

GOD'S MINORITIES

- * During the time that Noah was building the ark, he was very much in the minority - but he won!
- * When Joseph was sold into Egypt by his brothers he was a decided minority - but he won!
- * When Gideon and his three hundred followers with their broken pitchers and lamps put the Midianites to flight, they were an insignificant minority - but they won!
- * When Elijah prayed down fire from heaven and put the prophets of Baal to shame, he was in a notable minority - but he won!
- * When Jesus Christ was crucified by the Roman soldiers, he was a conspicuous minority – but he won!
-From “Seeking Things Above” website, Author Unknown-

ASK A FRIEND TO ATTEND

Volume 26

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Number 14

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:

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
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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.

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”

PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

Edward L Anderson

These are the segments of time which make up every life. Whether a person has lived but a day or a hundred years, that person has experienced a past, present, and future. Standing on the brink of my seventh-sixth birthday is humbling. As we grow older our perspective seems to change, much as Moses' view changed on Nebo's lofty heights from his days in Egypt and the wilderness tending sheep and then leading God's "sheep". His life consisted of three forty-year periods, which remind us that he, as well as we, have a past, a present, and a future.

Growing older can make our vision clearer. That is when the things which really matter come into sharper focus. I know the failing of physical sight described so eloquently by Solomon (Eccl. 12:3). That's why I am looking at the computer screen through bifocals! Though the natural eye may fail, the "eyes of faith" become stronger as one contemplates going to be with the Lord. Questions which distract us for the importance of "unto death" faithfulness are laid aside for the simple faith of the patriarchs and the early Christians who counted God faithful.

Growing older should make God's word dearer. I have been told that David Lipscomb, well advanced in years with failing eyesight, would sit on his porch in the sunlight, with his Bible open on his lap, but turned upside down! Oh, how he loved God's word as revealed by his preaching, teaching, and writings (See Psalm 119:97). I treasure a mental picture of my father sitting on the front porch in his big hickory rocker reading his Bible. Brother Charles Brewer, in a chapel speech, mentioned that he was studying the Bible more as he grew older. He then said something which all college kids could identify with: "I guess I am just cramming for finals."

Growing older reminds us that heaven is nearer. As we grow older, gratitude deepens when we realize "the rest of my life" is not as long as it used to be. Of course, life is always uncertain. We "know not what will be on the morrow" (James 4:14). Have you noticed that older folks are much more likely to say, "If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that" (James 4:15). Growing older increases our appreciation for a loving, merciful, and benevolent God who gave His Son for our sins that we might enjoy all His spiritual blessing in Him (John 3:16; Eph. 1:3)

May we all learn from the past and be diligent in the present so we may be prepared for the future.

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).

Summer is here and that means vacation time. As a result, attendance is usually down for worship services. Some have been away but are safely back with us and for that we are thankful. Others of our members have been ill and yet others are facing surgery (See sick notes). We pray for all a speedy recovery. We miss you! Just as physical families need time together to be a strong and healthy family, so God's spiritual family (the church), needs time together for worship and fellowship. Study of His word and sweet fellowship are essential to growth and edification. "I was glad when they said unto me, 'Let us go into the house of the Lord.'" (Psalm 122:1).

About thirty of us will be away next week for Jackson-Smith County Youth Camp. Camp begins this Sunday (16th), and concludes Friday (21st), at noon. We must vacate the premises by 12 Noon on Friday. Parents are asked to pick up campers around 11:00 A.M. This year's theme is "Great Escapes". The place of our camp is Taylor Christian Camp near Holland, KY, not far from Scottsville. Total enrollment this year is 205 – campers and staff. We are grateful for the all-volunteer staff, who are willing to work with the young people (grades 3-12), who come to JSCYC each year. Some take their vacation time to be a part. Though there are times for recreation, the emphasis is on worship and Bible study. Daily devotionals feature singing, prayers, and lessons from the Scriptures. Flag raising, with Bible reading and prayer, occurs each morning. A daily "Research Question" is a popular part of camp. There are organized craft sessions for boys and girls each day. Pray for success and safety for all during this year's camp.

Be sure to encourage our youth who are participating in Bible Bowl preparation for the September 9 event. They are studying the book of Matthew and will be answering questions from it on the above date at TTU's Hooper-Eblen Center in Cookeville.

