

RESTORING COMPASSION

It's easy to develop compassion fatigue. There are so many needs and requests for assistance. While we can't relieve all the suffering in the world, we can be the hands of Jesus to respond to as many hurting people as possible. Most of us would not hesitate to help good friends or family but may take pause when challenged to help strangers.

When Jesus told the story of the Good Samaritan he identified 4 kinds of people. In the story a man was robbed and left to die beside the road from Jerusalem to Jericho. Two very religious men came by, a priest and Levite, and seeing the injured man walked by on the opposite side of the road. Finally, a Samaritan, who was hated by the Jews, came by. Seeing the man he stopped, provided medical treatment, and took him to an inn to be cared for. He promised to pay any additional charges when he returned. The story tells us there are people who hurt others, people who are hurting, people who help people, and people who ignore the needs of others. Which kind of person are you? Are you a compassionate person?

(Al Behel, preacher for the Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ, Pigeon Forge, TN.)

ASK A FRIEND TO ATTEND

Volume 27

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CHURCH OF CHRIST
711 N. Main Street
P.O. Box 88
Carthage, TN 37030
RETURN SERVICE
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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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Johnny Law
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(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.

Email: carthagecoc@dtccom.net

Fax Number: (615) 735-0131

Website: 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"

JESUS AND BAPTISM

Jesus is the ultimate authority in all things spiritual and divine (Matt. 28:18). His authority clearly extends to the physical and material world as His miracles demonstrated and as stated in Scripture (See Col. 1:16-17). But for the present we wish to consider His "power" (authority), in relation to baptism, a much discussed and often disputed subject.

First, it is apparent that Jesus COMPLIED with baptism. Matthew reveals that "Jesus came from Galilee to Jordan unto John, *to be* baptized of him" (3:15). Mark is more direct saying that "Jesus *was* baptized of John in Jordan" (1:9). Though John objected (Matt. 3:14), Jesus insisted on being baptized in water, "for thus it becomes us to fulfill all righteousness (v. 15). Jesus came to do the will of the Father (John 4:34). "There was a man sent from God whose name was John" (John 1:6). Though without sin, why would Jesus not comply with God's will as taught by John?

Second, Jesus COMMISSIONED baptism. Sincere students of the Bible are aware of Jesus' "Great Commission" in three familiar texts: Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16; and Luke 24:46-47. Matthew has Jesus saying, "Go you, therefore, and teach all nations, *baptizing* them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit" (v. 19). Mark's record states: "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believes and is *baptized* shall be saved; but he that believes not shall be condemned". Some might object that Luke does not mention "baptism", thus implying that it is not required. However, Luke does record Peter's "Pentecost Sermon" in Acts 2, in which, the apostle, while fulfilling the Lord's commission, tells those listening, "**Repent**, and be **baptized** every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (v. 38). Clearly, Jesus commissioned baptism to be preached to and practiced by all nations and peoples.

Third, Jesus COMMANDED baptism. Jesus' words in the commission" accounts, when logically considered, must be viewed as more than mere casual comments. They call for compliance and bring to mind Jesus words: "Not everyone that saith unto me, 'Lord, Lord', shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that does the will of my Father which is in heaven" (Matt. 7:21). Furthermore, Jesus warns those who would reject His words (John 12:48). Another example of Peter's following the Lord's directives reveals that he "**commanded** them (the household of Cornelius), to be baptized" (Acts 10:48).

When it comes to baptism and all other spiritual matters, let us have "the mind of Christ" (Phil. 2:5-12). *Edward L Anderson*

FROM THE PREACHER'S HEART:

It was wonderful to worship God together on Sunday. One precious soul was added to the Lord's fold Sunday morning when Janice Hicks was baptized (see next column). We were blessed by several visitors. Worship was followed by an uplifting period of Bible study. On Sunday evening brother Brian Hall and wife Donna were with us with Brian presenting a very insightful report on his work in Guyana, South America. Many "Thanks" Brian and Donna, for the report and your work in the kingdom.

Sixteen staff members and ten campers and pre-campers of our number will be leaving for Jackson-Smith County Youth Camp (JSCYC), on Sunday afternoon. It is conducted at Taylor Christian Camp near Holland, KY. The 2021 camp will extend from Sunday afternoon until Friday at Noon. At present we have 128 campers enrolled and 47 staff members. The theme will be "VISION: Seeing Clearly the Things of God". We deeply appreciate all who contribute financially to camp. A special word of gratitude is due those who freely invest time and labor to work as counselors, teachers/speakers, cooks, and crafters. Pray for a safe and successful camp this year. NOTE: The TCC address is available on the bulletin board should you desire to send someone a card or message. The TCC phone number is also available in case you need to call.

Our Annual (until last year) Friday Night Singing is less than a month away! The date Friday, August 6. A meal is planned for 5:30 with the singing to begin at 7:00, but probably a little before. Thanks to Jerry Hicks for his work with the "Friday Night Singings".

