



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 4, 2023 Volume XXXXIII -Number 1



Todd Parsley

"From Where I Sit"



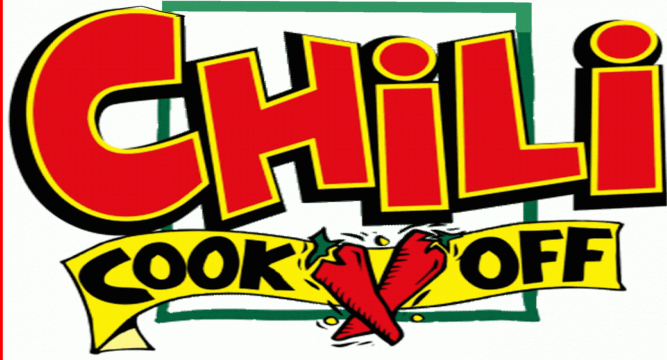
The old year is gone and no matter how hard we try we cannot bring back the past or have a do over. If you're like me, you certainly would like to have the opportunity to do something a little differently in the past year. But time marches on and we begin a new and exciting year. A year that can be filled with great expectations and opportunities for us to be better Christians, better spouses, better parents, better friends, and the list could go on.

The older I get the expression "time flies" seems like an understatement. I was told once by a dear friend, don't blink or time will be gone. Boy was she right! But time is moving quickly, and each passing year brings each of us closer to the day when our personal time on this earth will be over. More important, each day brings us closer to that day of reckoning when God will hold all mankind accountable for the way they have lived their lives and bring time, as this world knows it, to an abrupt end.

With the passing of time I've come to realize that the real basis of life does not consist in how many jobs we get done, how many promotions we accumulate, how much money we save or how many things we possess. What gives life meaning is our spiritual identity. We're created in God's image. He has an eternal home with Him prepared for us. Getting there, and hopefully taking others with us, is what life is all about. Serving God here is tied to our getting there. Teaching others this truth is part of serving God here. The devil has been very good at getting people to focus only on this life and away from God.

As the Lord's church, if we're not careful we can also get caught up in the material side of life. Our facilities are important, but they're only a means to an end, providing a comfortable and convenient setting in which to worship God, study His word and teach others the gospel. We need to focus on getting souls in the seats, people who need to hear the gospel. We need to reach out to them in effective, purposeful ways. We need to focus on our own need to be at services and on the importance of our children to be in Bible classes. We need to pray for, and seriously talk to, our brothers and sisters in Christ who either no longer attend or who attend sporadically.

Here we are at the beginning of another new year. Time is passing, getting shorter. We have work to do. Souls are at stake. Our souls may be at stake. There is precious little time left. Let us use this year wisely, squeeze out of it as much good as we can for the cause of Christ. Let us use our times in such a way as to be able, when our time is up, to feel good about the way we used it. Let us use this year first and foremost, to God's glory... Matthew 6:33 "Seek first the kingdom of God..."
God Bless -Todd



January 15, 2023

Worship at 5 P.M.

Chili Cook-Off 6 P.M.

In the Fellowship Hall

**Bring Your Favorite Chili,
Cheese, Crackers, Cornbread,
Cookies or Brownies!**

Men's Leadership Retreat

Saturday, January 21st

Guest Speaker : Gary Dodd

8:00 am – 11:30 am

8:00 – Breakfast in Fellowship Hall

9:00 – Gary Dodd in Auditorium

Sign-up Sheet in the Lobby

Carter's Corner



Carter Hoover

A NEW YEAR MEANS a new set of opportunities. I am thankful for this time of year and all of the positivity associated with it. Everyone is making plans and setting goals for the new year, and I sincerely hope that being an active part of our church family is a top priority on your list for 2023. 2022 was a fantastic year for our congregation, and I am looking forward to another wonderful year full of God's blessings.

A NEW YEAR ALSO MEANS A NEW school semester and another semester of youth activities. I am currently compiling the youth group calendar for the Spring semester and need several hosts for various events. If you would be interested in hosting a Fireside, Lighthouse, or Prayer Breakfast this semester, please let me know ASAP.

IT'LL BE SUMMERTIME before you know it, and it is time to start marking your calendars for Summer Camp at Camp Meribah. Lots more will be said in the coming months, but for now, make sure you save the dates for camp:

June 12-14	Day Camp & VBS
June 15-16	Mini-Meribah
June 18-23	Youth Week
June 25-30	Teen Week

AS WE ENTER this new year, let us remember that our hope and strength come from God. Psalm 46:1 says, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." No matter what challenges or changes we may face in the year ahead, we can trust that God is with us and will help us through. Let us also commit to following God more closely this year. In Matthew 6:33, Jesus says, "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." Let us prioritize our relationship with God above all else and watch as He blesses us in countless ways. May this new year be a time of growth, renewal, and a closer walk with God for each of us. Happy New Year!

In Him, Carter



Tennessee
Children's Home

January

**Baked Beans
Spaghetti Sauce
Men's Deodorant
Twin Sheet Sets**

*Monetary Donations
Always Appreciated*

Sympathy



Ruth McFarlin 1936-2022

We express our sympathy to the family of Ruth McFarlin who passed away December 20, 2022. Ruth was a long time member of the Centerville Church of Christ until her health failed. She began teaching fifth grade in Centerville in 1958. She completed her teaching career in 1990 as Senior English and Art teacher at Hickman County High School. To her husband Gerald, son John and daughter Cecily Haithcoat, grandchildren, family and friends we express our deepest sympathy.

