

## IN EVERYTHING GIVE THANKS

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” 1 Thess. 5:16-19

The above reference is just one of many Scriptures that encourage Christians to have a positive outlook. As a matter of fact, the second admonition, “pray without ceasing,” is one good reason to rejoice and to be thankful. Regardless of what happens we have the avenue of prayer by which we may communicate with the Father!

The third instruction, “in everything give thanks,” may sometimes be more difficult to follow. There are some situations in which we find it difficult to be thankful. Perhaps an observation by commentator Matthew Henry can encourage us to be more thoughtful, and therefore more thankful, in those types of situations. When Henry discovered that he had been robbed, he entered the following in his daily journal: I thank Thee first because I was never robbed before; second, because although they took my purse they did not take my life; third, although they took my all, it was not much; and fourth, because it was I who was robbed and not I who robbed.

While we hear much about thanksgiving during the last weeks of each year, may we cultivate a constant attitude of thankfulness. As Christians we have much for which to give thanks.

(via BulletinGold, 3/02/20, by Patrick Hogan, deceased 2018)

### ASK A FRIEND TO ATTEND

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CHURCH OF CHRIST  
711 N. Main Street  
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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)  
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. & 11:00 A.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  
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Email: [carthagecoc@dtccom.net](mailto:carthagecoc@dtccom.net)

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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)

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

**“VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME”**

## NEARLY 106

What do Gregory Peck, Betty Grable, Kirk Douglas, Walter Cronkite, Jackie Gleason and Cecil Wiggins all have in common? They were all born in 1916. Many of these became household names due to their appearances in movies and on television.

Cecil Wiggins was not as well known as the others, but she outlived them all. She passed from this life on February 25, 2022, at the age of 105, just one month shy of her 106<sup>th</sup> birthday on March 20. She didn't live as flamboyantly as the others listed above who were born the same year as she. She lived a quiet but profound life. She is worthy of much honor. Cecil's life was characterized by faith, love, and fortitude. She grew up very poor. But she worked hard, saved money, and never wasted anything. Shortly before World War II, she began employment at Brookley Air Force Base as a secretary. After the base closed, she worked 10 more years for the Mobile County (AL) Tax Collector. She cared deeply. Much of her life was spent caring for others. She helped care for her uncle, her grandmother, her mother, her two sisters-in-law who both suffered with cancer, her husband, and her brother. She cared for women who were staying in the YMCA and came to visit the Government St. Church of Christ (where Cecil was a member) which was across the street. She was a Christian. Her life and legacy are a part of the heritage of churches of Christ in Mobile, AL. She was baptized into Christ in 1933 by A.H. Maner, preacher for the Church St. Church of Christ. She remained faithful to the Lord, to the church, and to her quest to serve the Lord for the rest of her life. Cecil was a member of the Government St. Church of Christ for any years. She attended services regularly and was very active in all church functions, including teaching Bible classes and single-handedly writing, mimeographing, sorting, and mailing the weekly church bulletin for several years following her retirement. Due to declining numbers, the Government St. church disbanded, and its remaining members assimilated into other congregations in the area. That's when Cecil and her family became members of the Creekwood Church of Christ. Cecil was present for the last worship service of the Government St. church in December of 1990. The last hymn that was sung was, “There Is a Habitation.”

*There is a habitation Built by the living God,  
For all of every nation Who seek that grand abode  
O Zion, Zion, I long thy gates to see;  
O Zion, Zion, When shall I dwell in thee?*

That habitation is prepared for those who place their faith and trust in Jesus (Acts 16:30-31), turn from their sins in repentance (Acts 17:30-31), confess Jesus before men (Romans 10:9-10), and are baptized (immersed) into Christ for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38). The habitation awaits those who continue to follow Jesus faithfully for the rest of their lives (Revelation 2:10). Cecil Wiggins lived nearly 106 years. Because of Jesus, 106 years are just a few drops of water in an endless sea, for those who, like Cecil Wiggins, love Jesus and follow Him all of their days.

-David A Sargent, minister for the Church of Christ at Creekwood-

## **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).

Our new schedule is now in place with the return to CST. It seems the transition has gone smoothly due to your cooperation. There are several who can stay for the third service. For those who may not know, the new schedule is as follows: 9:00 AM – Morning Worship; 10:15 AM – Bible Classes; 10:45 AM – Young Children's Class; and 11:00 AM – Final Worship. On the last Sunday of each month, whether fourth or fifth, a meal will follow the Bible study period with the final service of the day following the meal at 12:00 Noon. NOTE: We will NOT host a meal in November or December due to the holidays. Let us resolve to be faithful in attendance, fervent in spirit, and followers of the Lord.

"AND YOU VISITED ME" (Matthew 25:36). These words of Jesus should be precious to us. Please contact Josh Brown for how you can help with greetings to newcomers to our community and to those who are shut-in.

Remember David Maberry in your prayers as he is in Florida assisting with the devastating aftermath and cleanup from hurricane Ian. He has also been quarantined due to covid. Pray for all the families affected by loss of life, houses, businesses, etc..

