

GOAL

It was a fog-shrouded morning, July 4, 1952, when a young woman named Florence Chadwick waded into the water off Catalina Island.

She intended to swim the channel from the island to the California coast. Long-distance swimming was not new to her; she had been the first woman to swim the English Channel in both directions. The water was numbing cold that day. The fog was so thick she could hardly see the boats in her party. Several times sharks had to be driven away with rifle fire. She swam more than 15 hours before she asked to be taken out of the water. Her trainer tried to encourage her to swim on since they were so close to land, but when Florence looked, all she saw was fog. So she quit....only one mile from her goal. Later she said, "I'm not excusing myself, but if I could have seen the land I might have made it." It wasn't the cold or fear or exhaustion that caused Florence Chadwick to fail. It was the fog.

THOUGHT: Many times, we too, fail, not because we're afraid or because of the peer pressure or because of anything other than the fact that we lose sight of the goal. By the way, two months after her failure, Florence Chadwick walked off the same beach into the same channel and swam the distance, setting a new speed record, because she could see the land!

KneEmail: "...I press forward toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:14)

(Mike Benson, edits an on-line devotional entitled KneEmail, via BulletinGold.July 2009)

ASK A FRIEND TO ATTEND

Volume 26

April 19, 2023

Number 8

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)

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

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)

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.

Evangelist:

Edward L. Anderson
(615-735-2462)

Youth Minister:

Justin Mauldin

Secretary:

Elaine Wright
(615-735-0114)

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"

"ARE YOU READY?"

Edward L. Anderson

A few days back Barbara and I were waiting for my sister's MRI to be completed at the Murfreesboro Medical testing site. A monitor was mounted on the wall delivering information about the facility. New doctors were being introduced, and numerous good health hints were given. When the above caption/question appeared, it caught my attention. I suppose it was its biblical "ring"! It was followed with "Get Your Child's Sports Physical Now". I wish we as a culture had the same urgency about spiritual fitness as we do about physical fitness.

Many of Jesus' precious parables emphasize being ready (see Matt. 22:4; 24:44; 25:10). He reminded His disciples, "Be you therefore **ready** also: for the Son of man comes at an hour when you think not" (Luke 12:40). This charge often falls upon deaf ears as seen in a later parable where those bidden to the great supper with the entreating words, "Come, for all things are now ready", all responded with words much used today: "I ask to be excused" (Luke 14:15-24). The "Virgins" parable and others drive home the same point.

Preachers must be **READY** to preach the gospel. We need the mindset of Paul: "So, as much as in me is, **I am ready** to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also" (Rom. 1:15). He would unashamedly declare the same gospel in the capitol of the empire as in all other places he (Rom. 1:16). As John M. McCaleb's 1921 hymn states: "The blessed gospel is for all" and truly needed by all! We must also be **ready** to answer (1 Pet. 3:15).

Titus 3:1 is a "**READY**" text: "Put them in mind...to **be ready to every good work.**" We are not minimizing all the other admonitions in the text and context but simply emphasizing the importance of the attitude of readiness. We must not lay it aside when we leave the worship assembly. It is by "good works" that our "light" shines and influences others for good (Matt. 5:16).

In connection with the preceding point, we must be **READY** to give. Paul devoted two chapters to this subject in his second epistle to the Corinthians (eight and nine). He alludes to his "boast" to those of Macedonia, "that Achaia was **ready** a year ago" (9:2). He further compliments them: "Your zeal has provoked very many." We cannot be a faithful child of God without being generous (Remember John 3:16; See Eph. 5:1-2).

Matthew has the "Judgment Scene" parable just before the events leading up to Jesus' time in the garden, His trials, and crucifixion. It has been said, "Of all hours, fear but one" – the Judgment. Sadly, we will stand if unprepared. **Are you ready??!**

FROM THE PREACHER'S HEART:

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).

Attendance has been up in April from what it was in March. Let's do our best to continue the upward trend. It is encouraging to see several who have been ill back with us. Prayers have been answered! Continue to pray for those who cannot be with us due to illness. We can encourage them with cards, calls, and visits.

If you haven't picked up the current edition of The Spiritual Sword, please do so. This issue deals with "Understanding the Restoration Plea". It is a "must read" which deals with important principles of faith and practice. We also have other materials such as "House to House/Heart to Heart", "Smith County Light" (our bi-weekly bulletin), tracts, etc. available. Feel free to pick up, read, and pass them on to a friend or neighbor.

The items for Tennessee Children's Home which we collected were picked up last week. A big "THANK YOU" to all who donated items. The staff and children are always grateful for our support and that of so many others. Being "ready unto every good work" is an important service attitude (Titus 3:1).

