



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"

FAITHFULNESS

**"Be faithful until death, and I will
give you the crown of life."
Revelation 2:10**

We had a great day Sunday worshipping our God and studying His word. I hope that you were able to be a part of it. God calls us to worship Him on each First day of the week and what an awesome opportunity it is. In this edition of the Messenger enjoy the following article from Bro. B.J. Clarke on church growth.

The secret to church growth is really no secret. It is plainly revealed within the pages of God's word. You don't have to travel hundreds of miles to a soul-winning workshop to unlock the secret of church growth. You don't have to travel to the bookstore to purchase the latest volume written to reveal the mystery of church growth. Just travel over to the bookcase, pull down your copy of the sacred writings, open it to the New Testament and start reading.

Read of the life and ministry of Jesus. Read of how Jesus preached peace and went about doing good (Jn. 16:33; Acts 10:38). Read of how he demonstrated his love for the lost (Mk. 10:21; Jn. 15:13). Read of how he spoke the truth in love without ever compromising (Mt. 15:3-14). Read of the Jerusalem church and their common love for Christ and one another (Acts 2:44-47; 4:32-37). Read of how the first century Christians went everywhere preaching the word (Acts 8:4). Read of the tremendous sacrifices endured by the Apostle Paul so that the cause of Christ might be advanced (2 Cor. 11:23-28). Note the duties and qualifications of elders and deacons (1 Tim. 3:1-13). Read the epistles to understand God's will for each member of the Lord's body. After you've read and read and read some more, read Revelation 1:3 to learn that just reading is not enough.

We must read and then live out that which we have read. What is the secret of church growth? When preachers speak the truth in love, (Eph. 4:15) and reprove, rebuke, and exhort with all long suffering, (2 Tim. 4:2) the church will grow. When elders shepherd the flock properly under the direction of the Chief Shepherd (1 Pet. 5:1-4), the church will grow. When deacons serve well, it will be well with them and the growth of the church (1 Tim. 3:13; Acts 6:1-7). When each member seeks to live like Christ and to love like Christ, the church will grow. Simply put, the church will grow when every part of the body does its share (Eph. 4:16). This is God's plan and it will not fail! -B.J. Clarke

See ya Sunday, Todd

Carter's Corner



IT IS AN EXCITING WEEK IN HICKMAN COUNTY, as many people are looking forward to the upcoming Halloween Weekend. Our family has never been one to get excited over being scared or scaring others, but we are looking forward to a beautiful weekend of spending time with family, friends, and the community. Cade told me on Sunday night that, "it's almost Halloween, ya know?" followed by, "that means that 'that lady' (Vicky Smith) gets to bring her horses to Camp Meribah." I think he's looking forward to Halloween Under The Hill this Saturday, and I hope you and your children are too!

A FLYING CAR??? This past Saturday night, a group of over 50 students gathered at Fish Camp for our annual Haunted Hayride. Troy, Kim, & Lake Bates, along with their scary crew, had worked hard to plan the best and most creative Hayride I have ever witnessed. This year's hayride included a flying car, which Troy attached to a cable, suspended over his chert pit, lit on fire, and pushed across as we drove through. It was certainly a night to remember. Special thanks go to the Bates family for hosting and feeding our students, Jimmy & Holley Kreuger for providing our transportation, and to the rest of the large cast of "scarers" that made the night a lot of fun.

HALLOWEEN UNDER THE HILL is set for this Saturday evening, from 3:00-5:00 pm at the lower entrance to Camp Meribah. We have a fun afternoon set with Trunk-or-Treat, mini-horse rides, food, face painting, and a "Schmooky Trail" for all of our trick-or-treat-aged students. We are still in need of more cars for trunk-or-treat, as well as other volunteers for various activities. If you'd like to get involved, please see me or Philip Jacobs.

IN THE EVENT OF RAIN OR MUDDY CONDITIONS SATURDAY, we will move the location of Halloween Under the Hill to the Bus Garage parking lot. All of the other details (time, activities, etc.) will remain the same, but we will make the move to dry ground if needed. Stay up to date with our plans by following the youth group on Social Media, checking our website, or by calling Lifeline. Let's all pray for sunny and dry conditions this week!

THERE IS STILL ROOM for plenty more Fathers, Sons, and men from our congregation to be a part of our Father/Son Weekend & Skeet Shoot coming up on November 5-6. We will enjoy a great time of fellowship, food, campfires, and a devotional Friday night, followed by an overnight stay in the Spring House, an early morning breakfast, devotional, and a Skeet Shoot Saturday morning. We are flexible for people with different needs during this event, so I want families to know that they can come and go as needed throughout the weekend. I understand staying overnight might be hard for some (Cade won't be staying the night), but everyone is welcome to be involved as little or as much as they can. Sign the list in the lobby if you plan to attend or see me if you have any questions!

