

OUR CHRISTIAN EXAMPLE

The story is told of a Christian high school senior who was honored as one of the best and brightest in his community because he provided a forceful demonstration of integrity.

When his school team was given the word “auditorium” in a regional spelling bee, he glanced down to ponder his response and noticed that the word was printed on the microphone stand. He called this to the attention of the judges who responded with a more difficult word. The young man did what he knew was right whether others noticed or not.

We don’t know when our actions may become an example to others—we’re always on display. But if we live each day to honor Jesus, our behavior will model His righteous life (Gal. 2:20; 1 John 2:5-6), no matter who is watching.

Uprightness and honor should be the goals for Christians of every age. Paul told Timothy: *“Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity”* (1 Tim. 2:12, NKJV)

As Christians, one of our goals in life should be to change the world around us for good while never compromising ourselves—one person at a time (Acts 10:38 NKJV; cf. 2 Tim. 2:1-2; 1 Tim. 4:16 NKJV).

*O to be like Thee! Blessed Redeemer,
This is my constant longing and prayer;
Gladly I’ll forfeit all of earth’s treasures,*

Jesus, thy perfect likeness to wear.

O to be like Thee! O to be like thee,

Blessed Redeemer, pure as Thou art;

Come in Thy sweetness, come in Thy fullness;

Stamp Thine own image deep on my heart. -W.J. Kirkpatrick

(Mike Riley, via GEWATKINS.NET)

ASK A FRIEND TO ATTEND

Volume 26

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Number 10

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

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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday Worship

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

Evangelist:

Edward L. Anderson
(615-735-2462)

Bible Study

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

Youth Minister:

Justin Mauldin

Secretary:

Elaine Wright
(615-735-0114)

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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.
(615-735-0114 or 615-735-2462)

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

“VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME”

TOO LITTLE TOO LATE!

Edward L Anderson

This familiar idiom is said to have originated in the military to describe reinforcements that were not sufficient and arrived too late to make a difference. The phrase is sometimes used to blame another person for not doing enough soon enough to solve the problem at hand. It has served as the title of at least two songs. It also illustrates well a serious spiritual malady – “Too Little Too Late”. Jesus’ parable of the ten virgins in the book of Matthew reveals this principle (25:1-13).

The Master Teacher paints a perfect picture contrasting the wise and foolish, much as He had done earlier regarding builders (Matt. 7:24-27). The wise virgins brought extra oil with them, but the foolish did not. After their pre-midnight nap was interrupted by the announced coming of the bridegroom, the foolish virgins found their oil supply to be insufficient and depleted because their lamps had gone out (See v. 8). “Give us of your oil” sounds like a demand, but it may have turned into a plea! Their “wise” companions revealed they had not enough oil to share and urged them to go and buy from the sellers. “And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut” (v. 10). When the foolish virgins returned, they pleaded for the door to be opened and entrance granted them, only to hear, “I do not know you”. Too little too late!

This parable teaches us three important lessons. **First**, there is a lesson about individual responsibility and accountability. Each person is responsible and accountable to God! (See Rom. 2:5-9.) **Second**, there is a lesson about the urgency of preparation. Imagine a bridesmaid forgetting her bouquet or the groom’s ring! Preparation for service in the kingdom (Titus 3:1); for death and judgement (Heb. 9:27); and for the Lord’s return (Matt. 24:42), has eternal consequences! **Third**, there is a lesson about the tragedy of lost opportunity. “Opportunity” translates a Greek word meaning a due measure, a fixed period, a time or season, as in Gal. 6:10 and Heb. 11:15 (Vine, 143). Life is our “season” of opportunity. Someone said, “As we live so shall we die; as we die, whether in the Lord or not, so shall we be found in the Judgement; and as we are found in the Judgement, so shall we be forever more!”

Two examples from the book of Acts come to mind. The first is Felix who “trembled” at Paul’s preaching but waited for a “convenient season” (24:25). Then there was Agrippa, who was by Paul “almost persuaded to be a Christian” (26:28). So far as Scripture reveals, neither ever did. TOO LITTLE TOO LATE!

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).

Our attendance increased from the first Sunday, when we had several suffering with seasonal allergies, etc. Perhaps we were up partly because of Mother's Day. It is always good to see those who come home to be with their Mom! For that we are thankful. Let me urge all to remember the importance and value of faithfully worshipping God and being present when assemblies are scheduled.

We hosted the devotional Sunday afternoon (May 7), at 2:00 P.M. at Smith County Health Care and Rehab. Richard Bowman was the speaker and did an excellent job. Thanks, Richard! Thanks to all who attended and those who led singing and prayers. We will next lead the devotional there August 6.

