

SEVEN ATTACKS ON OUR FAITHFULNESS

- Persecution** – Matthew 24:9-10. It is hard to keep getting up just to be knocked down again. Jesus told the church at Smyrna, “Fear none of those things which thou shall suffer,” and then he said, “Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life” (Revelation 2:10). I suspect that Paul would say that the persecution which really saps our strength is not that which comes from without, but from that which comes from our own brethren.
- Temptation** – Luke 8:13; Hebrews 3:13. In interpreting the meaning of the seed which fell on the rocky ground, Jesus said, “these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away.”
- Worldliness** – 2 Timothy 4:10. As Demas forsook Paul, having loved this present world, so will our zeal for the Lord be diminished if we love this world.
- A moral lapse** – 2 Samuel 12; Psalm 32. When we feel unclean or when our conscience is bothering us, it is hard to get excited about serving the Lord.
- Forsaking worship and spiritual living** – Hebrews 10:25 – 31. When we miss worship, we must be careful that a slow, progressive callousness is not setting in. Many who would not defiantly blaspheme and repudiate their faith find themselves slowly doing just that.
- Not seeing the light at the end of the tunnel** – Job.
- Thinking you are the only one** – 1 Corinthians 2:3.
(Mel Martin, Lincoln & Tunnel Church of Christ, Santa Maria, California, via Bulletin Gold Extra)

ASK A FRIEND TO ATTEND

Volume 27

May 19, 2021

Number 10

CHURCH OF CHRIST
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“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.
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:

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Youth Minister:

Justin Mauldin
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Secretary:

Elaine Wright
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Sunday & Wednesday Services broadcast on Facebook & YouTube

FREE Bible Correspondence Courses, Tracts or Home Bible Study/ Videos.
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“VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME”

THE GREAT INVITATION

“Come to me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light” (Matt. 11:28-30).

These words of Jesus have oft been described, for good reasons, as “The Great Invitation”. They, as is the case with all Jesus’ words, will never pass away (See Matt. 24:35). The text is truly a classic unequalled in all the writings of men. Not even the beautiful poetic words from *The New Colossus* by Emma Lazarus, which are inscribed at the bottom of the Statue of Liberty, can compete: “Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore.” These words have to do with the present, but Jesus’ words have eternal dimensions (See John 14:1-3).

The Great Invitation is **great** because of its SCOPE. It is extended to “**all** who labor and are heavy laden”. Many, if not most, invitations – wedding invitations for example- are limited to family members, dear friends, and close associates. Jesus came to serve as the Savior of all. His mission was, and still is, “to seek and save that which was lost” (Luke 19:10; cf. Mark 16:15-16). Because “**all** have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Rom. 3:23), the sweet invitation must be spread abroad to “**all** nations” (Matt. 28:18-20).

The Great Invitation is great because of its YOKE. Jesus’ “yoke is easy”! The “yoke” of sin is heavy. Sin is a severe taskmaster. “The way of the transgressors is hard” (Prov. 13:15). Just ask the heart-broken addict or adulterer! Being yoked with the devil is sure to bring misery, both in this life and that to come. Why not take Jesus’ yoke so you can find “rest for your soul” here and hereafter?

The Great Invitation is great because of its HOPE. Jesus is our “hope of glory” (Col. 1:27). Without Him there is no hope (Eph. 2:12). He is the embodiment of the “one hope” (Eph. 4:4). Jesus lovingly tells us, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me” (John 14:6). Peter informs us that salvation is found in none other than Christ (See Acts 4:12).

Judgment day will reveal The Great Invitation to be no JOKE! Do not delay! Accept it today!

Edward L Anderson

FROM THE PREACHER'S HEART:

Fellowship has long been an important part of the Christian life (See Acts 2:42). It strengthens, comforts, and encourages. Many of us enjoyed such fellowship this past Saturday afternoon/evening at the Hackett's farm. Thanks, Michael, Denise, Seth, and Alex for your gracious hospitality! The food was delightful as well. Thanks to all who brought side dishes and desserts. From the youngest to the oldest, I believe all enjoyed the time together.

We have several upcoming events which will afford opportunities to be in fellowship with one another and for spiritual growth individually and collectively. In addition to our regularly scheduled periods of worship and Bible study, we will have a fellowship meal following the fifth Sunday (May 30), morning services. The meal will be followed by our afternoon service at 12:30, which will be led by our young/younger men.

Vacation Bible School is rapidly approaching - June 7-11 at 6:30 P.M. The theme is "The Camp Out" with practical studies for Nursery through Adult. Classes for all ages, including adults, will be offered Monday through Thursday. Friday's event will be devoted to awards and recognition of the children attending. The adult class will have different speakers each evening. We will be knocking doors Saturday, May 29 to invite others to VBS. Bowling trip will follow door-knocking.

Counselor applications for Jackson-Smith County Youth Camp (July 18-23), are now available. Deadline for counsellor apps is Sunday, May 30. Camper applications will be distributed May 23, 3:00 P.M. at the Bagdad building. Camper apps will be available for campers (3-12 grades) next Sunday evening. **Last year's 12th graders may attend this year.** NOTE: Kentucky law now requires a background check for all staff members. Camp directors will take care of the background checks for all staff applicants as well as the cost.

Last year's trip for the Ark Encounter was cancelled due to COVID. Justin has re-scheduled the trip for June 25-26 (Friday-Saturday). It is an overnight venture, returning Saturday evening. Please sign the posted sign-up sheet ASAP.

Have a great rest of the week! Hope to see you and yours Sunday morning.

