

## THE DISTINCTIVE WORD

Officers who had been sent to take Jesus returned and testified, “No man spake like this man” (John 7:46). Jesus is, without doubt, distinctive of all who have walked upon this earth. He is the Son of God, both Savior and Lord. In a similar manner, God’s word, as recorded in the Bible, is distinctive of all that has been recorded in human language. It alone is declared to have been given “by inspiration of God,” and by which we may be “thoroughly furnished unto all good works” (2 Timothy 3:16). Whether we consider the Bible’s unique perfection, its influence, its impartial justice toward all, its timelessness, its prophecies, its miracles, or its theme, it has no equal. Its unique power is in its central message of the gospel (good news) of Christ, a theme that shines forth from Genesis to Revelation. Therein is found “the power of God unto salvation” (Romans 1:16). Spend time in God’s word. Through it may God plant and nourish faith in your heart.

(Ron Bartanen, Arthur Church of Christ (The Sower))

### ASK A FRIEND TO ATTEND

Volume 26

July 13, 2022

Number 14

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

#### Elders:

Barry Cook  
(615-735-3194)  
Michael Hackett  
(615-735-7046)  
Johnny Law  
(615-735-1240)  
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  
Chris Hicks  
(615-418-6472)  
Jerry Hicks  
(615-418-6637)  
Justin Mauldin  
(931-319-6548)  
Andy Rutherford  
(615-418-5050)  
Dusty Whitaker  
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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.  
(615-735-0114 or 615-735-2462)

**“VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME”**

## WILL GOD STILL BLESS AMERICA?

Bobby Dockery, Searcy, Ark.

The Bible insists that there is a connection between the moral vigor of a nation and its survivability. *“Blessed in the nation who God is the Lord.” (Psalm 33:12) “Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a people’s ruin” (Proverbs 14:34/Goodspeed).*

The founders of our nation saw the need for God to be at the heart of our national existence. The *Declaration of Independence* contains a solemn appeal *“to the Supreme judge of the world...”*, and within it Thomas Jefferson claimed *“unalienable rights”* as an endowment from the Creator. The Continental Congress appropriated \$300,000 for Bibles, during our war for national existence, because delegates believed that no Bible-reading people could be enslaved!

At the Constitutional Convention, Franklin proposed that the sessions begin with prayer, saying, *“I have lived a long time and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth – That God governs in the affairs of men. If a sparrow cannot fall to the ground unseen by Him, is it possible that an empire could arise without His aid?”*

The concept of America as a *“nation under God”* is deeply embedded in the fabric of our national life. The founding fathers were convinced that democracy could not exist in a non-religious society – John Adams wrote, *“Our constitution was made only for a religious and moral people. It is wholly inadequate for the government of any other.”*

We live at a time when our nation is rapidly becoming secularized. Powerful forces have conspired to drive religion from our schools, our civic institutions, and our national life. The moral and spiritual foundations laid by the founding father have fallen into ruin. *“If the foundations are destroyed what can the righteous do?” (Psalm 11:3)*

Will God continue to bless America? God will bless Americans if Americans honor God! A poem asks the question, *“Who serves his country best?”* Several possibilities are considered: The *General*, mighty in war...? The *Statesman*, who makes its laws...? The *Poet* who celebrates the nation in song...? The answer: None of these!

*He serves his country best*

*Who lives pure life, and doth righteous deed;*

*Who walks straight paths, however others stray,*

*And leaves his sons as a last bequest*

*A stainless record which all men may read...*

The course of human events can be altered when enough people turn back to God!  
Via THE SEEKER

## FROM THE PREACHER'S HEART:

VISITORS! A warm welcome is extended to you. We are delighted you came our way. If you are traveling, may your travels be safe and may God cause His face to shine upon you (Num. 6:24-26). If you recently moved to this area, we hope you will be with us on a regular basis. "Come now and let us reason together" (Isa. 1:18).

Our attendance has been fluctuating the last several weeks due to illnesses and vacationing. As a result, so has our contribution. It is good for all of us to be reminded of the importance of our faithful and regular support of the local church in these two critical areas. Pray for the recovery of those dealing with illness and the safe return of those traveling and vacationing.

The annual Jackson/Smith County Youth Camp begins this Sunday afternoon (17<sup>th</sup>) and will end Friday morning (22<sup>nd</sup>). PARENTS: Make arrangement for your children to be picked up at camp facilities at 11:00 A.M. This year's theme is "CRITICAL". Camper Applications are still being received daily. We are accepting applications even though the deadline was Wednesday, June 22, because we still have a few bunks available in both boys and girls' cabins. We have an excellent staff in place to serve as counsellors, cooks, Bible teachers, medical personnel, crafters, recreation supervisors, etc. These folks donate their time and volunteer their services for the week. Remember us in your prayers for a successful and safe week. **NOTE:** We will be switching our fourth Sunday evening singing to this Sunday (17<sup>th</sup>). This will make it possible for Jerry Bates to come on the fourth Sunday (24<sup>th</sup>) evening to give a mission report. Pray for that good work and Jerry and Paula's safety.

