

EXPRESSIONS OF LOVE

Date:	AM	Bible Study	PM	Cont.	Wed	DBR
Nov. 12	161	117	90	\$4737	103	34
Nov. 19	147	110	90	\$4913*	111	28
Goals	200	160	135	\$4812	130	100%

* Denotes goals reached. Mid-week stat is for Nov. 8 & 15, 2017

YOU CALL ME...

“...*The Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power...*” (2 Thess. 1:7-9). The following words are from an engraving from the cathedral in Lubeck, Germany:
 “Thus speaketh Christ our Lord to us,
 You call Me master, and obey me not,
 You call Me light, and see Me not,
 You call Me the way, and walk Me not,
 You call Me life, and live Me not,
 You call Me wise, and follow Me not,
 You call Me fair, and love Me not,
 You call Me rich, and ask Me not,
 You call Me eternal, and see me not,
 If I condemn thee, blame Me not.”

-via Tomlinson Run Church of Christ, (Georgetown, PA) Bulletin articles, 3/16/2016-

ASK A FRIEND TO ATTEND

Volume 25 November 22, 2017 Number 24

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:

Don Carter
 (615- 735-9777)
Jack Grisham
 (615-735-1961)
Jerry Phillips
 (615-735-0326)
Derrick Triplett
 (615-735-0092)
R.W. Vincent
 (615-735-0361)
Scotty Yeaman
 (615-735-2024)

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

Email: carthagecoc@dtccom.net

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.

Evangelist:

Edward L. Anderson
 (615-735-2462)

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

Secretary:

Elaine Wright
 (615-735-0114)

Deacons:

Josh Brown
 (931-319-9994)
Barry Cook
 (615-735-3194)
Michael Hackett
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Steve Harper
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Jeremy Hassler
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Chris Hicks
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Jerry Hicks
 (615-418-6637)
Johnny Law
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Joe Reeves
 (615-735-1131)
Dusty Whitaker
 (615-281-8140)
Jeff Whited
 (615-449-3204)

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Website: www.carthagechurchofchrist.net
 Sunday Services broadcast on YouTube

FREE Bible Correspondence Courses, Tracts or Home Bible Study/ Videos.
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“VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME”

LET’S PRAY NOW

One day a mother decided to take her three children to an ice skating party in a nearby town, but after several wrong turns and stops to ask directions, she pulled over to the side of the road and suggested they all ask God to help them find the rink. When they finally arrived, they were nearly an hour late.

The following week, as they got into the car to go skating again, her five-year-old son exclaimed, “Mom, let’s pray now and save some time!”

That little boy exposed one of the shortcomings in the prayer lives of many of us. We pray to God whenever we get into trouble, asking God to help take care of us. And there’s certainly nothing wrong with that. God wants us to turn to Him when we are in need. As the Psalmist said, *“When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears and delivers them out of all their troubles.”* (Psalm 34:17)

But sometimes that’s the only time we pray. We don’t feel the need to pray when things are going well in our lives. But, as that little 5-year-old boy noted, perhaps we wouldn’t be in need nearly as much if we prayed in advance. If we prayed for wisdom. If we prayed for God’s guidance in our lives. If we gave thanks for the many blessings we enjoy. If we prayed for God’s will to be done. If we asked for God’s presence. If we gave God the honor due Him.

As a father, I didn’t mind if my children came to me when they needed something. I wanted them to do that. But it would have bothered me if that’s the only time they ever spoke to me. I wanted a relationship with them that went beyond meeting their needs, a relationship of mutual love.

An attitude of constant prayer is a distinguishing mark of the mature Christian, which is why we are commanded to *“pray without ceasing”* (1 Thess. 5:17). As someone once put it, “If you only pray when you’re in trouble, you’re in trouble.”

“Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.” (Col. 4:2). Let’s now pray!

Alan Smith, Thought For The Day, July 16, 2016
 Cruciform Church of Christ
 Spring Lake, North Carolina

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 the Holy Scriptures with us and, as the Lord through Isaiah said, "Come, let us 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, and soon!

Our attendance was down considerably this past Sunday due to illness, hospitalizations, work, family gatherings for the holiday, and trips out of town. We trust all the ailing will improve and all those traveling will have safe journey back to us.

A special thanks to all those who assisted with food, chaperoned, and attended the recent Lock-In at Jimmy Floyd Center (Lebanon). Justin reports that all went well and that everyone had a good period of fellowship.

The elders, with input from the deacons, are in the process of setting our budget and program of work for 2018. Pray for them, all the good works we support, and the work in general placed before us. May each of us be personally involved in the work devoting our heart, hands, feet, ears, and eyes to the Lord's labors.

We will be doing the greeting card program for our shut-ins again this year. A list has been formulated and stacks of cards along with labeled bags are available in the foyer. Sign the cards and drop them in the appropriate bag. The deadline is Sunday, December 17.

As 2017 winds down and the "holiday season" approaches, let us pause and ponder how rich God's blessings really are! A good gauge for measuring character is gratitude. Paul reminded the Colossians to "be thankful" (3:15).

