

# THE PROVIDER

VOLUME XXXIV, NUMBER 2



## Fairfield Church of Christ

1860 Hwy 100  
Centerville, TN 37033-9400  
**931-729-5142**

### ELDERS:

Wayne Prince ext.14  
Lafayette Spears ext.15  
Gary Wright ext.24

### DEACONS:

Gary Bailey ext.18  
*Schedule Events/FH*  
Mike Breece ext.19  
*Activities*  
Clay Chandler ext. 6  
*Benevolence*  
Darin Cochran ext.11  
*Worship*  
Ken Copley ext.17  
*Education*  
Steve Craft ext.20  
*Youth*  
Randal Halbrooks ext.13  
*Missions*  
Shanon Irwin ext.29  
*Security*  
O.D. Pratt ext.23  
*Seniors*  
Lloyd Rochelle ext.21  
*Maintenance*  
Jeff Stacks ext.22  
*Transportation*  
Vance Willis ext.26  
*Finance/IT*

### Pulpit Minister:

Mike Kelley ext. 2

### Associate Minister:

Rodney Rochelle ext.25

### Youth Minister:

Chris Wright ext. 3

### Worship & Bible Study:

#### SUNDAY

Worship 9:00 AM  
Bible Study 10:20 AM  
Worship 6:00 PM

#### WEDNESDAY

Bible Study 7:00 PM

### Family Line:

**931-729-9846**

### Website:

[fairfieldcofc.org](http://fairfieldcofc.org)



## Mike's Minute

***But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called "Today," so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.***

-Hebrews 3:13

The story is told of a mother who had raised six boys to manhood. Her work never done; she had finally taken to her sickbed in utter exhaustion.

Each of the boys came home to see his mother as she lay on her deathbed. Her oldest son, a powerful and great man, knelt by her bedside and, wiping her forehead, said, "Mother, you have always been a good mother to us boys."

The weary woman closed her eyes and giant tears pushed under the lids and ran down her hollow cheeks. Then she opened her eyes and said to her son, "My boy, I prayed more that I might be a good mother to you six boys than for anything else. I was afraid that I should fail in some way to be all that I ought to be to you, and I never knew whether you boys thought I had failed or not until now. Not one of you ever told me I was a good mother until today."

When was the last time you told someone how much you appreciate all he or she has done for you? When was the last time you complimented or praised or thanked a brother or sister in Christ?

Don't delay. Today is the day! The past is history. The future is mystery. We call today "the present" and rightly so, because it is a gift. Use the gift wisely and joyfully. Share love and encouragement today. You never know when you will no longer have the opportunity.

*In Christian Love,*

**Mike**





Hickman County Relay For Life will be having a chili/soup lunch on January 24<sup>th</sup> from 11:30-1:00 in the fellowship hall. Plates will be \$5.00 each with soup or chili, hot dog or grilled cheese, and a drink. Desserts and chips will be available for \$1.00 as well. They will also have a silent auction.

**COMMUNION PACKS WILL BE AVAILABLE ON FRIDAY BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 3:00-4:00 PM AT THE FELLOWSHIP HALL.**

### **Governmental Talent**

Curtis and Leroy saw an ad in the newspaper and bought a mule for \$100.

The farmer agreed to deliver the mule the next day.

The next morning the farmer drove up and said, "Sorry, fellows, I have some bad news, the mule died last night."

Curtis and Leroy replied, "Well, then just give us our money back."

The farmer said, "Can't do that. I went and spent it already."

They said, "Okay then, just bring us the dead mule."

The farmer asked, "What in the world ya'll gonna do with a dead mule?"

Curtis said, "We gonna raffle him off."

The farmer said, "You can't raffle off a dead mule!"

Leroy said, "We shore can! Heck, we don't hafta tell nobody he's dead!"

A couple of weeks later, the farmer ran into Curtis and Leroy at the grocery store and asked, "What'd you fellers ever do with that dead mule?"

They said, "We raffled him off like we said we wuz gonna do."

Leroy said, "Shucks, we sold 1000 tickets fer two dollars apiece and made a profit of \$1998.00."

The farmer said, "My goodness, didn't anyone complain?"

Curtis said, "Well, the feller who won got upset. So we gave him his two dollars back."

Curtis and Leroy now work for the government.



**Several of our church members are sick at home.**

**Members:** Brenda Scott, Don Beard, Thomas Haskins, Lou Dickens, Dave Davidson, Hester Moss, Deborah Perry, Gene Carathers, Raymond Stoltz, Terry James, Dewayne Victory (VA hospital), Kenneth Chandler (home), Paul & Noble Victory, Wilma Green, Bobbie Graf, C.W. & Elizabeth Tarkington, Helen Shanes, Harold Choate, James Coates & Jo Ann Totty.

**Friends & Family:** Ira King (father of Angie Stacks, very serious), Donna Gaspard (sister of Lisa James, St. Thomas Midtown ICU, stroke), Teresa Carroll, Roman Surra, Anthony & Rita Stacks, Marshall Carothers, McKinley Moore, Randy Hall, Jimmy Jenkins, B.J. Springer, Ruby Church, Carolyn Nash, Sandy McFarlin, Elizabeth Dunn, Kathy Swinford Coleman, Grayson Gunter, Tommy Cagle, Jimmy George & William Dale Nash.

**Life Care:** Mary England

**St. Thomas Hickman Nursing Home:** Naomi Bailey, Jo Hudgins (hospice) & Sybil Jenkins.

**Olive Branch Senior Living, Dickson:** Martha Page

### **The Motivational Factor of Faith, Hope, and Love**

When Paul wrote to the church at Thessalonica, he opened his letter with these words: "We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers, remembering without ceasing your work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Thess. 1:2-3). In that statement, we see three things that can promote fruitful behavior in the Christian:

- **Faith** that produces work.
- **Love** that prompts labor.
- **Hope** that inspires endurance.

