

IN SEASON, OUT OF SEASON

On his second missionary journey, Paul came to the city of Philippi. There, while worshipping by the river, he met and baptized Lydia. But not all in Philippi listened to Paul and he was falsely accused of “troubling the city” (Acts 16:20). Beaten and thrown into prison, Paul and Silas did not let persecution stop their preaching. Instead, they sang hymns to God. An earthquake gave Paul the opportunity to tell the jailor about the hope of eternal life through Jesus. The jailor gathered his family and they heard the precious message of Jesus Christ. He and all in his household were immediately baptized--the same hour of the night!

Paul could have griped and moped about his problems. Instead, he was devoted to serving God. He had come to a city where he knew no one. On the day of worship, he went where others were worshipping God. An obstacle became an opportunity to tell others about Jesus. Falsely imprisoned, he preached Christ to the keeper of the jail.

How important is Christ to us today? Are we going where we can worship with others? Can we overcome the fear of persecution, or rejection by telling others the good news of Jesus? When our soul’s salvation becomes more important than worldly favor, then we like Paul, will be “ready in season and out of season” to spread the gospel to our world.

(John K. Wills, Owingsville (KY) church of Christ, via Bulletin Digest 2/12/2016)

ASK A FRIEND TO ATTEND

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CHURCH OF CHRIST
711 N. Main Street
P.O. Box 88
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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(615-735-3194)
Michael Hackett
(615-735-7046)
Johnny Law
(615-735-1240)
Jerry Phillips
(615-735-0326)
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Josh Brown
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(615-418-6637)
Justin Mauldin
(931-319-6548)
Andy Rutherford
(615-418-5050)
Dusty Whitaker
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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

Email: carthagecoc@dtccom.net

Fax Number: (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”

WHAT GIFTS DO YOU BRING?

Edward L Anderson

Just about everyone is thinking about “gifts” at this time of the year. But let us ever remember: “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above and comes down from the Father...” (James 1:17). Remember too, His gifts are not seasonal, but daily (Matt. 5:45; 6:11). We have so much for which to be thankful every day.

What “gifts” can I give to God? Ancient Israel made many offerings and gifts: “Of all your **gifts** you shall offer up every heave offering due to the Lord...” (Num. 18:29) They burned the dead bodies of lambs and rams as sacrificial gifts to God (Psa. 66:15). We, in the new dispensation, are to offer a more “personal” gift: “I beseech you therefore brethren, by the mercies of God, that you **present your bodies a living sacrifice**, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service” (Rom. 12:1). Yes, we are to give material, monetary gifts as we have been prospered (2 Cor. 9:6-7), but God first wants the giver (2 Cor. 8:5)! Why not give God the gifts He really desires, your love, your heart, your soul, and your mind (Matt. 22:37-38; cf. Matt. 16:24)?

What “gifts” can I give to members of my family? Parents, above all, give your children a proper upbringing. This involves much more than merely providing the material things they need. Parents are charged - fathers in particular: “Do not provoke your children to wrath, but **bring them up** in the training and admonition of the Lord” (Eph. 6:4; cf. Prov. 22:6). Young mothers are urged to give the “gift” of love to their children (Titus 2:4). They are further admonished to be “homemakers” (Titus 2:5), or “keepers at home” (KJV). Children should give the “gifts” of honor, respect, and obedience to their parents (Eph. 6:1-2; cf. Ex. 20:12). But what can I give my spouse? One commercial suggests husbands should give a cute puppy to the wife and the wife give a brand spanking new GMC pickup to her husband! Most men would say that’s a great trade off. When all is said and done, the greatest “gift” a husband and wife can give each other is love (Eph. 5:25-33).

What “gifts” can I give to my fellowmen, my friends, even strangers? Try giving a smile, a friendly greeting, and some good will to those you meet along life’s way. Too many behave as if they were weaned on vinegar, lemons, and dill pickles! As the song goes, “Try a little kindness”. Paul, in Colossians 3:12-15, provides an extensive list of “gifts” Christians have to give: tender mercies; kindness; humility; meekness; longsuffering; forbearance; forgiveness; love; peace; and gratitude. These will let our light shine which may cause others to come to Christ and to glorify the Father in heaven (Matt. 5:16). Let us all freely give!

FROM THE PREACHER'S HEART:

We were blessed to gather Sunday to worship God in spirit and truth. We were blessed to have visitors who were guests of our members. Make it a point to seek out visitors to welcome them and invite them to return. Our college students are now out for the holiday break – Welcome Home!

Our hearts hurt and prayers are being offered for all those who have suffered loss due to the recent tornadic devastation in our home state and neighboring states – especially Kentucky. Members here have connections with the area struck so severely in the counties of western KY. We were blessed to have only one sheet of metal roofing blown off the storage/utility structure behind the building. Some of us will be helping to pack boxes at the Disaster Relief facilities this week.

Wanda Clemons and daughter Kim Sircy have recently moved to Cookeville to be near family. Their new address is 9335 Lynn Chapel RD, Cookeville, TN 38507, if you would like to send them a card. We will miss them. We wish them well in their new home.

We have a great number of beautiful children for our “Pew Packers” class on Sunday evenings (5:45). The last few weeks have been phenomenal! That means we have lots of children and that they are well. It has been said: “Children brought up in Sunday school are seldomly brought up in reform school.” Parents, you are making a wise investment in their future. They will be blessed and you will, too.

Let me urge you to read the periodicals we regularly receive. “House to House” and The Spiritual Sword, along with various tracts are available in the foyer and annex. They are also good to give to a friend, family members, or strangers to further the cause of truth.

Thanks to all who have signed and prepared cards for the sick and shut-ins. Their days will be much brighter! Thanks to Patty Piper, Tammy Harper, and Elaine Wright for their organizational skills and work.

Barbara and I extend to each of you our greetings and best wishes during the holiday season. We pray your family can get together. We pray you will be blessed now and in the coming year. I hope to see you Sunday morning!

Edward L Anderson

NEWS & NOTES:

RESPONSE: Justin Mauldin requested our prayers Sunday morning for strength and forgiveness. Justin's desire to be a good servant is apparent.

SERVICE/MEAL REMINDER: Our services for the fourth Sunday (December 26), will be as usual – 9:00 A.M. Worship; 10:15 A.M. Bible Classes; 12:30 P.M. Worship; There will NOT be a meal following the morning services.

SICK: Dimple Hicks was back with us Wednesday and Sunday. It's good to see Carolyn Harris able to be with us. Cierra Haffner is improving at home. Janice Hicks has not been doing as well. Janet Rose, Kim Bray's mother, has been diagnosed with lung cancer. Cheryl Hicks is dealing with the flu. Michael Hackett, a cousin to Dennis, is recovering from colon surgery. Ruby Fisher has been unable to be with us the past two Sundays. Ruby Anderson, Edward and Barbara's sister-in-law; is now at home after a hospital stay due to a stroke. Mary Phillips is suffering with infection in her leg. Barbara Jenkins was unable to be with us Sunday. Patricia Brooks was to see her oncologist today (15th). Barbara Anderson is to see an orthopedist tomorrow (16th). Lola King, Faye Maberry, Sally Russell, and Dayton Jamison have been able to be with us recently. Prayers are requested for Wayne Hall (stroke), cousin to Edward Anderson; Wanda Fisher's mother, Brenda Forrest, and her sister, Bea Davis; Cornell Coats (student at SEIBS) is now in a rehab facility; Gary Vinson, (cancer).

NURSING HOME/ ASSISTED LIVING/ SHUT-INS: Lovell Chaffin; Wilma Richardson; Judith Newberry; Mary Lou Smith; 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 Paulette Blackburn (mother of Debbie (Troy) Phillips); the family of Tammy Mofield (known by many); and the family of Frances Glosser (cousin to Barbara Anderson).

NEW BABY: Congratulations to Mike & Laura Piper on the birth of their grandson, Julian Mitchell Cowan, Dec. 8, weighing 8 lbs. 10 oz. and 20.5 in. long. Proud parents are Jayce & Amanda Cowan, big sister, Eliza, great-grandparents Gerald & Patty Piper.

JANUARY BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARY LIST: Carol Woodard (1); Merissa Spivey (4); Kathaleen Replogle, Riley Dempsey (10); Makenna Hassler (11); Johnny Law (17); Noah Vincent (18); Brenda Bowman (19); Barbara Anderson, Mary Jo Hackett (20); Dimple Hicks (21); Jenna Claire Harville (24); Susan Klamm (29).

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:* January 30, 2:00 PM; *Coffee/Fellowship:* First and third Thursdays, 6:30-8:00 AM in annex; *Elders, Deacons, & Preachers:* January 9, 4:30 P.M.; *Men's Breakfast:* January 15, 8:00 A.M.; *Youth Unite:* April 24, 5:00 P.M. **EVENTS UPCOMING:** Trip to see Lights at Lebanon Fairgrounds (12:20); New Year Countdown, 12/31. See Justin for details.

AREA EVENTS: *Gospel Meeting:* Willow Avenue church of Christ, January 9-12, with Dan Winkler, Steve Higginbotham, Glenn Colley, John DeBerry (See posted ad); *Young Men's Seminar* (5th-12th Grades): East Main church of Christ, February 5, with Webb Williams (see posted ad).

VISITATION/GREETING PROGRAM: Josh Brown has a list of newcomers and shut-ins. If you wish to help with new assignments, 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.

WATCH

On the night of His betrayal and arrest, while in the garden praying, Jesus came to His disciples only to find them sleeping. He said to Peter, “What! Could you not **watch** with me one hour? **Watch** and pray, lest you enter into temptation...” (Matt. 26:40, 41) Paul, too, sounds the alarm: “**Watch**, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong” (1 Cor. 16:13).

An anonymous article appearing in many bulletins provides great food for thought.

WATCH your WORDS, for they become your THOUGHTS.

WATCH your THOUGHTS, for they become your ACTIONS.

WATCH your ACTIONS, for they become your CHARACTER.

WATCH your CHARACTER, for it becomes your DESTINY.

By all means, **WATCH!**

-Edward L Anderson