

IN HIM

Ephesians is a book every Christian should lay up in his heart. It is about the tremendous privilege we have as Christians. It is about the great blessings we enjoy as a result of being Christians. It is about the huge challenges we face because we are Christians. And it is about the eager anticipation we enjoy because we are Christians. In Ephesians Paul uses the phrase “in Him” to describe what it means to be a Christian. And he will identify the “him” by speaking of being “in Christ” twelve times.

In Him we have redemption through His blood (1:7). **In Him** we have forgiveness (1:7). **In Him** we are recipients of the abundant grace of God (1:7,8). **In Him** we have an inheritance (1:11). Remember how Peter described this inheritance in 1 Peter 1:4-9. And so we, like them, “trusted **in Him**” after we heard the word of truth and **in Him** we were sealed with the Holy Spirit (1:13). And now because we are **in Him** we “have boldness and access (to God) with confidence because of our faith **in Him** (3:12; Romans 5:1-11).

As a Christian you are “**in Him**” and that is where every spiritual blessing is located (1:3). If this does not get you excited and make you want to study God’s word more, I do not know what will.

Alton Norman, Owingsville (KY) church of Christ,
via Bulletin Digest 7/23/2016

ASK A FRIEND TO ATTEND

Volume 26

March 8, 2023

Number 5

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

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Carthage, TN 37030
Permit No. 12

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)

Email: carthagecoc@dtccom.net

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)

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

“VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME”

THE CRASH OF THE ASH (1)

Edward L Anderson

The howling winter winds of the past few weeks have brought “showers” of dead limbs. If you were outside near timber, perhaps you have heard the crash of trees falling. The woods are at present a dangerous place, especially on windy days. A recent Nashville news report (3/6/23), revealed three fatalities in the mid-state and two in neighboring Kentucky, due to falling trees.

Chief among the trees coming down is the ash. The “corpses” of the once strong and stately trees now litter the forest floor. Fences are being flattened by the heavy hardwood trunks and limbs. Travel routes into the woods for man and beast are being blocked. If your favorite deer stand was in an ash tree, you have probably already moved it!

Why is this happening? The culprit is a tiny beetle called “the emerald ash borer” first found in east Tennessee in 2010. It is so named because it bores through the bark of the ash tree and creates channels between the tree’s bark and tissue, eventually killing it. Once infected the tree will be dead or dying by the next year. The tiny creature is credited with destroying nearly 13% of middle Tennessee’s entire canopy. You can see the evidence as Spring arrives and the other trees produce their leaves. Scattered among the leafy trees you will see skeletons of trees with no leaves. Those are usually ash trees! How could such a tiny critter create such a crisis?!

And so it is with life, death, Satan, sin, and mankind. The devil is a manipulative deceiver and destroyer of the greatest kind (Rev. 12:9). John identifies him as “the great dragon”, “that serpent of old”, “the Devil”; and “Satan”. The “serpent” is described as “cunning” and “subtle” (Gen. 3:1ff, - NKJ and KJV). The original words so translated suggest “craftiness”, “crookedness”, and “deceit” (Young). None are so evil as he who feigns concern for your best interest but only to your destruction. Satan seeks to make sin seem innocent, harmless, and so much fun! This is designed to distract and divert our attention from the final result of sin, which is death! (See Rom. 6:23; James 1:15.)

Satan continues to “bore” his way into our hearts and lives via entertainment, social media, fake friends, and any other available means. He even employs religion and religious false teachers (Matt. 7:15-20; 1 John 4:1-3). He wishes to create “channels” by which to sap out spiritual vitality and energy. He attempts to lure us to engage in other “enterprises”! He tempts us so that he might separate us from our “first love” (Rev. 2:4). Let us resist him with all our might (James 4:7). (More to come.)

FROM THE PREACHER'S HEART:

DON'T FORGET TO "SPRING FORWARD" THIS SATURDAY EVENING! DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME (DST), RETURNS THIS WEEKEND.

GREETINGS TO OUR VISITORS! A warm welcome to you. We are honored by your presence and are delighted you came our way. If new to our area, we cordially invite you to be with us for all our services (see schedule on front of this bulletin).

Our 9:00 AM worship attendance was the highest for the year. Some who have been ill were back with us, for which we are thankful. A few were not with us due to illness and work obligations. We were also blessed by the presence of visitors. Be sure to meet and greet our guests as. Remember, "Cold churches, like cold butter, doesn't spread very well."

In addition to our three Sunday morning services, we were blessed and honored to host Youth Night at 5:00 P.M., which allows young people from Smith County, as well as from surrounding counties, to meet, worship together, enjoy a period of fellowship and food. Kids always enjoy pizza! What a wonderful occasion it was. Our youngest attendee was just one week old! We were blessed by many from area churches. A special thanks to Justin for an excellent lesson. It was well suited not only for the young folks, but for all folks! Brush Creek will host the next Youth Night, Sunday, May 7, at 5:00 P.M.. Make plans to attend.

We are collecting needed items for Tennessee Children's Home. You will find the list of items posted on the foyer bulletin board. Their truck will be in our area Tuesday, April 11. Bring any of the listed items you wish to donate and leave them on/under the pew on the south side of the annex door. Let us accept the challenge to be "ready unto every good work" (Titus 3:1).