We are presently involved in a Wednesday night study of the book of Joel, which emphasizes "The Day of the Lord". There are numerous lessons for present day Christians from these "things written aforetime" (Rom. 15:4). It is eye-opening to consider how similar the dangers, trends, troubles, and solutions of the present are to the past. Bring your Bible and join us for the study.

A personal note of gratitude to all who have expressed concern about my injured finger. Saw the doctor and therapist today. Your continued prayers are requested. Hope to see you Sunday.  
**Edward L. Anderson**

## **NEWS & NOTES:**

**SICK:** Janice Hicks will have surgery tomorrow at St. Thomas, Murfreesboro. Barbara Jenkins has had bronchitis. Ken Hensley was able to attend services Sunday after seeing his doctor twice for an upper respiratory infection. Harper Whitaker saw the doctor Monday for an ear infection and bad cold. Steve Harper began knee injections Monday. Sharon Halliburton, Tony Hackett's sister, is in Sumner Regional Medical Center. Bob Fisher, Ruby's son, recently completed cancer treatment and is now cancer free. Our prayers are requested. Lonetta Bains is now in the Pavilion in Lebanon. Joseph Law is now at home. Betty Denning, Mark's mother, is recuperating at Quality Care (Lebanon) following recent hip surgery. Prayers are requested for Hudson Anderson (age 9) – grandson of John Foster, as he undergoes treatments. Lola King continues treatments. Remember Lola and husband Bobby, in prayer. Faye Maberry continues to have treatments. Continue to remember Jerry and Mary Phillips. Prayers are requested for Little Henry & Abigail Marvin; Hope Gibbs; Annika Oldham; Hannah McDowell; Betty Carter; Tom and Sherry Culver; Sharon Halliburton; Tish Clark (B. J.'s wife), who has cancer; Colton Ferrell; Denise Griffin; Jean White; Mark Goad (Bagdad); Janice Wilson (stroke); Ted Gaw; Mike Shoulders; Brenda Brawner; Dwight Fuqua; Drew Gallagher; Joy Conner; Scott Bane; Jerry Driver; Brenda Aikens; Janet Rose; Ruby Anderson; Joe Armistead; Wayne Hall; Brenda Forrest; and 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).

**CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR SICK & SHUT-INS:** Please pick up a bundle of cards, sign and place in gift bags. The deadline for returning cards is Wednesday, December 14.

## **DECEMBER BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARY LIST:**

Mary Phillips (1); Mary Pat Grim, Steve Bray (5); Katie Bennett (18); Jeffrey Maberry (19); Andy Rutherford, Elaine Wright (23); Brittany Birchett (28); Amy Apple (29); Madison Spivey (31). Jerry & Cheryl Hicks (12/11/1981); Will & Makenzi Galey (12/12/2020); Eddie & Kaylan Linder (12/15/2001); Nick & Pam Morris (12/16/2000); Brian & Peggy Denton (12/21/1991); Mike & Laura Piper (12/27/1988).

**EVENTS CALENDAR:** *Smith County Health Care/Rehab Center Devotional:* First Sundays of February, May, August, November. *Fifth Sunday Pavilion Devotional:* 1/29/2023, 2:00 PM; *JSCYC 2023:* July 16-21.

## **READING THE BIBLE**

The story is told of an old man who lived on a farm in the mountains of eastern Kentucky with his young grandson. Each morning, Grandpa was up early sitting at the kitchen table reading from his old worn-out Bible. His grandson who wanted to be just like him tried to imitate him in every way he could.

One day the grandson asked, "Papa, I try to read the Bible just like you but I don't understand it, and what I do understand, I forget as soon as I close the book. What good does reading the Bible do?"

The grandfather quietly turned from putting coal in the stove and said, "Take this coal basket down to the river and bring back a basket of water."

The boy did as he was told, even though all the water leaked out before he could get back to the house. The grandfather laughed and said, "You will have to move a little faster next time," and sent him back to the river with the basket to try again.

This time the boy ran faster, but again the basket was empty before he returned home. Out of breath, he told his grandfather that it was "impossible to carry water in the basket," and he went to get a bucket instead. The old man said, "I don't want a bucket of water; I want a basket of water. You can do this, You're just not trying hard enough," and he went out the door to watch the boy try again.

At this point, the boy knew it was impossible, but he wanted to show his grandfather that even if he ran as fast as he could, the water would leak out before he got far at all. The boy scooped the water and ran hard, but when he reached his grandfather the basket was again empty. Out of breath, he said, "See Papa, it's useless!"

"So you think it is useless?" The old man said, "Look at the basket,". The boy looked at the basket and for the first time he realized that the basket looked different. Instead of a dirty old coal basket, it was clean. "Son, that's what happens when you read the Bible. You might not understand or remember everything, but when you read it, it will change you from the inside out.

That is the work of God in our lives. To change us from the inside out and to slowly transform us into the image of His son. Take time to read a portion of God's word each day. -via Bulletin Fodder

"In everything give thanks." 1 Thessalonians 5:18