



ASK A FRIEND TO ATTEND

Volume 26

April 17, 2024

Number 8

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:
Barry Cook
(615-735-3194)
Michael Hackett
(615-735-7046)
Johnny Law
(615-735-1240)
R.W. Vincent
(615-735-0361)

Pulpit Minister:
Sam Willcut
(615-489-3211)

Youth Minister:
Justin Mauldin
(931-319-6548)

Secretary:
Kristi Hassler
(615-489-5144)

711 N. Main Street
P.O. Box 88
Carthage, TN 37030
(615-735-0114)

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES
Sunday Worship
9:00 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.

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

Email: carthagecoc@dtccom.net
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)

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

“VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME”

Deacons:
Josh Brown
(931-319-9994)
Tony Hackett
(615-735-9037)
Steve Harper
(615-735-2651)
Chris Hicks
(615-418-6472)
Jerry Hicks
(615-418-6637)
Justin Mauldin
(931-319-6548)
Andy Rutherford
(615-418-5050)
Dusty Whitaker
(615-709-1086)

Youth Can Be Leaders, Too!

Although adults have the responsibility of leading, young people can be leaders, too. I cringe whenever I hear various ones pray for our youth and refer to them as “the church of tomorrow,” because while I realize the sentiments of the prayer, we ought never to forget that young people can shine as leaders in the church of today. Notice a few Biblical examples of godly individuals who were leaders in their youth.

David was a youthful leader among adults. When he obeyed his father to visit his brothers who were in the Israelite army, he witnessed a tragic situation. The enemy was ridiculing not only the Israelites, but Jehovah God as well. Sure, their champion was more than 9 feet tall, whose spearhead alone weighed about 125 lbs. and was a ferocious bully. However, no one, not even King Saul (who wasn’t as tall as Goliath, but taller than any of the other Israelites [cf. 1 Sam 9:2]), took the bully’s challenge. They cowardly let Goliath blaspheme God in fear. Just a youth at this time, David had enough faith in God, apparently more than any of the adults who should’ve been seasoned in their faith, to take Goliath’s challenge. Through the help of Almighty God, David was victorious.

Joseph was a youthful leader among strangers. As a lad, his brothers sold him as a slave, and he became a servant in the house of Potiphar in Egypt. When the wife of Potiphar tempted Joseph to do wrong, his conviction in God helped to withstand the temptations. When she pressured him, he ran! He did exactly what the Bible tells us to do as well: *“Flee fornication...Wherefore, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry...But thou, O man of God, flee these things...Flee also youthful lusts”* (1 Cor. 6:18; 10:14; 1 Tim. 6:11; 2 Tim. 2:22). As a youth, Joseph could’ve reasoned that he was in a place with strangers and that no one would find out. Nevertheless, he knew that God would know, who was watching and caring for him.

Josiah was a youthful leader in the kingdom. He was just 8 years old when he became king of Judah. His father & grandfather, both kings before him, were evil kings. However, *“he did that which was right in the sight of the Lord, and walked in the ways of David his father, and declined neither to the right hand, nor to the left”* (2 Chron. 34:2). When he was 26, he began to repair the temple of God. During the construction, the Law of Moses was found. He began to read the law of God, even doing so before the elders of the country. He did what was right spiritually, and he turned the kingdom of God around with a spirited reformation. He is an example for youth to search for the truth & put it into practice, even as a young person in the church today.

We could notice many other examples: Vashti, Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego, Esther, Jonathan, Timothy, Miriam, and Samuel. All these were leaders as youth. Young people, you can be a leader, too! *“Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.”* (1 Tim. 4:12)

--Sam Willcut

From the Preacher's Heart...

May I Introduce Myself

My family & I are so excited to be making the transition here and beginning to work & worship with you. As we're making this transition, I know that you know just a little about me from the time I have been in the area, but I wanted to give you a fuller introduction of Melissa and myself.

I'm originally from Florida & Melissa is originally from New Orleans – we met and fell in love while students at Faulkner University in Montgomery, AL, where I graduated in 1993. When I was a small boy, my parents obeyed the gospel. Soon thereafter, my father wanted to become a preacher, and being a Vietnam veteran, used his GI Bill to enroll in the Florida School of Preaching. Thus, for most of my life, I have been a “Preacher's Kid”, living in Florida, Tennessee, and Alabama. Upon graduation from Faulkner, I have preached in Alabama, Tennessee, Texas, Louisiana, and now for five years in Smith County.

More importantly than all the above, I wanted to introduce you to myself as a preacher. While the late Ira North emphasized balance, I learned such from one of my mentors, the late Bobby Duncan. In fact, I believe we can see Jesus living a balanced life (cf. Luke 2:52). As such, I strive to emphasize balance in my personal and preaching life. For example, some preachers are always in their office studying, and some preachers are never in the office. Thus, my goal is always to spend the necessary time in the office (my designated day will be Wednesdays), but I also spend the necessary time visiting those who need such. Moreover, I believe preachers need to be balanced in the pulpit (cf. Acts 20:27). I don't have “hobby subjects” that I preach repetitively. I try to preach a mixture of topical and expository/textual sermons. Therefore, when I die, I hope that people will remember me as a balanced preacher, one who didn't turn “to the right hand or to the left” (cf. Josh. 1:7). I believe that preachers ought to serve as examples to the rest of the congregation, which I will strive to do to the best of my ability.

