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Greg Conley 923-8238
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MINISTER
Mark Day
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ASSOC. MINISTER
Jerry Sturgill
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DEACONS
Nathan Adkins
David Castle
J.C. Hughes
Brad Morris
Nathan Parks
David Smith
Jeremiah Smith
Jerry Sturgill
Matthew Vonderheide
Steve Wallace

SERVICES
Sunday Bible Study 9:45am
Morning Worship 10:45 am
Evening Worship 6:00 pm
Wed. Bible Study 7:00 pm

WEB PAGE
[www.flatwoodschurch-
ofchrist.org](http://www.flatwoodschurch-ofchrist.org)

MISSIONS
-Dustin Bolks
Sioux Center, Ia.
-Dahn Ramkelawan
Suriname, So. America
-Michael Mayo
Thailand, SE Asia
-*"In Search of the Lord's
Way"* TV broadcast
-Stephane Maillet
SEIBS student
-Brandon Foresha
WVSOP student

SEARCH TV
Sundays 7:30 am (on Fox)

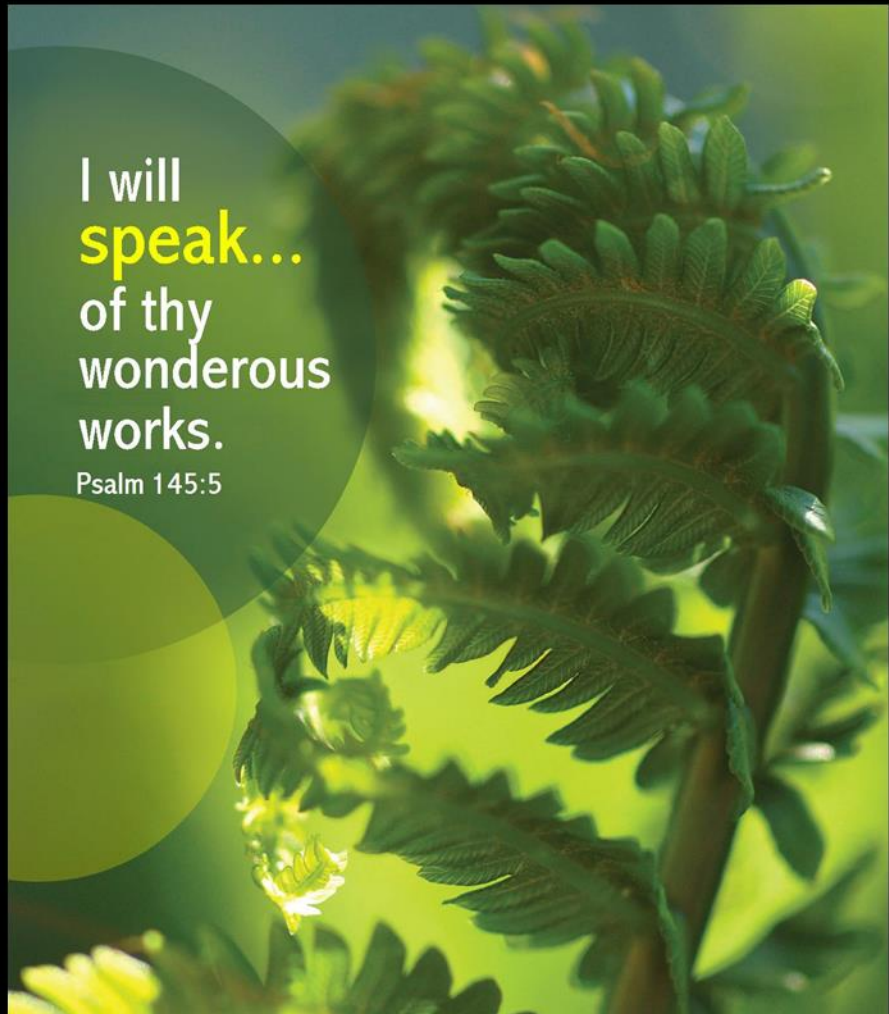
FLATWOODS CHURCH OF CHRIST
HERALD

PO Box 871, 2100 Argillite Rd, Flatwoods, KY 41139

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I will
Speak...
of thy
wonderous
works.