Edward L. Anderson

NEWS & NOTES:

NEW DEACONS: We rejoice that Tony Hackett and Andy Rutherford began serving as deacons May 9. Pray for them, their families, and their work in the kingdom.

WELCOME VISITORS: A warm welcome is extended to all our visitors. We are honored to have you and your family. Come again!

RESPONSES: Shirley Ruis recently requested prayers for forgiveness and placed membership with the church. Be sure to welcome our sister in the Lord. Eric Haynie came requesting prayers for forgiveness and restoration on Sunday evening (May 16). Welcome home, Eric!

SICK: Jake White fractured his fibula last Wednesday and is wearing a protective boot. Gary Clemmons, Wanda's husband, is in Skyline Hospital's ICU. Darlene Hackett is to have knee surgery (June). Dennis is dealing with allergies. Josiah and T. J. have been ill but are better. Hattie Branham is not as well. Janice Anderson is back at SCHC after a few days in RRMC. Calvin Duggin continues to recuperate from recent burn wounds. James Spivey, Faye Maberry's brother-in-law, is doing well following heart surgery. Faye's great-grandson, Oaken Maberry is scheduled for hernia surgery. Mary Phillips is seeing a wound doctor twice weekly. Keep Jerry and Mary in your prayers. Lola King and Patricia Brooks continue treatments. Janice Hicks is in Vanderbilt due to infection and blood count issues. Carolyn Harris had eye surgery Monday and is recovering at home. It was so nice to have W. A. Gibbs and his family with us May 9. Ruby Fisher has trouble walking. Keep her in your prayers. Peggy Denton is to have another procedure in June to correct her double vision. Prayers have been requested for Mark and Sandra (Sam) McCall who have been ill. Mark is now at home after a hospital stay. Contact the office at 615-735-0114 with updates/news).

NURSING HOME/ASSISTED/LIVING/SHUT-INS: Lovell Chaffin; Wilma Richardson; Judith Newberry; Mary Lou Smith; Frances Glosser; Ricky Branham; Jan Anderson (SCHR); Loneta Bains (Pavilion); Hattie Branham, Joe Hensley, and Pat Paysinger (Shut-ins).

SYMPATHY: To Allen and Alexis White in the recent death of Allen's grandfather, Gary White; to the family of Phil Brashear (friend of Barry Cohoon), who passed away May 13.

FIFTH SUNDAY – May 30: Justin Mauldin and Matthew Jones will deliver the sermons at 9:00 A.M. and 12:30 P.M. A fellowship meal will follow the morning services.

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

THANK YOU: The church has received and read recent "Thank You" notes from Mrs. Ruth Anderson (neighbor of Sally Russell), and Mrs. Joyce Kilgore (Dennis Hackett's aunt).

CONGRATULATIONS: We congratulate Alex Hackett who graduated May 8 from the University of Tennessee (Knoxville), with a B.S. in Animal Science.

JUNE BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARY LIST: Matthew Jones (5); Dalisa White, Angela White, Jacob Mauldin (7); Miley Thomas (8); Jake White (10); Russell Vincent (12); Ken Hensley (13); Maisy Rutherford (14); Denise Hackett (15); Melinda Spivey (17); Kimberly Sircy (18); Jaden Apple (20); Seth Hackett (21); Molly Jones, Patty Piper (22); Kristi Hassler (26); Tanner Austin (28); Barry Cook (29); Janice Silcox (30). Justin & Sarah Mauldin (6/02/2012); Chris & Courtney Washer (6/02/2012); Hale & Elaine Wright (6/5/1964); Jerry & Mary Phillips (6/10/1967); Jeremy & Kristi Hassler (6/16/2007); Eric & Casey Swann (6/19/2009); Michael & Denise Hackett (6/25/1994); Chris & Susan Klamm (6/26/2007).

PRAYER LIST: Teresa Hampton; Joyce Kilgore; Beverly Hix; James Spivey; Oaken Maberry; Mrs. Willie Sevier; Joyce Burford; Ron Gibson; Steven Linville; Pete Williams; Donald Eskew; Mark Scudder; Zander Dixon; Andy Futrell; Patricia Nye; Buddy Hyatt; J.B. Dailey; Dustin Justice (lymphoma); Faye Massey; Joe Hensley; Barbara Dixon; Conner Hackett; A. J. Purkey; Josh Dillard; Lavern Hardee; Alan Fitts; Dan Winkler; Steve Higginbotham; Wayne Lankford; Shirley Henry; Sandy Waggoner; Nancy Hicks Bane; Wendy Williams; Ruby Anderson; Roslyn Fox Stout; Denise Griffin; James Hix; Rylee Winfree; Rebecca Huffines Thompson; Tommy & Linda Ashburn; Jerry Hutchins; Danny Claire; Bill Ross; Scott Bane; Emily Moss and children; Lucas Wakefield; Linda Dennis; Gary Anderson; Bob & Donnieta White; John Conditt; Duane Hesson; Billy Woodard; Jerry Glenn; Bentley Cowan; Louie Gray West; Taylor & Spencer Keaton; Paulette Blackburn; Emily Allen; Will Gregory; Rick Blankenship; 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; Earl Carter; Jennie Burnett; Arnold Rich; Jimmy and Carolyn Rigsby.

IN THE MILITARY: 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's grandson; Benjamin Gentry (USMC).

EVENTS CALENDAR: *Smith County Health Care/Rehab Center Devotional:* First Sundays of February, May, August, November; *Fifth Sunday Pavilion Devotional* (To be resumed when permitted); *Vacation Bible School:* June 7-11; *Ark Encounter:* June 25-26. *Jackson/Smith County Youth Camp:* July 18-23.