

EXPRESSIONS OF LOVE

Date:	AM	Bible Study	PM	Cont.	Wed	DBR
April 30	161	130	114	\$5071*	97	37
May 7	157	118	97	\$4210	110	42
Goals	200	160	135	\$4812	130	100%

* Denotes goals reached. Mid-week stats are for April 26 and May 3 2017

WAITING FOR THE LORD’S RETURN

Jesus is coming again! We have His promise in John 14:1-6, the testimony of the angels in Acts 1:9-11, and many other promises in the rest of the Bible.

In 1 Thess, 1:9-10, the Apostle Paul commends the church at Thessalonica for their service to the Lord. Since we serve the “living and true God,” since He could come at any moment—we must be ready at all times—we must be active in His work at all times. Mission work and evangelism does not stop with conversion—the more we learn about Jesus and His Church and the Word of God—we will be mission-minded.

Jesus has told us to be waiting and watching for the time He will come back for us. Some in the New Testament were condemned because they were not active in the Lord’s service while waiting for His coming. That must never be said of us. He has provided much for us if we will only appropriate it. Let’s always seek to reach the lost and strengthen the saved.

(Via BulletinGold, Larry Miles, lives in Louisville, KY and publishes “Larry’s Lines”)

ASK A FRIEND TO ATTEND

Volume 25

May 10, 2017

Number 10

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
(615-735-9777)
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)

Evangelist:

Edward L. Anderson
(615-735-2462)

Youth Minister:

Justin Mauldin
(931-319-6548)

Secretary:

Elaine Wright
(615-735-0114)

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.

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”**“MOTHER, MAY I WALLOW?”**

C.E. Henry (1960)

One day a little lamb was taking a walk with its mother, and as they walked, they went by a pigpen. A pig was stretched out, grunting contentedly as he wallowed in the mud and muck of the pen. He looked so perfectly contented and comfortable that the little lamb was greatly impressed. Indeed, the lamb was led to believe that he had been missing something. He turned to his mother a little breathlessly because of the wonderful idea that had just come to him.

“Mother,” he said, “may I wallow?” The question rocked mother ewe back on her heels. She was both shocked and surprised to think that a child of hers would ask such a question. When she regained her composure, she answered quite firmly: “Of course not! Sheep don’t wallow.”

But, little lamb was not convinced, and the minute his mother’s back was turned, he darted over to the pigpen, slipped between the bars, and felt his feet sink into the cool mud. It was deeper than he had thought, and it smelled terrible. He tried to back out, but found the mud clinging to his feet. He began to be frightened, and he jerked frantically, but only got in deeper. By now he was terrified. He wished fervently that he hadn’t come, and that he had obeyed his mother. He thrashed about in desperation, lost his balance, and sprawled on his side in the evil-smelling muck. The pig looked over his way and grunted companionably, but little lamb was frantic. He could not move. He could not move. He could only roll his eyes, and he thought every breath would be his last. Finally, just as he had bleated weakly for the last time and given up, the farmer came along and tenderly lifted the little lamb from his death trap, thoroughly cleaned him, and restored him to his mother. His mother was terribly hurt because he had disobeyed her, yet even more concerned because her own child, a tiny white sheep, had tried to wallow.

“I feel that you have learned your lesson,” she said, “Only pigs wallow. As a sheep, you are an animal who sets the pattern of behavior above other barnyard animals. Hogs wallow, but sheep are different creatures from hogs, and sheep don’t wallow.”

“My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me” (John 10:27). “For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning. For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them. But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: A dog returns to his own vomit, and, a sow, having been washed, to her wallowing in the mire” (2 Peter 2:20-22). (Tomlinson Run Church of Christ, 3/15/2015)

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!

Our attendance has held rather steady over the past few weeks. We should never take the privilege of worship lightly. What a blessing it is! When you are absent you are missed.

April's contributions averaged a bit below our budget. Christians are to be good stewards of God's bountiful blessings. Good stewards are to be faithful (1 Cor. 4:2). One facet of stewardship involves money and giving. We learned in a recent lesson that all things really belong to God and when we give we give Him but what is His own.

The fifth Sunday services went well. Justin Mauldin and Jeremy Hassler preached Sunday morning and afternoon. We also enjoyed a marvelous meal between Bible study and the afternoon gathering. Our graduating seniors – Alex Hackett and Madison Spivey – were honored along with their families. We also recognized David Maberry, Hannah McKee, Ariel Rowlett, and Dalisa White who had graduated from other studies. Some of us then had a 2:00 P.M. devotional service with residents at the Pavilion. A busy day, but a rewarding and blessed day!

This is a reminder that the deadline for JSCYC **counselor** is tonight (May 10). **Camper** applications will be distributed **Sunday, May 21, 3:00 P.M.** at the Bagdad building.

