

WHO ARE GOD'S LEADERS?

Dan R. Owen

God's leaders are obvious in the community of faith. If their hearts are right with God, the elders and preachers are some of God's important leaders, but other men and women of God who serve in God's ministries are also God's leaders. To accomplish the mission of Christ, we need many of these people. Consider the biblical characteristics of such leaders.

God's leaders are people who have "set themselves to minister to the saints." The Stephanus family had determined to serve others in doing the will of Christ. Their attitude of love and service and kindness was obvious to others. Paul told the rest of the church, submit to such, and to everyone who works with us and labors" (1 Corinthians 16:16). God's leaders are what the Bible calls "spiritual" people. These are the people whose perspective on life is shaped by the revealed Word of God. They are the kind of people who seek to restore the erring and who help to bear the burdens of others (Galatians 6:1-3). They are not people whose conduct is characterized by envy and strife (1 Corinthians 3:1-3). (Voice of Truth International, Vol. 1)

ASK A FRIEND TO ATTEND

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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:

Barry Cook
(615-735-3194)
Michael Hackett
(615-735-7046)
Johnny Law
(615-735-1240)
R.W. Vincent
(615-735-0361)

Evangelist:

Edward L. Anderson
(615-735-2462)

Youth Minister:

Justin Mauldin

Secretary:

Elaine Wright
(615-735-0114)

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

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday Worship

9:00 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.
12:30 P.M. (Last Sunday of month)

Bible Study

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

Deacons:

Josh Brown
(931-319-9994)
Tony Hackett
(615-735-9037)
Steve Harper
(615-735-2651)
Chris Hicks
(615-418-6472)
Jerry Hicks
(615-418-6637)
Justin Mauldin
(931-319-6548)
Andy Rutherford
(615-418-5050)
Dusty Whitaker
(615-709-1086)

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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.
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"VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME"

THE GOSPEL NEEDS...

Anne Murray, "The Canadian Songbird", popularized the "sure could use a little good news today" phrase several years back. The song had a great message, but the good news of the gospel of Christ predated her song by centuries. "Gospel" simply means good news! A sin-sick world needs some good news. The gospel is the exclusive power of God unto salvation (Rom. 1:16).

The Gospel Needs to be **HERALDED**. "Herald" is a verb that means to be a sign that something important, and often good is starting to happen. For example, it is often said that the blooming of the buttercups is a "herald" of Spring! The angel's announcement to Mary (Luke 1:26ff), and then to the shepherds in the fields after His birth (Luke 2:8-12), come to mind. These are examples of heavenly heralds. Those who preach the gospel must herald the fact that Jesus has come and will come again (Acts 1:9-11; John 14:1-6). We must let it be known that there is some really great news! In the words of the old hymn: "Salvation has been brought down"!

The Gospel Needs to be **HEARD**. The apostles preached the gospel on the Day of Pentecost following Jesus' resurrection. What if Mary, the shepherds, the apostles, and others had refused to hear the messages delivered? Not everyone heard the voices of the Mosaical prophets crying in the wilderness. "You would not" describes a lot of people in the Scriptures. Multitudes refused to listen. Some who heard Jesus preach "went back and walked no more with Him". It is impossible to please God without faith (Heb. 11:6), and the production of faith is dependent upon hearing God's Word (Rom. 1:17).

The Gospel Needs to be **HEEDED**. "Heed" means to pay attention or to take notice. To give careful attention is the idea, especially to a warning. "Follow", "obey" and "keep" are all listed as synonyms. Think of how often the Bible stresses following Jesus (Matt. 9:9), obeying God (Acts 5:29), and keeping His commandments (1 John 2:3). Numerous other passages could be cited. We are NOT to give "heed" to the fables of false teachers (1 Tim. 1:4). We end these thoughts with a powerful text from Hebrews 2: "Therefore, **we must give the more earnest heed** to the thing we have heard, lest we drift away. For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, **how shall we escape if the neglect so great a salvation**, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him..." (vs. 1-4).

Edward L. Anderson

FROM THE PREACHER'S HEART:

Barring unforeseen circumstances, I will be preaching my final sermon as your pulpit minister this Sunday morning (2/25/24). That means that this will be my final "FROM THE PREACHER'S HEART" article as well. Our first Sunday with this church was September 5, 1976. We have been blessed to serve the Lord and His church with deep gratitude these forty-seven years and five months.

As with any such undertaking, there have been ups and downs, highs and lows, and times of tears and times of joy. I think often of all the deaths chronicled in this venue. But I also recall the births of third, fourth, and fifth generation family members. But more important are the announcements of the "New Births" into Christ!

I inherited the editorship of "The Smith County Light" from my predecessor, brother Glenn Ramsey, who was a great help in the transition. It helped that I had done previous bulletins where I had earlier preached – Bagdad, Park Avenue, and Monterey. This bulletin was then a weekly publication. We went to the present bi-weekly format later due to cost increases in printing and postage.

I would be much amiss if I did not thank all of those who have received and read this publication over the years. One regular reader described it as "a letter from home". Some have made monetary contributions, which were never sought since it is "a work of love" by the church. I am hopeful this work will be continued indefinitely as an outreach tool.

We have always tried to give credit to any articles copied from other church bulletins or publications. We have, over the years, shared numerous articles from faithful brethren. Thanks for their contributions!

Great credit for the bulletin is to be given to Elaine Wright who has served very effectively as the church secretary for more than twenty years (since February/March 2003). She and Hale (he helps label and bundle every mailing), have taken a very active role in getting the bulletin prepared and mailed on time. Thanks, Elaine, for your dedication and efficiency.

I do not know what the future holds, but I know Who holds the future. I hope to preach so long as I can do so to His glory and honor. Hope to see you Sunday.

Edward L Anderson

NEWS & NOTES:

SICK: Lola King was with us Sunday after bile-duct stent replacement on 2/13 at Centennial. Remember Lola and Bobby (has UTI). Cheryl Hicks was with us Sunday after suffering a rib injury. Robert Henry has Covid. Mary Jo Hackett was unable to be with us Sunday. Gordon Jenkins underwent a lung biopsy last week at RRMC. Elaine Wright, Gail Vincent, Julie Wright, Jenna Harville, Linda Cook, Amanda Hicks, Linda Dickens, and Wanda Fisher either are or have been ill. Good to have Larry Silcox able to be back with us. Patricia Maxwell, a relative of the Hicks' family, has been in Cookeville Regional. Donna Shoulders Adcock, a Smith County native who now lives in Jacksonville, FL, has had Covid and is doing oral chemo. Jimmy Key, Hale and Elaine Wright's neighbor, has been in Cookeville Regional ICU. Keep Michelle Allen's granddaughter, Isabelle, in your prayers. Prayers are requested for Gail and Martin Burns as she battles cancer. Remember Brenda Copeland, sister to Cheryl Hicks. Linda Myers is now at home after a hospital stay. Continue to remember Darrell Vincent, R. W.'s brother. Scott Johnson requests prayers for his uncle, Robert Lee Johnson, age 99, who is under hospice care. Joe Kemp is recovering from recent surgery. Remember Faye Maberry in prayer. Janice Hicks' and her family need our prayers as well as her dad, John Gregory, who is in SCHC. Continue to pray for the following: Jimmy Fisher; Josie Powell; Larry Cole; Helen Davis; James Spivey (Faye Maberry's brother-in-law); Robert Fields; Jerry Martin (cancer); Sherrie Lawrence; Leah Crabtree; Kevin Howell (cancer – taking chemo & radiation treatments); Tucker Brown; Michelle Allen; Eva Louise Holt; Scott Apple; Ronnie Glover; Mary Ann Herd; Scott, Jennifer, and Stephen Johnson; Brenda Boyd; Linda Myers; Mikel and Janice Hicks; Cynthia Gibbs; Josephine Fitts; Buckie Parsons; Garmon Vincent; Chuck Jordan; Jerry and Mary Phillips; Hudson Anderson; Hope Gibbs; Annika Oldham; Hannah McDowell; Tom and Sherry Culver; Sharon Halliburton; Colton Ferrell; Jean White; Janice Wilson; Drew Gallagher; Scott Bane; Jerry Driver; Brenda Aikens; Janet Rose; Ruby Anderson; Joe Armistead; Brenda Forrest; and Bea Davis.

NURSING HOME/ ASSISTED LIVING/ SHUT-INS: Ricky Branham (SCHR); Lonetta Bains (Pavilion – Lebanon); Pat Paysinger (Shut-in).

"Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you."

MARCH BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARY LIST: Noah Brown (16); Rebecca Brown, Emmy Vincent (18); Ruby Fisher (19); Michael Hackett (20); Adyan Law (21); Earline White (24); Nick Morris (31). Johnny & Susan Law (3/12/1983); Richard & Brenda Bowman (3/20/1965).

THE MILITARY: Korrey King – USMC (Grandson of Bobby & Lola King); Jana Watson, Ann Carter's granddaughter (Army); Randy Carter's son and Lacey Crockett's brother, Landon Carter (Coast Guard); Benjamin Gentry (USMC). Congratulations to Derek Carter on his recent retirement from the Army.

THANK YOU: The church has received and read "Thank You" notes from the following: Larry and Jan Silcox for the many acts of kindness during his hospital stay and recovery; Mary Jo Hackett for the concern, support, food, and prayers during her accident and recovery.

EVENTS CALENDAR: *SCHR Devo:* First Sundays of Feb., May, Aug., and Nov.; *Pavilion Devo:* March.31, 2:00 PM.

AREA EVENTS: Friday Night Singing: West Avenue church of Christ, 62 Bilbrey Street, Crossville, TN, February 23, 6:00 P.M.; *Area-Wide Gospel Meeting:* March 3-7, 2024, 7:00 P.M., with Jeff Archey preaching at the Smith County Ag Center

SPIRITUAL SWORD: The current issue of *The Spiritual Sword* is now available on the tables at the front entrance and the entrance/exit of the annex. Please pick up a copy for your family.

AREA-WIDE GOSPEL MEETING

"Sir, we would see Jesus" (John 12:21).

March 3-7, 2024

(Smith County Ag. Center)

Preacher: Jeff Archey

Speaker for "International Gospel Hour".

7:00 PM nightly

(Singing begins at 6:30)

Brought to you by the following churches of Christ:

Bagdad; Brush Creek; Carthage; Gordonsville;

Montrose; Rome.