Our Summer Series, which began June 15, continues in a fine fashion. We are grateful to all the brethren who have volunteered to teach. We are using the SEIBS lectureship book as a study guide. It features numerous lessons on very important issues we are facing in the present culture. We will only study thirteen chapters/lessons. Let me urge you to read all the lectures. We have been asking that each family take just one copy until we are sure every family has a book. I believe all our families now have one. I would highly recommend use of the book in family devotionals. Please attend the mid-week services, and by all means, bring your Bible! Searching the Scriptures is vital to knowing truth, faithfully serving God, and being blessed by Him (John 5:39; Acts 17:11; James 1:25).

The first half of 2022 has swiftly passed. We know not what the remaining months will bring or whether they shall be completed (See Matt. 24:36; Prov. 27:1). Let us, therefore, resolve to be faithful to God above all else. Hope to see you Sunday!

*Edward L. Anderson*

## NEWS & NOTES:

**SICK:** Carolyn Harris has been ill and is currently in RRMC. Janice Anderson is now at Quality Rehab in Lebanon after another hip surgery. Elaine Wright has been ill with covid. Barry Cook saw a heart specialist last week and received an encouraging report. R. W. Vincent has been suffering with back problems but is improved. Michelle Allen was back with us Sunday after a nerve block procedure in her neck. The Klamm family is doing better after some has positive covid tests. Josh Dillard is having treatments to help his lung function. Bob Fisher, Ruby's son, is continuing treatments for cancer. Prayers are also requested for Colton Ferrell (in ICU), a student of Lelani Faustina. Brenda Copeland, sister of Cheryl Hicks, underwent recent colon surgery at Cookeville Regional. Jean White, known by many of us, is quite ill and prayers are requested. Prayers are also requested for Derek Bush, recently injured in a MVA. Denise Griffin, member at Gordonsville, is now in rehab. Barbara Jenkins was back with us Sunday. Gordon Jenkins is doing well after cataract surgery and will have surgery on the other eye soon. Lola King is able to be with us. Prayers are requested for Michael and Janice Hicks and grandson, Cody. Faye Maberry had tests on successive days last week. Remember Jerry and Mary Phillips in prayer. Prayers are requested for Sharon Halliburton, Tony Hackett's sister; Brenda Hooper; Mark Goad (Bagdad); Ciera Haffner; Janice Wilson (stroke); Ted Gaw; Mike Shoulders; Brenda Brawner; Dwight Fuqua; Drew Gallagher; Joy Conner; Barry and Teresa Harville; Scott Bane; Jerry Driver; Brenda Aikens; Janet Rose; Ruby Anderson; Joe Armistead; Wayne Hall; Brenda Forrest; Bea Davis.

**NURSING HOME/ ASSISTED LIVING/ SHUT-INS:** Wilma Richardson; Mary Lou Smith; Ricky Branham (SCHR); Lonetta Bains, Robbie North, Barbara Billington (Pavilion); Mary Searle (aunt of Cathy Spivey), is in a Knoxville nursing home; 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).

**SYMPATHY:** Our sympathy is extended to the following families: John Cason (known by many of us), whose funeral was Sunday; and Marjorie Murphy Holland (Bagdad), the funeral was Monday.

Ask not what the church can do for you but what you can do for it!

**IT'S A GIRL!** There will be a baby shower for Elizabeth Ann White (Expectant parents are Alexis and Allen), Sunday, July 31. All our ladies are invited. Alexis is registered at Amazon and Walmart.

**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:* July 31, 2:00 PM; *5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Schedule-July 31:* Fellowship meal, following the morning services, followed by the second service at 12:30 PM.; *JSCYC:* July 17-22, Theme: "CRITICAL"; *Trip to Sounds' Game:* July 30; *Annual Friday Night Singing:* August 5; *Gospel Meeting:* Gary Hampton preaching, September 18-21.

**AREA EVENTS:** **Men's Seminar:** East Main church of Christ (Murfreesboro), August 13, 8:30-1:00 P.M. with B. J. Clarke, Jim Dearman, and Alan Highers; **Girls' Day:** East Main church of Christ, September 10, with Travena Rogan, 8:30 Registration; Lunch will be served.

**COMMUNION PICKUP:** Anyone wishing to volunteer for communion supply pickup in 2023, please contact Elaine.

## 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 awhile 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. 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 48

Heaven has Been Prepared Jus for Us - John 14:3

Heaven has a Zero Crime Rate – Matthew 6:20

We will Never be Sad in Heaven – Isaiah 60:20

No One will Cry of 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 will Never Grow Old in Heaven – 1 Corinthians 15:52

Heaven's Beauty is Indescribable – 1 Corinthians 2:9

Jay Launius, Maud church of Christ, Maud, Texas