

**EXPRESSIONS OF LOVE**

Date:	AM	Bible Study	PM	Cont.	Wed	DBR
April 1	205*	140	110	\$6104*	91	52
April 8	135	97	98	\$5108*	83	42
Goals:	200	160	135	\$4897	130	100%

\*Denotes goals reached. Mid-week stats are for Mar. 28 & April 4, 2018

**THE WAY OF THE CROSS**

Officer Peter O’Hanlon was patrolling on night duty in northern England some years ago when he heard a quivering sob. Turning in the direction that it came from, he saw in the shadows a little boy in a doorstep. With tears rolling down his cheeks, the child whimpered, “I’m lost. Take me home.” The policeman began naming street after street, trying to help him remember where he lived. When that failed, he repeated the names of the shops and hotels in the area, but all without success. Then he remembered that in the center of the city was a well-known church with a large white cross towering high above the surrounding landscape. He pointed to it and said, “Do you live anywhere near that?” The boy’s face immediately brightened. “Yes, take me to the cross. I can find my way home from there!”

Indeed, the way of the cross leads home, **“For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God”** (1 Cor. 1:18).

(via Tomlinson Run Church of Christ, Georgetown, PA, Bulletin Articles 7/24/16)

**ASK A FRIEND TO ATTEND**

**Volume 25                      April 11, 2018                      Number 8**

**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:**

**Don Carter**  
(615- 735-9777)  
**Jack Grisham**  
(615-735-1961)  
**Michael Hackett**  
(615-897-2313)  
**Jerry Phillips**  
(615-735-0326)  
**Derrick Triplett**  
(615-735-0092)  
**Scotty Yeaman**  
(615) 735-2024)

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)  
**Johnny Law**  
(615-735-1240)  
**Joe Reeves**  
(615-735-1131)  
**Dusty Whitaker**  
(615-218-8140)  
**Jeff Whited**  
(615-449-3204)

Email: [carthagecoc@dtccom.net](mailto:carthagecoc@dtccom.net)

**SCHEDULE OF SERVICES:**

**Sunday Worship**

9:00 A.M.  
6:00 P.M.  
12:30 P.M. (5<sup>th</sup> Sunday)

**Bible Study**

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

**Evangelist:**

**Edward L. Anderson**  
(615-735-2462)

**Youth Minister:**

**Justin Mauldin**  
(931- 319-6548)

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

**Secretary:**

**Elaine Wright**  
(615-735-0114)

Fax Number: (615) 735-0131

Website: [www.carthagechurchofchrist.net](http://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”**

**UNLOCKING THE MYSTERY**

I heard recently about a man who filled his car with gas at a self-service gas station. After he had paid and driven away, he realized that he had left the gas cap on top of his car, He stopped and looked, and sure enough, it was lost.

He thought for a second and realized that other people must have done the same thing, and that it was worth going back to look by the side of the road since if he couldn’t find his own gas cap, he might be able to find another one that fit.

Sure enough, after only a short time of searching, he found a gas cap. He carefully wiped it off and slipped it into place with a satisfying click.

He told his wife as he climbed back into the car, “I may have lost my gas cap, but I found another that fits and it’s even a better cap than the one I had – it locks...”

Oops! A locking gas cap is a great idea – but only if you have the key that opens it! Understanding the Bible is much the same way. Remember when Jesus first began speaking in parables – his apostles came to him for an explanation. They wanted the “key”, and Jesus gave it to them. Jesus said, **“To you it has been given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God”** (Mark 4:11).

The book of Revelation is a difficult (some would say impossible) book for people to understand, but it becomes a much easier task when you have the “key” explaining the symbolism of the numbers, colors and images found in the book.

Sometimes the ministry of Jesus is referred to as a “mystery”. Paul wrote often about the “mystery of the gospel” (Eph. 6:9), the “mystery of Christ” (Col. 4:3), or simply “the mystery” (Eph. 3:9). The word “mystery” means that it was something that was “hidden” for a while. All through the Old Testament, God was preparing for Jesus Christ to come to this earth, but no one fully understood what that would mean. The prophets foretold his coming, but they didn’t fully understand (1 Peter 1:10-12). Even the angels didn’t know what God had in mind. But we do. We understand the significance of the crucifixion and the resurrection.

