

SEE HOW VERY MUCH OUR  
FATHER LOVES US.

1 John 3:1



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**ASK A FRIEND TO ATTEND**

**Volume 26**

**June 12, 2024**

**Number 12**

**CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
711 N. Main Street  
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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)

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Sam Willcut  
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**Youth Minister:**

Justin Mauldin  
(931-319-6548)

**Secretary:**

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Justin Mauldin  
(931-319-6548)  
Andy Rutherford  
(615-418-5050)  
Dusty Whitaker  
(615-709-1086)

**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](mailto:carthagecoc@dtccom.net)

Fax Number: (615) 735-0131

Website: [www.carthagechurchofchrist.net](http://www.carthagechurchofchrist.net)

**Sunday & Wednesday Services broadcast on Facebook & YouTube**

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**“VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME”**

## **GOD, OUR FATHER**

The first thing that Jesus gave to His disciples as a model for their prayers is a portrait of God: “*Our Father in heaven...*” (Matt. 6:9). Jesus did not come to this earth with a definition, but He chose to represent God by using a figure drawn from the family relationship—God, our Father. There is a sense in which He is the universal Father of all humanity, since He is the creator of all humanity (cf. Acts 17:28). Yet, Jesus emphasizes in His model prayer and in other New Testament passages a spiritual relationship with His people (1 Tim. 3:15). Thus, as Christians, we are more than just His family by creation—we are His family by grace through faith (Gal. 3:26-27; 2 Cor. 6:17-18). What attributes of a father demonstrate that of the character of our heavenly Father?

First, a father shows a relationship. Just as a father is related to his child, I am related to God, and He is related to me. Through the grace of God and His gospel, I can be “born again” (John 3:3-5) by faith into the family of God, which is a spiritual new birth. Therefore, I am related to Him. With Him as my Father, I can come into close personal relations with Him just as my human father. If I am a child of God, our Father, then I should begin to look like Him, think as He thinks, and mature into His resemblance. Therefore, I am related to the infinite God of heaven as His spiritual child.

Second, a father is one who infinitely cares about his children. It is natural for a father to be concerned about the welfare of his children (cf. 1 Pet. 5:6-7). Our heavenly Father is a Father who cares. To show His care for us, He sent His Son into this world to die on our behalf (2 Cor. 5:21). God, our Father, loves us with a love we cannot fathom. If we are lost, the reason will not be a reflection on Him, but it will be because of our own rebellion and hardness of heart.

Third, a father is one who assumes responsibility to provide for the physical care, health, education and development of the child. Therefore, Paul addresses this fact to fathers in Ephesians 6:4. In like manner, when God adds me to His family (Acts 2:47), then He does not leave me to starve and shiver through neglect. He demonstrates responsibility by providing for all my spiritual needs so that I may be ready to live with Him in eternity (cf. Eph. 1:3; 1 John 2:25). When I confront problems in my personal life, I can talk to Him through prayer so that our fellowship together can provide strength (Heb. 4:16).

Fourth, a father disciplines, as one who has authority. As our Father, God has authority because He created us, because He sustains us every day and because we surrendered our will to Him. Therefore, because He is our spiritual Father, the Bible emphasizes that discipline comes from Him (Heb. 12:6-11).

The big difference between an earthly father and our heavenly Father is in the four words, “Our Father in heaven.” One day, our ties with our earthly parents will dissolve, but our heavenly Father is one who is eternal, for He “inhabits eternity” (Isa. 57:15). If we do not make Him our Father now as we live in this life, then He will never be our Father in eternity. This is what it means to become a Christian—it is to make God our Father. This is for what He greatly desires! **--Sam Willcut**

### ***From the preacher's heart...***

In the past several weeks, we have had a range of emotions through the opportunities and situations before us. We have had some excitement and wonderful fellowship through our assemblies. We have been impressed by the talents of our members put on display before our Creator and the One who gave them to us (cf. James 1:17). We have been heartbroken over the loss of family members and the struggling health of those who are near and dear to us. Please give God the glory for all the great and wonderful things that have transpired lately through us at Carthage, and please remember those in deep prayer who need such!

Among the highlights that we have experienced lately is our Vacation Bible School. What an exhilaration to experience such numbers that we have not seen in many, many years! To each and every member who had a part in planning and executing this annual event, we give our warmest thanks. To each and every member who invited and brought children with them, we express our deepest gratitude. To each and every member who helped from teaching the classes, preparing the wonderful food that was offered on each occasion, and cleaned up afterwards, we say from the bottom of our hearts, "Thank you!" Now, let us use such opportunities to reach outward – let us keep inviting our visitors and guests, and let us plan, Lord willing, for an even better outcome next year!

