

FROM THE PREACHER'S HEART:

WELCOME, VISITORS! We are so honored by your presence. It is our desire to worship the one true God in spirit and truth (John 4:24). Let us investigate the Holy Scriptures and reason together (Acts 17:11; Isaiah 1:18). If you have questions about what you hear or observe, please discuss them with us. We hope you will visit with us again!

Our attendance has held rather steady over the past few weeks. We should never take the privilege of worship lightly. What a blessing it is! When you are absent you are missed.

April's contributions averaged a bit below our budget. Christians are to be good stewards of God's bountiful blessings. Good stewards are to be faithful (1 Cor. 4:2). One facet of stewardship involves money and giving. We learned in a recent lesson that all things really belong to God and when we give we give Him but what is His own.

The fifth Sunday services went well. Justin Mauldin and Jeremy Hassler preached Sunday morning and afternoon. We also enjoyed a marvelous meal between Bible study and the afternoon gathering. Our graduating seniors – Alex Hackett and Madison Spivey – were honored along with their families. We also recognized David Maberry, Hannah McKee, Ariel Rowlett, and Dalisa White who had graduated from other studies. Some of us then had a 2:00 P.M. devotional service with residents at the Pavilion. A busy day, but a rewarding and blessed day!

This is a reminder that the deadline for JSCYC **counselor** is tonight (May 10). **Camper** applications will be distributed **Sunday, May 21, 3:00 P.M.** at the Bagdad building.

We are not only in the midst of camp preparation, but we are also getting ready for our Vacation Bible School, which is just one month away – June 5-9. An assignment meeting was conducted this past Sunday evening. A big THANK YOU to this who organize our VBS and to all who teach, assist, do crafts, serve refreshments, etc. This is always a wonderful week of study. It is also such a blessing to see the joyful faces of all the young children. There will also be nightly classes for adults. Awards night and pizza will be on Friday evening. Make plans to be present.

I will be preaching in a Gospel Meeting with the Liberty (Granville) church of Christ May 21-24, Lord willing. Nightly services will be at 7:00 P.M. I look forward to working with the good folks there. We plan to drive the van on Monday evening.

I hope to see you Sunday!

Edward L. Anderson

NEWS & NOTES:

SICK: Ruby Fisher fell May 2 and was taken to the local ER. Though she suffered bumps and bruises, no breaks were detected. Ken Bennett has been hospitalized due to blood clots. We are glad he was able to be with us Sunday. Jonah Mauldin has been ill, but was back with us Sunday night. Joe Hensley has not been feeling as well. Scotty Yeaman continues to deal with kidney stone issues. Gail Vincent is awaiting surgery (hernia), yet to be scheduled. Larry Cole requests our prayers for his grandson, Sawyer, who is undergoing chemo treatments for leukemia. Caleb Harville is to undergo an MRE May 18. Elaine Wright; Barbara Anderson, and Ken Hensley have dealt with illnesses since our last update. Remember the following in prayer: Kathy Harville; Gerrie Dillon; Patsy Link; Richard Rhoten; Staci Bush; Jan Chaffin; Tim Loftis; Mark Lawrence; Jo Norton; Caroline Sales; Jimmy Bean; Troy and Judy Spivey; Janice Anderson; Cathy Stafford; Earl Carter; Leslie Alford; Sherry Pritchett; Jennie Burnett; Jimmy Rigsby; Arnold Rich; and Steve Dowell.

NURSING HOME/ASSISTED LIVING: Opal Agee; Lovell Chaffin; Phronia Rose; (Kindred); Ray Harper (Hartsville); Imogene Reeves (Palace – RBS); Frank Williams, (Elm Croft in Lebanon).

SHUT-IN AT HOME: Hattie Branham; Emogene Dixon; Wilma Richardson; James Hall; and Pat Paysinger.

IN MILITARY: Jana Watson, Ann Carter's granddaughter (Army); Matt West, Linda Dicken's grandson (Marines); Zack Tongate, son of Scott & Debbie Tongate (Marines); Randy Carter's sons and Lacey Crockett's brothers, Derek (Army) & Landon Carter (Coast Guard); Benjamin Gentry (Marines); Camron Huff (Marines).

SYMPATHY: Our deepest sympathy is extended to the following families: James Agee, who passed away April 22; sister Irene Gregory who passed away April 26; and the Doug Powell family.

ELDERS/DEACONS/PREACHERS' MTG: Tonight after services.

THANK YOU: The church has received and read publicly notes of gratitude from the following: Irene Gregory family; Wilma Richardson; Ronnie and Ann Carter family; Kenneth Goolsby; Southeast Institute of Biblical Studies from Will Hanstein and David Lipe.

CONGREGATIONAL CALENDAR: *Vacation Bible School:* June 5-9, Theme: "CHARACTERS OF FAITH: Godly Women of the Bible"; *Jackson/Smith County Youth Camp:* July 16-22 at Taylor Christian Camp; *Annual Singing:* August 4, 7:00 PM; *Bible Bowl:* TTU's Hooper/Eblen Center, September 9 (Books of Mark, Philippians, and Colossians); *Gospel Meeting:* October 22-25, with Chad Ramsey.

NEW BOOK: *SEEK: Discipling for Jesus* (SEIBS Lectureship Book) is now available in the foyer along with the current and back issues of The Spiritual Sword, House to House/Heart to Heart, and other beneficial reading material. Why not become better informed and build you faith?

THANKS!: Gratitude is expressed to Josh and Becca Brown for hosting last Saturday's "Spring Fun Youth Activity" for our youth and others.

CONGRATULATIONS: To James and Regina Rowland on becoming grandparents again! William Choi Park (7 lbs., 20.5"), was born to Andrew and Dana Park, Friday, April 21. Big brother Thomas is doing fine, too.

UPCOMING AREA EVENTS: *Singings:* Bethlehem church of Christ (Baxter), May 12, 7:00 P.M.; DIANA SINGINGS, June 9-10 and September 8-9; *ospel Meetings:* Crossville church of Christ, May 7-10, with Derrick Coble, 6:00 P.M.; Liberty church of Christ, May 21-24, 7:00 P.M., with Edward L Anderson preaching; *Public Religious Discussion:* "The Eternal Security of the Believer", Macon Co. Jr. High, May 26, 27, Participants: B. J. Clarke and Michael Brawner. *Polishing the Pulpit:* August 18-24 in Sevierville.

BE STRONG IN THE LORD
(Based on Ephesians 6:10-17)

Be strong in the Lord and the power of His might;
The battle is long but the cause is so right.

Wrap your soul in the truth which makes you free;
It will guide and keep you where you need to be.

God's righteous breastplate will shield your heart from harm;
You can walk through the valley and feel no alarm.

Put on the shoes of the gospel of peace;
And be ready to answer the lost sinner's plea.

Take the shield of faith with you for we walk not by sight;
The fiery darts of the wicked one come from every side.

Wear the helmet of hope and salvation so sweet;
Get ready for that day when the loving Savior we meet.

Keep the sword of the Spirit in your hand and your heart;
God's word will keep you faithful, let it never depart.

Edward L. Anderson