**Give thanks to God for “the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints. To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.”** (Colossians 1:26-27)

-Alan Smith, Cruciform Church of Christ, Spring Lake, NC, 4/08/2017-

## **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. Please investigate God's inspired Scriptures with us. And, as the Lord through Isaiah said, "Come, let us reason together" (Acts 17:11; Isaiah 1:18). If you wish to study the Bible via a Bible Correspondence Course, please request such on the available attendance cards.

Please remember the Jacksonville (AL) church as they deal with storm/tornado damage to their building and office space where *House to House/Heart to Heart* is prepared for mailing.

Michael Hackett is the latest addition to our eldership. He began serving April 1. Welcome and encourage him. Pray for him and his family. Pray regularly for the eldership as a whole as they lead and feed the flock.

The past two Sundays have been a contrast. We were "up" on the first Sunday and "down" the second Sunday. Many family members returned "home" for Easter with their families. It was great to see them! Several were sick or out of town last Sunday. We missed you!

Contributions for March averaged above budget and the trend has continued the first two weeks of April. As Christians we are so blessed by our Bountiful Benefactor. It is truly a grand privilege and a noble gesture to give as we have been prospered.

We are to host Youth Unite this Sunday, April 15 at **5:00 PM** – note the time change. We anticipate a large group of youth and parents. Let's welcome them and be hospitable. A meal will follow the service. Jeremy Hassler will be the speaker.

We will have our annual fish fry April 21. Serving will begin at 4:00 PM. Come and enjoy the food and fellowship.

On April 29 our fifth Sunday schedule will be in effect. We will have a meal between the A.M. services and the 12:30 PM service. Justin Mauldin will be speaking during the A.M. service and Matthew Jones the P.M. Note: We need canned drinks and bottled water for the above events.

On the fifth Sunday prior to the meal we will recognize our graduates. We need pictures of high school graduates for this bulletin. Grandchildren of members who are graduating elsewhere will have their names appearing in the next issue along with university graduates. Please get their names and pertinent information to Elaine or me ASAP.

Hope to see everyone Sunday morning!

*Edward L Anderson*

## **NEWS & NOTES:**

**REPSONSES:** Three precious souls - Julie Harville, Allen White, and Marcus Kemp – responded to the invitation on Sunday to request prayers for forgiveness of sin and the strength to face challenges in their lives. Continue to keep them in your prayers.

**SICK:** Derrick Triplett is rehabbing after knee replacement performed last week at Tennova (Lebanon). Ray Gregory, Michael's dad, is now at home. Ken Bennett has been dealing with a blood clot in his leg. Scotty and Gaye Yeaman are unable to be with us. Caleb Harville underwent oral surgery (wisdom teeth) last Friday. Cobie Sadler had a kidney stone removed and a stint placement on Monday. Thomas Partlow, uncle to Jeff Whited, is very ill. Josh Dillard, Joey's brother, underwent recent tests. Sue Walker has been unable to be with us for sometime. Darlene Hackett received encouragement from her latest eye exam. Debbie Flatt, Ben's (former preacher here) wife, underwent surgery last week at Vanderbilt. Jerry Wasson, Andy Rutherford's brother, was to have returned home after surgery last week at Vanderbilt. Elaine Wright (flu); Gail Vincent (sinus infection); Faye Maberry (cold); R. W. Vincent (flu); Don Carter (ear infections); Rebecca Haven and Noah Brown; Joe Hensley; and Barry Cook have been ill and/or missed services due to sickness since our last issue. Our prayers are requested for Debbie Fulton who was recently diagnosed with cancer. Treatments were to begin this week. Remember these in prayer: Mary Helen Apple; John Sales; Joe Kemp; Susanne Tisdale; Billy Halliburton; Tim Smith; Pattie Birdwell; Jere Andrews; Shelia Glover; Mark and Mary Ellen Lawrence; Lena Winfree; Faye Massey (neighbor/friend of Carol Woodard); Tucker Burford; Ray Hobbs; Wes Stafford; Charles White (Valdosta, GA); Mike Sircy; Paul Meacham, Jr.; Sawyer Cole; Gerrie Dillon; Patsy Link; Richard Rhoten; Jan Chaffin; Tim Loftis; Jo Norton; Jimmy Bean; Troy Spivey; Janice Anderson; Cathy Stafford; Earl Carter; Leslie Alford; Sherry Pritchett; Jennie Burnett; Arnold Rich; and Steve Dowell.

