

## BEAUTY FROM TRAGEDY

An artist went to visit a dear friend. When he arrived, she was weeping. He asked why. She showed him a handkerchief of exquisite beauty that had great sentimental value, which had been ruined by a drop of indelible ink.

The artist asked her to let him have the handkerchief, which he returned to her by mail several days later. When she opened the package, she could hardly believe her eyes. The artist, using the inkblot as a base, had drawn on the handkerchief a design of great beauty with India ink. Now it was more beautiful and more valuable than ever.

Sometimes the tragedies that break our hearts can become the basis for a more beautiful design in our lives. Be patient with the hurts over which you have no control. They may become a source of healing, help, and beauty.

*“My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing”* (James 1:2-4). – via Bulletin Fodder

### ASK A FRIEND TO ATTEND

Volume 26                      September 21, 2022                      Number 19

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)

#### Evangelist:

Edward L. Anderson  
(615-735-2462)

#### 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.  
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)  
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)

Email: [carthagecoc@dtccom.net](mailto:carthagecoc@dtccom.net)

Fax Number: (615) 735-0131

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)

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

**“VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME”**

## THE SON WHO STAYED HOME

The lengthy parable of the Prodigal Son in Luke 15:11-32, is certainly one of Jesus’ most popular parables. It is, at the same time, one of the most powerful of the many parables presented by the Master Teacher. It reveals life lessons in three different personages: (1) The son who LEFT home; (2) The son who RETURNED home; and (3) The son who STAYED home. Let’s consider “Number 3”.

When we think of the older brother who stayed at home we are reminded of certain admirable traits. He was, we might conclude, much more mature, responsible, and settled than his younger counterpart, who was demanding, impulsive, and restless. He was content to stay at home and continue to work on the farm. But as time passed and the son who had left home became the son who returned home, we see a big change in the attitude and behavior of the son who had stayed home.

This sudden turnabout leads us to logically ask, “Why the change?” Was it because of pent up frustrations and resentments he had been harboring? Was he angry because of the heavier workload and greater responsibility he had to shoulder due to his brother’s departure? Was he now left alone to care for aging parents? Did he feel he was under-appreciated by his father for the contributions he had made to the family franchise? Had rumors and reports of his brother’s riotous and unruly behavior been brought by neighbors who had travelled or traded in that “far country”? Did the boy who **stayed** ever go to seek his brother who **strayed**? There is no indication that he did.

There are numerous applications to be made from this story. The three categories exist in the church today. There are those who **leave** the church; there those who **return** to the church; and there are those who **stay** (remain) in the church. We should never be indifferent when one departs from the truth. We should seek to restore such a one (Gal. 6:1-2; James 5:19-20). All the while we should “consider (ourselves) lest we be tempted”.

Considering the “explosion” by the older son and brother upon the younger son’s return, it is highly possible that though he stayed home and served his father, there was a simmering and seething discontent within him all along. His anger and refusal to go in would suggest this (v. 28). Those who “stay” must be careful to serve the Father and one another out of love (Gal. 5:13; 1 Peter 2:17; 4:8)). Our motives for serving should be pure and free from jealousy and envy (James 3:16). For after all, all that the Father has to offer is ours if we stay at home with Him (v. 31)!

Edward L Anderson

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

VISITORS! A warm welcome is extended to you. We are delighted you came our way. If you are traveling, may your travels be safe and may God cause His face to shine upon you (Num. 6:24-26). If you recently moved to this area, we hope you will be with us regularly. "Come now and let us reason together" (Isa. 1:18).

We had our highest attendance for the month this past Sunday with the beginning of our Gospel Meeting. We have been blessed by the presence of many visitors from sister churches as well as the community on Sunday and Monday evenings (this bulletin is being prepared on Tuesday). We look forward to the remaining services.

So many are to be thanked for their part in the meeting – attending, inviting, leading singing and prayers, preparing/serving meals, cleaning, greeting guests, etc. Be sure to thank the elders for planning such an event, which provides an opportunity for us to feast upon the word and to fellowship with those of like precious faith. In such meetings the church family and individual families can grow together in "the nurture and admonition of the Lord". What a privilege! If we neglect it, our personal growth is adversely affected, but "the body" (church), is also weakened. Sinners and saints have been challenged! May all accept the challenge and respond positively and responsibly.

A special word of gratitude is due to our beloved brother in the Lord, Gary Hampton, who has preached the truth in love and with great power. Gary and wife Teresa are well known, much loved, and highly respected in the brotherhood. They make a great team! It has been a pleasure to have Teresa's mother - sister Mildred Chester of Nashville - with us as well. Pray for Gary and Teresa in the work at the Siwell Road church in Jackson, MS, and for Teresa's health as she recuperates from recent health issues. They continue to research, write, and teach online in addition to local and evangelistic labors. Thanks for coming our way! May God bless your service to Him.

September 11 marked the first Smith County Youth Night to be conducted over the next few months here in the county at five different congregations. Gordonsville hosted the first. Thirty-seven (37) of our number were present for the first such gathering. Let's encourage our youth in their spiritual growth and development.

