

## CELEBRATE THE NEW

We like to celebrate with friends and family when we receive something new. The most precious is, of course, a new baby. We throw baby showers, and want to hold the new beautiful bundle of joy. New cars also attract attention. New car smell is so appealing that it has been manufactured into a scent for old cars to make them smell new. New gizmos of every type flood the market every year. Consumers brave the cold, even camp out in front of stores to be the first to purchase the newest version of the latest product.

We even celebrate the “New Year”. We get together and remember all about the old year, some of it with laughter and some with tears, but we celebrate the new. “Out with the old and in with the new!”

If we are going to celebrate “new”, let us celebrate the new life that has been granted through the gracious gift of forgiveness and reconciliation and eternal life. Let us also resolve to live as light and salt so that reconciliation will spread throughout the world starting here and starting now.

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature, the old things passed away; behold, the new things have come. Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him” (2 Corinthians 5:17-21).  
(Travis Robertson, Lake Norman Church of Christ, Huntersville, NC; via BulletinGold Extra December 2020)

### ASK A FRIEND TO ATTEND

Volume 26

December 28, 2022

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CHURCH OF CHRIST  
711 N. Main Street  
P.O. Box 88  
Carthage, TN 37030  
RETURN SERVICE  
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## “HAPPY NEW YEAR”

# 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.

Email: [carthagecoc@dtccom.net](mailto:carthagecoc@dtccom.net)

Fax Number: (615) 735-0131

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”

## RESOLVE TO READ

Edward L Anderson

When making all of those New Year’s resolutions, don’t forget to resolve to read the Bible - God’s Word – more in 2023. Studies reveal that more and more people are reading the Bible less and less! There is cause for us to be concerned. The Scriptures themselves reveal a connection between the failure to give attention to reading the sacred writings and the moral and spiritual decline which inevitably follows.

A study of the Old Testament presents numerous examples of what happens to individuals, nations, and civilizations when they ignore God-given laws. Adam and Eve immediately come to mind (Genesis 3). Then there is the world prior to the flood. When people become evil in their thinking their behavior is corrupted and tragedy is inevitable (Genesis 6:5-8). Who doesn’t remember Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 18-19)?

The books which follow detail the development of the nation of Israel in all her glory. A family of slaves became a force to be reckoned with as they were led by God from Egypt to the Promised Land! It was truly “a land flowing with milk and honey” (Lev. 20:24). But as the nation became powerful, prominent, and proud they began to ignore the book of the law God had given them. Eventually it was lost in, of all places, the house of the Lord (See 2 Kings 22)!

There would follow a “restoration” of sorts, but by the time the forerunner of the promised Messiah appeared on the scene, the nation had lapsed into lethargy and had to be called to repentance again (Matt. 3:1-3; John 1:29-34). Oh, they still physically offered some animal sacrifices, but their hearts in reality were far from God (Matthew 15:8). This was evidenced by the general rejection of Jesus by the Jewish hierarchy, with a few exceptions such as Nicodemus and Joseph. It was “the common people (who) heard Him gladly” (Mark 12:37). They were not characterized by the proud conceit of the scribes, Pharisees, and Sadducees.

We find ourselves in a similar situation today. The Bible, once considered “the rock of this republic”, to quote President Andrew Jackson, is often attacked and generally ignored. An exceedingly wise man observed: “Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people” (Proverbs 14:34). A nation is only as righteous as its leaders and citizens. What can we do?

Let’s restore Bible reading! Read the Bible regularly. Read it every day (Acts 17:11). Read it prayerfully. Read it reverently. Read it personally, examining self (2 Cor. 13:5). Read it practically, putting it into practice in daily living (Luke 9:23).

## FROM THE PREACHER'S HEART:

GREETINGS TO OUR VISITORS! A warm welcome to you. We are honored by your presence and are delighted you came our way. If new to our area, we cordially invite you to be with us for all our services (see schedule on front of this bulletin).

Whew! What about that sudden change in the weather?! Temps dropped approximately fifty degrees in a few hours and the wind added several more “feels like” degrees! In spite of the snow, ice, and cold we had an excellent number present Sunday morning for worship and Bible study. Your faith and example are commendable. It made this preacher proud, but more importantly, it was pleasing to the one true God we worship, love, and serve (John 4:23-24). Our final service was devoted primarily to singing praise to our Heavenly Father and was very uplifting.

We were saddened to learn Saturday evening of the passing of our dear sister, neighbor, and family friend, Wilma Richardson - our oldest member – last Saturday evening. She would have been 102 February 23. She was a resident of Smith County Health Care. Her funeral will be tomorrow (Thursday, the 29<sup>th</sup>), at Sanderson's Carthage Chapel at 1:00 P.M. Please remember the family in your prayers.

