

AN ATHETIST'S VIEW ON LIFE

I will live my life according to these beliefs

God does not exist.

It is just foolish to think

That there is a God with a cosmic plan

That an all-powerful God brings redemption and healing to the pain and suffering in the world

Is a comforting thought, however,

Is only wishful thinking.

People can do as they please without eternal consequences

The idea that

I am deserving of Hell

Because of sin

Is a lie meant to make me a slave to those in power

“The more you have, the happier you will be;”

Our existence has no grand meaning or purpose

In a world with no God

There is freedom to be who I want to be.

But with God

Everything is fine.

It is ridiculous to think

I am lost and in need of saving.

A CHRISTIAN'S VIEW ON LIFE

(READ FROM BOTTOM TO TOP)

(via Seeking Things Above website 4/19/2016)

ASK A FRIEND TO ATTEND

Volume 26

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Number 16

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

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
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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”

KEEP ON BEARING FRUIT

Edward L. Anderson

The old apple tree has done it again! It has brought forth its fruit in its season (Psalm 1:3). It is now about forty years old. Despite the challenges of wind, storms, late freezes, insects, and age, it produced a bumper crop of fruit this year. It is a “Pound Pippin”, dating back to the early 1800’s and was very popular in the Shenandoah Valley. It is believed to have originated in America. This tree was grafted many years ago by Bob Dudney, a long-time member and one of the first elders of this congregation.

What makes this year’s harvest so amazing is the huge limb which fell to the ground during a windstorm and remained partially attached to the trunk. We have gathered bucket after bucket from that one branch! About the time we think there are no more to be picked, we spy a cluster of three or four apples behind the still green leaves. Though old and beset with dead and broken limbs, it just keeps on bearing fruit!

God’s people are expected to bear fruit to be **“fruitful in every good work”** (See Col. 1:10). Jesus “good ground” soil represents those who “heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and **bear fruit with patience**” (Luke 8:15). In His vine and branches analogy, Jesus said, “He who abides in me and I in him, **bears much fruit**; for without Me you can do nothing” (John 15:5). He further explains, “If anyone does not abide in Me. He is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned” (v. 6). We must also remember the folly of fruitless fig trees (See Matt. 21:19)! He concludes thusly: “By this My Father is glorified, **that you bear much fruit**, so you will be My disciples” (v. 8).

Christians, whether young, middle-aged, or elderly are to be fruitful in the vineyard of the Lord. Most fruit trees begin to bear fruit early in life. Young Christians are to “be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity” (1 Tim. 4:12), and to non-Christians by fleeing “youthful lusts” and pursuing “righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart” (2 Tim. 2:22).

The schedule, responsibilities, and pressures of middle-age must not prevent our being fruitful and faithful in the Lord’s service. Even at an advanced age we can contribute experience, knowledge, and wisdom to be shared with others to lighten their burdens and to lift them up along life’s way. Someone who has lost a spouse, or a child has a unique perspective to assist others who suffer similar losses. I failed to mention that the old apple tree lost its “mate” in a storm years ago, but it is still bearing fruit!

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 bounced back somewhat Sunday morning. With school now in session perhaps we can make a fall surge and have an "attendance drive". Faithful and true worship is necessary to pleasing God and avoiding spiritual stagnation and eternal condemnation (John 4:24). It is vital to spiritual growth and development. Let me urge everyone to make attendance a regular family affair. Bible classes provide opportunities for increasing our knowledge of the Scriptures and help keep our spiritual swords sharp (Eph. 6:17). Fellowship with those of like-precious faith is a priceless blessing. Why not adopt Jesus' "as His custom was" practice for the entire family (See Luke 4:16)?

Our fifth Sunday schedule had Justin delivering an uplifting lesson about our recent Bible camp. Thanks, Justin! We had a wonderful Bible study period. Thanks to all our dedicated teachers! We then had our fifth Sunday fellowship meal which had everyone enjoying the pizza and salad lunch provided. The desserts did not disappoint! We then had our final worship service of the day. We commend Dusty Whitaker for accepting the challenge and delivering his very first sermon! It was a blessing to all who heard it.

Our Annual Singing was last Friday evening (Aug. 4). While the numbers were lower than we had hoped, the singing was sweet and uplifting. Such a venture is a foretaste of heaven divine. A big "THANK YOU" to Jerry Hicks and Kyle Webb for serving as moderators. They kept it moving. Our cooks came through as they always do with an abundant array of tasty foods for the pre-singing meal. Our hats are off to you and to all who helped with the clean-up! We are especially thankful for all our guests who came our way.

