

The Cicada Syndrome

You might know cicadas best either by their loud, buzzing chorus, or by their distinctive thumb-sized appearance. 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 like a child with the Toys “R” Us Christmas catalog. They think that they can pursue more and more without hurting themselves. They assume that “R-rated” movies, “rated ‘M’ for mature” games, and television shows that glorify illicit sex or always revolve around murder 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).

Multiplied 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.

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



Elders

John Deffenbaugh
 Wayne Douthitt
 Glen Honeycutt
 Rick Hyder
 Bill Reiboldt

Deacons

Pete Babb
 Carl Cobb
 Barry Flint
 Casey Flint
 Josh King
 Mike Kidwell
 Tim Murray
 Bryan Reiboldt
 Jim Scott
 Peter Wald

Local Evangelist

Danny Boggs

Worship Assemblies

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

Bible Classes

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

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Danny Boggs

His own people, eager to do what is good – Titus 2:14

In Our Thoughts & Prayers



Pam Babb, Joyce Clarkson, Ed and Vera Cornell, Lee Crabtree, Glen Crumbliss, Eli Dodson, Joe Freund, Wilma Hill, David Hofer, Gary and Cheryl Neilans, Angel Rivera, Scott Swope, Edith Toney, Bobbie Tuggle, Ruth Ann Wilson.

- Edith Toney is having surgery for cancer on April 8 in Kansas City.



every **ONE** counts!

Every "One" Counts: Remember when you give an extra dollar each Sunday, it goes to help someone in

need, often a local family. If you know someone who needs immediate help, please contact Jennifer Daniels or Natalie McInturff.

Devo and Donuts: Join us every Tuesday morning at 7:00 for donuts and a brief devotional. All area students are invited, and bring your friends!



Opportunity: Ed and Vera Cornell need some help with **meals**. If you can support them with this, please contact Heather Cobb.

Reservations need to be made by tomorrow for the **Neosho Christian School Benefit Banquet** that will be held April 13. Call now for reservations: 451-1941.

The **elders** will meet this Wednesday at 4:30. You may contact one of the elders, if you wish to meet with them.



This Sunday's Sermons:

AM: *A Earnest Desire to Eat*
(Luke 22, Danny Boggs)

P.M: *Carried Up Into Heaven*
(Luke 24:40-57, Danny Boggs)

The city **garage sale** is this Friday and Saturday. You can help the Neosho Christian School in two ways. First, drop off donations at the school. Second, shop at the sale. You can even buy a snack to help you get through the rest of the day's shopping experience.

Men's Breakfast: Join us for fellowship and breakfast this Thursday at 7:00 a.m. at Braum's.

Special Note: This Sunday morning, the **Lord's Supper** will be served after the sermon.

The van will leave for the **Tri-State Youth Series** in Miami at 3:15 Sunday.

Please join us this Sunday at 4:30 in the activities center for a **Wedding Shower** honoring Tony Flint and Heather Cobb. They are registered at Target, Bed Bath & Beyond and Amazon.

As you **read** the rest of Luke and John, remember to submit questions for our next Q & A lesson April 28.

Our week at **Green Valley Bible Camp** is June 9-15. You can register online at greenvalleybiblecamp.com

You are invited to the wedding of **Heather Cobb** and **Tony Flint** on May 4. Kindly respond to 615-934-9910 or at WEDDING.FLINTSERVICES.COM More information is on the bulletin board.

An invitation to the wedding of **Luke Yates** and **Grace Harrison** on May 11 in TN is on the bulletin board.

Thank you! We nearly doubled the budget in our giving Sunday. That means almost \$7,000 goes to help pay for our activities center.

*To all the Hillcrest church ladies,
Thank you all who brought me meals right after my heart procedure. Sorry it took so long for me to send this, a lot has been going on. Many thanks and lots of love to you all.*

*In Christian Love,
Debi Wince*

PRAYER LEADERS

Sunday, April 7

- AM Opening: Zane Berner
- AM Closing: Tucker Anderson
- PM Opening: Bob Murray
- PM Closing: Jim Friend

Wednesday, April 10

- Opening: Casey Flint
- Closing: Kaed Thomas

RECORDS	03-31-19	04-01-18
Bible Study	129	137
AM Worship	182	182
PM Worship	131	105
Wednesday	126	128
Contribution	\$14,556.50	\$6,106.55
Budget	\$7,717.37	\$7,630.58