

ENCOURAGE OTHERS

The Duke of Wellington, the British military leader who defeated Napoleon at Waterloo, was not an easy man to serve under. He was brilliant, demanding, and not one to shower his subordinates with compliments. Yet even Wellington realized that his methods left something to be desired. In his old age a young lady asked him what, if anything, he would do differently if he had his life to live over again. Wellington thought for a moment, then replied, "I'd give more praise," he said. -21st Century e-Teacher Digest, February 2018-

Proverbs 27:2: Let another man praise you, and not your own mouth; A stranger, and not your own lips.

Proverbs 31:28: Her children rise up and call her blessed; Her husband also, and he praises her.

2 Timothy 1:1-5: 1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ, by the will of God, according to the promise of life which is in Christ Jesus, 2 To Timothy, a beloved son: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. 3 I thank God, whom I serve with a pure conscience, as my forefathers did, as without ceasing I remember you in my prayers night and day, 4 greatly desiring to see you, being mindful of your tears, that I may be filled with joy, 5 when I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also.

ASK A FRIEND TO ATTEND

Volume 26

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Number 25

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

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Johnny Law
(615-735-1240)
Jerry Phillips
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R.W. Vincent
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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

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"

HE GREW UP

Our world is in the hurry and bustle of the final days and hours before Christmas. Presents are being bought and wrapped, baking is being done, traveling is going on, and all sorts of other last-minute things are being completed so the holiday can be enjoyed by as many as possible.

In the midst of all that preparation, many are also focusing on the birth of Jesus Christ. Certainly, we do not know the date on the calendar of which Jesus was born, but so many in our world are thinking about that event this time of year that it is to our advantage to speak even more openly and boldly about our faith. There is, in some ways, a clearer pathway to speak to people about Jesus when they are thinking about His birth during this time.

What is difficult to get across to people, though, is that the baby in the manger grew up. Then, when that same baby was a man, He demanded so much of people and said things that are not always popular in our world. He told us that we have to guard our heart, or we are guilty of the most heinous of sins (Matthew 5:23; 5:28; 5:44). He told us that families would be torn apart for following Him (Matthew 10:34-37). He made it clear that there is only one way to heaven (Matthew 7:13-14), and that only following Him would be that way (John 14:6).

Ultimately, Jesus gave His life on the cross, but also demanded that we be willing to take up a cross each day, that we live in order to follow Him (Luke 9:23). Part of the life and teachings of Jesus is simply not that people want to hear, but we dare not shy away from the entirety of Who Jesus was (and is), and what He demands of people if they would be counted faithful and live eternally with Him in heaven.

While so many are thinking about the baby Jesus in the manger, may we have the boldness to take this opportunity to boldly, yet lovingly, remind people that He grew up and that He is to be the Lord of all our lives. But we must also take every opportunity to show and remind people that following Him as Lord is not drudgery, but joy.

Adam Faughn, preaches for Central Church of Christ, Paducah, KY,
via BulletinGold Extra, December 2020

FROM THE PREACHER'S HEART:

“Tis The Season...”

You know the rest of the line – “to be jolly”. The joy of the season has been diminished by health and political concerns and uncertainties. “COVID” has been a major headline in 2020. We all know families who have lost loved ones, individuals who have endured lengthy hospital stays, and many others who have been quarantined due to the virus. Perhaps we will all approach this season with greater humility, deeper gratitude, stronger faith, and more appreciation for family. Most of all, may we all say with the sweet singer of Israel, “(We) will lift up (our) eyes unto the hills, from whence comes (our) help” (Psalm 121:1). As individuals or as a nation we are in desperate straits without God (Jer. 10:23; Psalm 9:17).

May we never forget the Source of our prosperity. Let us remember, “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above and comes down from the Father...” (James 1:17). It has been said there are three approaches mankind takes toward material possessions. There is the **MISER** who hoards; the **THIEF** who steals; and the **GIVER** who gives.

The philosophy of the miser is: “What is mine is mine, and I will keep it”. He never looks up to God nor around to see the needs of others. He thinks only of himself. He lays up for himself, but never lays out! (Matt. 6:19-21) The thief says, “What is yours is mine, and I will take it” (See Luke 10:30). Thieves “break through and steal”. Partners of thieves hate their own soul (Prov, 29:24). Religious people may even become thieves (See Matt. 21:12-13). Thievery is common during the holiday season!

