

THINGS ABOUT HEAVEN

What causes a person to board a plane, train, ship or auto and head out to a distant vacation destination? Escape, to get away from the busyness and challenges of life for a while and to experience perhaps a beautiful new place. For Christians, the final destination is Heaven. It is one of the motivating factors that keeps us moving through life. But what will it be like? What is it that draws us to it and gives us hope of being there for eternity?

- * Heaven is God's Dwelling Place – 2 Chronicles 6:39.
- * Jesus Christ is There – Colossians 3:1.
- * A Place of Many Mansions (Dwellings) – John 14:2.
- * All Things will Be Like New – Revelation 21:5.
- * There Will be Non-Stop Worship – Revelation 4:8.
- * Heaven has Been Prepared Just for Us – John 14:3.
- * Heaven has a Zero Crime Rate – Matthew 6:20.
- * We'll Never be sad in Heaven – Isaiah 60:20.
- * No One will Cry or Be in Pain - Revelation 21:4.
- * No Alarm Clocks or Deadlines in Heaven – Revelation 21:23.
- * We Will See Him and Be Like Christ – 1 John 3:2.
- * We'll Never Grow Old in Heaven – 1 Corinthians 15:52.
- * Heaven's Beauty is Indescribable – 1 Corinthians 2:9.

WOW! I want to go, don't you?

(Jay Launius, Maud (TX) church of Christ, 2020)

ASK A FRIEND TO ATTEND

Volume 26

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

YEARNING FOR HOME

Edward L. Anderson

A few days back I met a friend who was driving the same country road as I. He motioned for me to stop, which I did only to be greeted by a beautiful and very friendly Redbone hound riding in the passenger front seat. My friend "introduced" us, informing me that she was his wife's pet. He also added that she had been clocked at twenty-three miles per hour running on her *three* legs!

As we finished our conversation and parted, my thoughts went back to childhood to another three-legged hound, a bluetick, named "Queen", loved by all the family. She came to be in poor health, but Dad could not bring himself to put her out of her misery. He decided to "drop" her in a secluded place she had never been several miles from our house. He hoped she would die there in peace from natural causes. The next morning, we were all grieving her departure, until Dad announced that when he left the house to go to the barn, "Old Queen" was coming up the road to the house to greet him! She had come "home" to stay!!

Do we as Christians have a yearning for home as Queen did? To "yearn" is to have "an intense feeling of longing for something, typically something that one has lost or been separated from". Synonyms include "long", "pine", "crave", and "pant". Paul, the apostle, spoke of "having a desire to depart and be with Christ, **which is far better**" (Phil. 1:23, emphasis added). He "yearned" and "longed" to be with the Lord.

In worship we often sing hymns of heaven. Our present hymnal lists about sixty songs with heaven as the theme. One describes it as "Home of the Soul". Another is entitled "Heaven Holds All to Me". Does it? Yet another reminds us "Heaven will surely be worth it all". It will! One of my favorites is "O They Tell Me of a Home". The peerless apostle reminds us: "For I reckon that the **sufferings of this present time** are not worthy to be compared with **the glory which shall be revealed** in us" (Romans 8:18, emphasis added).

When Jesus came to earth and suffered horrible hardships at the hands of men, eventually being crucified jointly by Jews and Gentiles, He surely longed to return to His former heavenly home. When He had "finished" His work (See John 19:30), He clearly anticipated the pleasures of paradise (see Luke 23:43). He then said submissively, and perhaps gratefully, "Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit." (Luke 23:46).

Queen navigated several miles of unfamiliar and unfriendly terrain under cover of darkness to make it home! Surely we, with God as our Guide and His Word as our Light, can do the same!

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 down considerably on Sunday. Some were out of town and others are dealing with illness. We trust all traveling will have a safe return and pray that all the sick will have a speedy recovery and be back with us. Just as our physical families need time together to be a strong and healthy family, so God's spiritual family (the church), needs time together for worship and fellowship. Study of His word and meditation thereon, as well as "one another" fellowship, are critical to spiritual health and vitality. Please don't "forsake the assembling" (Heb. 10:25)!

Vacation Bible School has come and gone and now our youth group is involved in Bible Bowl preparation. The event is scheduled for September 9 at TTU's Hooper Eblen Center. Matthew is the book being studied this year and young people from numerous congregations will be tested over the book that day. Thanks to all who are teaching/coaching our young ones for the event and to all those who are supplying refreshments. See Justin and Sarah if you wish to help with food for a study session.

Jackson-Smith County Youth Camp is rapidly approaching – **July 16-21** is the date. The theme is "Great Escapes". The place is Taylor Christian Camp near Holland, KY, not far from Scottsville. Staff and camper applications combined are nearing two hundred. We are grateful for an all-volunteer staff, who are willing to work with the young people who come to JSCYC each year. Some take their vacation time to be a part. Though there are times for recreation, the emphasis is on worship, Bible study, devotionals, and organized craft sessions. Scores of young people and some adults have been baptized into Christ during "camp week". Pray for success and safety for all during this year's camp.

