

FRANTIC? OR FAITHFUL?

When Elijah fled from the threats of Jezebel, he was asking God to take his life (1 Kings 19:4). The Lord then led Elijah to Mount Horeb (Sinai), where Elijah confessed to the Lord that he was the only prophet left. All the others had been killed (1 Kings 19:10).

Even though Elijah had just been given an immense victory over Jezebel and her prophets, in a matter of days he thought the battle was lost. His world had seemed to turn upside down, but God was not finished. He had plans to finish this particular battle, and Elijah was a key player.

We too, can observe the world around us, and become frantic due to all the chaos and upheaval, but we need to remain faithful. Men will always cause problems on this earth, but God is steadfast, immovable. Jesus said, *“I am with you always, even to the end of the age”* (Matt. 28:20).

Don’t become frantic. Be faithful? The Lord knows what He is doing.

(Rick Laing, Highland Village church of Christ, Austin, TX, via Bulletin Digest 1/27/2016)

ASK A FRIEND TO ATTEND

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“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)



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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.

Evangelist:

Edward L Anderson
(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

Fax Number: (615) 735-0131

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Sunday & Wednesday Services broadcast on Facebook & YouTube

FREE Bible Correspondence Courses, Tracts or Home Bible Study/ Videos.
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“VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME”

“NO HIDDEN SKELETONS” – WHAT JESUS DID!

David was the father of Solomon (whose mother was Bathsheba, the widow of Uriah).

Solomon was the father of Rehoboam.

Rehoboam was the father of Abijah.

Abijah was the father of Asa.

Asa was the father of Jehoshaphat.

Jehoshaphat was the father of Jehoram.

Jehoram was the father of Uzziah.

Uzziah was the father of Jotham.

Jotham was the father of Ahaz.

Ahaz was the father of Hezekiah.

Hezekiah was the father of Manasseh.

Manasseh was the father of Amon.

Amon was the father of Josiah. -Matthew 1:6-10

Key Thought: Nearly every family has a few skeletons in its closets. And you can find them if you open up enough closets! (For those not familiar with the idiom “skeletons in the closet,” it is another way of saying that someone has some bad family secrets and tries to keep them hidden. One of the most significant “skeletons” is Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah and the one for whom David lusted, then had Uriah placed in danger so that he died in battle, and finally married her.) As a propaganda piece, the Bible is not very good because it doesn’t even try to hide the skeletons – not even in Jesus’ family tree. Instead, the Scriptures are brutally honest about the failures of even our greatest Bible heroes. You look through today’s verses and you’ll find some serious skeletons. It’s as if God is saying to us, “If I can bring triumph through them and their failures, just imagine what I can do through you!” I don’t know about you, but that surely is encouraging to me. I call this the principle of “Hallelujah anyway!” God’s power and grace triumph over our failures.

Today’s Prayer: Almighty God, I am thankful that your strength is made perfect in weakness. I don’t want to stumble or fall in my service to you, but it is very encouraging to know that you have raised so many others up from failure and made them useful and holy to you. Please forgive my sins and empower me to overcome my weaknesses and sin. Thank you for giving me reasons not to give up when I falter. In the name of Jesus, my atoning sacrifice and hero, I pray. Amen. (Phil Ware, Heartlight Devotional 1/03/2021)

Related Scripture Readings: Ephesians 2:8-10; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; 1 Timothy 1:15-17.

FROM THE PREACHER'S HEART:

My last column was written early due to our taking a vacation in the mountains the last few days of December. We had a very enjoyable and safe trip and was blessed by the beauty of several inches of snow (the locals said 6-8 inches!), which had fallen just before we arrived. When the road to Newfound Gap was opened it was a spectacular drive!

Barbara and I wish to thank you for your many kindnesses, greeting cards, gifts cards, fruit, candy, and every expression of love and good will during the holidays, and for that matter, throughout the year. God has blessed us in so many ways through you. May He continue to bless our labors together in the kingdom of His dear Son.

All the men of the congregation are invited to our annual Men's Breakfast this Saturday (1/16/21), at 8:00 A.M. It will be in the annex where we will have ample room to social distance. Country ham, biscuit and gravy, bacon, chocolate gravy, etc. – yum, yum!

We are going to have a couple more Training Class sessions which were delayed due to COVID. These are scheduled for February 7 and 21. These will be at 4:30 P.M. on those Sundays and will be in the annex. All male members are invited and encouraged to participate. The studies will help us grow in leadership and example. Make plans to be a part.

In March, Lord willing, Duane Gossett of Gainesboro, will be with us to deliver three lessons on the Bible Lands, using slides and Scripture to help us understand and appreciate the events recorded in the sacred text. Duane has many years of experience in preaching and teaching. We will all be blessed by these studies.