Our Summer Series is underway and going well. We appreciate all the brethren who are willing to teach one of the thirteen lessons. We are using the lectureship book from the SEIBS lectureship book. It features numerous enlightening and challenging lessons from the book of John.

We trust all will have a great rest of the week and we hope to see everyone shortly before 9:00 AM Sunday. "I was glad when they said unto me, 'Let us go into the house of the Lord.'" (Psa. 122:1).

Edward L Anderson

NEWS & NOTES:

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

BAPTISM: Janice Hicks made the good confession and was baptized into Christ for the remission of sins on Sunday morning. We rejoice and pray for her a long life in the Lord's service.

SICK: Kim Bray sustained a broken wrist and a lump on the back of her head, after being struck by a truck. W. A. Gibbs is in Lebanon Health and Rehabilitation Center (Room 203A, 731 Castle Heights CT, Lebanon 37087), following hip replacement surgery. Darlene Hackett had a follow-up visit with the orthopedist on Monday. Sally Russell is recuperating at her son's home after gall bladder surgery last week. Michael Hicks was taken to the ER Saturday afternoon due to difficulty breathing. He underwent multiple tests before being released. Scarlett Hicks, Johnny Law, Barry Cook, and Denise Hackett have been ill. Barbara Jenkins was with us Sunday but still limited by ankle/hip issues. Ruby Anderson, Edward and Barbara's sister-in-law, continues to have trouble walking. Jake White has been released by his doctor. Gary Clemons, Wanda's husband, will undergo heart surgery at Centennial this Friday, July 16. Kim Sircy, their daughter, is suffering with a broken ankle. Mary Phillips continues to see a wound specialist twice weekly. Jerry continues to have pain from nerve damage from past surgery. Janice Hicks was to undergo two treatments at Vanderbilt this week. Lola King was with us Sunday. A recent CT scan did not reveal any changes.

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, and Pat Paysinger (Shut-ins).

AUGUST BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARY LIST: W.A. Gibbs, (1); Cheryl Hicks (4); Hannah Rutherford, Gail Vincent (10); Larry Silcox (13); Harper Whitaker (21); Misty Smith (22); Lelani Faustina, Jacob Bray (24); Payton Azbell (26); Sarah Mauldin, Laura Piper, Gordon Jenkins, (27); Barry Cohoon (30); Pat Paysinger (31). Chris & Amanda Hicks (8/5/06); Jim & Kathaleen Replogle (8/6/1977); Rick & Melinda Spivey (8/30).

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' grandson; Benjamin Gentry (USMC).

PRAYER LIST: Sue Reed; Jimmy Key; Tracy & Holly White; J.B. Dailey; Patricia Maxwell; Deborah Murray; Corbin Kirby; Cranston Massey; Robbie Napier; Teresa Hampton; Joyce Kilgore; James Spivey; Oaken Maberry; Mrs. Willie Sevier; Ron Gibson; Steven Linville; Pete Williams; Donald Eskew; Mark Scudder; Zander Dixon; Andy Futrell; Patricia Nye; Buddy Hyatt; Dustin Justice (lymphoma); Barbara Dixon; Conner Hackett; A. J. Purkey; Josh Dillard; Lavern Hardee; Dan Winkler; Steve Higginbotham; Wayne Lankford; Shirley Henry; Sandy Waggoner; Nancy Hicks Bane; Wendy Williams; Ruby Anderson; Roslyn Fox Stout; Denise Griffin; 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; Ray Hobbs; Wes Stafford; Sawyer Cole; Richard Rhoten; Earl Carter; Jennie Burnett; Arnold Rich; Jimmy and Carolyn Rigsby.

CONGRATULATIONS: To Rachel Carter on the birth of Caroline Faith (8 lbs, 6 oz., 19"), born 7/10/21 at 7:29 PM.

EVENTS CALENDAR: *Smith County Health Care/Rehab Center Devotional:* First Sundays of February, May, August, November- we will host on August 1, 2:00 PM; *Fifth Sunday Pavilion Devotional* (To be resumed when permitted); *Jackson/Smith County Youth Camp:* July 18-23; *Friday Night Singing:* August 6; *Bible Bowl:* September 18 at Hooper-Eblen Center. *Run4Don:* September 18.

MAGI BOXES: The Magi boxes are now available in the annex. Pick up as many as you wish, but be sure to sign the provided signin/signout sheet. Please return filled boxes by Sunday, July 25, or sooner, if possible. Postage will be paid by the church.

AREA EVENTS: *VBS:* Montrose church of Christ, July 11-15, 6:30 P.M. *Men's Seminar:* East Main (Murfreesboro), August 14, with B. J. Clarke, Jim Dearman, and Alan Highers; *Girl's Day:* East Main, with Laura Jenkins, September 11; *Bible Lands Museum:* Smyrna (Cookeville), August 13-15.

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. Making a visit can make a big difference in the life of another and our own! See Matthew 25:31-46.