



# CENTERVILLE

## CHURCH OF CHRIST

CENTERVILLE MESSENGER Free Upon Request-Published Weekly by Centerville Church of Christ, 138 N. Central Ave., Centerville, TN 37033-1427  
October 5, 2022 Volume XXXXII -Number 37



**"From Where I Sit"**

*Todd Parsley*



What beautiful weather we have been blessed with lately. Beautiful Sunday mornings (every Sunday is beautiful) always bring the anticipation of coming together with fellow Christians to offer our praise and worship to the God who blesses us more abundantly than we even realize. I hope and pray that you obey God's command to worship Him on each and every first day of the week.

I know that we all at times struggle with spiritual discouragement. Some days our circumstances threaten to overwhelm us, and we struggle just to pray to God. There are times we just don't feel like doing the things we know we should. God sometimes seems so far away and unreachable, so why bother.

David faced times like these in his life. The Psalms are filled with verses that express his despair and feeling of abandonment. Yet the Psalms also provide us with the key to living, making it through those dark times in life. Psalm 119:89-95; *"Forever, O LORD, Your word is settled in heaven. Your faithfulness continues throughout all generations; You established the earth, and it stands. They stand this day according to Your ordinances..."*

My current life circumstances or my feelings have not changed God in anyway. He is the same God today as He has always been, from the *"In the beginning..."*, to when He led the Israelites through the Red Sea, to when He fed the five thousand abundantly with just five loaves of bread and two fish. *"For all things are Your servants..."* All things, even the things affecting me right now, are God's servants. The circumstance, people, and events around me are all under God. They are His servants, designed to help and bless me spiritually. *"If Your law had not been my delight, Then I would have perished in my affliction. I will never forget Your precepts, for by them You have revived me. I am Yours, save me; For I have sought Your precepts. The wicked wait for me to destroy me; I shall diligently consider Your testimonies."*

Remembering God's faithfulness and control over everything gives us strength to walk with God even when we feel like giving up. After all, our feelings and circumstances have not changed God. He is perfectly capable of sustaining us if we will only let Him. We simply need to choose to delight in and diligently *consider* God's promises to us despite what we are going through or how we feel. Choosing to delight in God may not also be easy. It will even involve hard work. But only God can revive our soul from spiritual discouragement.

Next time you feel spiritually drained, discouraged, or inadequate, remember that you have a choice. You can tie yourself up in excuses and self-pity, or you can choose to draw your strength from an unchanging God who has promised us He will lead us through whatever it is we are struggling with. God Is Faithful!

God Bless -Todd

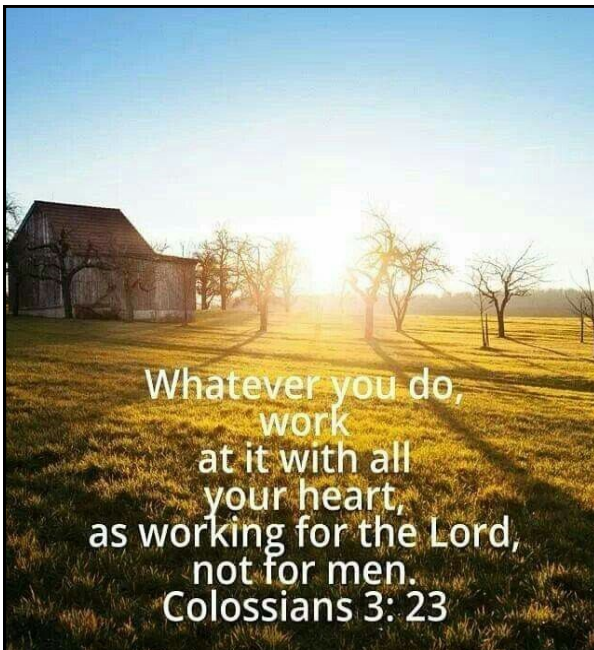
# Happy 50th Anniversary!



**Happy 50th Anniversary  
George & Cindy Garland  
October 5, 2022  
Congratulations!**

**Deacon Submission Card  
Available in Foyer**

**Once Completed, place in the box.  
Please return by Sunday, October 9<sup>th</sup>**



# Carter's Corner



*Carter Hoover*

IT WAS THE PERFECT NIGHT FOR A FISH FRY this past Sunday evening as Braydon Chessor hosted the Jr. High at his home for our October Fireside. I don't think it's much of a secret, but no one can fry fish better than Clay Chessor. It was a great night to enjoy being outdoors as a youth group playing and enjoying time together. A big "thank you" goes to Braydon, Clay, & Tara for hosting us and for all the effort that goes into having us in their home.

FALL BREAK IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER, which means it is time to start planning our annual Halloween On the Hill event at the end of the month (October 29, 3:00-5:00 pm). We will gather at Camp Meribah for a fun afternoon of trunk or treat, food, games, and fun. There is a sign-up list in the lobby for anyone willing to decorate their cars for Trunk or Treat. This event is well attended by so many in our congregation and community, and I want to encourage everyone to help make this event a success for our church family. Mark your calendars and make plans to get involved!

HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF the boll weevil beetle? In the early 1900s, this ugly little bug almost single-handedly financially crushed the city of Enterprise, Alabama. The boll weevil feeds on cotton buds. Cotton was the primary cash crop for Southern Alabama at this time, and Enterprise was struggling. In two years, their cotton production had dropped 90 percent! A small group of farmers in Enterprise decided they needed to try something different. Instead of focusing on the boll weevil, they switched to a new crop. Peanuts. In just a few years, Enterprise became the largest producer of peanuts in the country, leading to tremendous economic prosperity. The cotton farmers found great reasons to celebrate what was an economic tragedy and a desperate situation. In fact, today, there is even a monument in Enterprise dedicated to the pesky pest!

Romans 5:3-5 says, "...but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.." It is hard to even think about celebrating when we are in the middle of suffering. But these verses remind us that God uses our suffering to transform us into the likeness of Christ. God wants us to grow in endurance, character, and hope. He wants us to know His love in a brand-new way.

Imagine the cotton farmers' frustration when dealing with the boll weevils. Yet, after a few years, they rejoiced in their suffering because of what it had produced! Remember that God is at work when you are walking through a difficult season. He might be opening another door (like growing peanuts!). Or even if your challenging season continues, you can trust that God is at work in and through you. God finishes what He starts. Have a great week! In Him, Carter

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**OCTOBER 5  
LIGHTHOUSE  
TREVOR & HEATH  
BUCHANAN**

**OCTOBER 10  
FALL BREAK WEEK**

**OCTOBER 19  
THE HAUNTED  
LIGHTHOUSE  
HAILEE & AUSTIN  
HALLIBURTON**

**OCTOBER 21  
HOMECOMING  
BONFIRE**

**OCTOBER 23  
SR HIGH FIRESIDE  
WESTON ELKINS**

**OCTOBER 25  
JR & SR HIGH  
PRAYER BREAKFAST**

**OCTOBER 28  
HAYRIDE 5TH  
QUARTER**



## Sympathy

...We express our sympathy to the family of Helen Webb who passed away. She was the cousin of George (Nanette) Simmons.

...We express our sympathy to the family Albren Copley who passed away October 2, 2022. To his wife of 75 years Margie, son Barton (Cathie), son-in-law Marty Colera, and all grandchildren we express our deepest sympathy. *Mr. Copley was preceded in death by his daughter Winnie Copley Colera.*

... We express our sympathy to the family of Sonny Copley who passed away. He was the brother of Jimmy (Cathie) Copley and Bobby Copley.

## Memorial

...a Memorial has been given to the Camp Meribah Scholarship Fund in honor of Matthew Dotson and Bill McDonald by Carolyn Brown.



Please Join Us For  
*A Surprise 90th Birthday Celebration*  
For Priscilla Barber  
Saturday, October 8, 2022  
From 2-4 P.M. at the  
Centerville Church Of Christ  
Outreach Center  
111 East. Swan Street  
Centerville, Tennessee 37033  
NO GIFTS  
Only Cards, Well Wishes,  
Memorable Photos &  
Your Presence



October 10-14, 2022

## STEWARDSHIP REPORT

### CONTRIBUTION

**October 2, 2022**

**\$ 13,328.00**

**Camp: \$693.00**

**Budget:**

**\$ 13,532.00**



Please Join Us To Celebrate The 80th  
Birthday Of Faye Dotson  
October 9, 2022 at the  
Outreach Center from 1-3:30 P.M.

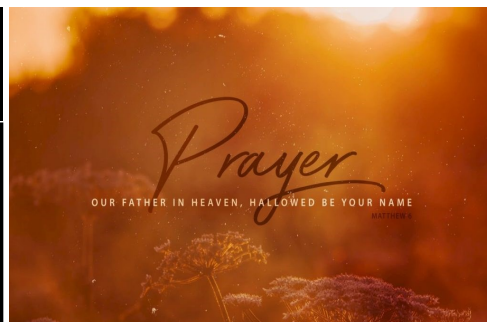
## UPCOMING EVENTS

...*Homecoming & Family Day* at the White Bluff Church of Christ, 1466 Hwy. 70 E, White Bluff, TN. 37187  
Speaker: Heath Pickard Bible Class & Worship 9,10, & 1 Potluck lunch at 11:30.

...*Ladies Day at the White Bluff Church of Christ* November 5, 2022 "Anchored By Hope" with Lori Boyd Registration will be at 8:30 Lunch will be served.

...*Finding MEANING In A Meaningless World* Lessons from Ecclesiastes with Andrew Roberts at the Jackson Heights Church of Christ 1200 Nashville Hwy. Columbia, TN. October 16-19 Sunday 9:15, 10:15. 5p Monday-Wednesday 7p.

...*Crieve Hall Church of Christ* invites you to an evening of Congregational Singing Friday, October 21, 2022 7-10:30 P.M. Refreshments Provided



...Martha Loveless is undergoing tests for pain in her hip.