Our Gospel Meeting with Clarence Deloach, which was also cancelled last year due to the virus and his health, is re-scheduled for April 11-14 (Sunday – Wednesday). Brother Deloach is doing much better physically for which we are very thankful. He has been preaching the gospel for more than seventy years!

Let me urge you to help with our visitation program under the leadership of Josh Brown. You can participate in this good work in a safe way. Contact Josh if you are willing.

Have a blessed week. Hope to see you Sunday morning.
Edward L Anderson

NEWS & NOTES:

WELCOME VISITORS: A warm welcome is extended to all our visitors. We are honored to have you and your family. Please come again!

PRAYER REQUESTS: Dennis and Darlene Hackett requested prayers for forgiveness Sunday PM after services. May God bless!

SICK: Peggy Denton has undergone two additional surgeries since our last bulletin. She is now at home. Cheryl Hicks has been ill and has more tests this week. Gary White, Allen's grandfather, is to undergo thyroid surgery this week. Joe Massey, his other grandfather, is very ill and under hospice care. Tabitha Wright, Hale and Elaine's daughter-in-law, is suffering with COVID and pneumonia. Patricia Brooks is to see an oncologist in January. David Tucker, Susan Law's brother, has been in Cookeville Regional, due to COVID, but returned home on Sunday. J. B. Dailey has been taken to St. Thomas due to heart issues. Our prayers are requested. W. A. Gibbs is now at home. Lola King continues radiation and oral chemo. Faye Maberry continues to do well. Gail Vincent's uncle, Henry Carter, is now at home and doing better. Dennis Hackett's aunt, Joyce Kilgore, remains in Vanderbilt, in Lebanon. Joyce Burford, Carol "Woodard's sister-in-law, is in the hospital with COVID and pneumonia. Bridget Austin, along with Kailee and Tanner, was unable to be with us Sunday. Justin Mauldin was unable to be with us Sunday PM. Prayers have been requested for Patricia Nye, who is dealing with cancer. We are so thankful that some of our families are back with us after bouts with "the virus" and are now "negative" – the Whitaker's and Faustina's. (Please call 615-735-0114 with updates and news items.)

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

SYMPATHY: Sympathy is expressed to the families of the following: Ann Carter in the January 5 passing of her brother-in-law, Charles Bryant, of Cookeville; Charles Leonard Pippin, who passed from this life January 7. The funeral was last Saturday (9th); the family of Bill Grover, a co-worker with some of our members.

THANK YOU: The church recently received "Thank You" notes and greeting cards from Janice Anderson and the Hackett family: Tony, Mary Jo, and Brittany Hackett.

PRAYER LIST: Dustin Justice (lymphoma); Faye Massey; Joe Hensley; Barbara Dixon; Conner Hackett; Chuck Jordan; Joe Massey; Gary White; A. J. Purkey; Tammy Crockett; Josh Dillard; Lavern Hardee; Alan Fitts; Steve Higginbotham; Wayne Lankford; Sandy Waggoner; Nancy Hicks Bane; Barbara Williams; Michael Parsons; Wendy Williams; Roslyn Fox Stout; Wanda Hailey; Denise Griffin; James Hix; Rylee Winfree; Rebecca Huffines; Thompson; Tommy & Linda Ashburn; Jerry Hutchins; Danny Claire; Bill Ross; Scott Bane; Patsy Link; Emily Moss and children; Lucas Wakefield; Linda Dennis; Gary Anderson; Bob & Donnieta White; John Conditt; Duane Hesson; Billy Woodard; Tammy Bush; Jerry Glenn; Bentley Cowan; David Lipe; 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; Donna Kemp; Ray Hobbs; Wes Stafford; Sawyer Cole; Richard Rhoten; Buddy & Jan Chaffin; Earl Carter; Jennie Burnett; Arnold Rich; Jimmy and Carolyn Rigsby.

EVENTS CALENDAR: *Smith County Health Care/Rehab Center Devotional:* First Sundays of February, May, August, November (To be resumed when permitted); *Fifth Sunday Pavilion Devotional* (To be resumed when permitted); *Men's Breakfast:* January 16, 2021; *Bible Lands Studies:* Duane Gossett will be with us March 7, 14, and 21 for the P.M. services for his Bible Lands Studies. *Fish Fry*, April 10; *Gospel Meeting:* Clarence Deloach, April 11-14.

VISITATION/GREETING PROGRAM: The elders have asked Josh Brown to organize a visitation program designed to reach out to and welcome the many newcomers moving into the area. It will involve delivering a "Welcome Packet" to their residence, but with virus precautions. Contact Josh to help.

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).

WHO, WHY, AND WHAT IS THERE REASON TO FEAR...

If the Lord is truly our Shepherd (Read Psalm 23:1-4)?

If God is really our Refuge (Read Psalm 46:1)?

If God is actually our Helper (Read Hebrews 13:5, 6)?

If we are really and truly faithful to Him (Read Revelation 2:10)?

Edward L Anderson