

EXPRESSIONS OF LOVE

Date:	AM	Bible Study	PM	Cont.	Wed	DBR
Dec. 25	162	95	75	\$6500*	92	25
Jan. 1	153	133	110	\$7644*		
	108	33				
Goals	200	160	135	\$4812	130	100%

* Denotes goals reached. Mid-week stats are for December 21 & 28, 2016

A New Leaf

Kathleen Wheeler

He came to my desk with a quivering lip—
—The lesson was done.

“Dear Teacher, I want a new leaf,” he said,
—“I have spoiled this one.”

I took the old leaf, stained and blotted,
And gave him a new one all unspotted,
—And into his sad eyes smiled,
—“Do better, now, my child.”

I went to the throne with a quivering soul—
—The Old Year was done.

“Dear Father, hast Thou a new leaf for me?
—I have spoiled this one.”

He took the old leaf, stained and blotted,
And gave me a new one all unspotted,
—And into my sad heart smiled,

ASK A FRIEND TO ATTEND

Volume 25 January 4, 2017 Number 1

CHURCH OF CHRIST
711 N. Main Street
P.O. Box 88
Carthage, TN 37030
RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED

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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:

Don Carter
(615- 9777)
Jack Grisham
(615-735-1961)
Jerry Phillips
(615-735-0326)
Derrick Triplett
(615-735-0092)
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(615-735-0361)
Scotty Yeaman
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Evangelist:

Edward L. Anderson
(615-735-2462)

Youth Minister:

Justin Mauldin
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Secretary:

Elaine Wright
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711 N. Main Street
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Carthage, TN. 37030
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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES:

Sunday Worship

9:00 A.M.
6:00 P.M.
12:30 P.M. (5th Sunday)
Bible Study
Sunday Morning
10:15 A.M.
Wednesday Evening
7:00 P.M.

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

Fax Number: (615) 735-0131
Website: www.carthagechurchofchrist.net
Sunday Services broadcast on YouTube

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

“VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME”

NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS

What is the most depressing day of the year? British psychologists have calculated that the most depressing day of the year is January 11. Winter days are dark and cold, holiday excitement has worn off, Christmas debts are coming due, and New Year’s resolutions have all been broken. The celebrations, gift-giving, and good intentions that once made us feel happy and excited now press down and leave us feeling hopeless.

Many of us have made promises to ourselves to mark the beginning of the New Year. We made pledges such as: I’m going to save more, exercise more, or spend less time on the internet. We begin the year with good intentions, but before long old habits tempt us to take up our old ways. We slip up occasionally, then more frequently, and then all the time. Finally, it’s as if our resolution never existed.

Instead of choosing our own self-improvement goals, a better approach might be to ask ourselves: “What does the Lord want me to change?” Through the prophet Micah, God has revealed that He wants us to do what is right, to be merciful, and to walk humbly with Him (Mic. 6:8). All of these things relate to soul-improvement rather than self-improvement.

The apostle Paul taught that soul-improvement is better than self-improvement and may even result in improvement of both the soul and the self. “...Exercise yourself toward godliness. For bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that is now and of that which is to come” (1 Tim.4:7-8). God will help us to do this if we work our resolve. “That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love...Now to him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all we ask or think, according to the power that works in us” (Eph. 3:16-17, 20).

So as we begin a new year, let’s resolve to be more Christ-like. For additional help, look to the examples of others who succeeded in their resolutions:

I will be like Paul and forget those things which are behind and press forward (Phil. 3:12-16).

I will be like David and lift up my eyes to the hills from which my help comes (Psalm 121:1).

I will be like Abraham and trust my God implicitly (Heb. 11:8-12).

I will be like Enoch and walk in daily fellowship with my heavenly Father (Heb. 11:5).

I will be like Moses and suffer rather than enjoy the pleasure of sin for a time (Heb. 11:23-29).

I will be like Job and be patient and faithful in all circumstances (Book of Job).

I will be like Joseph and turn my back on all evil advances (Gen. 39:7-12).

I will be like Gideon and advance even when friends are few (Judges 7:15).

