

## THE LAST QUESTION

During my second month of college, our professor gave us a pop quiz. I was a conscientious student and had breezed through the questions until I read the last one.: “What is the first name of the woman who cleans the school?” Surely this was some kind of a joke. I had seen the cleaning woman several times. She was tall, dark-haired, and in her 50’s, but how would I know her name?

I handed in my paper, leaving that question blank. Just before class ended, one student asked if the last question would count toward our quiz grade.

“Absolutely,” said the professor. “In your careers, you will meet many people. All are significant. They deserve your attention and care, even if all you do is smile and say, “Hello.”

I’ve never forgotten that lesson. (Her name was Dorothy).

“For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.” (Romans 12:3).

-via BulletinGold, May 2011, Author not known-

### ASK A FRIEND TO ATTEND

**Volume 26**                      **February 22, 2023**                      **Number 4**

CHURCH OF CHRIST  
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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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#### SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

##### Sunday Worship

9:00 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.  
12:30 P.M. (Last Sunday of month)

#### Evangelist:

Edward L. Anderson  
(615-735-2462)

#### Bible Study

Sunday Morning 10:15 A.M.  
Wednesday Evening 7:00 P.M.

#### Youth Minister:

Justin Mauldin

#### Secretary:

Elaine Wright  
(615-735-0114)

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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.  
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For Transportation to Services  
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**“VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME”**

## TALKING TRASH

Edward L Anderson

While unloading a large plastic bag of trash at the local “Convenience Center” recently, I heard a faint but distinct voice which reminded me of Siri of cell phone fame: “It is now fifteen minutes past 8:00 A.M.” I was about to dismiss it, but when I lifted it into the receptacle and made contact with the metal bin, I heard clearly, “The alarm is now set”! With the help of an attendant I retrieved the bag, thinking we might have accidentally dropped a cell phone in the trash. I later discovered an outdated electric clock, complete with time and alarm buttons and backup batteries, which Barbara had purposely discarded!

All of this reminded me of the current trend of “Trash Talking”, which is a common exercise in the world of sports – football, basketball, boxing, hockey, etc. It is a form of insult designed to needle, distract, and intimidate the opposition. Some of it can be humorous, but it can reach the point of unsportsmanlike conduct resulting in a penalty. Online lists are available of the greatest “trash talkers” in various sports in present and past eras.

There seems to be an ever-increasing cultural tendency to “talk trash”, as in cursing, swearing, obscenities, and vulgarities. It is evident in the entertainment industry that “trash talk” is “trending”. It is next to impossible to count the “bleeped” expletives! But little is left to the imagination. Why do they always give the first and last letters of the words?! Reports reveal that electronic media is also saturated with the malady.

The gift of speech is of God. Adam and Eve were blessed with ability to converse and communicate (Gen. 2:23; 3:2), just as their – and our – Creator. With ability to speak comes the responsibility to speak with reverence and wisdom! Paul said it well: “Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one” (Col. 4:6). You might say that our speech should be “seasoned” and “reasoned”.

Instead of “trash talk”, God’s people should “truth talk”. The one thing which should always be characteristic of our talk is truth: “Therefore, putting away lying, let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor, for we are members of one another” (Eph. 4:25). Truth is much preferred over lying. We have probably all known of a liar who became angry when someone did not tell them the truth! Ironic, isn’t it?

Let us be purveyors of God’s truth, not trash, “speaking the truth in love” (Eph. 4:15), sharing the gospel “news” with all with whom we come in contact (Matt. 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16).

## **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).

Our attendance was up considerably Sunday from the previous two weeks. Several who have been ill were back with us, for which we are thankful. A couple of families were back from out of town trips. We are thankful for their safe return. We were also blessed by the presence of visitors. Be sure to meet and warmly greet as many of our guests as possible. I recall someone saying, "Cold churches, like cold butter, doesn't spread very well."

Before our next issue of this bulletin, we will be hosting Smith County Youth Night. The date is **Sunday, March 5**. The time is **5:00 P.M.** **Matt Landman** will be the guest speaker. He and other brethren will be leading in the worship service after which refreshments will be served and a period of fellowship will follow in the annex. Everyone is invited! Brush Creek will host the next Youth Night, Sunday, May 7.

The youth of our time as have the youth of all time, face many great challenges. The world seeks to "conform" (mold) all of us into its image (Rom. 12:1-2). The devil tries hard to "get his foot in the door" early. Think television, cartoons, movies, media, internet, electronic games – even classrooms! For our youth to "remember (their) Creator in the days of (their) youth" (Eccl. 12:1), they must be reminded of Him early and often (See 2 Tim. 3:15; 1:5).

We are collecting needed items for Tennessee Children's Home. You will find the list of items posted on the foyer bulletin board. Their truck will be in our area Tuesday, April 11. Bring any of the listed items you wish to donate and leave them in the annex. Let us accept the challenge "ready unto every good work" (Titus 3:1).

