

TEN LITTLE CHRISTIANS

Ten Little Christians standing in line
One disliked the preacher, then there were nine
Nine little Christians stayed up very late
One overslept, then there were eight
Eight little Christians on their way to Heaven
One took the low road and then there were seven
Seven little Christians chirping like chicks
One disliked the music, then there were six
Six little Christians seemed very much alive
but one lost his interest then there was five
Five little Christians pulling for Heaven's Shore
but one stopped to rest, then there were four
Four little Christians each busy as a bee
One got his feelings hurt, then there were three
Three little Christians knew not what to do
One joined the sporty crowd, then there were two
Two little Christians, our rhyme is nearly done
They differed with each other, then there was one
One little Christian can't do much 'tis true
brought his friend to Bible study - - then there were two
Two earnest Christians, each won one more
That doubled the number, then there were four
Four sincere Christians worked early and late
Each won another then there were eight
Eight splendid Christians if they doubled as before
In only ten years, we'd have 1,024
In this little jingle, there is a lesson true,
You belong either to the building or to the wrecking crew!
(Larry Pasley, minister for the Jackson Street Church of Christ, Alexandria, LA)

ASK A FRIEND TO ATTEND

Volume 27

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CHURCH OF CHRIST
711 N. Main Street
P.O. Box 88
Carthage, TN 37030
RETURN SERVICE
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SMITH COUNTY LIGHT

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."(Matthew 5:16)



MEETING PLACE OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Michael Hackett
(615-735-7046)
Johnny Law
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Jerry Phillips
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(931-319-6548)
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Dusty Whitaker
(615-709-1086)

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday Worship

9:00 A.M.
6:00 P.M.
12:30 P.M. last Sunday of month
Bible Study
Sunday Morning
10:15 A.M.
Wednesday Evening
7:00 P.M.

Evangelist:

Edward L. Anderson
(615-735-2462)

Youth Minister:

Justin Mauldin
(931-319-6548)

Secretary:

Elaine Wright
(615-735-0114)

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Website: www.carthagechurchofchrist.net

Sunday & Wednesday Services broadcast on Facebook & YouTube

FREE Bible Correspondence Courses, Tracts or Home Bible Study/ Videos.
(615-735-0114 or 615-735-2462)

"VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME"

A TALE OF TWO SONS

Edward L. Anderson

How can two boys born to the same parents be so different? It is apparent that humans are created free moral agents. We have ability to reason, think, react, and choose between good and evil. Cain and Abel, sons of Adam and Eve, are an example (See Genesis 4). Esau and Jacob, twin sons of Isaac and Rebekah, also illustrate the point (See Genesis 25:20-34ff). A third example involves the two sons in the powerful "Prodigal Son" parable" delivered by Jesus (Read Luke 15:11-32).

"A certain man had two sons" is how the parable begins. The first part of the parable (vs. 12-24), deals with "the younger son". The second part of the parable is devoted to "his older son" (vs. 25-32). Two sons of the same father, but so different in disposition! The older son **stayed** while the younger **strayed**. The older **worked** while the younger **wasted**" (A "prodigal" is a waster"). The older **served** while the younger **shirked**.

It would appear, as expected, that the older son is more responsible. The younger is more restless and reckless. He is clearly more demanding – "I want what's coming to me". Upon receiving his part of the inheritance, in a few days, he "gathered all together ("Got to get out of here"), journeyed to a far country ("The grass is always greener"), and wasted his possessions with prodigal living ("Easy come, easy go")" (v. 13). You know the rest of the story.

The penitent prodigal's return to his watching and waiting father caused rejoicing among all the household – except the older son and brother! Upon coming in from the field he inquired of a servant what all the festivities meant. When told, he responded in anger refusing to go in! So, his father came out to plead with him, only to be met with an angry lecture about all the injustices and neglect he, as the older son, had experienced! Had he been seething for years?

Why did the older brother not go forth, search for his "little brother", and bring him home? Some "older brothers" have that instinct. His father would have, no doubt, given him leave from his "service" in the field (see v.29). May we never get so caught up in "routine" service that we forget our "primary" service of seeking and saving the lost (Luke 19:10).

FROM THE PREACHER'S HEART:

We were blessed with wonderful services Sunday morning and Sunday evening. Our sister Michelle Allen was restored Sunday evening. Welcome back, Michelle! We were happy to have some back with us some who have been ill. We missed others who were either ill, working, or out of town. Let us be glad when we gather to worship God in spirit and in truth (John 4:24).

Make it a point also to be involved in our Bible study program. Your Bible knowledge will be increased. For good measure, read and study your Bible daily (See Acts 17:11)! A lot of preparation and work go into our Bible study classes, both Sunday morning and Wednesday evening. Let's encourage our teachers and be good students of the word.

Several visitors – some from the area; some from out of town – blessed us by worshipping with us. Be sure to do your best to meet and greet those who come our way. Friendliness and hospitality make impressions for good.

The elders, deacons, and preachers met Sunday afternoon for the monthly meeting. Continue to pray for our leaders, the mission works, and other good works in which we are involved and support. Budget preparation is underway for the coming year. The Lord's work has a need for servants! Be a volunteer!

We had a great number of children for our "Pew Packers" class on Sunday evening. It may have been a record number! I recall being in such classes when but a child, having learned the books of the Bible, the apostles, and numerous other things. Try to have your children and grandchildren here by 5:45 each Sunday afternoon.