Now that VBS is behind us, the next great event on the horizon is JSCYC, which begins July 14. Brother Edward Anderson and his cadre of faithful and dedicated workers are planning a week of camp that will truly be edifying for all who attend. Much, much work goes into such a week, and we want to ask God to bless the efforts of this event, just as we ask Him to bless our other efforts for His glory. Applications are available for campers, so get those turned in ASAP!

Tina Stout (my sister) and I are excited that our parents are moving here this week. Lord willing, they plan to place their membership with us, and we know that they will be a great asset to the church here. My father is one of my greatest influences as a preacher, and after decades of service in the Lord's vineyard, he is transitioning to a place of occupational retirement, although he and my mother will continue to serve the Lord in every capacity that they can.

Speaking of my father, with this forthcoming Sunday being Father's Day, I would like to wish all fathers an early and very happy Father's Day.

I love you, and may God bless you. **--Sam Willcut**

### ***NEWS & NOTES:***

**SICK:** Janice Hicks is now at home but needs prayers at this time. Continue to keep Buck & Lola King in your prayers. Lola will no longer be taking chemo treatments but will have bile duct replaced every few months. Tony Hackett has been suffering from an upper respiratory infection as well as a touch of pneumonia. Mary Jo Hackett saw the doctor this week to discuss another surgery on her back.

**SYMPATHY:** Deepest sympathy is extended to Peggy Faustina & family upon the death of her father, Barry Harville. Services will be held at Sanderson Funeral Home. The visitation will be Wednesday, 3:00-8:00 PM and Thursday, 9:00 – 11:00 AM, and the service will be at 11:00 AM.

**Continue to pray for the following:** Barbara Silcox; Barbara Jenkins; Brenda Copeland; Robert Johnson; Faye Maberry; Lola & Bobby 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; Mary Ann Herd; Scott, Jennifer, and Stephen Johnson; Brenda Boyd; Linda Myers; Mikel and Janice Hicks; Cynthia Gibbs; Josephine Fitts; Brenda Fitts; Buckie Parsons; Chuck Jordan; Jerry & Mary Phillips; Hudson Anderson; Annika Oldham; Hannah McDowell; Tom & Sherry Culver; Sharon Halliburton; Colton Ferrell; Janice Wilson; Drew Gallagher; Scott Bane; Brenda Aikens; Janet Rose; Ruby Anderson; Joe Armistead; Todd Smith; John Jones; 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).

**THE MILITARY:** Korrey King – USMC (Grandson of Bobby & Lola King); Jana Watson, Ann Carter's granddaughter (Army); Benjamin Gentry (USMC).

**"Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord." – Ephesians 6:4**

**AREA EVENTS:** **VBS** at Celina church of Christ June 16-19, 6:30 PM nightly. **VBS** at Willette church of Christ June 16-19, Sunday 6 PM, Mon-Wed 7 PM. **Gospel Meeting** at Bethel church of Christ in Lebanon with speaker, Jimmy Clark. June 16-19, Sun. 10 & 11 AM; 7:30 PM; Mon-Wed. 7 PM. **Gospel Meeting** at Montrose church of Christ June 16-20, with Randy Bybee, 7 PM Mon-Thurs.

**EVENTS CALENDAR:** **SCHR Devo:** First Sundays of Feb., May, Aug., and Nov. **JSCYC** July 14-19. Camper applications are available on the table in the foyer. **Annual Singing** will be held here at Carthage on August 2. Meal at 5:30; Singing at 7:00 PM.

**JUNE BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES:** Kim Claywell (1); Stephen Johnson (4); Matthew Jones (5); Angela White, Jacob Mauldin (7); Robert Henry (8); Jake White (10); Russell Vincent (12); Ken Hensley (13); Maizy Rutherford (14); Denise Hackett (15); Melinda Spivey (17); Jaden Apple-Gibbs, Seth Hackett (21); Molly Jones, Patty Piper (22); Kristi Hassler (26); Tanner Austin (28); Barry Cook (29); Janice Silcox (30). Justin & Sarah Mauldin (6/2/2012); Chris & Courtney Washer (6/2/2012); Hale & Elaine Wright (6/5/1964); Jerry & Mary Phillips (6/10/1967); Jeremy & Kristi Hassler (6/16/2007); Eric & Casey Swann (6/19/2009); Michael & Denise Hackett (6/25/1994); Robert & Charlotte Henry (6/25); Chris & Susan Klamm (6/26/2007).

### **The Patience of the Father**

We are told that children learn many life lessons from their fathers. I am delighted to hear that more and more fathers are seeing the importance of their role in the upbringing of their children. A recent survey showed that nearly half of all fathers spend more time with their children than their own dads did, and they think that is still not enough.

As a father, I have learned many things from my own children. For instance, I learned the meaning of patience. But have you ever considered how patient the Heavenly Father is to us?

The Lord is patient with all of us. The reason: He wants us to live with Him in heaven. "The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead, he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9).

*Larry Fitzgerald*  
*Woodlawn church of Christ*  
*Abilene, TX*