

IF YOU WERE BUSY

If you were busy being kind,
 Before you knew it, you would find
 You'd soon forget to think 'tis true
 That someone was unkind to you.
 If you were busy being glad,
 And cheering people who were sad
 Although your heart might ache a bit,
 You'd soon forget to notice it.
 If you were busy being good,
 And doing just the best you could,
 You'd not have time to blame some man
 Who's doing just the best he can.
 If you were busy being true
 To what you know you ought to do,
 You'd be so busy you'd forget
 The blunders of the folks you met.
 If you were busy being right
 You'd find yourself too busy, quite,
 To criticize your neighbor long
 Because he once was in the wrong.
 O, the good that might be done –
 The hearts of folks that might be won!
 And negativity you'd bind,
 If you were busy being kind.

-Copied from BulletinGold, September 2012 Issue-

ASK A FRIEND TO ATTEND

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CHURCH OF CHRIST
 711 N. Main Street
 P.O. Box 88
 Carthage, TN 37030
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SMITH COUNTY LIGHT

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."(Matthew 5:16)



MEETING PLACE OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

Elders:

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 Jerry Phillips
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 R.W. Vincent
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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES:

Sunday Worship

9:00 A.M.
 6:00 P.M.
 12:30 P.M. (Last Sunday of Month)

Bible Study

Sunday Morning
 10:15 A.M.
 Wednesday Evening
 7:00 P.M.

Evangelist:

Edward L Anderson
 (615-735-2462)

Youth Minister:

Justin Mauldin
 (931-319-6548)

Secretary:

Elaine Wright
 (615-735-0114)

For Transportation to Services
 615-735-0114 or 615-418-6637

Fax Number: (615) 735-0131

Website: www.carthagechurchofchrist.net

Sunday & Wednesday Services broadcast on Facebook & YouTube

FREE Bible Correspondence Courses, Tracts or Home Bible Study/ Videos. (615-735-0114 or 615-735-2462)

"VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME"

ARE YOU ON THE OUTLOOK?

Back in my high school days, I had some friends who convinced me to be a monitoring judge for a road rally. There was a course set throughout the country for contestants to decipher clues and then drive down certain roads ending up back at the designated place. The judges were strategically placed in secret spots recording which cars, who were in the rally, actually passed by them. This was set up into a point system from which the winners would be determined.

When the time came, I was driven to my spot which was a very remote road in the county. I was tucked away in a wooded area and was told to watch every car that drove by between certain times and simply record it on the official score pad. I was given final instructions to be vigilant. It seemed easy enough.

The problem was that the cars that drove by that day on that lonely country road were few and far between. Due to that, I became very bored and began to become distracted. I could hear squirrels rustling in the leaves behind me. I noticed the sounds of birds piercing through the silence. I surmised that if I went and did a little exploring in the woods, I would still hear the sound of vehicles coming from a distance and would have time to make it back to my post to record them going by. So I temporarily abandoned my duty to check out the fascinating world of the woods.

When I was picked up and taken to the rally finish spot, the chief judge was taken aback by my nearly empty score sheet. After his inquiry as to why my page was virtually blank, I had to fess up. Apparently I had become so engrossed with the flora and fauna that I missed several cars going by. They had no recourse but to ignore my section of the contest. I was thoroughly embarrassed.

How many people today, I wonder, are distracted by the things of the world and will be totally unprepared when Jesus comes back? Make sure that you are ready – waiting and watching – every day for Jesus' return. Peter reminds us that we are to be looking for, hastening, and even looking forward to the day Christ comes back (1 Peter 3:11-14). **Are you on the lookout?**

-Ed Sterchi, Broadway church of Christ, Campbellsville, KY, via BulletinDigest 7/24/2016-

FROM THE PREACHER'S HEART:

GOD'S PROMISES

Solomon wrote, "To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven" (Eccl. 3:1). The changing of the seasons is an amazing phenomenon. Monday brought the first snowfall of the season with the "dusting" which weather persons predicted. Heavier accumulations were experienced to the east which made for beautiful wintry scenes throughout the region. Oh, "the treasures of the snow"! (Job 38:22).