But then there is the approach of the giver: “What is mine belongs to the Lord and I will share it.” God is the ultimate giver (John 3:16). God’s children know this truth and are guided and influenced by it in serving God and others (1 John 3:16-17). Their generosity extends beyond God, family, and brothers and sisters in Christ to strangers and to all in need (Gal. 6:10). Love, kindness, and good will are not exclusive to the present season but are virtues for every season. Let us demonstrate them at all times.

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!

SICK: Peggy Denton is scheduled for surgery tomorrow (Thursday) at Vanderbilt. Gerald Piper is now at home after a brief hospital stay due to a fall. Patricia Brooks is to see an oncologist in January. Marie Sneed, Alexis White’s grandmother, had surgery last week at Cookeville Regional. Jackie Pritchett has been hospitalized. James Kemp has hip surgery tomorrow (Thursday), and desires our prayers. Denise Ferrell is the Livingston Hospital and requests our prayers. Grant Lollar is doing well following his second foot surgery in California. Dimple Hicks was unable to be with us Sunday. Annetta Hicks Gregory is now at home after multiple tests on Friday/Saturday at St. Thomas West with outpatient tests pending. Roy Hicks, Dimple’s brother-in-law, is better but continues in need of prayers. Jan Anderson is in rehab at Red Boiling Springs. Linda Cook suffered a recent fall with no serious injuries. Remember Laura Russell Bourgeois, sister to Sherry Lester, has been diagnosed with cancer. W. A. Gibbs remains in Quality (Lebanon). Lola King is to begin 25 treatments December 28. Faye Maberry is doing well. Ruby Anderson received an encouraging report from her latest scan. Barbara Anderson is dealing with an eye injury/infection. Gary Lawrence continues his recuperation at home. Dennis Hackett’s aunt, Joyce Kilgore, remains in Vanderbilt in Lebanon. Some of our families who have been in quarantine are back with us while some others are still in precautionary quarantine. Pray for all dealing with “the virus” – Jenna Harville; Steve Harper; the Whitaker’s (Mallie has the flu), and perhaps others. (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).

IN THE MILITARY: Jana Watson, Ann Carter’s grand-daughter (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); Cameron Huff (USMC).

A BIG THANKS: We had excellent participation again this year in the card program. Thanks to all who donated cards, developed the list of recipients, and those who are delivering the cards. We are already receiving messages of gratitude from those receiving them.

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

PRAYER LIST: Dustin Justice (lymphoma); Joe Hensley; Barbara Dixon; Conner Hackett; Chuck Jordan; Joe Massey; Gary White; A. J. Purkey; Tammy Crockett; Josh Dillard; Lavern Hardee; Mike Ruis; Alan Fitts; Steve Higginbotham; Wayne Lankford; Sandy Waggoner; Nancy Hicks Bane; Barbara Williams; Michael Parsons; Laurie Adcock; Wendy Williams; Roslyn Fox Stout; Wanda Hailey; Denise Griffin; James Hix; Rylee Winfree; Rebecca Huffines Thompson; Tommy & Linda Ashburn; Jerry Hutchins; Danny Claire; Edna Shoulders; Bill Ross; Scott Bane; Patsy Link; Emily Moss and children; Lucas Wakefield; Linda Dennis; Gary Anderson; Roy Hicks; 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; Debby Flatt; 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

CONGRATULATIONS: Congratulations to Makenzi Apple and Will Galey who were wed December 12! We wish for them a long and happy life together.

SYMPATHY: Sympathy is expressed to the families of Harold Smith (12/3/20), of the Willette community and David Watts (12/11/20), of the Chestnut Mound community. Both were known by many of us. Sympathy is extended to Frances Kemp in the loss of her sister-in-law. We also mourn the passing of brother Wayne Jackson (12/2/20), longtime gospel preacher, writer, editor (*Christian Courier*), commentator, and scholar. He preached at East Main in Stockton, CA for 56 years (1961-2017), before moving to Jackson, TN in 2017. He was 83.

THANK YOU: The church recently received “Thank You” notes and greeting cards from Loneta Bains, Bob and Donnieta White; Mary and Bobby Cross; and Janney and Associates.

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; *Fish Fry,* April 10; *Gospel Meeting:* Clarence Deloach, April 11-14.

GREETINGS FROM THE ANDERSON’S

We wish to express our love and gratitude to all our church family and readers of this bulletin. May God bless all with much happiness, joy, and peace during this holiday season.

Edward and Barbara