Psalm 145:5

We offer FREE: 4 Bible correspondence course series by mail:
an 8 lesson series by Hurt, a 6 lesson series "Acts Of The Apostles"
by Pharr, the "Studies In The Bible" 30 lesson series, and the
20 lesson series "Getting To Know Jesus" by Pharr. Let everyone know!

The Choice Is Yours

Naturalism—the belief that only natural processes are and have always been at work in our universe—has serious implications in regard to free will. Dr. Sam Harris has a PhD in neuroscience and is an outspoken naturalist; in his 2012 book *Free Will*, Harris emphatically declares, “Free will is an illusion.”¹ Instead of regarding man as an immortal soul housed in a physical body, whose will is challenged, but not entirely overridden, by physical constraints, Harris only sees the physical constraints. As a proponent of naturalism, he must reduce every “decision” to a material cause, regarding measurements of neural activity as the key to determining what decision an individual will make. He says, “Consider what it would take to actually have free will. You would need to be aware of all the factors that determine your thoughts and actions, and you would need to have complete control over those factors.”² Herein lies the problem with Harris’ thinking, somehow because one does not have complete control over physical factors relating to actions, one does not have any control over one’s thoughts and decisions. One cannot make a decision above those influences for good or bad. However, C.S. Lewis points out the flaw in this thinking:

But at those moments when we are most conscious of the Moral Law, it usually seems to be telling us to side with the weaker of the two impulses. You probably want to be safe much more than you want to help the man who is drowning: but the Moral Law tells you to help him all the same. And surely it often tells us to try to make the right impulse stronger than it naturally is?...The thing that says to you, ‘Your herd instinct is asleep. Wake it up,’ cannot itself be the herd instinct. The thing that tells you which note needs to be played louder cannot itself be that note.³

In fact, people do have the capacity to choose what to believe and what to do. If not, then right and wrong are emptied of meaning. Morals have no significance if man is unable to choose differently from the course of action he pursues. The universal sense of justice—that we should be fair to fellow human beings—requires that when individuals are unfair they could have chosen to be fair. Instead of a might-makes-right worldview, we desire the scales to be balanced. The Bible’s teaching that beliefs and decisions having a bearing on this life and an afterlife gives life, morals, and justice meaning (Matthew 25:31-46; Acts 17:30-31; 24:25).

Naturalism is missing something. With its lack of free will, lack of foundation for right and wrong, and lack of an afterlife, naturalism ultimately leads to nihilism. In *Ecclesiastes*, Solomon considers what is the ultimate meaning in all that is done “under the sun”; thus, limiting his scope to just this life with no final judgment, he concludes, “Then I looked on all the works that my hands had wrought, and on the labour that I had laboured to do: and, behold, all was vanity and vexation of spirit, and there was no profit under the sun” (2:11). His only recourse from this despair was realizing man’s duty to God, the judge of the good and evil, “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil” (*Ecclesiastes* 12:13-14). This weekend, in our seminar with Dr. Jeff Miller, you have heard the evidence for God creating the universe and having a purpose for your life. Which will you choose?

-Mark Day

¹Harris, Sam. *Free Will*. New York: Free Press, 2012. p. 5.

²*Ibid.* 13.

³C.S. Lewis. *Mere Christianity*. New York: HarperCollins, 2001. p. 10.

