



# CENTERVILLE

## CHURCH OF CHRIST

CENTERVILLE MESSENGER Free Upon Request-Published Weekly by Centerville Church of Christ, 138 N. Central Ave., Centerville, TN 37033-1427  
January 24, 2024 Volume XXXIV -Number 4



**"From Where I Sit"**

*Todd Parsley*

**Worship With Us Sunday**

Sunday AM  
"Just A Christian"  
(I Corinthians 1:10-13)

Sunday PM  
"The Power of a Positive Message"  
(Colossians 2:6-7)

**9AM and 5PM**



### How Can I Be A Better Christian?

Someone asked, "How can I be a better Christian?" That is a good question, one about which each Christian ought to give some thought. The suggestions which I have made below will be a few among many which could be made. Each Christian needs to think in terms of his own life as to what he needs to do to be better. Maybe the suggestions below will help each of us.

1. We should strive to be more Christlike. That is what the word "Christian" means. Being Christlike is a broad subject which involves all areas of life. Any trait which Christ had in His life that we can add to our lives will make us a better Christian. We could be more loving and compassionate. We could be more forgiving and more forthright with truth. We could strive to do our heavenly Father's will just as Jesus made it His purpose to do His father's will (John 4:34).

2. We should be a servant. Jesus said that greatness came by serving. *"You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. It is not this way among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave; just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many"* (Matthew 20:25-28).

The best Christian is one who spends his life serving others. Mothers are faithful Christians when they serve their husbands and children. Husbands are faithful Christians when they serve their wives. Children are the kind of Christians God wants them to be when they serve their parents. Service does not have to be just in the family. Look around. There are people in our neighborhoods and among our fellow workers who need something. When we render a service to them, we are being a better Christian. Things learned in the "holy place" need to be practiced in the "marketplace".

3. We should worship God regularly, faithfully, and fervently. It is a mistake to think that one can be as faithful a Christian without assembling to worship as one who assembles to worship. Our heavenly Father seeks folks who will worship him. Jesus said, *"But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers"* (John 4:23-24). This is why the inspired writer of the book of Hebrews said, *"Not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near"* (Hebrews 10:25). One of the reasons Christians gather each week is to partake of the Lord's Supper (Luke 22:19) in order to remember what Christ did for

4. We should be involved with the church. God established the church as His body on earth (Ephesians 1:22-23). Christians are members of that body (1 Corinthians 12). Just as our physical bodies are better when each member of that body functions, so it is with the spiritual body. The body, the church, functions better when all of its members function properly. One cannot be a faithful Christian without functioning in that body. Be involved with the church. Find your place in the church and begin serving. Attend the church's activities. Support the work of the church. Be involved in the mission of the church. No one is going to be perfect. However, every Christian can be better. Each one needs to be as good a Christian as he possibly can be. Every Christian must examine himself (2 Corinthians 13:5) to see where he needs to grow. All the while that we are improving and striving to be better, we must remember that Jesus said, *"So you too, when you do all the things which are commanded you, say, 'We are unworthy slaves; we have done only that which we ought to have done'"* (Luke 17:10). We can never become a Christian who deserves heaven or who earns salvation. We simply keep striving for perfection even as our heavenly Father is perfect (Matthew 5:48; Hebrews 6:1). -Copied-

God Bless -Todd

# Carter's Corner



"For as the rain comes down,  
and the snow from heaven, And  
do not return there, But water  
the earth, And make it bring  
forth and bud, That it may give  
seed to the sower And bread to  
the eater." Isaiah 55:10



THE SNOW WAS BEAUTIFUL, and the time at home was needed and enjoyed, but I am ready to see the snow MELT this week. Our family is used to being on the go all the time, and we all began to develop cabin fever after being stuck at home for much of last week. With the snow disappearing, we are back to work as usual and making up several activities that were cancelled for snow.

WE HAVE A LIGHTHOUSE this Wednesday night as make-up for the postponed event last Wednesday evening. We will meet in the Lighthouse at 5:00 for supper and fellowship before bible study.

LACE UP YOUR SHOES and prepare for our "Ball In The Hall" 5th Quarter this Friday night after the HCHS basketball game in the Fellowship Hall. We will have a 3v3 co-ed Pass-N-Shoot tournament with bragging rights on the line. Make sure to invite your friends and help us pack "the Hall!"