Let me close by once again thanking the elders for their confidence in hiring me, by thanking you for already accepting my family and me, and by expressing appreciation to the one who has filled the pulpit before me for decades – brother Edward L. Anderson. When I consider the talent & education of the congregation, I do not take this responsibility lightly. When I consider the great men who have served the congregation and the rich heritage of this congregation, it both humbles and excites me. Thank you for your prayers & for every act of kindness that you have already bestowed upon my family. I am looking forward to a long & fruitful work together. May God bless us and keep us!

--Sam Willcut

NEWS & NOTES:

BAPTISM: We rejoice with the angels in Heaven as Mallie Kate Whitaker was baptized into Christ Thursday, April 11. Let us all pray for and encourage Mallie in her new Christian walk!!

SICK: Jerry Hicks had his second eye surgery today, April 17. Please pray this surgery was successful. Conner Dodson requests prayers for his mom, Jackie Shoemake. She has been having complications from a recent knee replacement surgery. Bobby King has been in RRMC after having a UTI and a fall on Sunday afternoon.

NEW DEACONS: The elders have put Brian Denton and Jeremy Hassler before the congregation as deacons. They will begin serving on Sunday, April 21.

NEW MINISTER: We would like to welcome Sam & Melissa Willcut to our family here at Carthage. Sam will begin as the pulpit minister on Sunday, April 21. Be sure to give them a warm welcome and pray that they will do wonderful work for the Lord at Carthage.

Continue to pray for the following: Brenda Copeland; Robert Johnson; Faye Maberry; Lola King; Jimmy Fisher; Josie Powell; Helen Davis; James Spivey (Faye Maberry's brother-in-law); Robert Fields; Jerry Martin (cancer); Sherrie Lawrence; Kevin Howell (cancer – taking chemo & radiation treatments); Tucker Brown; Michelle Allen; Eva Louise Holt; Ronnie Glover; Mary Ann Herd; Scott, Jennifer, and Stephen Johnson; Brenda Boyd; Linda Myers; Mikel and Janice Hicks; Cynthia Gibbs; Josephine Fitts; Buckie Parsons; Chuck Jordan; Jerry and Mary Phillips; Hudson Anderson; Annika Oldham; Hannah McDowell; Tom and Sherry Culver; Sharon Halliburton; Colton Ferrell; Janice Wilson; Drew Gallagher; Scott Bane; Brenda Aikens; Janet Rose; Ruby Anderson; Joe Armistead; Brenda Forrest; and Bea Davis. **Please let Kristi know if there is anyone that needs to be added or removed from this list.**

NURSING HOME/ ASSISTED LIVING/ SHUT-INS: Ricky Branham (SCHR); Lonetta Bains (Pavilion – Lebanon); Pat Paysinger (Shut-in).

“If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.” Romans 10:9

EVENTS CALENDAR: *Fellowship Meal* We will resume with our fourth Sunday fellowship meal following the 11:00 AM service on April 28. Please bring a dish and plan to stay and enjoy the food and fellowship with the brethren at Carthage. **SCHR Devo:** First Sundays of Feb., May, Aug., and Nov. **Youth Night** The next youth night will be held at Brush Creek church of Christ at 5:00 PM on May 5. Matthew Scoggins will bring the final lesson of the series, The Amazing Race. Please make plans to attend. **Vacation Bible School:** June 3-7, 6:30 PM Nightly **JSCYC** July 14-19.

AREA EVENTS: *Gospel Meeting* at the Center Grove church of Christ April 19-21 with Allen Webster. Services will begin on Fri. & Sat. at 6 & 7 PM, Sun. at 9 & 10 AM, & 7:00 PM. *Gospel Meeting* at the Celina church of Christ with Tim McHenry. April 21-24, Sunday worship at 10 AM & 6 PM, Mon-Wed singing will begin at 6:30 and services at 7:00 PM. *Gospel Meeting* at the Holladay church of Christ with Keith Parker. April 21-24, Sun. 10 AM, 11 AM, & 2 PM and Mon-Wed 6:30 PM. *Ladies' Day* at the Baxter church of Christ April 27. Speaker: Lori Austin. Registration at 8:30 AM, Starts at 9:00 AM. *Women's Fellowship* Clearview church of Christ in Cottontown, TN. April 27 beginning at 9:00 AM. Multiple speakers throughout the day. *Lectureship* Southeast Institute of Biblical Studies will host its 49th Annual Lectureship April 21-24 at the Karns church of Christ in Knoxville, TN. *Singing* at the Morrison church of Christ Friday, April 26 from 7-9 PM.

THE MILITARY: Korrey King – USMC (Grandson of Bobby & Lola King); Jana Watson, Ann Carter's granddaughter (Army); Randy Carter's son and Lacey Crockett's brother, Landon Carter (Coast Guard); Benjamin Gentry (USMC).

SPIRITUAL SWORD/HOUSE TO HOUSE: The current issues of *The Spiritual Sword* and *House to House, Heart to Heart* are now available on the table at the front entrance as well as on the table in the annex. Please pick up a copy for your family.

“Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.” --- **I John 4:7-8**

“And Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.’” Acts 2:38