**NURSING HOME/ASSISTED LIVING:** Opal Agee; Lovell Chaffin; Phronia Rose (Local); Ray Harper (Hartsville); Christine Jones (NHC – Cookeville); Howard and Loneta Bains (Pavilion).

**SHUT-INS:** Hattie Branham; Wilma Richardson; James Hall; Pat Paysinger.

**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); Benjamin Gentry (Marines); Camron Huff (Marines).

**REMEMBER:** When temptation knocks, let Jesus get the door! Seven days without prayer makes one WEAK!

**SYMPATHY:** Our sympathy is extended to the following: Carolyn Hill and Gaye Yeaman in the passing of their uncle, Eddie Ray Thrasher, whose funeral was Sunday.

**CONGREGATIONAL CALENDAR:** *Youth Unite:* Sunday, April 15, 5 P.M. *Fish Fry:* Saturday, April 21, 4:00 PM. *5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Schedule:* April 29, 12:30 PM; *Vacation Bible School:* June 4-8, "Heavenly Armor: *The Battle Belongs to the Lord*", 6:30 PM; *Jackson/Smith County Youth Camp:* July 15-21. Theme: "Change Me from the Inside Out"; *Annual Singing:* August 3, 7:00 PM; *Bible Bowl:* September 8 (Daniel and Ecclesiastes); *Gospel Meeting:* September 16-19 with Allen Webster; *Retreat:* October 12-14 at TCC.

**AREA EVENTS:** *Friday Night Singing:* Mars Hill church of Christ (Christiana), April 13, 7:00 PM; Bethel church of Christ (Dunlap), April 20, 7:00 PM (CST); *Gospel Meetings:* Lafayette church of Christ, April 22-25, with Bryan McAlister, 7:00 PM; *Lectureship:* Southeast Lectureship (Knoxville): "HOPE: Longing for Jesus", April 22-25 (Due to construction the lectureship will be moved to West End's building at 8301 East Walker Springs Lane.); *Ladies' Days:* Charlotte Heights church of Christ (Nashville), with Laura Sewell, "Courage: A Recipe for Life"; April 21, 8:30 – 12:00 Noon (Lunch); McCoinville church of Christ, May 12, 8:30 A.M. – Lunch, with Becky Honeycutt and Amanda and Adrianna Scoggins.

**LIFE LINE SCREENING:** This leading provider of community based preventive health screening will utilize our annex **Friday, April 27, 2018** to make available five different screenings related to cardiovascular diseases. You may register online now for your "Community Circle" discount and your Preferred Appointment. The website is [www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle](http://www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle). You may also call **888-653-6441** and speak with a live person to schedule an appointment.

**MEADOR/DONOHOO REUNION:** Descendants of these families will use our annex for a gathering (See posted announcement), April 22 from 1:00 – 4:00 PM. Our Jerry Phillips is a descendant of the Meador family. If you are a descendant of either of these families, you are invited. Get more information from Jerry or the posted brochure (bulletin board near north entrance).

## **JESUS IS...**

*"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes unto the Father, except through Me."* (John 14:6).

The WAY all need to travel to reach heaven (Matthew 7:13-14).

The TRUTH all need to know to be saved (John 8:32).

The LIFE all need to avoid being dead in trespasses and sins (Ephesians 2:1).

*Edward L Anderson*