THERE WILL BE A COMBINED FIRESIDE this Sunday night in the Lighthouse for both Jr. and Sr. High as we make up for the snow last week. Please help us spread the word to both Jr & Sr High students so that no one misses out on their Fireside this month!

THE TRAMPOLINE PARK TRIP for the Sparks & Intermediates has been rescheduled for Sunday, February 4th. This trip will replace the Valentine's Party that was initially planned. More details will be shared later, but plan to leave following morning worship, grab a bite to eat, and head to Franklin to the trampoline park. Parents are asked to attend with their children for this outing.

"Gracious words are like a honeycomb, sweetness to the soul and health to the body." (Proverbs 16:24). In these words, we find a profound truth – the impact of our speech extends beyond mere communication; it holds the power to both help and hurt others. Choosing words that encourage and align with the wisdom of Proverbs creates a ripple effect of kindness and healing. In a world that often thirsts for affirmation, our words can be a source of refreshment, bringing comfort to troubled hearts and strength to weary spirits. May we be intentional in our choice of words, cultivating a spirit of encouragement in our lives. As we speak, let us remember that our words have the potential to be a source of healing, spreading the sweetness of kindness and uplifting those who hear them. Have a great week.

In Him, Carter

## UPCOMING EVENTS

JANUARY 24

### LIGHTHOUSE

JOSEPH & SARAH ISENBERG

JANUARY 26

### 5TH QUARTER: BALL IN THE HALL

JANUARY 28

### JR & SR HIGH FIRESIDE

GWYNETH RICHARDSON,  
JACOB KREUGER, &  
BRAYDON CHESSOR

JANUARY 31

### LIGHTHOUSE

MCKENNA ALLEN

FEBRUARY 4

### SPARKS & INTERMEDIATES TRAMPOLINE PARK TRIP

FEBRUARY 8

### JR & SR HIGH PRAYER BREAKFAST

FEBRUARY 11

### SUPER BOWL PARTY





## A Baby Girl!



Congratulations to Chance & Rachael Atkinson on the birth of a baby girl January 13, 2024. Rhetta Katherine weighed 6 lbs. 6 ozs. and is 19 inches long.

## Baptism



Congratulations to Bryson Chessor who as baptized Sunday, January 21, 2024 by his father. Bryson is the son of Clay & Tara Chessor and grandson of Don & Vicki Chessor and Lisa Truett.

## Sympathy

...We express our sympathy to the family of Billy Joe Gordon who passed away in Linden. He was the uncle of Thomas (Cheryl) Chessor.  
...We express our sympathy to the family of Galen Romine who passed away. He was the cousin of Susan (Phil) Griggs.  
...We express our sympathy to the family of Barry Rochelle who passed away last week.



## Save The Date CAMP MERIBAH 2024

**Day Camp June 10-12  
\$75.00**

**Mini-Meribah June 13-14  
\$75.00**

**Youth Week June 16-21  
\$225**

**Teen Week June 23-28  
\$225**

## STEWARDSHIP REPORT

### CONTRIBUTION

January 14, 2024

\$ 12,003.44

Camp: \$ 234.00

January 21, 2024

\$ 6,899.82

Camp:

\$15.00

Budget: \$13,989.00

## Area Events

...*Living With Loss Workshop* February 9 -11, 2024. Plainview Church of Christ 14500 Hwy. 231-431 North Hazel Green, Alabama 35750 Facilitator: Dean Miller For more information please contact 256-828-3909.

...*Camp Leatherwood Ladies Present "Make Me A Servant Retreat"*  
Speaker: Celine Sparks

February 16-17, 2024 For more information contact: Gail Mosley @ 615-419-4192 or gmosley4192@gmail.com  
\*Registration forms can be picked up in the lobby.

## Save the Date!

CENTERVILLE CHURCH OF CHRIST INVITES YOU TO

### Ladies Day 2024

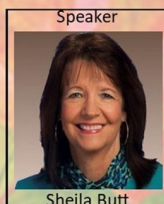
"Seasons of Service"

**Saturday, March 16, 2024**

Centerville Church of Christ  
138 N Central Ave, Centerville, TN

Continental Breakfast & Lunch

Speaker



Sheila Butt

More information to follow



...Bobby McCoy is in Maury Regional Hospital with pneumonia.

