



CENTERVILLE MESSENGER Free Upon Request-Published Weekly by Centerville Church of Christ, 138 N. Central Ave., Centerville, TN 37033-1427  
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*Todd Parsley*

## **"From Where I Sit"**



I hope that you had a wonderful Thanksgiving! A time to remember not only things to be thankful for now, but for all the things that God has done for us. I do not understand how people can celebrate "Thanksgiving" and never think about God and what He has done for all of us. Without Him, we would be nothing.

In John 3, we find a man named Nicodemus who was a ruler of the Jews. This meant that he was most likely a member of the Sanhedrin and a student of the law. He's familiar with what Jesus has been teaching and doing as he confesses to Christ *"we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him."* It's then that Jesus says to him *"Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."* Nicodemus of course struggles with this, and Jesus teaches him that one must be born of water and the spirit and because of Nicodemus's struggle with this Jesus gently rebukes him because Nicodemus should be someone who should see the connection. Many ask today, *"Is baptism a part of this discussion?"* There's no doubt it is as Jesus references being born of water and the spirit. But I also believe that Nicodemus is struggling with what the kingdom of God is and who it's for.

We readily know from scripture that a major hang up for the Jews, not only while Christ was here but even for many after the establishment of the church, was the kingdom of God being a spiritual kingdom and not a physical one. Jesus is teaching Nicodemus about what it takes to enter the kingdom of God in contrast to Nicodemus's perspective that only those who are born in the lineage of Abraham are kingdom citizens. Jesus continues to teach Nicodemus when he explains to him that kingdom citizenship is for all who believe in Him and who come to the light.

Many people today think only in physical terms and speak of that "kingdom" as though it was a future physical kingdom, but Jesus said, *"My kingdom is not of this world"* (John 18:36). Neither is the new birth a physical birth (John 3:4), for it has to do with one being *"born...of the Spirit"* (John 3:5, 6). So, Jesus explained to Nicodemus the spiritual nature of the new birth, which grants one the power to see and to enter the spiritual kingdom of God (John 3:7-8).

The water of which one is born in the new birth is the water necessary to be baptized. Jesus commanded the apostles to baptize those who believe. I hope we can take away from this passage that the kingdom of God is for everyone. Like Nicodemus we sometimes struggle with that. Some often approach evangelism with the mindset that the gospel is only for certain types of people. We've been called to sow the seed of the Gospel and God will give the increase. Yes, one must die, be buried, and born again to put on Christ (Romans 6, Galatians 3) but it must be based upon a true belief and faith in Jesus Christ as the Light of the world. What do we gain by entering the Kingdom of God? Jesus went on to say, *"as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life"* (John 3:15). He has promised us eternal life!

God Bless, Todd



## All Church Night

December 5, 2021

5 P.M. Worship

Dinner Served at 6

**2021 Volunteer Of The Year**

**Award Presented**

Recognition of New Members  
Christmas Program

## Menu

Brown Sugar Glazed

Ham

Turkey & Dressing

Green Beans

Cream Style Corn

Cranberry Salad

Rolls

Tea Coffee

Variety of Desserts

(Sign-Up In The Lobby For Desserts)

Join Us For A Great Night!

## Carter's Corner



IT IS REFRESHING TO TAKE TIME TO SLOW DOWN and take inventory of all the things you have to be thankful for. As I look back on a wonderful Thanksgiving week this past week filled with rest, family, turkey, and the beginning of our Christmas traditions for our family, I am reminded of how important it is to slow down from time to time. I hope that you used your Thanksgiving time wisely and find yourself refreshed and renewed for the remainder of 2021.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

DECEMBER 1

LIGHTHOUSE  
ANNA KATE & WILL  
MCDONALD

DECEMBER 5

ALL CHURCH NIGHT

DECEMBER 10

COOKIES WITH  
SANTA

DECEMBER 12

THE PROGRESSIVE  
DINNER

DECEMBER 15

A LIGHTHOUSE  
CHRISTMAS  
(DOTSON & YAM'S)

DECEMBER 19

JR. HIGH  
CHRISTMAS PARTY

DECEMBER 27-29

CAMP SNOWBALL  
XIV

FRIENDSGIVING WAS A GREAT SUCCESS for our youth group, as over 50 students gathered at Camp Meribah to enjoy a Thanksgiving meal with each other. The night concluded with a great crowd in bible class and the writing of many thank-you notes to express our gratitude to others. A big thanks goes to Joey & Charlene Hunt for hosting, our friends at Fish Camp for providing a delicious meal, and all the ladies of our congregation that made the pies for us to enjoy.

