

## MOVING AHEAD INTO THE UNKNOWN

When the children of God were about to cross the Jordan river and take possession of Canaan under the leadership of Joshua, they were heading into the unknown. So God gave Joshua these words of assurance: ***“Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.”*** (Josh. 1:9). We are always headed into the unknown. These words can be an inspiration and comfort to us, as well.

As we forge ahead into the uncertain future, let us remember:

- \* We need to rely on our abilities (“Be strong”)
- \* We need to be brave (“and of good courage”)
- \* We need to step in faith (“do not be afraid”)
- \* We need to be optimistic (“nor be dismayed”)
- \* We need to remember that God is with us (“for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go”)

What lies ahead for each of our lives? Who knows? God knows! And He will help and guide us if we trust Him. Knowing that, we should step into tomorrow with much confidence, hope, faith, and courage.

(Edd Sterchi preaches for the Broadway Church of Christ, Campbellsville, KY)

### ASK A FRIEND TO ATTEND

Volume 27

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Number 18

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

#### Elders:

Barry Cook  
(615-735-3194)  
Michael Hackett  
(615-735-7046)  
Johnny Law  
(615-735-1240)  
Jerry Phillips  
(615-735-0326)  
R.W. Vincent  
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#### Evangelist:

Edward L. Anderson  
615-735-2462

#### Youth Minister:

Justin Mauldin  
(931-319-6548)

#### 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.  
6:00 P.M.  
12:30 P.M. last Sunday of month  
Bible Study  
Sunday Morning  
10:15 A.M.  
Wednesday Evening  
7:00 P.M.

#### Deacons:

Josh Brown  
(931-319-9994)  
Tony Hackett  
(615-735-9037)  
Steve Harper  
(615-735-2651)  
Jeremy Hassler  
(931-335-1884)  
Chris Hicks  
(615-418-6472)  
Jerry Hicks  
(615-418-6637)  
Justin Mauldin  
(931-319-6548)  
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Website: [www.carthagechurchofchrist.net](http://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)

**“VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME”**

## JESUS’ DOCTRINE

Two Greek terms (*didaskalia* and *didache*) are translated “doctrine”. In his Analytical Concordance, Robert Young has both words referring to “teaching”: the first to “the substance” and the second to “the act” (267). Jesus excelled in both. He has no equal.

Jesus is often described as “The Master Teacher” and such He was and is. Truly, never has anyone spoke and taught as He (John 7:46). To the astonishment of those who originally heard His “Sermon on the Mount”, Jesus taught in a manner not previously observed. His method stood in sharp contrast to that of other teachers - “the scribes” - of His day (Matt. 7:28-29). It is “one of a kind” in manner and message and delivery and doctrine.

The brief and beautiful letter of John “to the elect lady and her children” (2 John 1), is worthy of our consideration. It provides an array of helpful information about “the doctrine of Christ”. John declares, “Whoever transgresses and does not abide in **the doctrine of Christ** does not have God. He who abides in **the doctrine of Christ** has both the Father and the Son” (v. 9).

The doctrine of Christ is both exclusive and inclusive. It is inclusive in that all are invited by Christ (Matt. 11:28-30). “Whosoever will” or “whoever desires” (NKJ), may come (Rev. 22:17). But it is also exclusive in that all who reject it have no other option by which to be saved: “Whoever...does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God.” Language could not be clearer. Just as clear is the positive declaration: “He who abides in **the doctrine of Christ** has both the Father and the Son.” What assurance this gives to the faithful!

The doctrine of Christ is “truth”. “Truth” is mentioned five times in the first four verses of 2 John. John’s record of Jesus’ life describes Him as “the way, the **truth**, and the life” (14:6). Of course, Jesus came “full of grace and **truth**” (John 1:14). The same text describes Him as the exclusive way to the Father: “**No man comes unto the Father except by Me**”. Because it is truth, the doctrine of Christ does not need to be “updated” as are the doctrines, disciplines, and dogmas of men.