Great news from House to House/Heart to Heart. A recent report reveals that in 2020 there were more conversions in churches utilizing the publication than in any year previous. That number has already been broken in 2021 with more than four hundred baptisms already reported this year! That's more than one conversion per day. Remember: One soul is of more value than the whole world (Matt. 16:26). To God be the glory!

We appreciate all those who read this bi-weekly bulletin. If you wish to study the Bible by correspondence courses or home Bible studies, please contact us.

I hope to see you Sunday morning! **Edward L Anderson**

NEWS & NOTES:

RESPONSE: Michelle Allen responded Sunday evening desiring prayer for restoration and forgiveness. We rejoice with Michelle. May God bless!

SICK: Cierra Haffner has been returned to Vanderbilt where she underwent surgery on Monday for blood clots. Ryan Haffner is recovering from recent foot surgery. Janice Hicks was to have a treatment today (Wed.). Little Julieanna Morris cut her head in a fall last week but is doing well. Ruby Fisher was ill Sunday. Betty Law, Johnny's mother, is at home and improving after rehab. Jerry and Mary Phillips continue to deal with health issues and need our prayers. Barbara Jenkins has sinusitis and bronchitis. Gordon has also been ill. Their daughter Amy Hunt and her family are dealing with COVID. Their great-grandson, Zayden Rowlett, has pneumonia. Carolyn Harris is now at home after a hospital stay. Patricia Brooks needs our prayers. Steve Claywell was able to be with us Sunday. Lola King, Faye Maberry, Sally Russell, and Dayton Jamison were able to be with us Sunday. Prayers are requested for Wayne Hall (stroke), cousin to Edward Anderson; Wanda Fisher's mother, Brenda Forrest, and her sister, Bea Davis in prayer; Ruby Anderson, Edward and Barbara's sister-in-law; Cornell Coats (student at SEIBS), improved, but is still in the hospital due to COVID; and Bobby (in hospital), and Diane Slack. Gary Vinson, cancer.

NURSING HOME/ ASSISTED LIVING/ SHUT-INS: Lovell Chaffin; Wilma Richardson; Judith Newberry; Mary Lou Smith; Frances Glosser; Ricky Branham; (SCHR); Loneta Bains (Pavilion); Pat Paysinger (Shut-in).

IN THE MILITARY: Jana Watson, Ann Carter's granddaughter (Army); Randy Carter's sons and Lacey Crockett's brothers, Derek (Army) & Landon Carter (Coast Guard); PFC Samuel Burton (USMC), Darlene Fariss's grandson; Benjamin Gentry (USMC).

SYMPATHY: To the following: The family of Gay Nell Hale, great-grandmother of Allen White; the family of Roger Kemp, of the Kempville community.

PRAYER LIST: (We are updating the prayer list. Please inform us of those requesting prayers and we will announce during services and print in bulletin.)

"For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ" (Phil. 3:20).

EVENTS CALENDAR: *Smith County Health Care/Rehab Center Devotional:* First Sundays of February, May, August, November (as permitted by covid regulations), 2:00 PM; *Fifth Sunday Pavilion Devotional* (To be resumed when permitted). *Coffee/Fellowship:* First and third Thursdays, 6:30-8:00 AM in annex.

TCC SUPPORT DAY REPORT: Thanks to all who attended the recent Support Day for Taylor Christian Camp, the site for Jackson/Smith County Youth Camp and numerous other camps. Our own Andy Rutherford was the speaker. Thanks to all who prepared desserts and all who gave to the support of the camp. Justin Mauldin serves on the board of directors.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARY LIST: Mary Phillips (1); Mary Pat Grim, Steve Bray (5); Katie Bennett (18); Jeffrey Maberry (19); Andy Rutherford, Lovell Chaffin, Elaine Wright (23); Brittany Birchett (28); Amy Apple, (29); Madison Spivey (31). Jerry & Cheryl Hicks (12/11/1981); Will & Makenzi Galey (12/12/2020); Eddie & Kaylan Linder (12/15/2001); Nick & Pam Morris (12/16/2000); Brian & Peggy Denton (12/21/1991); Mike & Laura Piper (12/27/1988).

VISITATION/GREETING PROGRAM: Josh Brown has a list of newcomers and shut-ins. If you wish to help with new assignments with welcomes and calls, please contact him. Making a visit can make a big difference in the life of another and our own! See Matthew 25:25:31-46 and James 1:27.

VETERAN'S DAY

Last Thursday, November 11 was "Veterans Day", called originally "Armistice Day" on November 11, 1919, the first anniversary of World War I. The name was changed to "Veterans Day" in 1954 by President Dwight D. Eisenhower. A recent exchange bulletin listed the following information about the veteran population of the United States from History.com Editors.

16.1 million living veterans served during at least one war; 5.2 million veterans served in peacetime; 2 million veterans are women. 7 million veterans served during the Vietnam War; 5.5 million veterans served during the Persian Gulf War; of the 16 million Americans who served during World War II, about 558,000 are still living; 2 million veterans served during the Korean War; 6 million veterans served in peacetime; NOTE: Freedom is not free. Thank a veteran for their service and sacrifice. While you are at it, if you are not already in the army of the Lord, enlist immediately. If you are already enlisted, serve faithfully as a soldier of Christ, the Commander-in-chief, for the remainder of your days and you will receive an honorable discharge