

HELPING GOD ANSWER YOUR PRAYERS

Someone has said that we should pray as if everything depended upon God and work as if everything depended upon us. Prayer may be ineffective if God doesn't do His part, and it may be futile if the one praying doesn't do his part.

A little girl prayed: "Dear God, please don't let the rabbits get in my brother's traps. Thank you God, cause I know you won't let the rabbits get in the traps." Her mother heard the prayer and asked, "How do you know God won't let the rabbits get in the traps?" "Because I smashed all of the traps," the girl replied.

A man who prayed fervently and frequently for God to burn down the bar and brothel in his neighborhood got tired of waiting and decided he would "lend God the matches."

That probably is not what is meant by doing your own part to get your prayers answered. James 2:15-16 and 1 John 3:17-19 give us an important key to effective praying: Don't pray for God to warm, feed, and supply needs of others when you yourself could do it, but make no effort to do it.

(Gerald Cowan, via BulletinGold, Sept. 2017)

ASK A FRIEND TO ATTEND

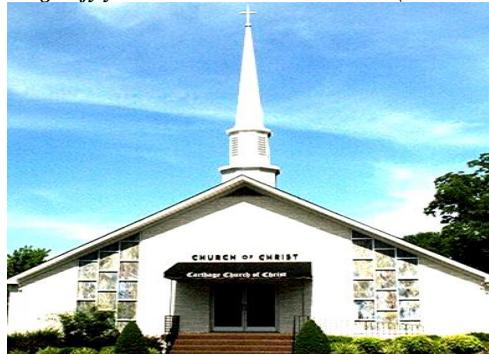
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"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." (Matthew 5:16)



MEETING PLACE OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES:

Evangelist:
Edward L. Anderson
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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.

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"

BLESSINGS AND COVID-19

These days seem filled with trouble. Job said, "Man who is born of a woman is few of days and full of trouble" (Job 14:1). We have seen COVID-19 take the lives and good health away from loved ones and friends. Many homes and much property were destroyed by wildfires. We have seen cities across our nation ravaged by violence. We have even witnessed the hallowed halls of our nations' capital building attacked by rioters. These things have not been seen in our country in our lifetimes.

Many people are saying that our world is coming to an end and the Day of Judgment is soon to come. I don't know if that is true because the Bible says, "But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only" (Matthew 24:36). Certainly, we all should be using these dreary and unsettling days to warn men of the day when the Lord will judge the world in righteousness (Acts 17:31).

However, don't let your heart be troubled for, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them" (Hebrews 7:25). God knows how to rescue the godly from trials (2 Peter 2:9). Jesus still loves us and is providing His grace to all who will come to Him. It is time for us all to lean fully upon our faith in the Lord, that in every hardship there is a blessing. "Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him" (James 1:12).

Let us all lift our heads, hearts and voices in that old hymn by J.P. Webster,
To our bountiful Father above,
We will offer our tribute of praise
For the glorious gift of His love
And the blessings that hallow our days.

And let us pray as the Psalmist did,
Return, O Lord! How long? Have pity on your servants! Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days. Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us, and for as many years as we have seen evil (Psalm 90:13-15).

(Joseph D. Chase, minister of the North Loop Church of Christ, Gladewater, TX, via BulletinGold Extra)

FROM THE PREACHER'S HEART:

FITTING IT ALL IN

Have you heard, or maybe even said to yourself or aloud, "I'll try to fit it in"? Or, "I'm really having trouble fitting everything in"? Scheduling can get rather complicated in the rush, rush of everyday routines. Meeting all the demands of church, family, work, school, sports, and other pursuits can be challenging.

Life is somewhat like a jigsaw puzzle. The large ones of a thousand pieces or more can be especially daunting. The border is usually rather easy because every piece has one straight edge. The four corner pieces have two! There is usually a focal point of each puzzle which captures the attention. It may be a building, mountain, person, etc. By concentrating on the primary subject or object, we are able to seek and find the pieces of the corresponding colors and shapes. A plan is developed. Certain pieces become a priority. Eventually, we can, with persistent patience, fit the entire puzzle together.

The same is true of life. And as with puzzles, it takes some longer than others to "get it all together". Individuals often erroneously surmise that life is all about them. They become their own god. Life is all about satisfying their wants, desires, and lusts (Review the book of Ecclesiastes). They are deceived into believing that selfish and sensual indulgences will bring lasting joy, peace, and contentment, only to be disappointed time after time. They end up being a slave in the deadly shackles of sin (Rom. 6:23).

Where should we begin? First, we need to find the subject. God is clearly the "Focal Point" of life – all life, every life. He is life's Creator, Sustainer, and Judge (Gen. 1:26-28; 2:7 cf. Acts 17:24-31). Sadly, some go so far as to foolishly assert, "There is no God" (Psalm 14:1).

When God is left out of lives, families, nations, and churches they will predictably fall apart when left to their own devices. The "weeping prophet" declares: "It is not in man that walks to direct his steps" (Jer. 10:23). A prayerful perusal of history – divine and profane – proves this to be true. We sometimes are our own worst enemies. Someone said, "We have met the enemy and he is us".

God, His Son, His church, His word, and His truth should be, and must be, the center of our lives. Our love for Him must be first and foremost (Matt. 22:37). His kingdom and His righteousness are to be first in our seeking (Matt. 6:33). Solomon finally solved the "riddle" of life: "Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man" (Eccl. 12:13-14). He finally fit it all together! Will we? *Edward L. Anderson*

NEWS & NOTES:

NURSING HOME/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).

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARY LIST: Peggy Denton, Allen White (5); Amanda Hicks, Kim Bray (7); Steve Harper (8); Bobby King (11); Haven Brown (15); Linda Cook; Ainsley Washer (19); Caleb Harville, Cason Maberry (22); Wilma Richardson (23); Alex & Candace Richmond (2/19/1974).

SYMPATHY: Sympathy is expressed to the families of the following: Sabrina Grisham (1/08); Annell Sirey (1/16); Joe Massey, grandfather of Allen White (1/20); Patsy Link, Bobby King's sister (1/23); and Joan Craighead, Barbara Anderson's cousin (1/23).

THANK YOU: The church recently received "Thank You" notes and greeting cards from Tony, Mary Jo, and Brittany Hackett; Peggy Denton and family; and Loneta Bains.

PRAYER LIST: Dustin Justice (lymphoma); Faye Massey; Joe Hensley; Barbara Dixon; Conner Hackett; Chuck Jordan; 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; 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); *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, of Cookeville, 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. A big THANK YOU to all who are involved!

LEADERSHIP TRAINING: Two additional training sessions are scheduled for Sunday February 7 and 21 at 4:30 PM in the annex. All male members are urged to participate.

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's grandson; Benjamin Gentry (USMC).

"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made Himself of no reputation, and took, and took upon Him the form of a **SERVANT**..." (Phil 2:5-7a, Emphasis added).