...Lynette Harris is recovering at home and doing well.

...Mike Staggs, son of Ruth, has an infection in his leg.

...Loudean Qualls, mother of Wayne & Don, is recovering at home.

...Evelyn Jane Barr, infant daughter of Corbin and Lauren (Gatewood) Barr, is in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit in Prisma Health Richland Hospital in Columbia, South Carolina. She weighs 2 lbs. and is doing well.

Recovering from surgery or other illness: Jeremy Gilbert, Linda Smith, Jase Bradley, Billy & Juanita Garner, Ann Johnston, Pam Anderson, Loudean Qualls, Reba Horner, Ann Spencer

Please Pray For Those Who Are Dealing With Cancer: Tim Garrett, Carey Hight, Juanita King, Liz Bryant, Joe Shipp, Jill Akens, Buster Peters, Rebecca Mears, Charlotte Graves, Mark Chessor, Shirley Harris Burns, Steve Higginbotham



Children's Home Food Drive  
**October Items:**  
**Kool-Aid Canisters,**  
**Paper Towels**

## Baptism



We rejoice with Albren Copley who was baptized Saturday, October 1, 2022.



**LIFE-LINE**  
Daily Updates &  
Devotional Message

**931-729-5055**



# The Shepherd's Pen



Sunday was a beautiful day! The fall season has begun, and the weather could not be more pleasant. This Sunday will be the deadline for submitting names considered for deacons. Please place your submission cards in the box by Sunday PM. This year seems to have gone by quickly. We are in the last quarter of the year, 2023 is only three months away. Our theme for 2022 came from 1 Corinthians 15:58, "*be steadfast, immovable, and always abounding in the work of the Lord.*" We have heard it read numerous times throughout the year. The apostle Paul compares the Christian life with a long-distance race. There are many who are not running the race at all. Some are merely jogging, some are just walking, and many more sit watching as spectators. The Hebrew writer wrote in Hebrews 12:1, "*let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.*" Our example and encouragement are "the great cloud of witnesses" mentioned in the previous chapter. These faithful men and women of God. We are to run the race of faith like they did, always trusting, never giving up, no matter what obstacles, hardships, or sacrifice they faced. It was October 20, 1968, the Mexico City Olympic Stadium was both the starting line and the finish line of the Olympic marathon. During the race, John Stephen Akhwari of Tanzania stumbled and seriously injured his leg. Medics bandaged his bloody calf, and then Akhwari rose and began to hobble forward. Though in agonizing pain, he continued mile after mile. He finally entered the stadium, he completed the final lap, hobbling all the way. Later, a sportswriter asked, why didn't you just quit? Akhwari responded, "My country did not send me 5,000 miles to start the race. It sent me to finish the race." Jesus knew the finish line of His race on earth. What was at the end of the race motivated Jesus to leave heaven and endure on earth. Jesus ran for two future things: (1) the joy set before Him; and (2) the glory of sitting at the right hand of God's throne. (Hebrews 12:2) When we get weary in our race and our faith weakens remember the words in Galatians 2:20, "*I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.*" We can rejoice that we will one day live together with Him. Looking forward to seeing you Sunday. Keep the faith, *be steadfast, immovable, and abounding!* God will see us through.

Your Elders

## October 9

Elder's Prayer:

Mike Goodpasture

## October 16

Elder's Prayer:

Wayne Qualls

## Prayer Week of October 9

S.M.W.

George Bragg

S.M.D.

Brad Garland

S.E.W.

Marshall Spencer

S.E.D.

Brett Martin

W.E.B.S

Jim Prince

W.E.D.

Eric Coleman

## Prayer Week of October 16

S.M.W.

Cecil Qualls

S.M.D.

Michael Bryant

S.E.W.

Eric Cannon

S.E.D.

Clay Chessor

W.E.B.S

James Aydelott

W.E.D.

Weston Elkins

Centerville Church of Christ 138 North Central Avenue  
Centerville, Tennessee 37033 Office: 931-729-4201  
Secretary Tammy Willis EMAIL: tammy  
@centervillechurchofchrist.org

### Ministers

Todd Parsley: 931-994-8333

Matthew Dotson: 615-418-2051

Carter Hoover: 931-797-9743

Shane Willis: 615-308-9161

### Elders

Ken Dickerson: 931-252-1944

Gary Gatewood: 615-714-1925

Mike Goodpasture: 615-418-2278

Wayne Qualls: 615-418-4043

Craig Shelton: 615-418-2228

Shane Willis: 615-308-9161

**FOR  
YOUR  
INFORMATION**

NO  
MESSENGER  
OCTOBER 12, 2022  
NO BIBLE CLASSES  
OCTOBER 12  
DEVOTIONAL  
ONLY

## October 9

Scripture  
Colby Shelton

Preside  
Dr. Jerry Nash

## October 16

Scripture  
Philip Jacobs

Preside  
Brian Qualls