Speaking of good works, some of us were again able to help pack food and supplies boxes at the Churches of Christ Disaster Relief facilities last week. Storm victims have already received thousands of such boxes. If you have the opportunity to assist in future packing events, your help will be a blessing to the victims, fellow-workers, and to you also.

The annual fish fry this past Saturday was enjoyable. We were blessed with some first-time guests. It was a joy to also have many family members of our families return for a sort of "family reunion"! The food was excellent as always and the fellowship was sweet, sweet!! Thanks to ALL who picked up supplies, cooked, brought side dishes and desserts, delivered take-out meals, assisted with clean-up, and so much more.

Barbara and I enjoyed having everyone for the postponed egg hunt Sunday afternoon. The turnout was excellent though the weather was a bit chilly. We have a wonderful and beautiful group of children! It is such a joy to see them grow, develop, and learn more about Jesus. Pray for them and their parents!

I pray the Lord to bless and keep you through the remainder of the week. I trust He will 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./ **Edward L Anderson**

NEWS & NOTES:

BAPTISM: We rejoice with Dayne Swann and family. Dayne was baptized into Christ Sunday afternoon upon his confession of Jesus the Christ who died for our sins. Congratulations, Dayne!

WELCOME HOME, ALEX! Alex Hackett has returned from her stint of veterinarian studies in the Caribbean. Way to go, Alex!

SICK: Little Emery Dodson is now able to be with us! Continue to pray for her and Morgan and Conner. Ruby Fisher, Helen Davis, and Dimple Hicks were unable to be with us Sunday. Lola King was with us Sunday and was to have a treatment Tuesday. Husband Bobby is improved. Frances Stewart is improving at home. Janice Hicks is able to be back with us for which we are thankful. Good to see Barbara and Gordon Jenkins back with us. Ken Lawrence, of Gordonsville, is doing well and is cancer free! Josephine Fitts, mother of Carol Woodard, has been transferred to NHC in McMinnville. Prayers are requested for Sherry Gibbs Lawrence; Chuck Jordan (cancer treatments); Jerry and Mary Phillips; Sonya Swallows (cancer); 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; 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); 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 has received and read notes of thanks from the following: Conner and Morgan Dodson; Frances Stewart; Janice Hicks; and Ken Lawrence & family.

SYMPATHY: Our sympathy is extended to Amanda Hicks and family in the death of her mother, Vickey Driver April 9; to the family of Robbie North (Rome), who died April 9; to Larry and Jan Silcox' family in the recent passing of his sister, Janie Carr.

MAY BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARY LIST: Julia Lynne Grim (3); Kailee Austin (5); Candice Harper, Mallie Kate Whitaker (13); Pam Morris (16); Brittany Hackett (19); Cameron Spivey (22); Sherry Lester (23); Carolyn Harris (25); Emma Trainham, Rick Spivey (27); Chris Washer, Joey Dillard,(29); Morgan Dodson; (30). Steven & Kim Claywell (5/01/1990); Gerald & Patty Piper (5/03/1958), Kenneth & Debbie Kidd 5/03/1975); Andy & Hannah Rutherford (5/18/2018); James & Regina Rowland (5/23/1974).

EVENTS CALENDAR: *Smith County Health Care/Rehab Center Devotional:* First Sundays of February, May, August, November. *Pavilion Devotional:* Fifth Sundays at 2:00 P.M.; *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; *Retreat:* At TCC, October 5-8; *TCC Fundraiser:* November 4, 6:00 PM in annex; *Gospel Meeting:* November 5-8, with Dan Gulley preaching.

AREA EVENTS: *Gospel Meetings:* Willette church of Christ with John Deberry preaching, April 26-29, 7:00 PM.; East Main church of Christ (Murfreesboro), with Kyle Butt, April 24-29, 7:00 PM; *Friday Night Singings:* Morrison church of Christ, Friday, April 28. 7:00 – 9:00 PM.; *Ladies' Day:* Oak Grove church of Christ (Moss, TN), May 6. 9:00 AM Registration begins; with Wanda Robinson speaking.

A BAD BARGAIN

A Sunday school teacher asked her class if they could give Bible examples of anyone making a bad bargain. The first said, "Esau made a bad bargain when he sold his birthright for a mess of pottage." Another said, "Judas made a bad bargain when he sold Jesus for 30 pieces of silver." A third said, "Ananias and Sapphira made a bad bargain when they lied about the price of their land." A fourth said, "Jesus said it is a bad bargain when a man gains the whole world and loses his own soul".

We might add another to the above list by observing that it is a bad bargain for you and me to trade our hope of heaven for the pleasures, riches, power, and glory of this world. Jesus was shown all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time and told He could have all these if He bowed down to Satan. Jesus knew that would be a bad bargain.

What kind of bargains do we make? Do we trade worship times for a few hours of sleep? Do we trade Christian service for idle pleasures? Let us not trade heaven for anything! John Wright