...Becky Mears got a good report from a recent scan.

...Floy Cochran, sister of Barbara Beard and grandmother of Misty Aydelott, is in Life Care for therapy.

...Ann Spencer has recovered from a staph infection. She is having a lot of shoulder pain.

...Margie Copley is recovering from bronchitis.

...Lorraine Bates is in St. Thomas Hickman Hospital recovering from a stroke.

...Ruth Staggs has been in St. Thomas Hickman Hospital with an infection. She hopes to return home soon.

...John Fly (Brenda) is in Life Care for therapy. He is dealing with multiple health problems.

...David Nash has requested your prayers as he struggles with dementia.

...Mike Staggs (son of Ruth) had back surgery Tuesday, January 23. It was rescheduled from an earlier date.

Recovering from surgery or other illness: Kathy McDonald, Truman Wrenne, Arch McCord, James Aydelott, David Talley, Jimmy Copley, Roy Cochran

Please Pray For Those Who Are Dealing With Cancer: Becky Gatewood, Bobby Stone, Rachel Watts, Shanon Irwin, Walter Holsomback

Nursing Home Life Care Center:

Floy Cochran, Tim Blackwell, Frances McClanahan, Margaret McCord, Hester Moss, Katherine Hoover, Larry Talley, Betty Davis

Home: Dan Wallace, Marilyn & Lonnie Gilliam, Glenda Teet, Gerald McFarlin, Janet Barber, Loudean Qualls, Dorris & Margie Claud, Troy Parks, John Thomas & Wanda Givens, Bobby & Joyce Mayberry, A.J. & Willie B. Coates, Martha Weber, Billy Garner

Ann Spencer

AHC Decatur County Nursing Facility Rehab. Wing Room 500 726  
S. Kentucky Avenue  
Parsons, TN. 38363

Margie Copley

The Bridge in Columbia, TN.  
851 W. James Campbell Blvd. Apt. 218  
Columbia, TN. 38401



**Tennessee**  
Children's Home

**January Items**  
**Baked Beans**  
**Spaghetti Sauce**  
**Men's Deodorant**

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

"Let Us Do Good"

As we have therefore opportunity, let us  
do good unto all men, especially unto  
them who are of the household of faith.

- Galatians 6:10 (KJV) -



## The Shepherd's Pen

What a difference a week can make with the current temperature 50 degrees warmer with rain. Even though the snow brought very frigid temperatures and some inconvenience to our daily routines, it was a reminder of God's wonderful creation. The dormancy of our surroundings during the winter months were revived with the beauty of the snowfall. If we find ourselves in a state of dormancy in our spiritual life, let the beauty of God's love revive us. *Through the LORD'S mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness. "The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "Therefore I hope in Him!"* (Lamentations 3:22-24) God loves us even when we disappoint Him or do something wrong. God's love for us is constant. God loves us in the good times, but He also loves us when situations in life are not going our way and we begin to doubt Him. *"His compassions fail not."* When difficult times come, how will you react? Will the adversities of life drive you away from God or will they draw you closer to Him in trust and faith? A continual growth in trust and faith will bring us closer to the peace which surpasses all understanding. (Philippians 4:7) If you were unable to be at worship this past Sunday due to the weather situation, let worship this Sunday be a top priority for you and your family. Let the walls be filled with conversation and laughter and our worship a time of reverence to our compassionate God.

*Your Elders*

### Prayer Week of January 28

S.M.W.  
Cory Martin

S.M.D.  
Keithen Harris

S.E.W.  
Jim Hudgins

S.E.D.  
George Bragg

W.E.B.S  
Eric Coleman

W.E.D.  
Patrick Allen

### Communion Prep.

January 28  
Crystal & Kailey Cannon

P.M. Communion  
In Chapel  
Kevin & Joseph Isenberg

### Elder's Prayer: January 28

Shane Willis

### Scripture January 28

David Brown

Preside  
(PLEASE BE ASSEMBLED UP FRONT BY  
8:55

January 28  
George Garland



**The Centerville Church Of Christ**  
Sunday: 9 A.M. Worship 10:20 Bible Class  
Sunday Evening: 5 P.M. Wednesday: 7 P.M.  
Classes For All Ages!