

**EXPRESSIONS OF LOVE**

Date:	AM	Bible Study	PM	Cont.	Wed	DBR
Dec. 22	142	117	96	\$4454	78	37
Dec. 29	117	95	89	\$4195	89	25
Goals:	155	125	100	\$4740	100	45

\* Denotes goals reached. Mid-week stats are for Dec. 18 and 26, 2019

**THE BETTER WAY**

Life offers us many choices, some more important than others. The most important choice you can make in life is to follow Christ rather than live life without him. *There is a "way" that seems right, but ends in eternal death* (Prov. 14:12), but the better way is Christ, who said, *"I am the way...No man cometh to the Father but by me* (John 14:6).

Christ is the better way because He is the way to salvation. He said, *"I am the door: by me, if any man enter in, he shall be saved"* (John 10:9).

He is the better way because He can work within the Christians to *"do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us"* (Eph. 3:20).

He is the better way for both time and eternity. **We urge all to put their trust in the Savior who died for you and rose again, repenting of sins, confessing Him and being baptized for the forgiveness of sins** (Mark 16:15-16; Rom. 10:9-10; Acts 2:38). You will never regret it, for Christ is the better way.

-Ron Bartanen, 12/10/2014, via The Sower 12/17/2017-

**ASK A FRIEND TO ATTEND**

**Volume 26                      January 1, 2020                      Number 1**

<p><b>CHURCH OF CHRIST</b> 711 N. Main Street P.O. Box 88 Carthage, TN 37030 RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED</p>	<p>Non-Profit Organization U.S. Postage <b>PAID</b> Carthage, TN 37030 Permit No. 12</p>	
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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:**

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**Deacons:**

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(615-735-1131)  
Dusty Whitaker  
(615-281-8140)

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

**SCHEDULE OF SERVICES:**

Sunday Worship

9:00 A.M.  
6:00 P.M.  
12:30 P.M. (5<sup>th</sup> Sunday)

Bible Study

Sunday Morning  
10:15 A.M.

Wednesday Evening

7:00 P.M.

**Evangelist:**

Edward LAnderson  
(615-735-2462)

**Youth Minister:**

Justin Mauldin  
(931-319-6548)

**Secretary:**

Elaine Wright  
(615-735-0114)

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

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Website: [www.carthagechurchofchrist.net](http://www.carthagechurchofchrist.net)  
Sunday Services broadcast on YouTube

FREE Bible Correspondence Courses, Tracts or Home Bible Study/ Videos.  
(615-735-0114 or 615-735-2462)

**"VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME"**

**OVERCOMING FEAR IN 2020...AND ANYTIME**

It might seem strange that the first bulletin article of 2020 deals with fear but many people struggle this time of year with the emotion. As they face a New Year, they might fear health issues or job uncertainty. Some simply fear failing in the resolutions they have made.

There is a sense in which some fear is a good thing. Fear is a natural instinct that, at times in life, keeps us from dangers that could truly harm us.

We also know, however, that the Bible speaks of certain types of fear in a negative light. These fears and anxieties are the types of things that draw our trust away from God, and that let the things of this world have a hold on us that is simply not right.

Psalms 56 was penned at a time when David was fighting to overcome fear. Near the outset of that poem, he stated that he had *"an attacker"* (verse 1) and that his enemies were trampling him *"all day long"* (verse 2). It would have only been natural and understandable to have a certain level of fear in those circumstances! (For the historical background to this poem, read 1 Samuel 21:8-15).

How can we overcome such fear? In the midst of the poem, David wrote, *"When I am afraid, I put my trust in you. In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I shall not be afraid. What can flesh do to me?"* (verses 3-4)

Those beautiful and faith-filled lines give us three steps in overcoming fear.

**Step 1: Trust God.** Often, when we fear, it is because we begin to take our eyes off of God and His unending power. We need to trust Him, no matter what enemies and struggles we face. After all, He is the only one who is truly Almighty!