No Christian who has the full amount of faith, hope, and love will be unproductive in the kingdom of Christ. Do you want to be more fruitful in your Christianity? Then plant and grow seeds of faith, hope, and love and see what happens.

*Edd Sterchi  
Broadway church of Christ  
Campbellsville, KY*



## Center Fielders News

“Developing a Good Conscience”

I have heard it said that we cannot let our conscience be our guide. According to the dictionary’s definition, this may be a correct statement. Conscience is defined as “internal or self-knowledge, or judgment of right and wrong.” On the other hand, maybe it would be better to say that we cannot let a poor conscience be our guide.

If our conscience is good, we strive to do God’s will at all times. We develop a good conscience as we meditate on God’s Word and become more familiar with His desire for our life. We also develop a good conscience by praying, hearing His Word preached in sermons, and discussing the Scriptures with other believers. If we desire to be humble, a good conscience will help us with that.

We also need to be aware of those who may have a weak conscience and that we have a responsibility as our brother’s keeper. This is a great way to testify and witness for Jesus. We are encouraged 1 Timothy 1:5, “The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart, and a good conscience and a sincere faith. Hebrews 9:14 further says, “How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God.”

Many scriptures such as Ephesians 4:31-32 are useful in developing a good conscience that will us make good and Godly choices. “Get rid of all bitterness, rage, and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ, God forgave you.”

*Obey God and watch Him work,*

**Rodney**

### FOR THE RECORD

WEEK OF January 10, 2021

MORNING WORSHIP	111
CONTRIBUTION:	\$4781
2020 WEEKLY BUDGET	\$4167

## MEN TO SERVE JANUARY 10

### SUNDAY MORNING:

**Song Leader:** Darin Cochran  
**Opening Prayer:** Gary Wright  
**Scripture Reading:** Rodney Rochelle  
**Scripture:** John 14:1-7  
**Preside Lord’s Supper:** Gary Bailey  
**Alternates:** Kenneth Jett, Marvin Truett  
**Basement:** Ken Copley, Randal Halbrooks  
**Announcements:** Rodney Rochelle  
**Closing Prayer:** Chris Wright  
**Van Driver:** Gary Basford 931-628-0355

### SUNDAY EVENING:

**Announcements:** Gary Wright  
**Scripture Reading:** Lafayette Spears  
**Scripture:** Revelation 15:3  
**Song Leader:** Gary Basford  
**Opening Prayer:** Marvin Truett  
**Lord’s Supper:** Edwin Wright, Lafayette Spears  
**Closing Prayer:** Darin Cochran  
**Van Driver:** Gary Basford 931-628-0355

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT:

**Announcements:** Marvin Truett  
**Song Leader:** Jeff Rose  
**Opening Prayer:** Gary Wright  
**Invitation:** Mike Kelley



## NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS



For more than thirty years I have been trudging down to the gym several times a week to pump iron, bike, and swim laps. Don't think I report that boastfully: on the contrary, I'm not trying to bulk up or compete on American Ninja Warrior or anything like that. It's just that I have to battle an inherited disability: you see, eating runs in my family. I long ago made the unpleasant medical discovery that unless I regularly engage in some sort of activity that will elevate my heart rate and cause me to break a sweat, all those calories I consume will show up in places where I don't want them.

Since I have been a regular gym rat for several decades, I know what to expect this month. Every January the gym is filled with the New Year's crowd. You know, those folks who have awakened from their holiday sugar binge and made their New Year's resolutions to become healthier. The sudden surge after January 1 often causes delays when I want to get on my favorite Nautilus machine, but I don't become too upset. I have learned to simply wait a few weeks, and the crowd will thin out again. It happens every year.

My personal observation in the gym seems to be typical of human nature in general. Fewer than half of all New Year's resolutions last six months, according to a study by psychology professor John Norcross of the University of Scranton. I haven't done any research myself, but I have developed a tentative hypothesis to explain his findings: I believe people give up on their New Year's resolutions for the same reason they desert the gym – they arrive at the unwelcome discovery that making beneficial improvements in our life is *hard work*.

You see, few New Year's resolutions involve eating more candy bars or taking more naps or running up a higher debt on our credit cards – those things are easy. We set personal goals because we want changes in our life that are positive, and the positive changes we desire are, by definition, difficult, or we would already be doing them.

My hypothesis is probably too obvious to win any research grants, but it does help to explain why Jesus candidly cautioned would-be disciples that following him is not easy (Luke 9:57-62). Since the Lord wants everyone to be saved and will never turn away a sincere seeker (John 6:37), I must conclude that Jesus issued such warnings to prevent disillusionment.

Our Master knew full well that the *"time of testing"* would come for each one of us, and consequently some would fall away (Luke 8:13); that is why he wants us to be prepared for difficulties and stresses that success comes by *"persevering"* (Luke 8:15). And, of course, on the Cross Jesus set the ultimate example of perseverance, so that by considering his example we would *"not grow weary and lose heart"* (Hebrews 12:1-3).

### **We set personal goals because we want changes in our life that are positive**

So, have you been tempted to give up on your faith, to "quit church," to withdraw into spiritual isolation? Have you hit a rough patch in the road and now you are questioning your faith? I wish I could give you some easy answers, but the Bible says nothing about easy discipleship. Following Jesus, like any other positive change in our life, is hard work. Please don't ever think it is easy – just remember, it's worth it.

*"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest, if we do not give up"* – Galatians 6:9.

–Dan Williams  
Vice-President for Church Relations

Harding University