We are not only in the midst of camp preparation, but we are also getting ready for our Vacation Bible School, which is just one month away – June 5-9. An assignment meeting was conducted this past Sunday evening. A big THANK YOU to this who organize our VBS and to all who teach, assist, do crafts, serve refreshments, etc. This is always a wonderful week of study. It is also such a blessing to see the joyful faces of all the young children. There will also be nightly classes for adults. Awards night and pizza will be on Friday evening. Make plans to be present.

I will be preaching in a Gospel Meeting with the Liberty (Granville) church of Christ May 21-24, Lord willing. Nightly services will be at 7:00 P.M. I look forward to working with the good folks there. We plan to drive the van on Monday evening.

I hope to see you Sunday!

Edward L. Anderson

NEWS & NOTES:

SICK: Ruby Fisher fell May 2 and was taken to the local ER. Though she suffered bumps and bruises, no breaks were detected. Ken Bennett has been hospitalized due to blood clots. We are glad he was able to be with us Sunday. Jonah Mauldin has been ill, but was back with us Sunday night. Joe Hensley has not been feeling as well. Scotty Yeaman continues to deal with kidney stone issues. Gail Vincent is awaiting surgery (hernia), yet to be scheduled. Larry Cole requests our prayers for his grandson, Sawyer, who is undergoing chemo treatments for leukemia. Caleb Harville is to undergo an MRE May 18. Elaine Wright; Barbara Anderson, and Ken Hensley have dealt with illnesses since our last update. Remember the following in prayer: Kathy Harville; Gerrie Dillon; Patsy Link; Richard Rhoten; Staci Bush; Jan Chaffin; Tim Loftis; Mark Lawrence; Jo Norton; Caroline Sales; Jimmy Bean; Troy and Judy 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; (Kindred); Ray Harper (Hartsville); Imogene Reeves (Palace – RBS); Frank Williams, (Elm Croft in Lebanon).

SHUT-IN AT HOME: Hattie Branham; Emogene Dixon; Wilma Richardson; 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); Camron Huff (Marines).

SYMPATHY: Our deepest sympathy is extended to the following families: James Agee, who passed away April 22; sister Irene Gregory who passed away April 26; and the Doug Powell family.

ELDERS/DEACONS/PREACHERS' MTG: Tonight after services.

THANK YOU: The church has received and read publicly notes of gratitude from the following: Irene Gregory family; Wilma Richardson; Ronnie and Ann Carter family; Kenneth Goolsby; Southeast Institute of Biblical Studies from Will Hanstein and David Lipe.

CONGREGATIONAL CALENDAR: *Vacation Bible School:* June 5-9, Theme: "CHARACTERS OF FAITH: Godly Women of the Bible"; *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 (Books of Mark, Philippians, and Colossians); *Gospel Meeting:* October 22-25, with Chad Ramsey.

NEW BOOK: *SEEK: Discipling for Jesus* (SEIBS Lectureship Book) is now available in the foyer along with the current and back issues of The Spiritual Sword, House to House/Heart to Heart, and other beneficial reading material. Why not become better informed and build you faith?

THANKS!: Gratitude is expressed to Josh and Becca Brown for hosting last Saturday's "Spring Fun Youth Activity" for our youth and others.

CONGRATULATIONS: To James and Regina Rowland on becoming grandparents again! William Choi Park (7 lbs., 20.5"), was born to Andrew and Dana Park, Friday, April 21. Big brother Thomas is doing fine, too.

UPCOMING AREA EVENTS: *Singings:* Bethlehem church of Christ (Baxter), May 12, 7:00 P.M.; DIANA SINGINGS, June 9-10 and September 8-9; *ospel Meetings:* Crossville church of Christ, May 7-10, with Derrick Coble, 6:00 P.M.; Liberty church of Christ, May 21-24, 7:00 P.M., with Edward L Anderson preaching; *Public Religious Discussion:* "The Eternal Security of the Believer", Macon Co. Jr. High, May 26, 27, Participants: B. J. Clarke and Michael Brawner. *Polishing the Pulpit:* August 18-24 in Sevierville.

BE STRONG IN THE LORD
(Based on Ephesians 6:10-17)

Be strong in the Lord and the power of His might;
The battle is long but the cause is so right.

Wrap your soul in the truth which makes you free;
It will guide and keep you where you need to be.

God's righteous breastplate will shield your heart from harm;
You can walk through the valley and feel no alarm.

Put on the shoes of the gospel of peace;
And be ready to answer the lost sinner's plea.

Take the shield of faith with you for we walk not by sight;
The fiery darts of the wicked one come from every side.

Wear the helmet of hope and salvation so sweet;
Get ready for that day when the loving Savior we meet.

Keep the sword of the Spirit in your hand and your heart;
God's word will keep you faithful, let it never depart.

Edward L. Anderson