It would also be helpful to do a year-end inventory as most businesses do. Self-examination, though difficult, is necessary and very valuable in living the Christian life. (2 Cor. 13:5). Has my knowledge of God's word increased through study and meditation? Has my prayer life grown or is it suffering from neglect? Am I genuinely interested in leading others to Christ?

Perhaps the most important question is: Am I more Christ-like? Do I possess His spirit of service, submission, and sacrifice? (See Phil. 2:5-8) It would be healthy for all to read the words of the classic hymn "O, To Be Like Thee".

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

ELA

NEWS & NOTES:

SICK: Little Emma Grace Hicks, daughter of Chris and Amanda, is in Vanderbilt due to some heart issues, after making an early arrival last Friday. Sue Walker is now in RRMC and is improved. Durell Walker is in Tennova (Lebanon), in ICU. Susan Klamm is scheduled for surgery at Tennova (Lebanon), November 29. Steve Harper is recuperating from rotator cuff surgery. Dennis Hackett suffered a fractured ankle when he was struck by a tow motor at work. Don Carter has pneumonia. Jack and Judy Grisham were unable to be with us Sunday. Jenna Harville has had a stomach virus and was not able to attend Sunday. Russell, Noah, and Emmy Vincent; Ainsley Hassler; Joey Dillard; and Jerry Phillips have been sick. W. A. Gibbs was not feeling well Sunday evening. Scotty Yeaman is awaiting back surgery yet to be scheduled. Bobby King, Lola's husband, has been having some problems with insulin levels. Barry King, Bob and Lola's son, is recuperating from recent back surgery. Kim Bray is doing much better. Janet Young, Kim Bray's mother, is recuperating from shoulder surgery. Jason Cohoon, Barry's son, is now at home and improving. Brenda Bowman (hip replacement surgery), was able to be with us again this past Sunday. Keely Phillips is now much improved, at home, and back to school. Mary Phillips seems to be doing much better. Eddie Ray Thrasher, uncle to Gaye Yeaman and Carolyn Hill, remains under hospice care. Prayers are requested for Kristen Burford, niece of Carol Woodard and an expectant mother, who is in St. Thomas MT, due to blood pressure problems. Remember the following in prayer: Wes Stafford; Charles White (Valdosta, GA); Mike Sircy; 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); 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); Camron Huff (Marines).

NEW BABY: Congratulations to Chris and Amanda Hicks in the birth of their daughter, Emma Grace, Friday, Nov. 17. Birth weight/length was 8 lbs. 3 oz and 18 in. Congratulations also to big sisters, Aubrey and Scarlett, grandparents Jerry and Cheryl Hicks, and great-grandmother, Dimple Hicks.

SYMPATHY: To Martha Ramsey and family in the passing of Denton, Thursday morning, November 16. The funeral was conducted at the Hooper-Huddleston Funeral Home, in Baxter, this past Monday. Martha also lost her father, Lemuel Edwards (age 91), of Gallatin, on Saturday. Sympathy is also extended to Dimple Hicks in the death of her cousin, Jennifer Guffey of Cookeville.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARY LIST: Mary Phillips (1); Mary Pat Grim; Debbie Felure, Steve Bray (5); Ethan Crockett (10); Lacey and Olivia Crockett (11); Katie Bennett (18); Jeffrey Maberry, Tori Lankford (19); Kyle Azbell (21); Andy Rutherford, Lovell Chaffin, Elaine Wright, Kathy Kemp (23); 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); Derrick & Risa Triplett (12/31/1982).

LADIES' HOLIDAY MEAL & ORNAMENT EXCHANGE: Ladies you are invited to attend, on Thursday, December 7, 6:00 P.M., in the annex. Menu and price to follow soon. Sign-up in foyer.

REMEMBER DAVID: David Maberry is away on a Red Cross Disaster Relief trip to the Virgin Islands. Our prayers are requested.

DO YOU ACT OR REACT?

I walked with my friend to the news stand the other night and he bought a paper, thanking the news boy politely. The news boy did not acknowledge it.

"A sullen fellow, isn't he?" I commented. "Oh, he's that way every night," shrugged my friend. "Then why do you continue to be so polite to him?" "Why not?" inquired by friend. "Why should I let him decide how I am going to act?"

As I thought about this incident later, it occurred to me that the important word was "act". My friend **ACTS** toward people--most of us **REACT** toward them.

He has a sense of inner balance which is lacking in most of us; he knows who he is, what he stands for, and how we should behave. He refused to return incivility for incivility because then he would no longer be in command of his conduct.

When we are enjoined in the Bible to return good for evil, it is a psychological prescription for emotional health. Nobody is unhappier than that perpetual reactor. His center of emotional gravity is not within himself where it belongs, but in the world outside, the social climate around him, and he is a mere creature at the mercy of these elements.

Serenity of spirit cannot be achieved until we become master of our actions and attitudes. To let another determine whether we shall be rude or gracious, elated or depressed, is to relinquish control over our own personality which is ultimately all we possess. The only true possession is self-possession. (Copied from Wesconnett (FL) bulletin.)