

## WHAT KIND OF A PLACE IS HEAVEN?

From Rev. 21:9--22:5, we have an incredible description of heaven. Even though symbolic in language, we can still get an idea of what heaven is like.

**Heaven is a Beautiful Place** (Rev. 21:9-17. When John tries to describe the most beautiful place which consists of nothing of the earth, he had to describe it in terms that we can relate to, thus he uses precious gems, streets of gold, etc. There is no greater preciousness and beauty than what will exist in heaven.

**Heaven is a Bountiful Place** (Rev. 22:1-2). John also describes heaven as a place where there is no want – everything is provided in the highest quantity and quality. In it is perfect life and health.

**Heaven is a Blissful Place** (Rev. 22:3-5). John also wanted to remind us that heaven is a place of personal and permanent association with God – a place of peace and joy and love – forever.

-Edd Sterchi, Broadway Church of Christ, Campbellsville, KY, via BulletinGold Extra-

### ASK A FRIEND TO ATTEND

Volume 27

February 9, 2022

Number 3

CHURCH OF CHRIST  
711 N. Main Street  
P.O. Box 88  
Carthage, TN 37030  
RETURN SERVICE  
REQUESTED

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Carthage, TN 37030  
Permit No. 12

# 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)  
Jerry Phillips  
(615-735-0326)  
R.W. Vincent  
(615-735-0361)

#### Evangelist:

Edward L. Anderson  
615-735-2462

#### Youth Minister:

Justin Mauldin  
(931-319-6548)

#### 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.  
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.

#### Deacons:

Josh Brown  
(931-319-9994)  
Tony Hackett  
(615-735-9037)  
Steve Harper  
(615-735-2651)  
Jeremy Hassler  
(931-335-1884)  
Chris Hicks  
(615-418-6472)  
Jerry Hicks  
(615-418-6637)  
Justin Mauldin  
(931-319-6548)  
Andy Rutherford  
(615-418-5050)  
Dusty Whitaker  
(615-709-1086)

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

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)

**“VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME”**

## NO PAROLE!

Edward L. Anderson

The verdict was rendered last Friday (2/4/22), in the infamous “Waffle House Murders” case in Nashville. Almost four years have passed since the April 22, 2018 mass shooting, which left four dead and four others wounded that fatal Sunday morning at 3:25 A.M. (CDT). A unanimous “guilty” verdict was handed down on all 16 counts against the shooter - a employee of the same Waffle House - by the jury. On Saturday it was announced there would be **no possibility of parole**. Most of us can only imagine the hurt and trauma experienced by the families of those killed and wounded. One headline said it well: “Verdicts provide justice but no relief from grief.” We should pray for all those who grieve, including the family of the perpetrator and even the shooter himself.

Webster defines “**parole**” (noun) as “a conditional release of a prisoner serving an indeterminate or unexpired sentence”. (613). The verb form means “to release (a prisoner) on parole”. This release often involves a promise, condition, or pledge. Another related and interesting term is the word “**pardon**”. Webster defines the verb as meaning “to free from penalty; to remit the penalty” (612). He lists “**FORGIVE**” as the primary synonym.

The Scriptures reveal to us the origin of sin and its consequences (Genesis 3 – read entire chapter). Though by one man (Adam), sin and death entered the world, these terrible “twins” have spread to all men, because all have sinned (Rom. 5:12). Earlier in this epistle Paul affirmed: “All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (3:23). The “all” includes the Gentiles (1:18-31), and the Jews (2:1-29), thus, “ALL”, EVERYONE. “There is none righteous, no, not one” (3:10; cf. Eccl. 7:20). This means we are all GUILTY! We are all under our own “death penalty” because “the wages of sin is death...” (Rom. 6:23).

Is there any hope or way of escape? The above verse (6:23), concludes with, “but the gift of God is eternal life **in** Christ Jesus our Lord”! The Romans were reminded earlier in the chapter that they had been “baptized **into** Christ Jesus” and “baptized **into** His death” (6:2), consequently they were “**in**” Him. “In Him” is where all (every) spiritual blessings are (See Eph. 1:3). All are invited by the Lord to come to Him (Matt. 11:28-30). His gospel is for all (Matt. 28:18-20). His conditions are the same for all (Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:38). God’s grace has appeared to all; teaches all the same truths; and extends the same promises and hope to all (See Titus 2:11-14). You can receive a “parole” and “pardon”, have your sins remitted and forgiven, and be freed from sin’s penalty.

We might be more motivated to seek Him if we were to remember that in that other place” there is “NO PAROLE”!

### ***FROM THE PREACHER'S HEART:***

Our Sunday morning attendance was the highest of the year even though we still have several families dealing with illnesses (covid, colds, upper respiratory, etc.). Your generosity is again apparent. During January's inclement weather pattern contributions averaged more than three hundred dollars above our budget of almost five thousand. Your liberality is proof of your love for the Lord and His work (2 Cor. 8:8, 24).

We were blessed by visitors again on Sunday. We try to get a Visitor's Packet to all our guests. It includes a bulletin, tracts, and other information about the church. But nothing makes a better impression than a warm, friendly personal greeting. The monthly "Serving the Lord with Gladness" sheet lists "EVERYONE" in the "Greeters' column! So "brother and sister EVERYONE", let's be sure to greet our guests first, and then one another! This is an area in which all of us can serve.