I will be like Andrew and strive to lead my brother to Christ (John 1:40-42)

-Thompson Run Church of Christ, Georgetown, PA, Jan. 11, 2015-

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). Let us investigate the Holy Scriptures and reason together (Acts 17:11; Isaiah 1:18). If you have questions about what you hear or observe, please discuss them with us. We hope you will visit with us again!

Attendance has been up somewhat the past two weeks in spite of sickness and holiday travel. With the holidays behind us and a new year underway, let's all resolve to attend all assemblies regularly and to be active in the various programs of work. There is much for all to do: make a visit; send a card; write a note of encouragement; make a phone call; be a daily Bible reader; pray frequently and fervently

The elders presented our 2017 budget this past Sunday morning. The new budget reflects a small increase. Each of us should evaluate our blessings and examine our giving in view of Bible teaching (1 Cor. 16:1-2; 2 Cor. 8-9). We should seek to do God's will in this as well as in all others areas of service to Him. To use Paul's words: "Abound in this grace also" (2 Cor. 8:7).

Please take note of the "Congregational Calendar" and "Area Events" in the N&N section. We will be adding other events, dates, times, etc. as they are finalized or we are aware of them. This is for your information and convenience in scheduling for the year. It serves as a reminder of opportunities to serve, study, and grow.

The church here is sending a contribution to our brothers and sisters in Christ in Gatlinburg. Their building was totally destroyed in the recent wild fires and some of their members lost their homes. Thanks to all who "gave extra" the last two Sundays of 2016. All given over the budget was added to the contribution to be given. Your love and generosity will be a blessing.

Barbara, Mrs. Dixon, and I wish to express our profound gratitude for the many gifts and cards we received during the holidays. I have read each loving message and looked at each picture of your family, your children, and your grandchildren so sweet. We treasure each one. The Bible; bonus; gift cards; fruits; homemade candy; floral arrangement; goodies; and ham and biscuits (yum, yum!) – are all gratefully received and enjoyed.

We are so happy you are here for the mid-week service. Please plan to be back for all scheduled gatherings in the coming week.

"The Lord bless you, and keep you; the Lord make His face to shine upon you, and be gracious unto you; the Lord lift His countenance upon you, and give you peace" (Numbers 6:24-26).

Edward L Anderson

NEWS & NOTES:

RESPONSES: Upon her confession in Jesus as the Son of God, Molly Jones was baptized into Christ for remission of sins Wednesday, December 21. Pray for Molly in her new life.

SICK: Irene Gregory is in Tennova (UMC), where she underwent hip surgery last Thursday after suffering a fall. She had an MRI on Monday. Joe Hensley now has his med pump in place and seems to be doing some better. Jerry Phillips underwent cataract surgery last week. Donnie Herd was able to be back with us Sunday. Sick since our last bulletin include: Jonah Mauldin; Aubrey and Scarlett Hicks; Emma Denton; Katie Bennett; Jenna Harville; Betty Carter; Hattie Branham; Judy Grisham; and Jerry Hicks. Prayers have been requested for little two-year old Owen Reed who has been in Vanderbilt due to a stroke and blood clots; and for Carmie Johnson, who recently had brain tumor (benign) surgery. Gary Lester remains in Trevecca's Health & Rehab facility in Nashville. Karen Whited, Jeff's step-mom, is now in Tennova Rehab following surgery at Vanderbilt. Will (Edward's great-nephew), and Jillian Anderson, along with Jill's mother, were involved in an auto accident during the holidays. All three were hospitalized in Marietta, GA with injuries requiring surgery. The other driver was killed in the accident. Please pray for all. Scotty Yeaman is scheduled for another knee surgery later this month. Leslie Alford is at home but is unable to be with us. Troy and Judy Spivey, Teddy's grandparents, are now at home. W. A. Gibbs' continues his weekly dialysis regimen and is doing well. Mary Jo Hackett was with us last Wednesday, but is still unable to be with us regularly. Our prayers have been requested for Austin Gee, age 17 and of Lebanon (Maple Hill), who doing well after a heart transplant; and, for Glenda Gentry, who suffered injuries in a recent fall requiring a stay in Vanderbilt. Remember also the following in prayer: Janice Anderson; Gaye Yeaman; Cathy Stafford; Ray Upchurch; Earl Carter; Leslie Alford; Gary and Sherry Lester; Sherry Pritchett; Jennie Burnett; Karen Howell; Jimmy Rigsby; Arnold Rich; Mary Phillips (Molly Goolsby's mother); Cathy Harville; Bob Harville; and Steve Dowell.

NURSING HOME/ASSISTED LIVING RESIDENTS: Opal Agee; Lovell Chaffin; Curtis Richards; Phronia Rose (Kindred); Linda Black (Carthage Pavilion); Imogene Reeves (Palace – RBS); Frank Williams, Elm Croft in Lebanon; Vestle Gentry (White Oak Nursing Facility, Spartanburg, S.C.).

SHUT-IN AT HOME: Wilma Richardson; Shirley Holmes; James Hall; and Pat Paysinger.

IN MILITARY: Jana Watson, Ann Carter's granddaughter (Army); Matt West, Linda Dicken's grandson (Marines); Zack Tongate, son of Scott & Debbie Tongate (Marines); Randy Carter's sons and Lacey Crockett's brothers, Derek (Army) & Landon Carter (Coast Guard); Benjamin Gentry (Marines).

SYMPATHY: Our sympathy is extended to the family of Mr. Kenneth Reese, who passed away December 29; and to the family of Mrs. Robbie Boze Oldham, whose funeral was conducted Monday.

THANK YOU: The church has received and read very nice "Thank You" notes/calls and greeting cards from: Narine Khublall family, whom we help support as he preaches the gospel in Guyana; Wilma Richardson; Shirley Holmes; Emogene Dixon; Gary and Sherry Lester; Janney & Associates, CPA's.

CONGREGATIONAL CALENDAR: *Men's Breakfast:* Saturday, January 21, 8:00 AM; *5th Sunday Services:* January 29 Justin Mauldin will speak at the 9:00 A.M. service and Josh Brown at the 12:30 P.M. service. Lunch will be served in the annex after Bible classes (NOTE: We will also host the devotional at the Pavilion at 2:00 PM); *Youth Unite:* We will host YU in April (date to be set); *Jackson/Smith County Youth Camp:* July 16-22 at Taylor Christian Camp; *Annual Singing:* August 4, 7:00 PM; *Bible Bowl:* TTU's Hooper/Eblen Center, September 9 (The material this year will be the books of Mark, Philippians, and Colossians)

UPCOMING AREA EVENTS: *Teens For Christ:* Sycamore church of Christ (Cookeville), January 8, 5:00 P.M., with Scott Jefcoat; *Young Men's Seminar (5th-12th grades):* East Main church of Christ (Murfreesboro), February 4, 2017, "Cultivating My Faith", with Jeff Archey, 8:00 – 12:00 Noon; *Marriage Seminar:* Crossville church of Christ, Theme: "Happily Ever After", March 3-5, 2017, with Jim Dearman, plus Janis Dearman will teach a session for wives (Poster posted).

HOUSE TO HOUSE: The brethren in Jacksonville, AL who publish "House to House; Heart to Heart", are asking for our prayers and support as they prepare a July/August issue to hopefully reach the most homes ever with a single issue. The feature article by Allen Webster will be "What Jesus Told Me to Tell You", dealing with the gospel and how people can obey it.

ELDERS/DEACONS/PREACHERS' MEETING: The monthly business meeting will be January 11 following our mid-week service. Copies of the agenda will be available Sunday.

POINTERS FOR INCREASING YOUR BIBLE KNOWLEDGE

1. **Read** the Scriptures (1 Timothy 4:13).
2. **Search** the Scriptures (John 5:39).
3. Search the Scriptures **daily** (Acts 17:11).
4. **Study** them with **diligence** (2 Timothy 2:15a).
5. **Rightly divide** them; handle them aright (2 Timothy 2:15b).
6. **Meditate** upon them **day and night** (Psalm 1:2).
7. **Share** them with others (2 Timothy 2:2).

Edward L Anderson

