

HE IS MINE

Whenever crushing be my cares,
I take God's loving hand;
Who walks beside me day by day
And fully understands.
For his dear hand, which strengthening
Be, is always kept in mine;
Because He's won my contrite heart
And truly is He mine!
The love of God, who is my forte,
Means more to me each day;
And just because He's always near,
He hears me when I pray!
So sweet the fellowship with God,
That I can scarce explain;
Just what it means to me, His child,
Because His grace I've gained!
So even when the skies are dark
And sunlight I can't see;
I still can see God's loving face,
Who is the whole of me.

(Sancie Earman King, BulletinGold, 7/2009, submitted by Mark McWhorter)

ASK A FRIEND TO ATTEND

Volume 27

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Number 24

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:

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Michael Hackett
(615-735-7046)
Johnny Law
(615-735-1240)
Jerry Phillips
(615-735-0326)
R.W. Vincent
(615-735-0361)

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615-735-2462

Youth Minister:
Justin Mauldin
(931-319-6548)

Secretary:

Elaine Wright
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Deacons:

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(615-418-6637)
Justin Mauldin
(931-319-6548)
Andy Rutherford
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Dusty Whitaker
(615-709-1086)

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.

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

Email: carthagecoc@dtccom.net

Fax Number: [\(615\) 735-0131](tel:(615)735-0131)

Website: 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)

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

FOCUS AND FINISH!

Whatever the worthwhile endeavor, focusing and finishing are important. The athlete must be focused on the game before him – not the last one or the next one. The soldier must be focused on the battle at hand and the enemy before him. Drivers are to battle distractions and must be alert to arrive unhurt!

The Christian must also be focused to be faithful and to arrive safely at his destination – HEAVEN! Paul reveals that upon which we must focus (Col. 3:1-2). The writer of Hebrews urges us to “look unto Jesus” (Heb. 12:2). He is our example in all things (1 Peter 2:21). The purpose of His life was to do the will of the Father: “My meat is to do the will of Him that sent me, and to finish His work” (John 4:34).

We live in an age of specialization. In the field of medicine it is difficult to find the “family doctor” of yester-year. Consider the scene in athletics. In basketball you have the 3-point “specialist”. In football you have a field goal kicker, a punter, and a short-yardage runner. Some time ago one player might have done all three! In baseball you have “designated hitters” and “relief pitchers”. Few pitchers pitch the entire game. Most teams have a couple of players who will only pitch one or two innings or perhaps to just one batter! That pitcher may be labelled the “closer” or “finisher”.

Jesus “pitched” the entire game. He finished it, too. He was and is the ultimate “Closer”. He was focused on finishing the “works which the Father had given Him to finish” (John 5:36). As Jesus fervently prayed to the Father just hours before His death, He said, “I have finished the work which you gave me to do” (John 17:4). Then while on the cross, He exclaimed, “It is finished!” (John 19:30) What an example of faithfulness all the way to the “final horn”!

The challenge before each of us is to remain **focused** in spite of all the devil’s distractions. That challenge also involves the will to **finish** the work of the Lord in our own lives. That means being faithful unto death (Rev. 2:10). Forget the “what ifs” and “nobody understands”. Get to the task at hand! Follow the Lord and be a faithful “finisher”! Let’s FOCUS and FINISH!

Edward L Anderson

FROM THE PREACHER'S HEART:

We were blessed with wonderful services Sunday with our highest number of the quarter for Sunday morning worship. We welcomed numerous visitors. Several families were blessed to have visiting family members from afar. We were all blessed by their presence, too. It was great to have some of our college students at home for the Thanksgiving break.

Please make it a point to also be involved in our Bible study program. God will bless you for your effort. Your Bible knowledge and zeal will not only be increased, but you will encourage others, including those who spend a great deal of time in preparation and teaching. Be sure to read and study your Bible daily (See Acts 17:11). To be a strong and sturdy soul and servant, daily “bread, milk, and meat” are required (1 Peter 2:2; Heb. 5:12-14).

Budget preparation is ongoing for 2022. The bishops, will assistance from the deacons, are planning and preparing for the work in the new year. Pray for them to have wisdom and vision that the church may “go, grow, and glow” that souls may be saved. The Lord has a need for servants. Be one!

We are having great numbers for our “Pew Packers” class on Sunday evening. The past few weeks have been phenomenal! That means we have lots of children, that they are well, and that parents are bringing them to services! We are truly blessed with so many young and faithful families.

I want to mention again the great news from House to House/Heart to Heart. A recent report reveals that in 2020 there were more conversions in churches utilizing the publication than in any year previous. That number has already been broken in 2021 with more than four hundred baptisms already reported this year! That's more than one conversion per day. Let me urge you to read this periodical regularly. Then pass it on to a friend. We have copies of recent issues available in the foyer and at the annex entrance for convenient pick-up.

We appreciate all those who read this bi-weekly bulletin. If you wish to study the Bible by correspondence courses or home Bible studies, please contact us.

I trust we can all be together again this Lord's Day. I hope to see you Sunday morning!

Edward L Anderson

NEWS & NOTES:

RESPONSE: Cody Setzer requested prayers during our Sunday PM service. Please continue to pray for him in your daily prayers.

SICK: Kim Bray is doing well after gall bladder surgery. Richard Bowman is doing well after three heart stent placements. Dimple Hicks was unable to be with us Sunday. Peggy Denton was with us Sunday after recent surgery. Cierra Haffner is now at home after another surgery for blood clots. Ryan Haffner has recuperated from his foot surgery. Janice Hicks was scheduled for a treatment today (Wed.). Rita Apple was back with us Sunday after being ill. Michael Hackett, a cousin to Dennis, is recovering from recent colon surgery. Ruby Fisher was able to be with us Sunday. Jeff and Sonya Whited (former members), have been dealing with COVID. Betty Law, Johnny's mother, is doing quite well. Jerry and Mary Phillips continue to deal with health issues and need our prayers. Barbara Jenkins was able to be with us Sunday. Other family members are also improved. Carolyn Harris is still unable to be with us. Patricia Brooks needs our prayers. Lola King, Faye Maberry, Sally Russell, and Dayton Jamison. Prayers are requested for Wayne Hall (stroke), cousin to Edward Anderson; Wanda Fisher's mother, Brenda Forrest, and her sister, Bea Davis; Ruby Anderson, Edward and Barbara's sister-in-law; Cornell Coats (student at SEIBS); Gary Vinson, (cancer); and Paulette Blackburn.

NURSING HOME/ ASSISTED LIVING/ SHUT-INS: Lovell Chaffin; Wilma Richardson; Judith Newberry; Mary Lou Smith; Frances Glosser; Ricky Branham; (SCHR); Loneta Bains (Pavilion); Pat Paysinger (Shut-in).

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).

SYMPATHY: To the following: The family of Faye Maberry in the passing of two sisters-in-law, Opal Olene Nunley and Barbara Nunley; the family of Bobby Slack; family of Matthew Scoggins in the loss of his father, Silas (Buddy) Scoggins.

PRAYER LIST: (We are updating the prayer list. Please inform us of those requesting prayers and we will announce during services and print in bulletin.).

“For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ” (1 Cor. 3:11).

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** (To be resumed when permitted). **Coffee/Fellowship:** First and third Thursdays, 6:30-8:00 AM in annex.

VISITATION/GREETING PROGRAM: Josh Brown has a list of newcomers and shut-ins. If you wish to help with new assignments with welcomes and calls, please contact him. Making a visit can make a big difference in the life of another and our own! See Matthew 25:25:31-46 and James 1:27.

AREA EVENTS: ***Gospel Meeting:*** Bethel church of Christ, December 5-8, with Phil Sanders (In Search of the Lord's Way), 7:00 PM; ***Personal Evangelism Seminar:*** Crossville church of Christ, with Rob and Nicole Whitacre, December 5-8, 6:00 PM.

ELDERS/DEACONS/PREACHERS: The monthly meeting is scheduled for December 14, 4:30 P.M.

FABLE OF COMPLAINT

A fable is told of a rabbit, a mouse, and a chicken who took up residence together. They worked out a good plan wherein all would share the workload. The rabbit cooked the meals, the chicken brought in the firewood, and the mouse brought in the water from a nearby brook. They were all very happy.

One day as the hen went into the woods to get the wood, she was approached by a busybody crow. He inquired about what she was doing. Upon hearing her responsibilities, he began to tell her how the rabbit and the mouse were taking advantage of her by doing the easier work. She could not rid her mind of the discussion. She grew angrier on the way home thinking of how she was being abused by her roommates. She made up her mind to do something about it!

Once inside, she started complaining about her workload. “It’s not fair that I always do the hardest work. Why don’t we switch things up?” Well, the other two then decided they were doing the hardest work and that a change would be the best solution. As discontent will do, it had spread from the chicken to the others. Now they were about to change their lifestyle with which they had been very satisfied. The rabbit would gather the firewood while the mouse cooked, and the hen brought the water.

The rabbit hopped into the woods to get firewood. A fox saw him go in and followed turn. By and by he caught him and ate him. The chicken took the pail and dipped it into the water, but the current was too strong for her and pulled her under. The mouse sat at home on the edge of the pot of stew he had made waiting for the others. Suddenly he lost his balance and fell into it.

It all began as discontentment with life. It ended with all of them losing their lives. It is not really surprising what complaining does to the complainers. There is really nothing good about those who complain all the time or who allow just complaints to get the best of them. Complaining will destroy you if you are not extra careful. -Via Bulletin Digest