Let me remind you again to please pick up a copy of the current issue of The Spiritual Sword, edited by brother Alan Highers. (Back issues are also available.) It deals with an always popular theme: "Questions and Answers about Life After Death". Twelve excellent lessons written by faithful brethren are available in the edition. You will be blessed by reading them prayerfully, thoughtfully, and with Bible at hand.

May the Lord bless and keep you through the remainder of the week. I trust you and yours will be blessed with health, happiness, and hope. Pray the Lord to bring us together again. I hope to see you Sunday morning a little before 9:00!

*Edward L Anderson*

## **NEWS & NOTES:**

**REJOICE WITH THOSE WHO REJOICE:** We rejoice with the Doug and Annetta Gregory and Jerry and Cheryl Hicks families in the baptism of their son and grandson, respectively, Collin Gregory this past Sunday morning at Westside in Elkton, KY.!

**SICK:** Dimple Hicks was unable to be with us Sunday due to illness. Lola King will have a scan tomorrow. Hale Wright was back with us Sunday after a stay in RRMC. Janice Hicks is in RRMC due to heart issues. Sherry Gibbs Lawrence was life-flighted to Skyline Medical Center Monday following a stroke. Ken Lawrence, of Gordonsville, is scheduled to undergo colon surgery (prayers requested). Cheryl Hicks is recuperating from recent surgery. Harper Whitaker has laid aside her crutches. Josephine Fitts, mother of Carol Woodard, has been transferred to NHC in McMinnville. Faye Maberry has been dealing with a foot/heel infection. Michelle Allen continues to recuperate from spinal surgery. Good to have Steve Harper back with us after knee surgery. Lola King was with us Sunday, but is continuing treatments. Prayers are requested for Chuck Jordan (cancer treatments); Kevin Bray; Barbara Billington (Tom's mother); Jerry and Mary Phillips; Sonya Swallows (cancer); Bobby King; Joseph Law; Hudson Anderson; Hope Gibbs; Annika Oldham; Hannah McDowell; Betty Carter; Tom and Sherry Culver; Sharon Halliburton; Tish Clark (B. J.'s wife); Colton Ferrell; 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 (Mt. Juliet); Pat Paysinger (Shut-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' grandson; Benjamin Gentry(USMC).

**THANK YOU:** The church received and read a recent nice note of thanks from Robert and Charlotte Henry "for the many calls, cards, and prayers" while they were sick.

**MARCH BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARY LIST:** Noah Brown (16); Rebecca Brown, Emmy Vincent (18); Ruby Fisher, Sally Russell (19); Michael Hackett (20); Adyan Law (21); Earline White (24); Nick Morris (31). Johnny & Susan Law (3/12/1983); Richard & Brenda Bowman (3/20/1965).

**NEW BABY:** Congratulations to Conner and Morgan Dodson on the birth of their daughter, Emery Lee Dodson, Friday, February 10, 2023, at Vanderbilt Hospital! Birth weight 3 lbs. 8 oz, length 16.5 in. Emery Lee is in Vanderbilt Children's Hospital. Congratulations also to grandmother Peggy Faustina and aunt Lelani Faustina, as well as the extended family.

**SYMPATHY:** Sympathy is extended to the family of Will and Makenzie Galey is the recent (2/7/23) passing of Will's father, John Vernon "Butch" Galey of Milan, TN.

**EVENTS CALENDAR:** *Smith County Health Care/Rehab Center Devotional:* First Sundays of February, May, August, November. *JSCYC 2023:* July 16-21. *Annual Singing:* Friday, August 4, 2023; *Gospel Meeting:* October 22-25 with Dan Gulley preaching.

### **"TIME WELL SPENT"**

**Edward L Anderson**

Most have heard the above statement. People regularly waste and even "kill" time in pursuit of pleasure. Paul reminds us, as he did the Ephesians: "See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, **redeeming the time**, because the days are evil" (5:15-16). Acts 19 gives us a glimpse of the greed and the accompanying sins of those "days of evil".

Time is well spent when we prayerfully peruse the Holy Scriptures. Do we love them like the Psalmist did? (See Psalm 119:14-16, 97, 103.) Paul's words to Timothy also come to mind: "Study to show thyself approved unto God..." (2 Tim. 2:15).

*First*, we observe the EFFORT required – "study" (KJV); "be diligent" (NKJ). Anything worthwhile requires it. *Second*, we observe the PURPOSE – to gain God's approval. A more noble endeavor does not exist. *Third*, we note the RESULTS. Of any undertaking we should ask: "What will come of this? Will it result in good or evil?"

"A worker who does not need to be ashamed" is the compliant "product" and desired "fruit" of God's Revelation (2 Tim. 2:15). The "worker" of evil, refusing to repent and obey God, will forever be ashamed (Mark 8:38; Matt. 25:41-46).