I will be away this Sunday (25<sup>th</sup>) for a Gospel Meeting with the Philadelphia church of Christ in Lebanon. The meeting goes through Wednesday evening. Sunday AM services are 9:00 (Bible Class), 10:00 (Worship); PM at 5:00; Monday – Wednesday, 7:00 PM. Thanks to Chris Hicks for preaching in my absence and Richard Bowman for teaching the Wednesday Bible class. "Watch and pray..." (Matt. 26:41).  
**Edward L. Anderson**

## **NEWS & NOTES:**

**BAPTISM:** Congratulations to Cody Setzer, who was baptized into Christ Sunday, September 11. We pray for him a long and faithful life in service to the Lord.

**SICK:** Prayers have been requested for Katy Yastic (possible cancer), Robert and Charlotte Henry's granddaughter, and for Hudson Anderson (age 9) – grandson of John Foster, as he undergoes treatments following kidney surgery. Janice Hicks saw the doctor Monday due to high BP and severe pain. Josh Dillard is back home after hospitalization at Vanderbilt. Jerry Hicks has bumps, bruises, and abrasions from a farm accident, but is doing well. Steve Harper is able to be with us. Lola King underwent a treatment on Tuesday. Faye Maberry was unable to be with us Sunday. Barbara Anderson had a follow-up with her dermatologist Tuesday. Betty Carter, known by many, had stint surgery for a blocked artery on Friday past. Dwayne Oldham has requested prayers on behalf of his granddaughter, Annika, who is very ill. Continue to remember Ciera Haffner in prayer. David Goolsby of Cookeville, Patty Piper's cousin, is now under hospice care. Continue to remember Sharon Halliburton, Tony Hackett's sister, in your prayers. Sally Russell, Carolyn Harris, Helen Davis, and Frances Stewart are all back with us. Bob Fisher, Ruby's son, has completed his treatments for cancer. Remember Jerry and Mary Phillips in prayer. Prayers are requested for Colton Ferrell; Josh Dillard; Derek Bush; Denise Griffin, Jean White; Mark Goad (Bagdad); Janice Wilson (stroke); Ted Gaw; Mike Shoulders; Brenda Brawner; Dwight Fuqua; Drew Gallagher; Joy Conner; Barry and Teresa Harville; Scott Bane; Jerry Driver; Brenda Aikens; Janet Rose; Ruby Anderson; Joe Armistead; Wayne Hall; Brenda Forrest; Bea Davis.

**NURSING HOME/ ASSISTED LIVING/ SHUT-INS:** Wilma Richardson; Mary Lou Smith; Ricky Branham (SCHR); Lonetta Bains, Robbie North, Barbara Billington (Pavilion); Mary Searle, Knoxville nursing home; Pat Paysinger (Shut-in).

**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).

"I was **glad** when they said to me, 'Let us go into the house of the Lord.'" (Psalm 122:1) If the preacher were to quote it: "I was **sad** when they said to me...", would it be more accurate in your case?

**OCTOBER BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARY LIST:** Jerry Phillips (1); Scarlett Hicks (2); Casen Dillard; Elizabeth Jones (5); Jerry Hicks (7); Ainsley Hassler (9); Debbie Kidd (13); Buford Birchett, Candace Richmond (14); R. W. Vincent (16); Eric Swann (19); John Christopher Klamm, Kaelyn Ward (22); Jeremy Hassler (24); Charleigh Birchett, Rick Blankenship (25); Cathy Spivey (26); Joey & Maggie Beth Dillard (10/20/2017); Josh & Rebecca Brown (10/20/2007); Allen & Alexis White (10/24/2020).

**SYMPATHY:** Our sympathy is expressed to the following families: Michelle Allen's cousin, Timothy Evert, recently passed away with the memorial service today (Wednesday), at Woodfin Funeral Home in Murfreesboro.

**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:* 10/30/2022, 2:00 PM; *4th Sunday Schedule-9/25/2022:* No fellowship meal, following the morning services, second service at 12:30 PM.; *Bible Bowl:* October 8 at TTU.

**AREA EVENTS:** *Gospel Meetings:* Philadelphia church of Christ (Lebanon), September 25-28, with Edward L Anderson preaching, 7:00 PM; Union Hill church of Christ (Jackson, Co.), with Ben Smith, September 25-28, 7:00 PM.; Highland Heights church of Christ (Lebanon), September 25-28, with Alan Watkins, 7:00 PM; Brush Creek church of Christ, Sept. 30-Oct. 2, with Matthew Scoggins, 6:30 PM; Bagdad church of Christ, October 2-5 with Ronald Strong, 7:00 PM Sunday – Wednesday; Crossville church of Christ, October 2-5 with David Lipe, Sunday – Wednesday, 6:00 PM; *Ladies' Day:* Findlay church of Christ (Sparta), Nov. 12, with Shelia Butt: "If the Shoe Fits" (Registration begins at 8:00 AM).

**COMMUNION PICKUP:** Anyone wishing to volunteer to pick up used communion cups for a month in 2023, please contact Elaine.

**ITEMS FOR TCH:** The truck from Tennessee Children's Home will be in our area Tuesday, October 18 to pick up any donated supplies. We are concentrating on toilet paper, paper towels, and white T-shirts (men's in assorted sizes). The list is posted on the bulletin board if you wish to donate other items.

"Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light." JESUS – Matt. 11:28-30.