

We are fast approaching the end to another year. Time truly does continue to march on, and the older I get the faster it seems to march by. That is why we are often reminded in scripture to "redeem the time". We are also reminded by James in chapter 4:14 "For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away". As we come to the end of the year, we want to look into our theme of Matthew 6:33; "But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you".

Jesus was addressing the problem of excessive worry or anxiety. At the heart of his message was the primary importance of recognizing that God is the giver of our very lives. In the beginning of this text Jesus asks the question, "Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?" (6:25). Then he closes with "For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things" (6:32).

In between these two statements are the observations that are intended to appeal to our ability to reason. "Look at the birds of the air" and "Consider the lilies of the field." God takes care of these lowly beings. How much more will he care for us, who are of far more value because we were made in his image. The reality is that worry adds nothing productive to our lives.

Faith in God is that which leads us to seek his kingdom and his righteousness as our first priority. It is what Jesus taught his followers to pray: "Your kingdom come; your will be done" (Matthew 6:10). Seeking and praying for the kingdom of God means to seek his will in our lives. What we must seek first is the submission of our will to his. Seeking his righteousness means seeking to live by his standard of what is right in life. The result is that we will be filled. Life will be transformed for the better for us.

Jesus gives the promise that "all these things will be added to you." The point is not to dismiss the concern for the basic necessities of life. It is, rather, that the way to be assured of these things is to stop seeking after them and seek God. Seek heaven, and earth will be thrown in. Faith in God's care for us will enable us to live for today. "Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself."

"Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near" (Isa. 55:6).

God Bless -Todd

Carter's Corner



I HOPE THAT everyone had a terrific Thanksgiving holiday filled with good food and time spent with family. My article will be short this week so we can share our photos from a great Serve Week that we had before Thanksgiving. Make sure you let our young people know how proud you are of them for stepping up and helping to contribute to a great week of service activities. Our congregation is blessed with a great group of young people and we should be encouraged by their great Christian example. Have a good week!

In Him, Carter







WORK DAY! THANKS TO EVERYONE FOR YOUR HELP! CAMP











December Celebrations



James & June Aydelott Married 52 Years December 24, 2023



A.J. & Willie B. Coates Married 73 Years December 25, 2023 Willie B. 91 Years Old December 30, 2023





John T. & Wanda Givens **Married 64 Years** December 31, 2023



Bobby & Joyce Mayberry Married 68 Years December 23,2023 December 27, 2023



Michael & Shirley Bryant Married 52 Ýears December 31, 2023

Community Christmas Day Meal: Please consider helping with this very special Christmas Ministry. We need volunteers to prepare food ahead and Volunteers to work on Christmas Day. Please sign the list in the lobby if you can provide a dessert for this meal and deliver it on Christmas Day to Hickman County Middle School between 8-8:30 A.M. Contact Nancy Dansby 615-574-9887 for more information.

Those To Serve In December				
<u>Preside</u> (<u>PLEASE BE ASSEMBLED</u> <u>UP FRONT BY 8:55</u>	<u>Communion Prep.</u> <u>December 3</u> Brett & Heather	Life Care Center 12/3: Jeremy Qualls 12/10: Gethlyn Gardner	<u>Prayer Week of</u> <u>December 3</u>	<u>Read Scripture</u> December 3, 2023 Gaylon Cude
<u>December 3</u> George Garland	Martin December 10	12/17: Matthew Dotson 12/24: Daniel Dressler 12/31: Daniel Dressler	<u>S.M.W</u> . Daniel Dressler	<u>Elder's Prayer</u> : Mike Goodpasture
<u>December 10</u> Daniel Dressler	Keith & Judy Matlock	Tulipwood Service: John Bradley	<u>S.M.D</u> . Jim Hudgins	NURSERY:
<u>December 17</u> Bill McDonald	<u>December 17</u> James & June Avdelott	RADIO ROOM	<u>S.E.W</u> . Shaun Lawson	Holley Kruegar
<u>December 24</u> Randy James	December 24 Jonathan & Misty	Media Director: Gaylon Cude Video: Corey Martin Sound: Andy Weber	<u>S.E.D</u> . George Garland	BAPT. CLOTHING: Lesley Hudgins
<u>December 31</u> Robert Bowman	Aydelott December 31	Mac/Keynote: Finn Martin	<u>W.E.B.S</u> Keith Matlock	USHERS:
Left Side	George & Mary Sue Bragg	Meals On Wheels	<u>W.E.D</u> . Major Qualls	Ronald Coates,
Randy Wright Cameron Wright Philip Jacobs Eli Jacobs	<u>P.M. Communion</u> <u>In Chapel</u>	Dec. 6: Diane Garrett Dec. 13: Susan Dotson Dec. 20: Shirley Bryant Dec. 27: Wayne & Carolyn Chessor		Monty Dunn, Don Chessor
<u>Right Side</u>	Shaun & Jagger Lawson	PICK-UP MEALS AT 10:40	Greeters	
Brandon McCauley Weston Elkins Joseph McCauley Marshall McCauley	Bible Hour: Brad & Kristen Garland, Wyatt Aydelott, Sam Brown, Major Qualls, Will McDonald, Gwyneth Richardson, Sarah Isenberg, Anna Kate Jenkins, Hailie Tilley Hungry Hound Pantry Item: Pork & Beans		Ken & Tina Dickerson Gary & Becky Gatewood Mike & Ridonna Goodpasture Wayne & Jean Qualls Craig & Misty Shelton Shane & Tammy Willis	