News & Notes

Sermons This Week



9:45 AM: guest speaker, Jeff Miller-
"Is Creation Scientifically Defensible?"
10:45 AM: *"Why Become A Christian?"*
6:00 PM: Mark Day- *"Out of Nazareth?"*

Scripture Reading: Matthew 2:19-23

Dates to Remember

Sep 9– potluck– 12p– annex
Sep 11– Prime-timers– 10a– annex
Sep 16–elder/deacon/preacher meet– 4:30p
Sep 17-20– Ceredo Gospel Meeting w/ Barry Bryson, Manassas, VA– 7p
Sep 18– Prime-timers– 10a– annex
Sep 22– Rolling Hills Men’s Day w/ Paul Holland– Bible & Mental Health– 8:45a
Sep 25– Prime-timers– 10a– annex
Sep 28– Ladies Luncheon-12 noon
Sep 30– Jessica & Chris Miller Wedding reception–3-5p–annex- (gift cards only)
Sep 30– Oct 3– Olive Hill Revival with Melvin Sapp, Sumter, SC (M-W 7p)

Mark Your Calendar

Oct 27– Trunk O’ Treat/ Chili Supper-6p
Nov 4– Bring A Friend Day & potluck
Dec 1– Scott family pancake breakfast–8a
Dec 8– Ladies Holiday Party @ Kathy Hall’s

New Members

Last Sunday, Jason Ridgeway, his wife Cindy, Hayden (a junior at Shawnee) & Elle (a high school senior) placed membership with our congregation. Please, make them feel welcomed.

Ladies Luncheon

Friday, September 28th at 12:00pm, the ladies of the church will meet to have lunch at Firehouse Subs.

Reception for Chris & Jessica Miller

Everyone (children included) are invited to a wedding reception to honor Chris and Jessica (Felty) Miller on their recent wedding. The event will be Sunday, September 30, from 3 to 5pm in the annex auditorium. Well wishes, cards and gift cards only are requested. See Denise Smith & Holly Poling for further details.

Prime-timers Group

This is an open discussion Bible study group meeting Tuesdays at 10a.m. in the annex large classroom. Everyone is invited to participate.

Gauging Our Faith

	09/02/18	Goal	09/03/17
Bible Study	101	110	108
AM Worship	146	160	154
PM Worship	95	110	95
Mid Week	98	110	85
Contribution:	\$6110.00	\$5900.00	\$6956.92

Have you contacted
a shut-in lately?
Why not today?



☞ Today's Servants ☞

WELCOME:

AM/PM: J.C. Hughes

SONG LEADER:

AM: Brad Morris

PM: Dan Stone

FIRST PRAYER:

AM: Greg Conley

PM: Edgar Phillips

LORD'S TABLE:

Presiding AM: Steve Wallace

Assisting: Jeremiah Smith,
Jordan Conley, Eric McKinney,
Jerrad Nickell, Jason Fouts,
David Castle, Jacob Martin

Presiding PM: David Trimble

Assisting: George Wallace

CLOSING PRAYER:

AM: Ben Poling

PM: Jacob Martin

☞ Wednesday Servants ☞

WELCOME: Mark Parks

SONG LEADER: Dan Stone

PRAYER: J.C. Hughes

DEVOTIONAL: Nathan Parks

☞ Weekly Servants ☞

POWER POINT: Matt Vonderheide

BLDG. ATTENDANT: Greg Conley

ATTENDANCE: David Castle

COORDINATOR: Nathan Parks

☆☆☆ Youth Notes ☆☆☆

☆☆ Every Sunday ☆☆

Pew Packers

at 5:45pm

in front auditorium

geared to age 12

& younger,

but everyone can come.

—Boys: have a song
ready to lead—



Welcome, Visitor!

We are so pleased to have you as our guest today.

If you are a **first-time visitor** with us, **please, fill out a 'visitor card'** that you find on the back of the pew. Please, put it in the collection plate or hand it to one of the men at the auditorium doors as you exit.

We have tract racks on the wall in the foyer with **free tracts and literature**. We offer **free Bible correspondence courses** you can receive by mail at no cost to you. Let our preacher know if you would like to set up an **in-home Bible study**. Thank you for attending. Come back anytime!