Following the flood, the Lord made a commitment "in His heart" that "while the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease" (Gen. 8:20-22). The seasonal cycle reminds us of the faithfulness of God and His promises. We have every assurance that He remembers His promises *and* His people (See Psalm 105:42).

How sure are His promises? Upon his "inauguration" as king over all Israel, Solomon arose from his fervent prayer to the Lord God and "blessed all the congregation of Israel" (1 Kings 8:54-56). Here is what he said, "Blessed be the Lord, who has given rest unto His people Israel, **according to all He promised: there has not failed one word of all His good promise**, which He **promised** by the hand of Moses His servant" (Emphasis added.).

These two examples from previous periods teach us much about God's promises (Rom. 15:4). However, it is imperative that we remember Jesus, our High Priest, is "the mediator of a **better** covenant, which is established upon **better promises**" (Heb. 8:6). "Better" is a key word in the book and worthy of further study (See 1:4; 7:7; 19; 7:22; 9:23; 10:34, 35).

Having been so blessed with "all the promises of God in Him (Christ)" (2 Cor. 1:20), we, too, should have the faith of Abraham, who "staggered (wavered) not at the promise of God" (Rom. 4:20). The promises of God relating to salvation from sin are sure (Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:38). They are also true regarding His providence (Matt. 6:25-34). Proper consideration of these promises leads to holiness (2 Cor. 7:1).

Edward L Anderson

NEWS & NOTES:

WELCOME VISITORS: A warm welcome is extended to all our visitors. We are honored to have you and your family. Please come again!

SICK: Patricia Brooks is recuperating from her surgery (11/23/20). Gary White and Joe Massey, Allen White's grandfathers, have been hospitalized recently but are now at home. Jeff Whited (former member), has been in Vanderbilt/Lebanon due to UTI, sepsis, and kidney stones. Grant Lollar is recovering from his second foot surgery in California. Cheryl Hicks is recuperating from broken ribs. Hale and Elaine Wright have recovered from reactions to shingles vaccines. Roy Hicks, Dimple's brother-in-law, has been in the hospital (Gallatin) due to pneumonia and high blood sugar. Jan Anderson is in rehab at Red Boiling Springs. Mark Denning, the Anderson's son-in-law, had surgery to repair a broken collar bone Monday afternoon at RRMC. Linda Cook has been suffering with an eye infection. R. W. Vincent is doing well after tests last week. Donna Adcock (native of Riddleton), is recovering from lumbar fractures suffered in an auto accident. Laura Russell Bourgeois, sister to Sherry Lester, has been diagnosed with cancer and our prayers are requested. W. A. Gibbs remains in Quality (Lebanon). Larry Cole has tested positive for Covid-19. Johnny and Susan Law, Maggie Dillard, and Molly Jones are back with us. Loucille Fisher Partlow (Ruby's daughter), is back to teaching school. Michael and Denise Hackett and Dennis and Darlene Hackett have been in precautionary quarantines. Lola King is awaiting final results from her surgeon after a CT scan. Faye Maberry is feeling better. Ruby Anderson is gaining a little strength. Darrell Vincent, R. W.'s brother, is recuperating at home after a hospital stay. Phyllis Davis, Chris Klamm's mother, is recovering from knee surgery. Erlene White was able to be with us Sunday. Steve Harper continues to make progress. Gary Lawrence continues his recuperation at home. Dennis Hackett's aunt, Joyce Kilgore, is in Vanderbilt in Lebanon. (Please call 615-735-0114 with updates and news items.)

NURSINGHOME/ASSISTED/LIVING/SHUT-INS: Lovell Chaffin; Wilma Richardson; Judith Newberry; Mary Lou Smith; Frances Glosser; Ricky Branham (SCH&R); Loneta Bains (Pavilion); Hattie Branham and Pat Paysinger (Shut-ins).

