

Any Last Words?

by Nolan Balbin Mt. Carmel church of Christ Athens, GA

On September 22, 1776, Nathan Hale, an American Patriot, said, "I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country." Those were his last words before he was hanged for spying on British troops. His last words have been told in history classes for decades and his words live on to inspire many other Americans to be proud of their patriotism and love for their country. Growing up I always marveled at how people, such as Hale, can come up with such eloquent and meaningful words of wisdom or inspiration right before dying or being put to death. I think we often skip over people's last words in the Bible when we can learn a lot about someone's character through their dying words.

In Acts 7, Stephen is giving his defense before the Sanhedrin because, in chapter 6, Stephen was accused of speaking against the temple, Moses, and the Law. After giving his defense, the Jews were enraged, and they dragged him out of the city and stoned him. The stoning of Stephen is important for a couple of reasons. First, it describes what Stephen sees when he looks into heaven and says, "I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." (v.56). What an image that is and will be when we get to see Jesus at the right hand of God! Secondly, Stephen reveals his faith in God even on the brink of death. It says, "While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.' Then he fell on his knees and cried out, 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them.' " (v. 59-60). Stephen was quick to forgive those who were killing him just like Jesus when he was on the cross and said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing" ([Luke 23:34](#)).

In just a few short verses, we can see some important qualities about Stephen's character. First, when he gets to see a glimpse of heaven, I wonder how many times before did Stephen look into heaven to pray and ask to see God in his life? Stephen also demonstrated how to keep the faith while being persecuted. How many times before this, did he pray for those who were persecuting him? I, also, do not think it is a coincidence that his last words were similar to Jesus's. I wonder how many hours and days he spent studying Jesus's life and teachings? Stephen was a martyr for God and Christianity, and I believe that in his last moments we got to see the accumulation of his daily walk with God. His life as a faithful servant was reflected through his death.

Just like Stephen, we need to build our character in such a way that when we face suffering and hard times, our actions will still glorify God and we can be that example for others to follow.

NEWSLETTER

Sept. 05, 2021

Mark Dailey, evangelist
(716) 754-2752

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Schedule of Services

Our current schedule is:

Sunday AM Worship	11:00 AM
Tuesday Ladies Bible Class	10:00 AM

La Salle
church of Christ

A place of worship and healing.

1121 N. Military Rd.
Niagara Falls, NY 14304
(716) 283-1214

lasallechurchofchrist.org



We welcome all who are here today.

If you are a visitor we are honored to have you with us. Please fill out a *Visitor Card* (on the back of the pew in front of you). We would like for you to place the *Visitor Card* in one of the receptacles provided at the front and rear of the auditorium. There will be an opportunity to give but as a visitor it is not expected of you. Thanks.



There is a nursery at the rear of the auditorium up the stairs if you need to care for your infant.

Please keep cell phones and other noise making devices silent. Thank you.



Potter Children's Home & Family Ministries
2350 Nashville Rd.
Bowling Green, KY 42101
270 843-3038
potterministries.org

We offer a **free**
Bible Correspondence Course



If you have something for the bulletin please contact Wayne Carter before noon on Friday.

Prayers *In our prayers, let's praise God, recognize His greatness, thank Him for His Son and His blessings.*

Please pray as we continue our search for a gospel preacher.

Marjorie Reed She is staying with her sister Judy as she recovers. The doctors are working to dissolve a blood clot in her lung.

Bill Kinney continues to recover at home.

Frank Marsden is recovering at home.

Sherry Carter is undergoing tests for her back and gall bladder.

Pat Hazlett continues to deal with health issues.

Ruth Knepp Let's remember her in our prayers.

Keith Marten will have open heart surgery to replace one valve and fix the other one sometime in September. The doctor wants to wait for Covid in the area to settle down some.

Marietta McArthur (Ray McArthur's mother) is dealing with health issues.

Tim & Gina Mellott's grandson has Covid.

Lula Elder, Jeffrey Elder's mom, is dealing with health issues.

Crystal, Anna Brink's niece, is progressing in her recovery.

Jim Zachary (Amherst congregation) will be going to Cleveland Clinic Sept. 20th for an ablation.

Dan Callari (Amherst congregation) Pray for him as he is getting treatment for cancer.

Bob Ammerman (Amherst congregation) was taken to Kenmore Mercy Hospital on Thursday evening for heart twinges. Denise is requesting prayers of the saints on his behalf. Please take a moment to lift Bob up in prayer and please be mindful of Denise and their family as well.

Ron Fees, Rick Fees' brother, is dealing with a detached retina.

Elaine Fees is in rehab at Northgate.

Please keep our loved ones and their caregivers in your thoughts and prayers.

Let's pray for our members that have ongoing health and other issues.

Let's pray for family, friends, and loved ones of our members who are having health and other issues.

Let's pray not only for those that are physically sick but those that are spiritually sick as well.

Let's pray for our shut-ins and to call and send cards.

Let's pray for those dealing with family situations as well as work situations.

Let's pray for those dealing with weather related disasters.

Let's pray for those of our number who are looking for employment.

Let's pray for those that are traveling. May they have a safe journey.

Let's pray for God's people that are doing mission work all over the world.

Let's pray for people the world over that we may all learn to get along with each other.

Let's pray for those taking Bible correspondence courses at the present time.

Let's pray for children, families, and the staff at *Potter Children's Home and Family Ministries*.

Let's pray for the work being done at Great Lakes Christian High School in Beamsville, ONT.

Let's pray for our neighbors receiving *House to House/Heart to Heart* that they have receptive hearts.

Upcoming Events *(Lord willing)*

Sep. 06 Labor Day

Sep. 07 Ladies Bible Class 10 AM at the bldg.

Sep. 12 Men's Business Meeting

Sep. 19 Congregational Mtg. To nominate men for trusteeship.

Oct. 03 Congregational Mtg. To elect men for trusteeship.

Weekly Budget Amount	\$1,843.00
Contribution Last Sunday	\$2,282.78
Attendance Last Sunday	42

Financial Reports and Meeting Minutes are posted in the back of the auditorium.

Attn. Ladies

Ladies' Bible Class will resume here at the building Sept. 07 at 10 AM.

Save the date
Dec. 11, 2020
Ladies Holiday Party.

Please check the "Mission Board" in the back of the auditorium.



Read Me



Last Sunday we spent time in prayer for the ministries, staff and families at Potter's asking God to bless and protect them. We also took the opportunity to give. From your heart, you gave \$2,940. Additionally the men's business meeting approved another \$400 toward the work. The total gift the LaSalle Church gave is \$3,340. Praise God from Whom all blessings flow!



Smile and pay someone a compliment today.