LIGHTS ARE BEGINNING TO BE placed on our Bus Garage in preparation for our Cookies With Santa Drive-Through on Friday, December 10th. Plans are in the works to take the momentum of a great event last year, and make this event even more successful this year! Our parking lot and Bus Garage will be transformed into a Christmas Wonderland, filled with lights and characters in costumes and of course, Santa himself! This event is from 5:00 -7:00 pm. We are in need of lots of bagged Christmas cookies (2 per bag) for this event! It is going to be a great night for our young children!

HAVE YOU EVER MADE A BAD CHOICE? It is hard sometimes to know what is the right thing to do in every situation. Whether at work, home, or elsewhere in life, our daily walk is filled with difficult choices. Our Heavenly Father gives us choices that have monumental consequences on our lives and it is up to us to choose what is right--integrity and character at home, at work, and in our walk with the Lord. There is nothing better than the joy and peace that come from obeying God. Resolve today to prayerfully seek God's wisdom and guidance regarding every choice that you face (Deuteronomy 30:19-20). Have a great week!

In Him, Carter

## Help Needed

...Marshall and Ann Spencer are needing help with basic housekeeping and cleaning. If you are available and able to help please call Marshall at 931-729-5628.

...a bedside extend-a-rail has been donated to the church. If interested call the church office at 931-729-4201.

## Thank You

Little Rock Church of Christ writes: "Thank you for your generous gift to Little Rock Church of Christ. We are thrilled to have your support, through your donations and all the kind people who came and worked so hard. We have been able to accomplish and continue to open our doors. You truly make the difference for us and we are truly grateful."

John Smith writes: "I would like to extend my gratitude for all the prayers that have been lifted up on my behalf, the cards that have been sent, the food that has been brought and the love that has been shown. I am a blessed man."

Dr. Jerry Nash writes: "To those who offered prayers on my behalf for successful surgery, and during my recovery, sent cards, made contacts and provided food, I am thankful for every one of these acts of spiritual belief and kindness."



December Items:

Canned Ravioli  
Toilet Paper

## STEWARDSHIP REPORT

### CONTRIBUTION

**November 28:**

**\$ 10,920.50**

**Camp: \$ 263.25**

**Budget:**

**\$ 12,979.00**

## Sunshine Bags



*Sunshine Bags* will be assembled on Wednesday night December 15th. If you can bring cookies, candy, or snacks for the bags, please do so by Sunday, December 12th. These will be distributed to Tulipwood, Nursing Homes and throughout the community.

## Memorial

...a Memorial has been given to the Day School in memory of Floy Lyell and David Easley by Doug Shepherd.

...a Memorial has been given to the Centerville Church of Christ in memory of Bobby Breece by Dr. Zack & Neetsie Hutchens.

## Please Pray For:

...David Talley will have surgery Thursday for skin cancer.

...Joyce and Bobby Mayberry are struggling with health problems.

...Susan Griggs is recovering from gall bladder surgery at home.

...John Smith is recovering from a stroke at home.

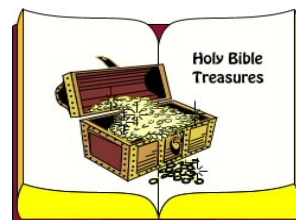
...Rebeca Mears is undergoing chemotherapy treatments for B-ALL Lymphoid Cancer. She is in Centennial Hospital. Room # 629, 2410

Patterson Street Nashville, TN. 37203

She will be in the hospital 2 more weeks, have 5 more weeks of outpatient chemotherapy, 5 weeks of radiation, a bone marrow biopsy and possible bone marrow transplant.

...Lowell Parsley, father of Todd, is recovering at home.

## Attention Ladies!!!



Registration Forms for the Retreat Must be turned in by December 15<sup>th</sup>!!!

Forms and information are on the table in the foyer

See Tina Dickerson if you have questions.



