that Jesus regularly attended when God’s people assembled to hear the Scriptures ([Luke 4:16](#)) and also that He would get alone to meet with His Father ([Matt. 14:23](#)). Jesus’ followers need both the sustaining grace that comes through the public worship of God as well as that which comes to us when we meet with Him individually.

There are seasons of life when our devotional habits may be providentially altered. But the general rule is that those reconciled to God through the cross of His Son need conscious, personal communion with Him every day until the day they see Him face to face. And the ordinary means by which He gives it is through the personal spiritual disciplines found in Scripture, chief of which are the intake of the Word of God and prayer. Pursue the Lord with a relentless, lifelong, obstacle-defying passion. Resolve never to let your daily life keep you from Jesus daily.



**This month's community prayer meeting is being held on Tuesday, October 4, from 7:00 to 9:00 pm, at Calvary Baptist Church, 105 Garland Drive, Staunton. Come on out and pray! Let's make a presence in our community for prayer!**

### **Take a stand for God!**

"We come in prayer before God that He may once again bless our Nation. We come in prayer to remember the lives of those who sacrificed so much to come to this land and to those who set up a government that was Bible based, that it might be an encouragement to us as we continue to be God's faithful children who pray for the return of God's Laws to this beautiful and wonderful Country. God is faithful to hear the cries of His people through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. May the Holy Spirit who indwells us, inspire us to be fervent in prayer for this Country in spite of the increasing chaos, violence and Godlessness we see. We are Christ's ambassadors; our prayers matter; they are needed, and we give God all the glory because in hard times and good times He works all things together for the good of His children and for His Glory. In Christ alone is our strength. God longs for the return of the prodigals, which we once were, and He wishes that not one would perish but that all would be brought into the saving Grace of His Son, Jesus Christ, who took upon Himself all our sins that we might find redemption and dwell with Him for eternity. We need prayer for our Country, and we need to pray for each other to remain firm and stand on the Word of God and the Truth as revealed to us through the Bible." (copied from the communication about the community prayer meeting)

## *A Note from the Elder Board*

# Growth Track

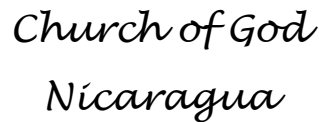
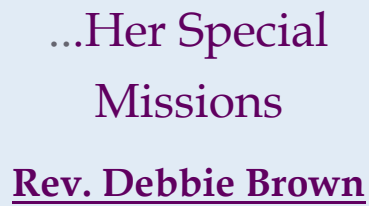
A catalyst to help you become a more  
fully devoted follower of Jesus Christ.

Thanks to everyone who attended the Growth Track sessions! It is our prayer that God has spoken to you with new and/or refreshed inspiration about your life and the life of the church. We look forward to seeing how God leads the church as he has touched the lives of all of you through Growth Track!

*The Elder Board,  
Sylvia McDorman Chair  
Debbie Brown, Secretary  
Jamie Hendricks*

*Terry Morris  
Wandy Saufley  
Bernie Wolcott  
Pastor Scott Stedman*

Next Meeting:  
October 24 2016  
6:30 pm



Xoochilt asks that we continue to pray for the work in Nicaragua and the upcoming camp. She especially asked that their thanks go to the Church in Staunton for their interest in the work God has called them to in Nicaragua. She sends you all a big hug and says, "God bless you."





...Her Special  
Missions  
Rev. Debbie Brown



## *West Virginia, Helping Our Neighbors*

We partnered with Cornerstone Church to deliver the items you collected for the West Virginia flood victims. There are areas in West Virginia that are not getting any assistance with flood damage. Rainelle, West Virginia is one of those areas. Cornerstone Church has been to the area and assessed the needs to be great. They are working with a Pastor in Rainelle to see that the items donated are getting to the families with the greatest needs. Thank you for giving with a loving heart.



## What's Right Now on RightNow Media

Nothing this month.

Check in next month!

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|--|---|---|
| <p><b>MOBILIZING<br/>CHURCHES TO<br/>TRANSFORM LIVES<br/>AND COMMUNITIES<br/>IN THE NAME OF<br/>CHRIST</b></p> |  <p><b>Love INC</b><br/><i>Love In The Name Of Christ</i><br/>123 Tinkling Spring Road, Fishersville, VA 22939<br/>A Virginia Non-Profit Corporation</p> | <p><b>OFFICE/WAREHOUSE<br/>HOURS<br/>(540)221-2955<br/>MON/WED/FRI 9A - 4P</b></p> <p><b>NEWLY<br/>EXPANDED!</b></p> <p><b>TREASURES FOR LOVE<br/>RESALE STORE<br/>2296 JEFFERSON HWY,<br/>WAYNESBORO<br/>(540)451-2634<br/>MON - FRI 10A - 5P<br/>SAT 10A - 4P</b></p> |
|--|---|---|

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## **CREATING GIFTS OF LOVE!**

November 12, 2016

9 am - 1pm

It's that time again... our "signature" event for spreading Christmas love! At this event, children have the opportunity to make simple crafts as gifts for their family members.

A number of crafts are offered, each hosted by an area church, allowing children to participate in the joy of Christmas giving. The children are scheduled on a staggered-time-basis, allowing enough time for children and volunteers to enjoy the experience tremendously.





*A Place for Every Woman Where Every Woman Takes Her Place*



**OUR THANKSGIVING SUPPER WILL BE  
NOVEMBER 12, 2016.**

**MORE INFORMATION TO FOLLOW.**

***CWC Meeting for October 3, 2016 has been cancelled We will  
meet again on November 7, 2016. Please join us. We do great  
things!!***

Staunton First Church of God-Anderson  
1850 Shutterlee Mill Rd. Staunton, Va.24401  
Phone: 540-886-5432  
E-Mail: [svacog@verizon.net](mailto:svacog@verizon.net)  
[www.stauntonfirstchurchofgod.org](http://www.stauntonfirstchurchofgod.org)



### Our Vision

Our mission is to **G**row in our relationship with Christ,  
**E**ngage in our community to share His love and **T**rans-  
form our world into His likeness.

### WEEKLY SERVICES

#### SUNDAY

Sunday School 9:45AM

For All Ages

Worship Service

10:45 AM

Everyone Welcome

#### WEDNESDAY

6:30 PM

Adult Bible Study

Have you remembered to "cross" someone?  
Remember the cross cards are available in the narthex.  
Take a few cards with you, do little acts of kindness and  
give them a cross card.  
Be a blessing to others and share the love of Christ!!



"Jesus on the Main Line" Newsletter Published Monthly. To Submit an article or idea  
contact: Judy Huffer: [jhuffer@staunton.k12.va.us](mailto:jhuffer@staunton.k12.va.us) or 540-290-1374  
All Articles must be turned by the 20th of each month. Thank you.

# October 2016

| SUN  | MON   | TUES      | WED   | THURS                                   | FRI                                     | SAT                                     |
|--|---|-----------|---|---|---|---|
| <b>30</b>  | <b>31</b>                                   |           |   |   |   | <b>1</b>                                |
| <b>2</b><br>Keeping<br>you con-<br>nected 6:00<br>PM | <b>3</b>                                    | <b>4</b>  | <b>5</b><br>Adult Bible<br>Study<br><br>Block off<br>driveway | <b>6</b><br><br>Driveway<br>blocked off | <b>7</b><br><br>Driveway<br>blocked off | <b>8</b><br><br>Driveway<br>blocked off |
| <b>9</b>   | <b>10</b>                                   | <b>11</b> | <b>12</b><br>Adult Bible<br>Study                             | <b>13</b>                               | <b>14</b>                               | <b>15</b>                               |
| <b>16</b>  | <b>17</b>                                   | <b>18</b> | <b>19</b><br>Adult Bible<br>Study                             | <b>20</b>                               | <b>21</b>                               | <b>22</b>                               |
| <b>23</b>  | <b>24</b><br>Elder Board<br>Meeting<br>5:30 | <b>25</b> | <b>26</b><br>Adult Bible<br>Study                             | <b>27</b>                               | <b>28</b>                               | <b>29</b>                               |

*October 2016*

*Happy Birthday & Anniversary*

| SUN   | MON   | THUS                              | WED                             | THRUS                             | FRI   | SAT |
|---|---|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|-----|
| 30  | 31  |                                   |                                 |                                   |   | 1   |
| 2   | 3   | 4                                 | 5<br>Birthday<br>Todd Eye       | 6                                 | 7   | 8   |
| 9<br>Birthday<br>Pat Wertman<br>Anniversary<br>Todd & Judy<br>Eye | 10<br>Birthday<br>Joe Truxell<br>Bernie Wolcott | 11                                | 12                              | 13                                | 14<br>Birthday<br>Ray Wright<br>Anniversary<br>Troy &<br>Brandy<br>Austin | 15  |
| 16  | 17<br>Birthday<br>Lisa Reynolds                 | 18                                | 19                              | 20<br>Birthday<br>Debbie<br>Brown | 21  | 22  |
| 23<br>Birthday<br>Barbara Truxell                                 | 24  | 25<br>Birthday<br>Odell<br>Huffer | 26<br>Birthday<br>Emily Carwell | 27                                | 28<br>Birthday<br>Laura Carwell   | 29  |