**Step 2: Lift Up the Word of God.** We need to have God's Word in our hearts before difficulties come, so we can rely on its precious promises when we face times of discomfort. It offers us "comfort," among so many other things (see Romans 15:4).

**Step 3: Remember Human Limitations.** "What can flesh do to me?" Enemies may have certain advantages, but they are still just flesh, as we are. Even if they completely take away our life, what victory have they really won? They cannot cost us our soul unless we let them.

Fears will come, even in this New Year. How we face them and overcome them is what matters. Will you face and overcome them with God, or will you let fears get the best of you?

-Via BulletinGold, 11-30-19. By Adam Faughn preacher for the Central Church of Christ in Paducah KY.

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

WELCOME, VISITORS! We are honored by your presence. We seek to worship the one true God in spirit and truth (John 4:24). Study God's inspired Scriptures with us (2 Tim. 2:15). "Come, let us reason together" (Isaiah 1:18; Acts 17:11). If you desire a Bible Correspondence Course or home Bible study, please request either on the card in the Visitor's Packet.

I trust all members and all readers of this bulletin had a pleasant holiday season with family and friends as did we. It is a blessing for families to be together to reminisce and to be refreshed and renewed. Barbara and I extend our love and gratitude for the many expressions of love and support throughout the year and especially over the past couple of weeks. The cards (greeting and gift), goodies, ornaments, and bonus were received with humility and gratitude.

It was wonderful to have a number of visitors December 22, who "came home" to be with family. They were with us morning and evening, which was encouraging and uplifting. The P.M. gathering was devoted to singing praises to God and was truly inspiring and edifying.

Justin Mauldin preached an excellent sermon on "Christian Identity", based on Ephesians 1, this past Sunday morning. Seth Hackett then delivered a powerful and practical lesson from the book of James during the afternoon assembly. Allen White, Teddy Spivey, Matthew Jones, and Jake White led in other roles. (The fellowship and food were great! Thanks to all!)

Our shepherds presented the 2020 budget Sunday challenging us with a great program of work for the coming year. Let us accept the challenge and support it with our prayers, talents, time, and money.

Thanks to the sixteen who attended the devotional Sunday afternoon at the Carthage Pavilion. (This does not include the residents who were present.) The singing was great! We will host the service at Smith County Health Care the first Sunday of February. Plan to attend and be a part.

Men, remember the "Training for Service" sessions planned for the first and third Sundays of the month beginning this Sunday, January 5 at 4:30 P.M. The class will deal with leadership in worship and other areas. All men - young, middle-aged, seniors - are encouraged to participate.

I hope to see everyone on Sunday morning. Bring your Bible and invite a friend!

*Edward L. Anderson*

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

**SICK:** Josh Dillard, Joey's brother, is in Vanderbilt where he underwent spinal surgery on Sunday. Gaye Yeaman is to have a scan next week. Mary Jo Hackett is rehabbing following knee replacement and is improving. Janice Anderson is now at home after a stay in RRMC due to feet and leg complications. Jerry Phillips has been ill with inner ear problems. Troy and Debbie Phillips have had the flu. Regina Rowland requests prayers for a great-niece, Rylee Winfree, three-week-old daughter of Ryan and Lindsey, who is recovering from esophageal surgery. Bill Cohoon, Barry's dad, has improved. Shirley Sadler is now at home following a hospital stay. Carolyn Harris is back with us after a bout with the flu. Rebecca Huffines Thompson (former member) requests our prayers as she deals with lung issues. Tim Owens (Rome), is recuperating from a second surgery. Little Apple Gibbs is now at home. Jerry and Mary Phillips are back with us and are feeling better. Faye Maberry had a treatment on Saturday and was unable to be with us Sunday. Barry Cook is still dealing with knee problems. Good to see W. A Gibbs with us Sunday. His dialysis schedule has been altered during the holidays. Prayers have been requested for Susan Bains Reeder (Rome), granddaughter of Loneta Bains. Prayers have also been requested for Royce Odom and twin sister Lois Holcomb (cancer).