## December Celebrations



**Jim McCord**  
88 Years Old  
December 27, 2021



**James & Tommie Gadberry**  
Married 59 Years  
December 27, 2021



**John T. & Wanda Givens**  
Married 62 Years  
December 31, 2021



**A.J. & Willie B. Coates**  
Married 71 Years  
December 25, 2021  
Willie B. 89 Years Old  
December 30, 2021



## The Shepherd's Pen

What amazes you? The wonders of the human body? The marvels of the universe and of nature? The athletic ability of a particular athlete? What amazes you? If you are like most people, you never cease to be amazed by something. The most amazing thing ever to exist is the "Amazing Grace of God." The loving kindness, favor, goodwill, and graciousness of God. Life itself, the turning of the earth, the rising of the sun, each morsel of daily food, is made possible by the graciousness of God. He gives us everything we have. Our God is said to be "the God of all grace." (I Peter 5:10) His word, the Bible, is called "the word of His grace." (Acts 20:32) Jesus Christ is "the gift of His grace." (Romans 5:15) We are "justified by His grace." (Titus 3:7) The message we share is "the gospel of the grace of God." (Acts 20:24) The greatest, most glorious gift of His grace is salvation from sin. John Newton expressed it in the song Amazing Grace. "Amazing Grace! How sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me, I once was lost, but now I am found, was blind, but now I see." At age 82, blind and near death, John Newton spoke these last words, "My memory is nearly gone, but I remember two things, that I am a great sinner, and that Christ is a great Savior." All one absolutely must know about the saving grace of God is written in II Timothy 1:9-10. "Who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began, but has now been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel." God has saved us from our sins through Christ, has called us to a pure and holy life here, and life of glory hereafter. We want to thank you for your prayers, encouragement, and support. We are excited about this Sunday, our annual "All Church Night" following our evening worship service. A delicious meal will be served, we will recognize our new members in 2021, The "Volunteer of the Year Award" will be presented, and a program of entertainment. Make plans to come and looking forward to seeing you Sunday. Let us all be an encouragement, enthusiastic, and engaged!

Your Elders

## COOKIES WITH SANTA DRIVE-THRU



DECEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup>  
5PM - 7PM



Can you help with our Drive-Through Cookies with Santa by bringing cookies to the church office by Thursday, December 9th? Please put 2 cookies per bag. We appreciate your help with this.

## Centerville Church of Christ

Come Worship With Us !

Sunday

9 A.M./ 5 P.M.

Wednesday

7 P.M.

## Those To Serve in December

### Prayer Week of Dec. 5

S.M.W.  
Marshall Spencer

S.M.D.  
Gethlyn Gardner

S.E.W.  
Derek Newsom

S.E.D.  
Calvin Hoover

W.E.B.S  
Wayne Chessor

W.E.D.  
Major Qualls

### BOYS TO PICK UP CARDS IN DECEMBER

12/5: Cade Hoover, Macray Qualls,  
Landon Jenkins, Logan Jenkins  
12/12: Jagger Lawson, Jackson  
McDonald, Bo McDonald, Boone  
Newsom  
12/19: Brody Chessor, Bryson Chessor,  
Bruin Dotson, Keegan Dotson  
12/26: Cade Hoover, Macray Qualls,  
Landon Jenkins, Logan Jenkins

Please be up front by 8:50

Read Scripture  
Phil Griggs

Elders' Prayer  
Ken Dickerson

### Preside

Craig Shelton

### Meals On Wheels

12/1: Diane Garrett  
12/8: Susan Dotson  
12/15: Ken & Tina Dickerson  
12/22: Wayne & Carolyn Chessor  
12/29: Martha Loveless

PICK-UP MEALS AT 10:40

Bible Hour: Michael & Michelle  
Jenkins, John Jacobs, Weston  
Elkins, Major Qualls, Kate Peters,  
Ellie Aydelott, Sara True  
"Thankful" God Gave His Son

Hungry Hound Pantry Item:  
Soup

Greeters:  
Ken & Tina Dickerson  
Mike & Ridonna Goodpasture  
Gary & Becky Gatewood  
Wayne & Jean Qualls  
Craig & Misty Shelton  
Shane & Tammy Willis

### RADIO ROOM

Gaylon Cude  
Brian Qualls  
Weston Elkins  
Cameron Wright

NURSERY:  
Linda Smith

BAPT. CLOTHING:  
Susan Dotson

### USHERS:

Ronald Coates  
Monty Dunn  
Don Chessor

P.M. Communion  
Eli Jacobs  
Philip Jacobs

IN THE CHAPEL

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE