

FROM THE PREACHER'S HEART:

WELCOME, VISITORS! We are so honored by your presence. It is our desire to worship the one true God in spirit and truth (John 4:24), as directed in His Word. Investigate God's inspired Scriptures with us. And, as the Lord through Isaiah said, "Come, let us reason together" (Acts 17:11; Isaiah 1:18). If you wish to study the Bible via a Bible Correspondence Course, please request it on the available attendance cards.

Attendance has fluctuated during December. Winter usually means more sickness. Some are back with us, but others are still dealing with various ailments. Let us remember to pray for those who are suffering and do what we can to assist.

The first four Sundays of December have seen our contributions above budget. The elders presented the 2018 budget Sunday morning. It reflects a slight increase over last year's. Let us continue to support the Lord's work with our means, personal involvement, and prayers.

R. W. Vincent announced Sunday morning that he will be taking a leave of absence from the eldership due to health issues. He hopes to return to the work in the future. We thank R. W. for his service and for his continued involvement to the extent he is able.

Justin Mauldin presented a timely and excellent lesson Sunday - the last day of 2017 - concerning resolutions. Thanks, Justin! Following our Bible classes we gathered in the annex for a hot lunch on a cold day - b-r-r-r! The hot soup, sandwiches, and lots of other good food were delicious. Thanks to all who cooked, cleaned, and served!

The young men led the 12:30 P.M. worship with Taner Cook (reading Scripture and operating Power Point); Seth Hackett (leading singing); Allen White (first prayer); Matthew Jones (preaching); Teddy Spivey and Ethan Crockett (Lord's Table); Jake White (closing prayer), serving. Matthew's lesson was from Psalm 1 and was excellent. Thanks, Matthew!

Thanks to those who attended and assisted with the 2:00 P.M. devotional at The Pavilion. We will host one at Concordia (Kindred), February 4. Plan to be a part! These are good works.

Barbara and I say a hearty "THANK YOU" for your many kindnesses during the holidays. The greeting and gift cards; fruit and food; anonymous meal; holiday floral arrangement; and every expression of love and good will brought us joy.

Hope to see everyone Sunday morning, our Lord willing. Have a great rest of the week!

Edward L Anderson

NEWS & NOTES:

SICK: Christine Jones, Peggy Denton's mother, has been in Vanderbilt but is expected to transfer to NHC in Cookeville this week. W. A. Gibbs is able to be back with us. Carolyn Harris is improving. Dimple and Cheryl Hicks were sick last Sunday. Kathy Kemp, Marcus' wife, has been very ill. Julie and Jenna Harville, Jonah Mauldin, Emmy Lou Vincent, and Brittany Hackett are back with us after being ill. Scotty Yeaman is in the local nursing facility (Concordia), continuing rehab. Durell and Sue Walker are now at home. Keep them in your prayers. Young Haley Markham is doing much better after receiving a good report from recent tests. Cathy Spivey's aunt Mary Searle underwent a recent biopsy and received a good report. Cathy says, "Thank you for the prayers." Barbara Anderson had recent same day surgery at Cumberland Dermatology (Lebanon). Jerry Phillips is doing better after a bout with inner ear problems. Mary Phillips' ankle is doing much better. Barry Cook underwent tests today in Nashville. Little Emma Grace Hicks is doing well, but still not strong enough to be with us. Susan Klamm is back with us, but has not yet returned to her work. Shirley Sadler was scheduled for a heart procedure last week, but it was cancelled due to a fever and bronchitis. Howard Bains (Rome), remains in Lebanon Rehab. Billy Myers (Bagdad), has been quite ill, but has been released from Vanderbilt. Barbara Jenkins was back with us Sunday after a bout with inner ear. Her granddaughter, Ariel Rowlett received a good report from recent heart tests. John Carter, Lola King's brother-in-law, is now at home following a hospital stay, but is still not doing well. Jason Cohoon, Barry's son, is doing much better. Eddie Ray Thrasher, uncle to Gaye Yeaman and Carolyn Hill, remains under hospice care. Little Tucker Burford (great-nephew of Carol Woodard), is now at home. Remember these in prayer: John Carter; Wes Stafford; Charles White (Valdosta, GA); Mike Sircy (continuing treatments); Paul Meacham, Jr.; Marsha Huffines; Claire Owen; Sawyer Cole; Gerrie Dillon; Patsy Link; Richard Rhoten; Staci Bush; Jan Chaffin; Tim Loftis; Mark Lawrence; Jo Norton; Jimmy Bean; Troy Spivey; Janice Anderson; Cathy Stafford; Earl Carter; Leslie Alford; Sherry Pritchett; Jennie Burnett; Jimmy Rigsby; Arnold Rich; and Steve Dowell.

NURSING HOME/ASSISTED LIVING: Opal Agee; Lovell Chaffin; Phronia Rose (Local); Ray Harper (Hartsville).

SHUT-IN AT HOME: Hattie Branham; Wilma Richardson; James Hall; and Pat Paysinger.

IN THE MILITARY: Jana Watson, Ann Carter's grand-daughter (Army); Matt West, Linda Dicken's grandson (Marines); Randy Carter's sons and Lacey Crockett's brothers, Derek (Army) & Landon Carter (Coast Guard); Benjamin Gentry (Marines); Camron Huff (Marines).

THANK YOU NOTES: The church has received and read notes of gratitude from the Jason Cohoon family; W. A. Gibbs; Dennis and Darlene Hackett; and Hattie Branham.

SYMPATHY: Our sympathy is extended to Lovell Chaffin and family in the passing of her daughter, Denise Barber, this past Friday. She and husband Rex were living in Texas. A memorial service will be conducted at a later date.

MEN'S BREAKFAST: The annual breakfast has been scheduled for January 13 at 8:00 A.M. Please plan to bring food and enjoy it and the fellowship. Men, invite a friend and bring your sons, grandsons, sons-in-law, etc!

YOUNG MEN'S SEMINAR: East Main church of Christ (Murfreesboro), with Lonnie Jones speaking, February 3, 2018 on the Theme: "Faithfulness Across the Generations". Breakfast and Registration begin at 8:00 A.M. with Lunch served at Noon in the annex.

HOW TO BEGIN THE NEW YEAR

By the time you read this the New Year will have already begun, but perhaps these suggestions will still be helpful because they are well-suited for anytime and all time.

Begin the year **gratefully** on BENDED KNEES. Take time to pray, pray, pray (1 Thess. 5:17), like Jesus (Mark 14:32-39), and His followers (Acts 2:42). Thank God daily for His blessings (Col. 3:15).

Begin the year **studiously** with a BIBLE ON YOUR LAP. Be like the Ethiopian nobleman (Acts 8:28-30), and the "noble" Bereans (Acts 17:11). Let us "study to show (ourselves) approved unto God" (2 Tim. 2:15).

Begin the year **joyfully** with a SONG IN YOUR HEART. "Is any merry, let him sing psalms?" (James 5:13). Personal memories of Tom Holland singing "Blessed Assurance" and other hymns, as he walked through the halls of Freed-Hardeman, are well remembered. Paul and Barnabas sang hymns even when in prison (Acts 16:25). Have you ever wondered what the prisoners thought about it?!

Begin the year **generously** with a GIFT IN YOUR HAND. We are to "lay by...in store" on the first day of the week (1 Cor. 16:1-2). But giving is not restricted to that day and does not always involve money. Hand a friend, or even a stranger, a gospel tract. Send a note of encouragement to someone who needs it. Jesus said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

Begin the year **happily** with a SMILE ON YOUR FACE. The Beatitudes emphasize being "Blessed" or "Happy" (Matt. 5:2-12). Those who follow Jesus' example and teachings will be "happy" (John 13:17). Solomon wrote, "Happy is the man who finds wisdom" (Prov. 3:13).

Edward L Anderson