Justin is organizing Tuesday Night Together (TNT) times for anyone who can come. The first was Tuesday evening (6/27), at 6:00 P.M. Thanks to Chris and Amanda Hicks for hosting. If you wish to host, contact Justin. He is also planning a night at the fair on July 4. See him if you need information about either.

The Summer Series being conducted each Wednesday in the auditorium class is based on the 2023 SEIBS' lectureship book. A number of our men are teaching week to week. Please be present!

Have a great rest of the week! Hope to see you Sunday morning a little before 9:00!

Edward L. Anderson

NEWS & NOTES:

SICK: Barry Cook has been diagnosed with double pneumonia and continues to prepare for knee replacement surgery. Lola King's was with us Sunday. Her husband, Bobby, suffered a fall Sunday afternoon and is in RRMC. Remember them in prayer. Prayers are requested for Mary Ann Herd, Jo and Tony Hackett's sister-in-law. Remember Scott Johnson, who was hospitalized recently with chest pains, but was with us Sunday. Prayers are also requested for Jenilee and Stephen. Brandon and Lauren Powell's children, Carter and Josie, have been ill. Barbara and Gordon Jenkins are not yet back with us. The Rutherford's – Andy, Hannah, Maizy, and Davey – are back with us after a stomach virus. Brenda Boyd, Susan Klamm's mother, is improving. Faye Maberry is dealing with dental problems, causing severe pain. Eric Haney has been back with us. Sherry Gibbs Lawrence still needs prayers. Janice Hicks continues to have treatments. Frances Stewart is still recuperating at home. Larry Cole (Bagdad) was able to preach Sunday after recent total knee replacement surgery. Prayers are requested for Cynthia Gibbs and Mike Shoulders (both battling cancer); Josephine Fitts; Gene Vaughn (VA-Murfreesboro); Buckie Parsons; Garmon Vincent; Brenda Copeland; Chuck Jordan; Jerry and Mary Phillips; Sonya Swallows (cancer); Hudson Anderson; Hope Gibbs; Annika Oldham; Hannah McDowell; Tom and Sherry Culver; Sharon Halliburton; Tish Clark (B. J.'s wife); Colton Ferrell; Jean White; Janice Wilson; Ted Gaw; Brenda Brawner; Dwight Fuqua; Drew Gallagher; Scott Bane; Jerry Driver; Brenda Aikens; Janet Rose; Ruby Anderson; Joe Armistead; Brenda Forrest; and Bea Davis.

NURSING HOME/ ASSISTED LIVING/ SHUT-INS: Mary Lou Smith; Ricky Branham (SCHR); Lonetta Bains (Pavilion – Lebanon); 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).

AREA EVENTS: *Vacation Bible School:* Silver Point church of Christ, July 8, 9:00 AM – 12 Noon; *Men's Seminar:* East Main church of Christ, Murfreesboro), August 12, 8:30 AM – 1:00 PM.

PAUL'S SIMPLE RECIPE FOR A SUCCESSFUL LIFE: "Be not overcome with evil; but overcome evil with good" (Romans 12:21). Why not try it?!

SYMPATHY: Our sincere sympathy is extended to the following families: The family of Joyce Hesson, daughter of the late Dallas Gregory and stepsister of Gail Vincent; family of Ron Gibson of Web City, MO, who along with sister Gibson, has worshipped with us virtually since covid and ill health; and the family of Robert and Charlotte Henry in the passing of his dear sister, Dorothy Chalene (Houston, TX), on Saturday evening.

EVENTS CALENDAR: *Smith County Health Care/Rehab Center Devotional:* First Sundays of February, May, August, November. *Pavilion Devotional:* Fifth Sundays at 2:00 P.M.; *Nashville Sounds Game:* Saturday, June 17; *JSCYC 2023:* July 16-21. *Annual Singing:* Friday, August 4, 2023; *Bible Bowl 2023:* Saturday, September 9; *Retreat:* At TCC, October 5-8; *TCC Fundraiser:* November 4, 6:00 PM in annex; *Gospel Meeting:* November 5-8, with Dan Gulley preaching.

MAGI BOXES: The gift boxes for needy children in Central America were picked up last week. The elders have asked us to donate twenty dollars per box for how many ever boxes we wish to fill. The items will be bought in bulk quantities, which will result in less expense. We can then fill the boxes and prepare them for delivery with a work session when the items are purchased. Thanks for your participation, generosity, and love for the children.

THINK ABOUT IT

"It's hard to get in shape spiritually if you only work out on Sunday."

"Faith is not believing God can. It is knowing He will." (Heb. 11:6)

"Don't keep doing what isn't working to give you peace. Make a U-turn to God."

"Faithful Christians never meet for the last time."

"God has no phone, but I talk to Him; He has no facebook, but He is my Friend; He does not have twitter but...I still follow Him."

"Give a man a match, and he will be warm for a minute, but set him on fire, and he will be warm for the rest of his life."

"Just sitting in a church building on Sunday doesn't make you a Christian any more than standing in a garage make you a car."