

The Cicada Syndrome

Elders

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Benny Haught
Tim Murray
Bill Reiboldt

Deacons

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Casey Flint
Jason Giebler
Josh King
Mike Kidwell
Darren Pierce
Bryan Reiboldt
Jim Scott
Peter Wald

Preacher

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Youth & Family Minister

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Worship Assemblies

10 a.m. Sunday
6 p.m. Sunday

Bible Classes

9 a.m. Sunday
7 p.m. Wednesday

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You might know cicadas best either by their loud, buzzing chorus, or by their distinctive thumb-sized appearance. Being from the Ozarks, you might know them better as katydids. But what do you know about the cicada lifecycle? These insects lay their eggs in tree branches. When the eggs hatch, the nymphs drop to the ground, burrow into the soil, and feed on sap in the roots of plants. Dog-day cicadas or annual cicadas stay that way for two to seven years. Periodical cicadas persist in this immature state for 13 or 17 years!

Do you know what all kinds of cicadas have in common? *They live for only a few weeks as adults.*

Do you know anybody with “the cicada syndrome”? They are the kind of people who refuse to grow up.

Kids have the right to be kids. But, to borrow Paul’s illustration, “When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways” (1 Cor. 13:11).

Selfish men and women have the cicada syndrome. They have a hard time thinking about anybody but themselves. The needs of their children, spouses, parents, brethren, and friends (if they have any) must take a back seat. “Me first” is their mantra. Children are born utterly dependent on others. They cry when their needs and wants are going unmet. God expects more of adults. “Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others” (Phil. 2:4).

Irresponsible men and women have the cicada syndrome. They see nothing wrong with continually getting something for nothing.

Youngsters deserve to be fed, clothed and sheltered by their parents and other caregivers. On the other hand, when it comes to able-bodied adults, God says: “If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat” (2 Thess. 3:10). “Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need” (Eph. 4:28).

Naïve men and women have the cicada syndrome. Some people stay fixated on material things with the intensity of a child glued to a screen and playing his favorite game. They think that they can pursue more and more without hurting themselves.

They assume that graphic movies, shows, videos and games that glorify illicit sex, violence and profanity can entertain them without infecting their hearts, minds, and souls. They imagine that they can mate without marriage and leave nothing behind. “But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God’s holy people” (Eph. 5:3).

Many more symptoms indicate the presence of the cicada syndrome. They all reflect thought patterns that are excusable in a child but utterly inexcusable in a grownup.

Do you have the syndrome? “Brothers, do not be children in your thinking. Be infants in evil, but in your thinking be mature” (1 Cor. 14:20).



Danny Boggs



Kay Anderson, Travis Bell, Carol Bessman, Levi Bontrager, Fred Bukowich, Kim Cable, Vera Cornell, Lee Crabtree, Don Deffenbaugh, Katherine Enfield (Debi's daughter), Kathy Friend, Rile Friend, Beth Foster, Joe and Teresa Freund, Pete Griffin, Karen Honeycutt, Molly Jackson, Lexie Kidd, Shanna Kraft (Cheryl's daughter), Cheryl Langley, Pam McMahan, Sherry Merrill, Bob Murray, Tim Murray, Larry Owen, Lyn Pendergraft, Susan Phillips, Mebyl Privett, Brandon Ross (Debi's grandson), Harold Speir, Edith Toney, Ken Tyler.

Continue to pray for Tim Murray, Susan Phillips, and Lyn Pendergraft who all had some health challenges this week.

Pat Risley went home to be with the Lord on Friday. A memorial service will be held here at 10:00 on Tuesday. You are invited to visit with the family and have cookies in the fellowship room following the service. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to NCS.

 **Every "One" Counts:** When you give an extra dollar each Sunday, it goes to help someone in need. If you know someone in need, please contact Jennifer Daniels or Natalie McInturff.

Devo and Donuts is Tuesdays at 7:00 in the activities center. Enjoy a devotional, food and fellowship. 

If you can't be here when we **worship**, visit our website, Facebook page or YouTube channel to join us live or to catch up on what you missed.

Today's Sermons

A.M.: *Salvation Vocabulary, Part 2*
(Danny Boggs)

P.M.: *Sing More: How Deep the Father's Love for Us*



Ladies game night will be at 6:00 on Tuesday night in the fellowship room. Come prepared to play cards and enjoy the fellowship. They would love to see you there.

Wednesday is our **family meal**. Please sign up in the foyer. The hostess groups of Molly Cobb/Brenda Kimbrough and Kayla Hayes will be providing a taco salad meal. Come and join the fellowship.

The **Senior Saints** potluck lunch will be Saturday at noon in the fellowship room. This group loves to eat and visit and would be thrilled if you would come join them in this fellowship time.

Ruth Rally for teen girls is March 31-April 1. See Bethany Boggs if you are interested. The theme is "*Made for This*".

New Devo will be next Sunday at the Gieblers' home. Plan to attend after evening services. It is for grades 7-12 and their families.

Thanks to all who participated in the **Ladies' Seminar**. We had wonderful lessons presented by Jill Jackson. Some of our young ladies led songs and others presented speeches at the lunch. So many helped with preparation, prayers and inviting others. Many helped with tasks on Friday and Saturday. At least 115 ladies were in attendance Friday night and Saturday. What a blessed time was enjoyed with our Christian sisters!

Questions and Answers is coming soon. If you have a burning Bible questions give it to Danny for consideration for that Sunday night lesson.

Save the Date: Neosho Christian School **Benefit Banquet** will be April 1. You can help the school by purchasing a seat or a table for the banquet. More information is on the bulletin board.

You can now enroll for week 2 at **Green Valley Bible camp**. Just go to their website. It will be a wonderful week led by Danny Boggs. so get signed up now! The theme this year is "*The Way: Jesus and His Church*".

If you would like to help **send a child to camp**, please give your donation to Danny or Coralee.

WORSHIP LEADERS

Today

AM Opening Prayer: Jared Thomas
AM Closing Prayer: Aaron Wilson
Communion Prayers: Bill Reiboldt

Evening

PM Opening Prayer: Jackson Collinworth
PM Closing Prayer: Harold Speir

This Wednesday

Announcements: Tony Flint
Singing: Alec Fehring
Invitation: Darren Pierce
Opening Prayer: Pat Andrews
Closing Prayer: Charles Phillips

RECORDS

3-5-23

3-6-22

Bible Study	146	150
AM Worship	196	185
PM Worship	104	110
Wednesday	131	127
Contribution	\$9,056.67	\$8,432.43
Budget	\$8,250.00	\$8,250.00