**PRAYER LIST:** Tommy and Linda Ashburn; Cathy Findley; Sherrie Pritchett; Jerry Hutchins; Danny Claire; Edna Shoulders; Bill Ross; Scott Bane; Wanda Hailey, Patsy Link; Tyrone Poynter; Mark Manning; Emily Moss and children; Jacky King, Lucas Wakefield; Linda Dennis; Gary Anderson; Brad Wilson; Jack Gallaher; Ren Coker; Shirley Henry; Roy Hicks; Ricky Branham; Bob & Donnieta White; John Conditt; Levi Halliburton; Mike Ruis; Duane Hesson; Billy Woodard; Tammy Bush; Jerry Glenn; Bentley Cowan; David Lipe; Louie Gray West; Taylor & Spencer Keaton; Paulette Blackburn, Emily Allen; Judy Fox Jones; Will Gregory; Rick Blankenship; Debby Flatt; Ken Miller; Lynn Vaden; Tom Brown; Alicia Haynes; Faye McKay; Joey Black; Joe Kemp; Susanne Tisdale; Tim Smith; Pattie Birdwell; Mark & Mary Ellen Lawrence; Donna Kemp; Ray Hobbs; Wes Stafford; Sawyer Cole; Patsy Link; Richard Rhoten; Buddy & Jan Chaffin; Troy Spivey; Janice Anderson; Earl Carter; Sherry Pritchett; Jennie Burnett; Arnold Rich; and Steve Dowell.

"Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good unto all, especially to those who are of the household of faith" (Gal. 6:10).

**NURSING HOME/ASSISTED/LIVING/SHUT-INS:**  Lovell Chaffin; Wilma Richardson; Judith Newberry; Mary Lou Smith Frances Glosser; Ricky Branham (SCH&R); Loneta Bains (Pavilion); Horace Jones (NHC, Cookeville); Hattie Branham and Pat Paysinger (Shut-ins).

**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); Benjamin Gentry (Marines); Camron Huff (Marines); Derek Brothers (Army National Guard - now in the Middle East), Ruby Fisher's grandson-in-law.

**SYMPATHY:** Sympathy is extended to the following families: Family of Chris Thorn, age 33, who suddenly passed from this life last week; Family of Louise Holland (Bagdad), whose funeral was Tuesday at Sanderson's Hackett's Chapel in Kempville.

**FOOD FOR POTTER'S:** The Potter Children's Home truck will be in this area the week of January 26. Needed pantry items include White Chocolate Chips; Fruit Loops Cereal; Sweet Pickle Relish; Pancake Mix; and Beef Ravioli. Families can also donate \$15.00 for perishable items (make checks to Potter's Children Home).

**THANK YOU NOTES:** We received and read nice thank you notes from Caleb Harville; David and Judy Cassetty, parents of Melissa Vance; and Bobby and Mary Cross.

**CONGREGATIONAL CALENDAR:** *Smith County Health Care/Rehab Center Devotionals:* First Sundays of February, May, August, November, 2:00 PM; *Pavilion Devotionals:* Each Fifth Sunday, 2:00 PM; *Men's Breakfast:* Saturday, January 18, 2020, 8:00 a.m. *Annual Singing:* Friday, August 7, 7:00 P.M.

**AREA EVENTS:** *Young Men's Seminar*, East Main (Murfreesboro), February 1, with Andy Connelly (see posted flyer). *Polishing the Pulpit:* August 12-20, 2020.

**JUST A THOUGHT:** The sign read, "Adore Christ during Christmas". Certainly we should. But should we not adore Him equally in other seasons? His "good news" is needed "in season and out of season" (2 Tim. 4:2-4). Jesus said, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, take up his cross **daily**, and follow me" (Luke 9:23). Don't wait until next Christmas to adore Him. Do it today and every day! *Edward L Anderson*