Let me remind you of the periodicals, tracts, and other items available in the foyer, annex, and basement hallway. We also have books and other resources available in the library downstairs. Just a reminder to please return any books removed from the library. Current and back issues of The Spiritual Sword are available. We will be receiving the next issue in April. We will all be blessed by reading them along with our daily reading of the Scriptures.

May the Lord bless and keep you through the remainder of the week. I trust you and yours will be blessed with health, happiness, and hope. Pray the Lord to bring us together again to worship Him "in spirit and truth". I hope to see you Sunday morning a little before 9:00 A.M. DST!

Edward L Anderson

NEWS & NOTES:

RESTORATION: Eric Haynie recently requested prayers for forgiveness and restoration. We rejoice with Eric (See Luke 15:7)!

SICK: Little Emery Dodson remains in Vanderbilt Children's Hospital. Carolyn Harris is suffering with a back injury. Frances Stewart underwent knee surgery on Tuesday. Barry Cohoon is dealing with an injured foot. Barbara Jenkins was able to be with us Sunday after being ill. Janice Hicks is at home after several days in RRMC. Dimple Hicks is back with us after being ill. Lola King was able to be with us Sunday. Sherry Gibbs Lawrence is in McFarland's Rehab in Lebanon after a stroke. Ken Lawrence, of Gordonsville, is now at home recovering from colon surgery. Cheryl Hicks is back with us. Josephine Fitts, mother of Carol Woodard, has been transferred to NHC in McMinnville. Faye Maberry has been dealing with a foot/heel infection but is improving. Michelle Allen continues to recuperate. Good to see Steve Harper back in his usual spot. Prayers are requested for Chuck Jordan (cancer treatments); Jerry and Mary Phillips; Sonya Swallows (cancer); Bobby King; Hudson Anderson; Hope Gibbs; Annika Oldham; Hannah McDowell; Betty Carter; Tom and Sherry Culver; Sharon Halliburton; Tish Clark (B. J.'s wife); Colton Ferrell; Jean White; Mark Goad (Bagdad); Janice Wilson (stroke); Ted Gaw; Mike Shoulders; Brenda Brawner; Dwight Fuqua; Drew Gallagher; Scott Bane; Jerry Driver; Brenda Aikens; Janet Rose; Ruby Anderson; Joe Armistead; Wayne Hall; Brenda Forrest; and Bea Davis.

NURSING HOME/ ASSISTED LIVING/ SHUT-INS: Mary Lou Smith; Ricky Branham (SCHR); Lonetta Bains (Pavilion – Lebanon); Robbie North (Pavilion – Carthage); Betty Denning (Mt. Juliet); Pat Paysinger (Shut-in).

THE MILITARY: Korrey King – USMC (Grandson of Bobby & Lola King); Jana Watson, Ann Carter's granddaughter (Army); Randy Carter's sons and Lacey Crockett's brothers, Derek (Army) and Landon Carter (Coast Guard); PFC Samuel Burton (USMC), Darlene Fariss' grandson; Benjamin Gentry(USMC).

THANK YOU: The church received and read recent nice notes of thanks from the following: Carol Woodard, Cheryl Hicks, and David Maberry.

ELDERS/DEACONS/PREACHERS: The monthly meeting will be tonight in the annex following the Wednesday night service.

+++++

SYMPATHY: Sympathy is extended to Tom and Pam and all the family of Barbara Billington, who passed away 3/01/23. Memorial service will be at Hermitage Funeral Home Saturday at 11:00 A.M. this Saturday (3/11).

EVENTS CALENDAR: *Smith County Health Care/Rehab Center Devotional:* First Sundays of February, May, August, November. *Vacation Bible School:* June 5-9, 6:30 PM, Theme: "There's No Place Like Home"; *JSCYC 2023:* July 16-21. *Annual Singing:* Friday, August 4, 2023; *Gospel Meeting:* October 22-25 (tentative date) with Dan Gulley preaching.

AREA EVENTS: *Gospel Meetings:* Rome church of Christ, March 17-19, with Dan Cates preaching, 7:30 P.M.; Lafayette church of Christ, March 26-29, with John Nichols preaching, 7:00 P.M.; *Grief Seminar:* Highland Heights church of Christ, March 18-19 (program posted), with Ron Williams and Don Williams.

"But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you" (Matthew 6:33).

WEDDING SHOWER BY MAIL:

Let's shower the bride and groom,

ANDREA BRUALL and JAKE AZBELL

IT'S DIFFICULT TO LIVE SO FAR AWAY
WHEN A BEAUTIFUL WEDDING IS ON THE WAY
FAMILY AND FRIENDS THAT ARE FAR AND WIDE
WISH THAT THEY COULD BE THERE BY THEIR SIDE
GATHERING EVERYONE IS JUST TOO HARD
SO INSTEAD, LET'S MAIL OUR GIFTS AND CARDS
AND AS THEY ARRIVE DAY BY DAY
THEY'LL FEEL OUR LOVE FROM FAR AWAY

Please mail gifts and cards to:
713 Mais Drive
Georgetown, Texas 78626

Registered at Target; Amazon, and Crate & Barrel
NOTE: Please see reverse sign of posted invitation for details, directions, apps., and zoom link.