IN THE SUMMER OF 1998, when Mark McGwire broke Roger Maris's single-season home run record (61), he taught the fans in attendance that day an important lesson: It is critical to touch all the bases. On his historic run around the basepath, McGwire rounded first base without touching the bag and had to be called back by the first-base coach. He had to return and tag the base or otherwise the record-breaking home run would not have counted. The small details in life are important--often critical--to the success of any endeavor. Let us strive this week to not "cut corners" in whatever we do in life, even when times are difficult or we encounter hard days. Remember the wisdom of the Proverb Writer in Proverbs 13:4, *"The soul of the sluggard craves and gets nothing, while the soul of the diligent is richly supplied."*

Have a great week! Go Braves!

In Him, Carter

November Celebrations!



Claudine Morrison
97 Years old
November 1, 2021



Mary Katherine Bates
93 Years Old
November 6, 2021



Brownie Mayberry
99 Years Old
November 8, 2021

November Celebrations!



Margie Copley
94 Years Old
November 7, 2021



Mattie Ayers
87 Years Old
November 18, 2021



Bobby & Sandy McFarlin
Married 53 Years
November 27, 2021

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

CONTRIBUTION

October 24:
\$ 11,613.45
Camp: \$ 215.00

Budget: \$ 12,979.00

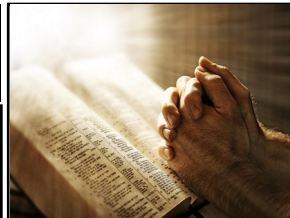


The Shepherd's Pen

The Fall of the year is a time when the temperature is cooler, the foliage is changing to brilliant colors, and the thought of soups or chili awaken our taste buds. It seems everyone has their favorite soup or chili recipe. As it simmered on the stove, adding a few simple ingredients, it can become a masterful dish that would delight anyone's hunger. Peter wrote in **II Peter 1:3** *"His divine power has given us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him."* Our growth as a Christian is like the recipe of your favorite soup or chili. We already have the ingredients. We just need to mix them together and start cooking. The main ingredient, salvation in Christ, is already in the pot. *"Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."* **Acts 4:12** The rest of the ingredients are in the pantry waiting for you. The ingredients are marked with labels *virtue, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness, love.*

II Peter 1:5-7 If these ingredients are part of your spiritual recipe, then you will not lack nothing. *"For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."* **II Peter 1:8** What's on the menu for your spiritual growth each day? God offers all we need for life and godliness. Allow who He is and what He is doing to gradually work itself out in your daily life, like the aroma of a delicious bowl of soup or chili. We again want to thank you for your prayers, encouragement, and support. We are excited about this Sunday and looking forward to seeing you. *"Walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God."* **Colossians 1:10** Let us all be an *encouragement, enthusiastic, and engaged!*

Your Elders



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

...Lowell Parsley, father of Todd, is undergoing tests on his heart this week.
...Marge Rushton will have another scan in 4 weeks. She will not have treatments at this time.
...Travis (Nick) Nickell, who grew up in Centerville, is dealing with cancer and would appreciate your prayers. He lives in Marietta, Georgia.

Recovering from surgery or other illness:

Mike Parsley, Sandra Barber, Jeremy Primm, Pam Anderson, Amy Sanders, Melvin Roberson, Dot Allen, Keith Barber, Fred Bowman, David King, Jamie Stoltz, Caleb Barker, Jessie Seagraves, Elton Morgan, Jerry Greene, Lovada Burklow, Loudean Qualls, Jimmy Copley, Alden Chilton, Reba Horner, Dan Elkins, Ann Spencer

Please Pray For Those Who Are Dealing With Cancer:

Marge Rushton, Shirley Harris Burns, Luther Brown, Kari Mobley, Wayne Cornwell, Sandra Cooper, Brenda Martinez, Raymond Stoltz, Kenneth Dotson, Allison Staten, Gail Kincade, Steve Higginbotham, Everett Kelley, Thomas Gaines, Colleen Polk, Michael McCarley, Allan Newton, George Peterson, Lonnie Gilliam, Ann Laurant Plunkett, Jimmy Jenkins, Susan Hardy, Jimmy Copley, Gwen Rogers, David Talley, Jerry Shepard, Jimmy Mathis

Home:

John Thomas Givens, Lonnie & Marilyn Gilliam, Bobby & Joyce Mayberry, Claudine Morrison, Dorris & Margie Claud, Floy Lyell, A.J. & Willie B. Coates, J.W. & Sue Roder, Troy Parks

Sympathy

...We express our sympathy to the family of Don Horner who passed away.

Thank You

Jane Talley writes: "Thank you so much for the beautiful lantern that was given to me at the passing of my brother-in-law Joseph Carpenter. I really do appreciate your thoughtfulness."



There will be a Ladies' Luncheon for Widows/Single Lady Members November 7th served at 11a in the Fellowship Hall hosted by the Elders & Wives.



Elder's Prayer
October 31:
Gary Gatewood

Read Scripture
Marshall Spencer

Preside
George Bragg

Prayer Week of
October 31
S.M.W.
Cecil Qualls
S.M.D.
Dr. Eddie Boone
S.E.W.
Wayne Chessor
S.E.D.
Joey Hunt
W.E.B.S
John Jacobs
W.E.D.
Clay Chessor