IN THE MILITARY: Jana Watson, Ann Carter's grand-daughter (Army); Randy Carter's sons and Lacey Crockett's brothers, Derek (Army) & Landon Carter (Coast Guard); PFC Samuel Burton (USMC), Darlene Fariss's grandson; Benjamin Gentry (USMC); Cameron Huff (USMC).

CARDS FOR SHUTINS: Bundles of 25 cards to be signed and bags in which to place the signed cards, are now available in the foyer. Please return signed cards by Sunday, December 13.

THANK YOU: The church has received recent "Thank You" notes from Sally Russell, Candace Richmond, Patricia Brooks; and Edward & Barbara Anderson.

CONGRATULATIONS: Samuel David Rutherford made his grand entry November 18 at 1:27 AM, weighing 7 lbs. 12 oz. and 20 inches tall. Congrats to Hannah, Andy, and big sister Maisy!

THANK YOU: Thanks to Matthew Jones, Teddy Spivey, and Seth Hackett for preaching the word in the recent Virtual Gospel Meeting. Appreciation to all others who led prayers, made announcements, filmed, and broadcast the sessions.

PRAYER LIST: Dustin Justice (lymphoma); Joe Hensley; Barbara Dixon; Conner Hackett; Chuck Jordan; Gary White; A. J. Purkey; Tammy Crockett; Josh Dillard; Lavern Hardee; Mike Ruis; Alan Fitts; Joe Massey; Steve Higginbotham; Wayne Lankford; Sandy Waggoner; Nancy Hicks Bane; Barbara Williams; Michael Parsons; Laurie Adcock; Wendy Williams; Roslyn Fox Stout; Wanda Hailey; Denise Griffin; James Hix; Rylee Winfree; Rebecca Huffines Thompson; Tommy & Linda Ashburn; Jerry Hutchins; Danny Claire; Edna Shoulders; Bill Ross; Scott Bane; Patsy Link; Emily Moss and children; Lucas Wakefield; Linda Dennis; Gary Anderson; Roy Hicks; Bob & Donnieta White; John Conditt; Duane Hesson; Billy Woodard; Tammy Bush; Jerry Glenn; Bentley Cowan; David Lipe; Louie Gray West; Taylor & Spencer Keaton; Paulette Blackburn; Emily Allen; Will Gregory; Rick Blankenship; Debby Flatt; Ken Miller; Tom Brown; Alicia Haynes; Joey Black; Joe Kemp; Susanne Tisdale; Pattie Birdwell; Mary Ellen Lawrence; Donna Kemp; Ray Hobbs; Wes Stafford; Sawyer Cole; Richard Rhoten; Buddy & Jan Chaffin; Earl Carter; Jennie Burnett; Arnold Rich; Jimmy and Carolyn Rigsby

DECEMBER BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARY LIST: Mary Phillips (1); Mary Pat Grim; Debbie Felure, Steve Bray (5); Katie Bennett (18); Jeffrey Maberry (19); Kyle Azbell (21); Andy Rutherford, Lovell Chaffin, Elaine Wright (23); Brittany Birchett (28); Amy Apple, (29); Madison Spivey (31). Jerry & Cheryl Hicks (12/11/1981); Eddie & Kaylan Linder (12/15/2001); Nick & Pam Morris (12/16/2000); Brian & Peggy Denton (12/21/1991); Mike & Laura Piper (12/27/1988).

SYMPATHY: Sympathy is expressed to the family of Jerry Davidson, gospel preacher and missionary and known by several here. His funeral was conducted recently at the Tusculum building.

EVENTS CALENDAR: *Smith County Health Care/Rehab Center Devotional:* First Sundays of February, May, August, November (To be resumed when permitted); *Fifth Sunday Pavilion Devotional* (To be resumed when permitted); *Men's Breakfast:* January 16, 2021; *Fish Fry,* April 10; *Gospel Meeting:* Clarence Deloach, April 11-14.

"Fulfill you my joy, that you be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves." (Phil 2:2-3).