I began a series of sermons this past Lord's Day about service, serving, and servanthood. "The Anatomy of a Servant" is the theme. This will not necessarily be a week-to-week series, but will be interspersed throughout the year, our Lord willing. I believe the studies will help us to see how important our personal daily service is in the kingdom.

A visit makes a world of difference (See Matt. 25:36). It might determine to which "world" a soul goes for eternity! Josh Brown does an excellent job coordinating our visitation program. There is an emphasis on contacting newcomers to the area. Contact Josh and let him know you are willing to assist. If we will but "lift up our eyes" and look upon the fields, opportunities for good will be before us (See John 4:35).

The theme for the "Ladies' Day" is "Daughters of the Heavenly King". It is planned for Saturday, March 12 with registration beginning at 8:30. Kelly Bell, Kelly Edens, and Amanda Scoggins will be the speakers with classes for separate ages. Ladies, make plans to attend.

A word of thanks to Justin Mauldin and Matthew Jones for their excellent lessons January 30. We are grateful for all the young men who are willing to serve in many capacities.

Thank you for being with us this Wednesday evening. I trust we will all be able to be present Sunday morning with our Bibles in hand, a song in our heart, and a smile on our face! *Edward L. Anderson*

### ***NEWS & NOTES:***

**SICK:** Michelle Allen's hip surgery is pending. Ciera Haffner continues to recuperate from blood clot issues. Kim Bray is recovering from wrist surgery (2/1/22), to correct severe ligament and cartilage damage. Lola King began new chemo treatments with no side effects. Delores West (wife of Charles) is very ill in Cookeville Regional. Carolyn Harris was able to be back with us Sunday. Faye Maberry has been unable to be with us lately. Faye's brother, James Nunley has been diagnosed with cancer. Janice Hicks is not doing well and needs our prayers. Steven and Kim Claywell have been ill, as well as Riley and Kristin Dempsey and little Baylor; and, Bryson and Ashton Phillips and their children Jaxon, Cooper, and Mila. Dusty Whitaker was sick Sunday. R. W. Vincent, Jo Hackett, and Debbie Felure have had covid but are better. Barbara Jenkins is dealing with kidney problems and her great-grandson Jaydan Rowlett has been quite sick. Dale Woodard, Barbara's brother, has had kidney stone issues. Alex and Candace Richmond are improved after being ill. Brenda Bowman, Janice Silcox, Mary Pat Grim, and Barbara Anderson are now better. Sally Russell is still unable to be with us. Jerry and Mary Phillips are about the same. Remember Patricia Brooks in your prayers. Ruby Fisher was unable to be with us Sunday. Prayers are requested for Brenda Aikens (cancer), a friend of Dayton Jamison; Janet Rose; Ruby Anderson; Joe Armistead; Wayne Hall (stroke); Brenda Forrest; Bea Davis; and Gary Vinson, (cancer).

**NURSING HOME/ ASSISTED LIVING/ SHUT-INS:** Wilma Richardson; Judith Newberry; Mary Lou Smith; Ricky Branham; (SCHR); Lonetta Bains (Pavilion); 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) & Landon Carter (Coast Guard); PFC Samuel Burton (USMC), Darlene Fariss' grandson; Benjamin Gentry (USMC).

**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:* May 29, 2:00 PM; *Coffee/Fellowship:* First and third Thursdays, 6:30-8:00 AM ; *Ladies Day:* March 12, with Kelly Bell; *Youth Unite:* April 24, 5:00 P.M.; *Vacation Bible School:* June 6-9; *JSCYC:* July 17:23; *Annual Friday Night Singing:* August 5; *Gospel Meeting:* Gary Hampton preaching, October 9-12.

**SYMPATHY:** Sympathy is extended to Peggy Faustina in the passing of her aunt, Barbara Harville; and to Logan Vance in the death of his grandmother, Mary Katherine (Hackett) Vance.

**VISITATION /GREETING PROGRAM:** Josh Brown has a list of several newcomers and shut-ins. If you wish to help with new assignments, welcomes, and calls, please contact him.

**THANK YOU:** A nice note of gratitude was received, read, and posted from Jerry and Paula Bates.

**RUN4DON:** The Run4Don Committee is now accepting 2022 Scholarship applications from graduating seniors. Contact Josh Brown or Jeremy Hassler for information.

**CURRENT PERIODICALS & READING MATERIAL:** The new issue of The Spiritual Sword, House to House, Smith County Light, and other tracts and study helps are available in the foyer and annex. Please take these for your spiritual enrichment and then pass them on to other family members and friends.

## **LADIES' DAY**

Saturday, March 12, 2022

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

**Theme:**

***“Daughters of the Heavenly King”***

**Speakers/Teachers:**

**Kelly Bell; Amanda Scoggins; Kelly Edens**

**Classes for Princesses of all ages!**

Registration begins at 8:30 AM

A Catered Lunch Will Be Provided

RSVP by emailing [carthagecoc@dtccom.net](mailto:carthagecoc@dtccom.net)

Or by calling 615-735-0114