Thank You

Margie Copley and Family write: "To my church family and friends, There is no words to express our thanks for the prayers and love shown us at this very difficult time. We appreciate the cards, gifts, food, calls and most of all your prayers. May God bless all of you. Please continue to pray for us. Love to all...."

John Plemmons, Jr. writes: "Thanks so very much for the Sunshine Bag. I deeply appreciate it."

Janet Barber writes: "Thank you to everyone for the cards, calls and prayers since I have been sick. I deeply appreciate it."

Memorial

...a Memorial has been given to Camp Meribah in memory of Ward Mayberry by the following: Library Class, Ken & Tina Dickerson, Dan & Juanita Buie

...a Memorial has been given to Camp Meribah in memory of Bobby Claud by Dan & Juanita Buie.

... a memorial has been given to the church in memory of Dana Luckett Garrard by Allen & Barbara Cummings.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

CONTRIBUTION

Jan. 1, 2023: \$ 17,350.01

Camp: \$ 253.00

Budget: \$13,532.00



The Shepherd's Pen

We had good attendance Sunday. A wonderful way to begin the new year! The year 2022 was a good year for this congregation. We had 6 families place membership, 13 baptisms, and 3 babies born. During the past year there were 16 who passed into eternity. What are your thoughts as you look back over the past year? Was it a year of heartache and loss, tragedy and sorrow? Was it a year of happiness and joy, success and achievement or something in between? No matter what the answer is, how do you think God looks on this past year in your life? Did it bring you any closer to Him? Did it find you wandering from His way? In Philippians 3:13-14 Paul wrote, "*Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.*" In the words from Paul, we can find four things that will help us in moving forward spiritually in 2023. "*I do not count myself to have apprehended.*" Paul was dissatisfied where he was spiritually. He had not arrived. He realized the importance of continual growth. If we're not careful, we can allow ourselves to get to the point of complacency spiritually. "*But one thing I do.*" This is a statement of devotion and dedication. In Paul's devotion there was direction, "*Forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead.*" Paul had determination! "*I press toward the goal.*" Entering this new year, let us all do a self-evaluation. Find some Dissatisfaction (areas needing growth and improvement), Find some Devotion (Christianity shouldn't be a compartment of our life, it should be our life.), Find some Direction, and Find some Determination. Looking forward to seeing you Sunday.
Your Elders

A Winter Prayer

For The Sick...

...Madelyn Owens is in Skyline Medical Center recovering from injuries due to a house fire. She is scheduled to have skin grafts on her hands on Tuesday.

...Joe Shipp, brother of Betty Breece, has been placed on comfort care.

...April Baker will have knee replacement surgery January 5th. She is the daughter of Junior Baker.

...Sandy Bryant is recovering from surgery for a broken wrist.

...Mike Staggs, son of Ruth, has returned home.

...Mark Vaughn, son of Dan & Juanita Buie, was diagnosed with transverse myelitis in October. He cannot walk or sit up on his own. *Please remember him in your prayers.*

...Mary Pickard is recovering from a broken hip and wrist.

Nursing Home Life Care Center:

Janet Barber, Gary Yates, Margaret McCord, Hester Moss, Ermadean Hickerson, Francis Qualls, Katherine Hoover, Louise Gordon, Betty Claud, Addie Bell Nash, Georgia Moss, Larry Talley

St. Thomas Hickman Nursing Home:

Betty Davis, Winnie Aydelott, Francis McClanahan

Home: Martha Weber, Dorris & Margie Claud, John Thomas Givens, Lonnie & Marilyn Gilliam, Bobby & Joyce Mayberry, A.J. & Willie B. Coates, Sue Roder, Troy Parks

Bobbie June Kittrell:

8353 Highway 100 Apt. 102 Nashville, Tennessee 37221

Recovering from surgery or other illness: Dan Wallace, David Nash, Linda Shelton, Billy & Juanita Garner, Loudean Qualls, Reba Horner, Ann Spencer

Please Pray For Those Who Are Dealing With Cancer:

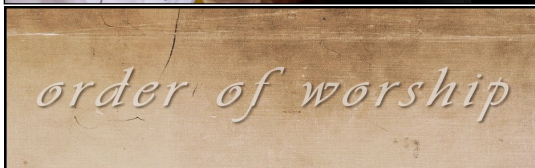
Juanita Bowman, Gethlyn Gardner, Rachel Watts, Robert Worley, Becky Keele, Bryan Williams, Carey Hight, Liz Bryant, Joe Shipp, Buster Peters, Rebecca Mears, Charlotte Graves, Mark Chessor



LIFE-LINE

Daily Updates & Devotional Message

931-729-5055



<u>Prayer Week of January 8</u>
<u>S.M.W.</u> Randy Wright
<u>S.M.D.</u> Major Qualls
<u>S.E.W.</u> Marshall Spencer
<u>S.E.D.</u> Brett Martin
<u>W.E.B.S</u> Jeremy Qualls
<u>W.E.D.</u> Weston Elkins

<u>Elder's Prayer:</u> January 8, 2022
Wayne Qualls

<u>Scripture</u> <u>January 8</u>
Barry Shelton
<u>Preside</u> Jonathon Longworth