Sunday will be the first day of a new year, but also “the Lord's Day” (Rev. 1:10). In what better way can we begin the new year than in worship of and to the One who freely gives to us all blessings, material *and* spiritual (Matt. 5:45; Eph. 1:3; James 1:17)? Make plans to be present to worship and to study “The Journey of Life” (:00 A.M.), and “The Voyage of Life” (11:00 A.M.).

The elders will be presenting the 2023 budget soon. It will reflect our program of work for the coming year in the areas of mission work, benevolence, and local needs/opportunities. Pray for the many works we support in spreading the gospel throughout the world and helping care for those in need. Get involved in our local program of work (Bible school, visitation, VBS, JSCYC, etc.), by volunteering your God-given time, talents, and energy.

Our Youth Fund needs replenishing. If you would like to help, please give your donation to R. W. Vincent, Justin Mauldin, or yours truly. The funds are used to assist with youth activities throughout the year.

Barbara and I wish to express our sincere gratitude to all of you for your generous and thoughtful expressions of love during the holidays. Each gift, card, picture, call, and greeting is special to us and will not soon be forgotten. We are blessed to be a part of such a wonderful and thoughtful church family! I hope to see you Sunday morning a little before 9:00!

**Edward L Anderson**

## NEWS & NOTES:

**SICK:** Scarlett Hicks and Barbara Jenkins have been ill since our last issue. Janice Hicks is still not doing well. Brenda Bowman underwent tests last week. Michelle Allen continues to recuperate from a foot injury in a recent fall. Sally Russell has been unable to be with us the last couple of weeks. Michael Hackett had GI tests last week. Jeff Maberry is feeling much better after a severe bout with COVID. David Maberry is back to work after an eye infection. Little Abigail Marvin, Carol Woodard's granddaughter, now has brother Henry home, too! Prayers are requested for Teresa Mayo Waldran (the late Ethel Duke's granddaughter), after hip replacement surgery. Steve Harper is undergoing knee injections but is able to be with us. Joseph Law seems to be improving. Lola King had a recent CT scan with encouraging results. Her husband Bobby made a trip to the ER recently but returned home. Faye Maberry was with us Sunday. Continue to remember Jerry and Mary Phillips. Prayers are requested for Hudson Anderson; 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:** Mary Lou Smith; Ricky Branham (SCHR); Lonetta Bains (Pavilion – Lebanon); Robbie North, Barbara Billington (Pavilion – Carthage); Betty Denning (Quality Care, Lebanon); 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).

**WE WILL MISS YOU!** The Birchett family – Buford, Brittany, and Charleigh – are moving back to Mt. Juliet where his business is, and she will be working with the day school. They will be worshipping with the brethren there. Please come back to visit with us soon!

“Bear you one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ” (Galatians 6:2).

## 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. *Men's Breakfast:* Saturday, January 21, 2023, 8:00 A.M.; *Fifth Sunday Pavilion Devotional:* 1/29/2023, 2:00 PM; *JSCYC 2023:* July 16-21. *Annual Singing:* Friday, August 4, 2023.

**SYMPATHY:** Our sympathy is extended to the following families: the family of sister Wilma Richardson; the family of Ricky Rankin; the family of Clyde Farmer (son of the late brother and sister Reggie Farmer); and the family of Glenda Wilmore, the grandmother of Michael and Caitlin Triplett Gregory.

**TEACHERS & TEACHERS' HELPERS NEEDED:** We are in need of a teacher for the nursery class for the Winter Quarter (beginning next Sunday). Helpers are needed (one per quarter), for the 2-3 year old class due to the size and age of the class. See Andy Rutherford if you can assist.

**AREA/YOUTH EVENTS:** *Gospel Meeting:* Willow Avenue church of Christ (Cookeville), January 8-11, with different speakers (See posted advertisement); *Young Men's Seminar:* East Main (Murfreesboro), “Choices”, with Webb Williams, February 4, 2023, Registration begins at 8:00 AM; Lunch served; *Smith County Youth Nights:* Rome will host January 8, 2023 at 5:00 PM; Carthage will host March 5, 2023 at 5:00 PM; and Brush Creek will host May 7, 2023 at 5:00 PM. Gordonsville and Montrose hosted previously.

**QUESTION & ANSWER:** We will be doing some Q&A lessons after the first of the year. If you have a question about a biblical subject, please write it down on the provided index cards and place it in the question box in the foyer.

**MEN'S BREAKFAST:** The annual breakfast for the men – young and old – is scheduled for January 21, 2023 at 8:00 A.M. Please plan to attend and invite a friend.

“No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier: (2 Tim. 2:4).