

A DISH OF ICE CREAM

Then they brought little children to Him, that He might touch them; but the disciples rebuked those who brought them. But when Jesus saw it, He was greatly displeased and said to them, Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God. Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it. And He took, them up in His arms, put His hands on them, and blessed them (Mark 10:13-16).

In the days when an ice cream sundae cost much less, a 10 year old boy entered a hotel coffee shop and sat at a table. A waitress put a glass of water in front of him.

“How much is an ice cream sundae?”

“50 cents,” replied the waitress.”

The little boy pulled his hand out of his pocket and studied a number of coins in it.

“How much is a dish of plain ice cream?” he inquired. Some people were waiting for a table and the waitress was a bit impatient.

“35 cents,” she said brusquely.

The little boy again counted the coins. “I’ll have the plain ice cream,” he said.

The waitress brought the ice cream, put the bill on the table and walked away. The boy finished the ice cream, paid the cashier and departed. When the waitress came back, she began wiping down the table and then swallowed hard at what she saw. There, placed neatly beside the empty dish, was 15 cents – her tip.

(Copied from Tomlinson Run Church of Christ website)

ASK A FRIEND TO ATTEND

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

Michael Hackett
(615- 897-2313)
Johnny Law
(615-735-1240)
Jerry Phillips
(615-735-0326)
R.W. Vincent
(615-735-0361)

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

Deacons:

Josh Brown
(931-319-9994)
Barry Cook
(615-735-3194)
Steve Harper
(615-735-2651)
Jeremy Hassler
(931-335-1884)
Chris Hicks
(615-418-6472)
Jerry Hicks
(615-418-6637)
Dusty Whitaker
(615-281-8140)

Email: carthagecoc@dtccom.net

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES:

Sunday Worship

9:00 A.M.
6:00 P.M.

12:30 P.M. (Last Sunday of Month)

Bible Study

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

Youth Minister:

Justin Mauldin
(931-319-6548)

Secretary:

Elaine Wright
(615-735-0114)

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

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)

“VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME”

THE VALUE OF TIME

Every turn of a calendar-page and every tick of a clock tells us that what has passed we will never undo, and we are responsible for what we have now. I have heard time described as “a section cut from the great circle of eternity.” We should view time as a priceless gift from God. As we soon go into the New Year of 2021, we should remind ourselves of time’s value. Once past, it can never be retrieved. It is ours now, but whether it will be ours one moment from now is in God’s hands. We have no binding claim upon time.

The apostle Paul spoke of the value of time when he spoke of “redeeming the time, because the days are evil” (Ephesians 5:16). Time is not just the accumulation of seconds, minutes, hours, days, weeks, months and years, but everything that time offers to us, including opportunities and privileges, and Paul, by inspiration, urges us to redeem such. Paul uses the language of the marketplace. In the days, and even weeks, prior to Christmas, shoppers have been fervently in search of bargains, taking advantage of sales in stores and online, searching for best-buys. Should we be any less fervent in the pursuit of spiritual blessings that God has graciously made available to us?

One opportunity that is overlooked by too many is the most valuable of all—the opportunity time offers us for salvation. Paul, in 2 Corinthians 6:2, reminds us, “Now is the accepted time: behold, now is the day of salvation.” Here is truly the “best buy” of all—salvation, a gift already paid for with the blood of Christ, as Peter reminds Christians: of the fact that we are redeemed (purchased) “with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot” (1 Peter 1:18-19).

The opportunity of salvation is ours as God’s gift to man, but the acceptance of this gift rests with us. As Paul said, “Now is the accepted time...day of salvation,” but multitudes pass by this priceless gift as they seek the pleasures and treasures that will one day be no more. May all of us be reminded, “For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passes away, and the lust thereof: but he that does the will of God abides forever” (1 John 2:16-17). As we conclude the present year, and enter into the New Year, may we accept the gift that abides forever, “redeeming the time.”

- Ronald Bartanen preaches for Arthur Church of Christ, Arthur, IL. He may be contacted through the congregation's website: <http://arthurcoc.com/>

FROM THE PREACHER'S HEART:

“I AM RESOLVED”

Life really comes down to a battle between the lusts of the flesh and the resolve of the will. Resolve is a primary part of any successful endeavor. “Resolve” means “to fix or settle on by deliberate choice and will; determine to do something” (*Random House College Dictionary*, 1124).

A favorite hymn is titled “I Am Resolved”, which may be based on the words of the steward in Luke 16:4 – “**I am resolved** what to do.” Many a soul has been motivated to obey the gospel by the message of this grand old hymn. Numerous saints have likewise been encouraged by its lyrics and lines.

Let us resolve to PREPARE for what is to come, like Noah (Heb. 11:7; 1 Peter 3:20).

Let us resolve to LOOK “for a city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God” (Heb. 11:10).

Let us resolve to BUILD like Nehemiah and the people (Neh. 2:17, 18).

Let us resolve to GO like Isaiah: “Here am I, send me” (Isa. 6:8). We should make ourselves available.

Let us resolve to LISTEN like Samuel: “Speak Lord, your servant hears” (1 Sam. 3:10).

Let us resolve to PRAY like Daniel (Daniel 6:10).

Let us resolve to be READY to be offered; to FIGHT the good fight; to FINISH our course; and, to KEEP the faith, like Paul (2 Tim. 4:6-7).

Let us resolve to ARISE like the prodigal and Saul of Tarsus (Luke 15:18-20; Acts 9:18; 22:16).

Above all, let us resolve to WALK in the footsteps of Jesus (1 Peter 2:21; Matt. 16:24).

If you are in the “far country” of sin, resolve to come home to the Father and His family (See Rev. 2:4, 5; James 5:16; Acts 8:22).

If you have never obeyed the gospel of Christ, resolve to do so immediately (Rom. 6:17-18; Acts 16:26-33). Do not delay! Your soul and eternal destiny depend upon it.

Edward L Anderson

NEWS & NOTES:

WELCOME VISITORS: A warm welcome is extended to all our visitors. We are honored to have you and your family. Please come again!

SICK: Peggy Denton continues recuperating from recent surgery. Patricia Brooks is to see an oncologist in January. W. A. Gibbs is now at home following a stay in Quality (Lebanon) and battling COVID-19. Lola King began radiation treatments December 28. Faye Maberry is doing well. Gail Vincent's uncle, Henry Carter, has been in the hospital with breathing issues and heart trouble. Dennis Hackett's aunt, Joyce Kilgore, isn't doing well and remains in Vanderbilt in Lebanon. Carol "Woodard's friend, Faye Massey, recently suffered a stroke. Some of our families who have been in quarantine are back with us while some others are still in precautionary quarantine. Pray for all dealing with “the virus” – Tony, Mary Jo, and Brittany Hackett, and perhaps others. (Please call 615-735-0114 with updates and news items.)

NURSINGHOME/ASSISTED/LIVING/SHUT-INS: Lovell Chaffin; Wilma Richardson; Judith Newberry; Mary Lou Smith; Frances Glosser; Ricky Branham (SCH&R); Loneta Bains (Pavilion); Hattie Branham and Pat Paysinger (Shut-ins).

PRAYER LIST: Dustin Justice (lymphoma); Joe Hensley; Barbara Dixon; Conner Hackett; Chuck Jordan; Joe Massey; Gary White; A. J. Purkey; Tammy Crockett; Josh Dillard; Lavern Hardee; Alan Fitts; Steve Higginbotham; Wayne Lankford; Sandy Waggoner; Nancy Hicks Bane; Barbara Williams; Michael Parsons; Wendy Williams; Roslyn Fox Stout; Wanda Hailey; Denise Griffin; James Hix; Rylee Winfree; Rebecca Huffines Thompson; Tommy & Linda Ashburn; Jerry Hutchins; Danny Claire; Bill Ross; Scott Bane; Patsy Link; Emily Moss and children; Lucas Wakefield; Linda Dennis; Gary Anderson; Bob & Donnieta White; John Conditt; Duane Hesson; Billy Woodard; Tammy Bush; Jerry Glenn; Bentley Cowan; David Lipe; Louie Gray West; Taylor & Spencer Keaton; Paulette Blackburn; Emily Allen; Will Gregory; Rick Blankenship; Ken Miller; Tom Brown; Alicia Haynes; Joey Black; Joe Kemp; Susanne Tisdale; Pattie Birdwell; Mary Ellen Lawrence; Donna Kemp; Ray Hobbs; Wes Stafford; Sawyer Cole; Richard Rhoten; Buddy & Jan Chaffin; Earl Carter; Jennie Burnett; Arnold Rich; Jimmy and Carolyn Rigsby.

SYMPATHY: Sympathy is expressed to the families of the following: Roy Hicks (Dimple Hicks brother-in-law, Jerry Hicks uncle), who died Dec. 20; Mike Ruis (Susan Klamm's uncle) who died Dec. 21; Laura Russell Bourgeois (Sherry Lester's sister), who died Dec. 21; Debby Flatt (wife of Ben Flatt), who died Dec. 25; Eddie Lawrence (Alexandria, TN), who died Dec. 20.

JANUARY BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARY LIST: Carol Woodard (1); Merissa Spivey (4); Kathaleen Replogle (10); Makenna Hassler (11); Johnny Law (17); Noah Vincent (18); Brenda Bowman (19); Barbara Anderson, Mary Jo Hackett, (20); Dimple Hicks (21); Jake Azbell (23); Jenna Claire Harville (24); Susan Klamm (29).

THANK YOU: The church recently received “Thank You” notes and greeting cards from Lola King; Sally Russell; Frances Rollins; Carol Woodard; Mary Cross; Bob and Donnieta White.

EVENTS CALENDAR: *Smith County Health Care/Rehab Center Devotional:* First Sundays of February, May, August, November (To be resumed when permitted); *Fifth Sunday Pavilion Devotional* (To be resumed when permitted); *Men's Breakfast:* January 16, 2021; *Fish Fry,* April 10; *Gospel Meeting:* Clarence Deloach, April 11-14.

VISITATION/GREETING PROGRAM: The elders have asked Josh Brown to organize a visitation program designed to reach out to and welcome newcomers to the area. It will involve delivering a “Welcome Packet” to their residence, but with virus precautions. Contact Josh to help.

IN THE MILITARY: Jana Watson, Ann Carter's grand-daughter (Army); Randy Carter's sons and Lacey Crockett's brothers, Derek (Army) & Landon Carter (Coast Guard); PFC Samuel Burton (USMC), Darlene Fariss' grandson; Benjamin Gentry (USMC).

THE STORY OF YOUR LIFE

Don't say you're not important,
It simply isn't true,
The fact that you were born,
Is proof, God has a plan for you.
The path may seem unclear right now,
But one day you will see,
That all that came before,
Was truly meant to be.
God wrote the book that is your life,
That's all you need to know.
Each day that you are living,
Was written long ago.
God only writes best sellers,
So be proud of who you are,
Your character is important;
In this book you are the “Star.”
Enjoy the novel as it reads,
It will stand throughout the ages,
Savor each chapter as you go,
Taking time to turn the pages.

(Wanda Mitchell, via BulletinGold, June 2008)