Remember to encourage our youth who are participating in Bible Bowl preparation for the September 9 event at TTU's Hooper-Eblen Center in Cookeville. Don't miss the Wednesday Summer Series in the adult class each week. The 2023 SEIBS' lectureship book: "United: Becoming One in Christ", is being studied.

We hosted the devotional Sunday afternoon at SCHCR. We are grateful to all who came to assist with the service. Several of us were able to tour the "Gospel Chariot" Sunday afternoon and view a video report on the work. This mission work focuses on getting the gospel into Central America, Africa, and many other places.

Hope to see you Sunday morning a little before 9:00! **ELA**

NEWS & NOTES:

SICK: Gerald Piper remains in RRMC. Sue Markham, a former member, is in Smith County Health Care/Rehab, but is hospitalized presently. Michelle Allen had a recent MRI. Barbara Jenkins is now at home after a stay in RRMC due to bronchitis/asthma. We rejoice with Earline White in the safe arrival of her new great niece born last week to her niece, Latasha Davis. Earline also requests prayers for her daughter, Rhonda Stark and family. Julie Wright and Hale and Elaine Wright have been sick. Janice Hicks' back surgery has been delayed. Michael Hicks is now at home after a hospital stay due to pneumonia. Barry Cook is recuperating nicely from knee surgery. Helen Davis is in rehab after suffering a break in her left leg. Sally Russell is at home after a stay in St. Thomas Midtown. Faye Maberry is able to be back with us. Lola King is to have an infusion tomorrow (Thurs.). Remember Bobby, Lola's husband, in prayer, too. John Dallas Hassler underwent a tonsillectomy last week. Darrell Vincent, brother to R. W., is battling cancer. Continue to pray for Mary Ann Herd, Jo and Tony Hackett's sister-in-law. Prayers are requested for Scott, Jennifer, and Stephen Johnson. Remember little Josie Powell in prayer. Brenda Boyd, Susan Klamm's mother, continues to improve. Prayers are requested for Edward St. John (hospice care); Sherry Gibbs Lawrence; Cynthia Gibbs; Mike Shoulders (cancer); Josephine Fitts; Gene Vaughn (VA-Murfreesboro); Buckie Parsons; Garmon Vincent; Brenda Copeland; Chuck Jordan; Jerry and Mary Phillips; Sonya Swallows; Hudson Anderson; Hope Gibbs; Annika Oldham; Hannah McDowell; Tom and Sherry Culver; Sharon Halliburton; Colton Ferrell; Jean White; Janice Wilson; Brenda Brawner; 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; Sue Markham (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).

"Be not dismayed whate'er betide, God will take care of you." Cvilla D. Martin. 1904)

SYMPATHY: Our sympathy is extended to the following families: Mary Lou Smith (known by several of us); Reba Hopkins (also known by several here).

THANK YOU: The church received and read recent "Thank You" notes from Barry and Linda Cook and the Timothy Garrett family.

EVENTS CALENDAR: *Smith County Health Care/Rehab Center Devotional:* First Sundays of February, May, August, November – November 5; *Pavilion Devotional:* Fifth Sundays at 2:00 P.M.; *Bible Bowl 2023:* Saturday, September 9; *Run4Don:* The annual 5K or 15K run/walk will be September 16. Register before September 1; *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 Meeting:* Bethlehem church of Christ (Baxter), August 6-10, with Randy Bybee preaching, 7:00 P.M. *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:* Jefferson Ave. (Cookeville), August 11, with Laura Jenkins; Philippi church of Christ (Castalian Springs), August 19, with Lynn Dearing; Crossville church of Christ, September 30, with Kathy Pollard, 9:00 AM – 12:00 Noon; *Area-Wide Singing:* Mars Hill church of Christ (Christiana), August 18, 7:00 PM.

ELDERS/DEACONS/PREACHER'S MEETING: The monthly meeting will be in the annex after services tonight (Wednesday).

MAGI BOXES: Thanks to all who gave so generously to purchase items for the needy children in Honduras and other places. Their lives will be blessed, as will yours, and God will be glorified.

The runners in a NCAA cross-country track championship held in Riverside, CA came to a turn that was not well marked. Mike Delcavo knew the way and waved frantically for the other runners to follow him. Only four did. One hundred twenty-three out of the 128 runners took the wrong turn and lost their opportunity to win the race. Delcavo later said his competitors were laughing as he chose to take what he knew was the right way.

In the spiritual race we are running, the crowd may be small or large, but the size of the crowd is not how we determine the right path. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man comes to the Father except through Me" (John 14:6). He says, "Follow me" (John 1:43). Will you???