John’s warnings must not go unnoticed. He pleads with his readers to continue to “walk according to His commandments , that as you have heard from the beginning, you should walk in it” (v. 6). Verse 7 begins with the word “For” which denotes a reason why it is important to continue to walk in Jesus’ doctrine. That reason is the presence and practice of false teachers whose desire it was to deceive and lead them to embrace and walk in some other doctrine. Don’t abandon the doctrine of Christ and don’t receive anyone who brings any other doctrine (vs. 10, 11) ***Edward L. Anderson***

## ***FROM THE PREACHER'S HEART:***

WELCOME, VISITORS! We are so glad to have you. We trust your visit will be spiritually uplifting and a season of refreshing from the Lord. May God's blessings be upon you and yours. Please come again!

Hurricanes to the south; floods here and in the northeast; wildfires out west; Afghanistan; and another "wave" of covid throughout the land! Such is troubling to all and terrifying to many. Should it not also humble us? How desperately we - as a nation, families, and individuals - need God! (Psalm 46:1; Deut. 33:27; Heb. 6:17-20) In the language of a sixty's song, "When will we ever learn?" Peter's inspired words are, at the same time, instructive and comforting: "Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you" (1 Peter 5:6-7).

Begin now to pray, prepare, and plan for the Gospel Meeting with brother David Lipe scheduled for October 24-27. Such events provide opportunities for evangelism, which should be the primary purpose (See Mark 16:15-16; Rom. 1:16). Make a point to invite your friends, family, and co-workers. Bring your Bible, search the Scriptures prayerfully, worship reverently and you, too, will be built up in the most holy faith.

Justin reminds everyone of the TCC Fall Retreat, October 8-10. "ONE THING: Clarity in Times of Chaos" will be the theme. Check with him for more information.

We are grateful to R. C. Christian, a faithful brother in the Lord and a longtime officer with the THP. He was with us Sunday, during the Bible study period, at the elders' request, to talk with us about safety issues during our worship services and Bible classes. It is sad that such a need exists in a nation built on the principles of freedom of religion and the right to assemble. But we have all seen the horror stories on all too many newscasts over the last several years.

Thanks to Steve Bray for his attempts to repair the foyer water fountain. He recently installed the new one which had to be ordered. Thanks, Steve! The cool water is much more refreshing than the lukewarm. There's a lesson there!

Let us all plan to be present Sunday morn at 9:00!

***Edward L Anderson***

## ***NEWS & NOTES:***

**SICK:** Susan Law is recovering from a broken kneecap suffered in a recent fall. Darlene Hackett is in Vanderbilt/Lebanon due to covid. She was taken to step-down from ICU on Monday. Dennis, Josiah, and A. J. also tested positive but are improved. Jerry Hicks had eye surgery last week and was to have a second one today (Wednesday). Buford Birchett has been discharged from Cookeville Regional. Janice Hicks will receive reports this week from recent tests. Troy Spivey, Teddie's grandfather, was recently diagnosed with liver cancer. Robin Edwards, niece of Faye Maberry, suffered a stroke last week. Rosie Gray, Ruby Fisher's granddaughter is at home after hospitalization due to covid. Wanda Fisher's mother, Brenda Forrest, needs our prayers as she is under a doctor's care. Sally Russell is recuperating from her surgery on 8/25. Julie Wright has been ill but is feeling better. Dayton Jamison is recovering from recent back surgeries at Lebanon Rehab. Kenneth Bennett continues to recuperate from surgery. Jenna Harville and Molly Jones is doing well and back with us. Lola King received encouraging reports from her latest scan. Michael Hackett, a cousin to Dennis, is ill and needs our prayers. Barbara Anderson is still having knee issues. Madeline Marvin, Carol Woodard's granddaughter has a broken leg and saw a specialist yesterday (Tuesday). Prayers requested for Gary Vincent (liver cancer), of Red Boiling Springs; and for Robyn Scarlett (Jeff Maberry's neighbor in Knoxville), and mother-in-law, to Staff Sgt. Ryan Knauss (age 23) among those recently killed in Afghanistan.

**NURSING HOME/ASSISTED/LIVING/SHUT-INS:** Lovell Chaffin; Wilma Richardson; Judith Newberry; Mary Lou Smith; Frances Glosser; Ricky Branham; Janice Anderson (SCHR); Loneta Bains (Pavilion); Pat Paysinger (Shut-in).