The Summer Series continues in fine fashion with challenging lessons taught by various of our brethren in the adult class each Wednesday. The lessons are based on the 2023 SEIBS' lectureship book: "United: Becoming One in Christ". Please be present! You will be blessed.

Have a great rest of the week! Hope to see you Sunday morning a little before 9:00!

Edward L. Anderson

NEWS & NOTES:

RESPONSE: Jeanie Vincent responded to the invitation Sunday morning requesting our prayers for strength in dealing with the loss of her father. Jeanie is known by many of us from her time at camp.

SICK: Little Emery Dodson is back with us. Barry Cook was to undergo knee replacement today (Wednesday). Ruby Fisher has been dealing with upper respiratory problems. She also suffered a recent fall (no broken bones). Mila Phillips had her cast removed and brother Brooks has had RSV, pneumonia, an ear infection and is taking breathing treatments and antibiotics. Lola King continues treatments but is present for most services. Bobby, (Lola's husband), is at home after a stay in RRM. Daryl Vincent, brother to R. W., is battling cancer. Gene Vaughn, Elaine Wright's brother, had recent hip surgery. Edward St. John, who has attended our Annual Singing for many years, is under Hospice care. Continue to pray for Mary Ann Herd, Jo and Tony Hackett's sister-in-law. Prayers are requested for Scott, Jennifer, and Stephen Johnson. Lauren Powell and children, Carter and Josie, were back with us Sunday. Barbara and Gordon Jenkins are back with us. Brenda Boyd, Susan Klamm's mother, is improving. Faye Maberry is dealing with a toe infection. Sherry Gibbs Lawrence still needs prayers. Janice Hicks continues to have treatments. Frances Stewart is still recuperating at home. Prayers are requested for Cynthia Gibbs and Mike Shoulders (cancer); Josephine Fitts; Gene Vaughn (VA-Murfreesboro); Buckie Parsons; Garmon Vincent; Brenda Copeland; Chuck Jordan; 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; 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's grandson; Benjamin Gentry (USMC).

THANK YOU: The church has received and read a note of thanks from Barbara Jenkins for the cards, calls, and prayers.

SYMPATHY: Our sympathy is extended to Scott Johnson and family in the July 8 passing of his sister, Sharon Bowman, a native of Carthage, who lived in Bastian, Virginia.

EVENTS CALENDAR: *Smith County Health Care/Rehab Center Devotional:* First Sundays of February, May, August, November – August 6; *Pavilion Devotional:* Fifth Sundays at 2:00 P.M. – July 30; *JSCYC 2023:* July 16-21. *Annual Singing:* Friday, August 4, 2023; *Bible Bowl 2023:* 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 Gulley preaching.

AREA EVENTS: *Men's Seminar:* East Main church of Christ, Murfreesboro), August 12, 8:30 AM – 1:00 P.M.; *Girls' Day:* East Main (Murfreesboro), September 9, with Brooke Miller and Bethany Nichols; *Ladies' Days:* Clearview church of Christ (Cottontown), Saturday, August 5 (See posted flyer for list of speakers); Jefferson Ave. (Cookeville), August 11, with Laura Jenkins; Philippi church of Christ (Castalian Springs), August 19, with Lynn Dearing.

MAGI BOXES: The gift boxes for needy children in Central America are ready to be filled. The elders have asked us to donate twenty dollars per box for how many ever boxes we wish to fill. The items will be bought in bulk quantities, which will result in less expense. We can then fill the boxes and prepare them for delivery with a work session when the items are purchased. Thanks for your participation, generosity, and love for the children.

THE BIBLE OR THE CREEDS OF MEN?

Edward L Anderson

Men have written many creeds but none or all combined equals God's Holy Scriptures. The Bible towers over all such as the mighty oak towers over the small bramble bush in its massive shadow. The "vines" of creedal tradition attempt to cling tenaciously to the Bible for some degree of respectability but fail miserably. They need to be stripped away and discarded, because the truth of God stands alone as the standard for religious faith and practice (John 8:32). Some in Jesus' time on earth were "making the word of God of no effect through (their) tradition which (they had) handed down" (Mark 7:13). Tradition only dilutes and pollutes the Word!