Congratulations to our six high school Seniors, who will be graduating this Friday evening: Jenna Harville, Molly Jones, Luke Linder, Sophie Linder, JoElla Morris, and Jake White. Molly and Sophie's graduation will be at 6:00 P.M. at Gordonsville. Jenna, Luke, JoElla, and Jake's is set to begin at 7:30 P.M. at SCHS. We salute you on your achievements, honors, and work. We are proud of you and wish you the very best in your future endeavors in your chosen fields.

The final Smith County Youth Night was hosted by the church at Brush Creek Sunday, May 7 at 5:00 P.M. In spite of the thunder showers, attendance was excellent, as it was throughout the series. A good number of our own were present, as was true of all the participating congregations. Thanks to the brothers and sisters at Brush Creek for their hospitality and fellowship. The meetings will resume this fall.

The elders remind us that copies of the first quarter financial report are presently available in the foyer, if you wish to have one. All are commended who faithfully contribute to the many good works we help to support as well as our local work. To God be the glory!

I also remind you of the current issue of House to House which is in the foyer and annex, ready to be picked up and read! Read it and then pass it on to a friend or neighbor.

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:

RESPONSE: Scott Johnson, responded to the invitation Sunday, May 14, requesting prayers for forgiveness and restoration to the Lord's fold. Welcome, Scott!

SICK: Brenda Bowman has been in RRMC for several days due to double pneumonia. Julie Wright has been ill with a bacterial infection. Caleb Harville has had COVID. Sherry Gibbs Lawrence has been suffering with some setbacks and has been hospitalized but is now at home. Brenda Copeland, Cheryl Hicks' sister, needs our prayers as she deals with liver cancer. Janice Hicks is to undergo heart surgery (stint or bypass) this Friday at St. Thomas West. Oliver Woodard, grandson of Carol, underwent adenoids removal and ear tube placement on Monday. Garmon Vincent, R. W.'s brother continues recuperation at home following heart valve & pacemaker surgeries. Remember Lola and Bobby King as they deal with treatments and illness. Tanner Austin was back with us Sunday. Frances Stewart is improving at home. Josephine Fitts, mother of Carol Woodard, has been transferred to NHC in McMinnville. Prayers are requested for Gene Vaughn (now in VA-Murfreesboro); Chuck Jordan (cancer treatments); Jerry and Mary Phillips; Sonya Swallows (cancer); Hudson Anderson; Hope Gibbs; Annika Oldham; Hannah McDowell; Tom and Sherry Culver; Sharon Halliburton; Tish Clark (B. J.'s wife); Colton Ferrell; Jean White; Janice Wilson; Ted Gaw; Mike Shoulders; Brenda Brawner; Dwight Fuqua; 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: 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).

CONGRATULATIONS! To Payton Azbell on his May 5 graduation from UT Chattanooga with a doctorate in Physical Therapy.

"Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one" (Col. 4:6).

JUNE BIRTHDAY/ANIVERSARY LIST: Kim Claywell (1); Matthew Jones (5); Angela White, Jacob Mauldin (7); Miley Thomas, Robert Henry (8); Jake White (10); Kristin Denpsey (11); Russell Vincent (12); Ken Hensley (13); Maisy Rutherford (14); Denise Hackett (15); Melinda Spivey (17); Jaden Apple-Gibbs, Seth Hackett (21); Molly Jones, Patty Piper (22); Kristi Hassler (26); Tanner Austin (28); Barry Cook (29); Janice Silcox (30). Justin & Sarah Mauldin (6/02/2012); Chris & Courtney Washer (6/02/2012); Hale & Elaine Wright (6/5/1964); Jerry & Mary Phillips (6/10/1967); Riley & Kristin Dempsey (6/13/2020); Jeremy & Kristi Hassler (6/16/2007); Eric & Casey Swann (6/19/2009); Michael & Denise Hackett (6/25/1994); Robert & Charlotte Henry (6/25) Chris & Susan Klamm (6/26/2007).

SYMPATHY: Our sympathy is extended the family of Joe Lane (known by many here), who died May 10.

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"; *Nashville Sounds Game:* Saturday, June 17; *JSCYC 2023:* July 16-21. *Annual Singing:* Friday, August 4, 2023; *Bible Bowl 2023:* Tentative date, Saturday, September 9; *Retreat:* At TCC, October 5-8; *TCC Fundraiser:* November 4, 6:00 PM in annex; *Gospel Meeting:* November 5-8, with Dan Gully preaching.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

June 5-9, 2023

Theme: "There's No Place Like Home"

Time: 6:30 P.M

Bible Classes for all ages: Nursery – Adults
Monday – Thursday

Friday: Awards Night & "Something Special"
Singing, puppet show, refreshments, and more!

Bring your family and let's all increase our Bible knowledge while making new friends!