**IN THE MILITARY:** Jana Watson, Ann Carter's granddaughter (Army); Randy Carter's sons and Lacey Crockett's brothers, Derek (Army) & Landon Carter (Coast Guard); PFC Samuel Burton (USMC), Darlene Fariss' grandson; Benjamin Gentry (USMC).

**SYMPATHY:** To the family of Bob and Donnieta White in Bob's recent passing. A memorial service was conducted last Saturday in Owensboro, KY.

**CONGRATULATIONS:** To Carol Woodard on the arrival of a new grandson, Oliver Lee Woodard (6 lbs. 13 oz; 19 & 3/4 in.), born August 24, to Robert and Katie Woodard and big brother Caleb.

**THANK YOU'S:** A note of gratitude has been received and read from Wanda Fisher.

**PRAYER LIST:** Jerry and Mary Phillips; Sharon Woodard; Eric Marvin; Roger Kemp; Lucette Kemp; Terry Collins; Rick Adams; Tim Loftis; Bob Bennett; Ruthie & Richard Stafford; Sue Reed; Jimmy Key; Greg Phillips; Tracy & Holly White; J.B. Dailey; Patricia Maxwell; Deborah Murray; Cranston Massey; Robbie Napier; Teresa Hampton; Joyce Kilgore; James Spivey; Oaken Maberry; Mrs. Willie Sevier; Ron Gibson; Steven Linville; Pete Williams; Donald Eskew; Mark Scudder; Zander Dixon; Andy Futrell; Patricia Nye; Buddy Hyatt; Dustin Justice (lymphoma); Barbara Dixon; Conner Hackett; A. J. Purkey; Josh Dillard; Lavern Hardee; Dan Winkler; Steve Higginbotham; Wayne Lankford; Shirley Henry; Sandy Waggoner; Nancy Hicks Bane; Wendy Williams; Ruby Anderson; Roslyn Fox Stout; Denise Griffin; Rylee Winfree; Rebecca Huffines Thompson; Tommy & Linda Ashburn; Jerry Hutchins; Danny Claire; Scott Bane; Emily Moss and children; Lucas Wakefield; Linda Dennis; Gary Anderson; Donnieta White; John Conditt; Duane Hesson; Billy Woodard; Jerry Glenn; Bentley Cowan; Louie Gray West; Taylor & Spencer Keaton; Paulette Blackburn; Emily Allen; Will Gregory; Rick Blankenship; Ken Miller; Tom Brown; Alicia Haynes; Joey Black; Joe Kemp; Susanne Tisdale; Pattie Birdwell; Mary Ellen Lawrence; Ray Hobbs; Wes Stafford; Sawyer Cole; Richard Rhoten; Earl Carter; Jennie Burnett; Arnold Rich; Jimmy and Carolyn Riggsby.

**EVENTS CALENDAR:** *Smith County Health Care/Rehab Center Devotional:* First Sundays of February, May, August, November (as permitted by covid regulations), 2:00 PM; *Fifth Sunday Pavilion Devotional* (To be resumed when permitted); *Bible Bowl:* September 18 at Hooper-Eblen Center. *Run4Don:* September 18 (Can be done virtually). *Retreat:* Taylor Christian Camp, October 8-10, Theme: "ONE THING: Clarity in Times of Chaos"; *Gospel Meeting:* October 24-27, with David Lipe; *Coffee/Fellowship:* First and third Thursdays, 6:30-8:00 AM in annex.

**AREA EVENTS:** *Girl's Day:* East Main, with Laura Jenkins, September 11; *Ladies' Day:* Philippi church of Christ, September 18, with Wanda Robinson; *Gospel Meetings:* Philadelphia church of Christ, September 12-15, with Stan Stevenson, 7:00 PM; Watertown church of Christ, September 26-29, with Darrell Duncan, 7:00 PM.

**VISITATION/GREETING PROGRAM:** Josh Brown has a list of newcomers and shut-ins. If you wish to help with new assignments with welcomes and calls, please contact him. Making a visit can make a big difference in the life of another and our own! "Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep."