

THE PROVIDER

VOLUME XXXVIII, NUMBER 2



Fairfield church of Christ

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

ELDERS:

Wayne Prince - 931-729-5452
Lafayette Spears-931-670-4029
Gary Wright - 931-206-9192

DEACONS:

Gary Bailey - *Schedule Events*
931-994-4810
Mike Breece - *Activities*
931-212-2560
Clay Chandler - *Benevolence*
931-729-4534
Darin Cochran - *Worship*
615-418-3148
Ken Copley - *Education*
931-703-5062
Steve Craft - *Youth*
931-729-5063
Wesley Crowther - *Maintenance*
520-576-4227
Randal Halbrooks - *Missions*
931-729-4145
Shanon Irwin - *Security*
Unlisted
Adam Jude - *Young Adults*
615-584-9348
O.D. Pratt - *Seniors*
931-994-7244
Kenneth Jett - *Transportation*
931-994-9508
Vance Willis - *Finance/IT*
615-975-3938

Pulpit Minister:

Mike Kelley - 931-994-1911

Associate Minister:

Josh Copley - 931-994-3944

Youth Minister:

Chris Wright - 931-206-6629

Worship & Bible Study:

SUNDAY

Worship 9:00 AM
Bible Study 10:15 AM
Worship 6:00 PM

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study 7:00 PM

Family Line:

931-729-9846



Mike's Minute

When Pilate saw that he could not prevail at all, but rather that a tumult was rising, he took water and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, "I am innocent of the blood of this just person. You see to it."

Matthew 27:24

Harry Truman coined the phrase, "The buck stops here," with a sign bearing this inscription conspicuously placed on his desk in the Oval Office. President Truman made it clear that he understood his responsibility as chief executive— he alone was morally and legally accountable for the actions of his office and his nation.

Pontius Pilate had no such motto on his desk. Pushed and pressured by the many influences that played on his weak mind, Pilate chose the path of least resistance, giving in to the angry crowd.

Pilate hoped he could somehow avert responsibility for his bad choice by symbolically washing his hands of the guilt of executing Jesus. Instead, he is remembered to this day for making the decision to send Jesus to the cross.

When Christians accept responsibility for all we say and do, God is pleased. We may have a majority against us, as Pilate did, but God rewards those who accept responsibility for their choices.

In Christian Love,

Mike





Just Joshin'

After a long while, it finally feels as if winter is truly upon us. We have seen brutally cold temperatures as well as some snowfall. Snow is one of the reasons winter is my favorite season. There is truly nothing like it. It falls so beautifully and majestically, and the end result is something even more special. Of course, I'm referring to the perfect blanket that many love waking up to in the morning that covers the ground and the trees. This got me thinking, what is so visually pleasing about snow? What causes us to love it so much? It is the purity of it. Undefined snowfall is so aesthetically pleasing that many (including myself) hate walking outside in the yard because then that blanket is ruined by footprints.

We hear so often that God makes us white as snow. Isaiah 1:18 reads, "Come now, let us reason together, says the Lord: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as the snow..." Snow is so beautiful because it covers the dirt and we see only the cleanliness that lies on top. Just as snow covers the land, God's grace can cover our sins if we accept the gift of His Son so we can be made anew. We will be made to look as clean and pristine as new-fallen snow.

We see God's creative power on display, as well. We gaze upon this wonderful wintry sight, this natural phenomenon, and know how wonderful our God is. Perhaps you are someone who doesn't enjoy the cold temperatures and all that comes with winter and that's okay! What's important is that we see the symbolism between our souls with God and the purity of this precipitation. Let God work within you to wash your sins away so that you might live a more spiritual, more fulfilling, and more joyous life!

To God be the glory,

Josh



There will be a Purpose Filled Women's meeting on Saturday, January 18th at 9:00 am (changed from January 11th due to the weather forecast) to plan upcoming events for 2025. Please bring your favorite breakfast items to share. Drinks will be provided.

WHATEVER BECAME OF HELL?

My memories of the church during my childhood are vivid. Even now as old as I am, I recall several sermons and hearing powerful preaching by N.B. Hardeman and many others. Such powerful preaching included topics such as what to do to be saved, to stay saved, to be faithful, how to go to Heaven, and how to avoid Hell.

Today, many lessons seem to have transformed in both obvious and in subtle ways to circumvent the topic of eternal punishment in Hell. In fact, there is at least one brother in our fellowship who claims punishment in Hell is not everlasting, but temporary. I have heard several brethren state matter-of-factly they avoid teaching anything that is negative. Instead, they will emphasize the positive and only the positive. Other preachers have specified that their elders or their congregations will not tolerate preaching on eternal damnation.

It seems we may have reached a subconscious understanding that we and, in fact, ALL religious people are acceptable to God if we basically "believe in Christ" and avoid obvious, blatant sins. That is a comfortable position in which to live, but which is deadly for our souls. Paul warns us there is accountability for how we live our lives. "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil" (2 Cor 5:10). But what if we don't **feel** evil?

Christ's church in Laodicea lived in the mode, "average." As I personally heard one preacher proudly state, "Don't be first and don't be last to do something." I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth. For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked Rev. 3:14-17.")

What does God's word tell us about eternal punishment, Hell?

"And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell" Matt.18:28).

"You serpents, you brood of vipers, how are you to escape being sentenced to hell" (Matt 23:33)?

"And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life" (Mt. 25:46).

"For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to chains of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment; (Jude 4)

(continued next column)

These are only a few passages that teach there IS a Hell, and that Hell is eternal. Thus, what does this mean for us? Should we live our lives in abject fear of Hell? Thanks be to God that we are saved continually by Christ's blood based upon our walking in truth (1 John 1:8- 2:6).

Penn Jillette of the comedy team of Penn and Teller has been quoted as saying, "If I believed in Hell, I would rush to everyone I know to warn them of the danger!"

Although some religious people such as the Jehovah's Witnesses consider the rich man and Lazarus in Luke 16:19 to be apocryphal, Jesus spoke in tangible terms. He called the poor man by his name, Lazarus. The rich man claimed to be in agony, in great thirst, and to be in flames. The rich man also was concerned that his five brothers would join him there. The rich man was lost eternally without any hope.

God created Hell for the devil and his angels, not for His creation. However, God also created us as free moral agents and we choose our eternal abode. It personally grieves me that Jesus states emphatically that most people will choose Hell over Heaven. "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness' (Matt 7:21-23).

Jesus desires that you be saved.

Satan desires that you be saved. Later. Later even more.

God sent His Son. His Son died for us. Consider what a great sacrifice there was for our souls, yours and mine. **Now**- not later- is the time to set our eyes on Heaven. Spiritual procrastination leads to Hell.

*Ken Smith
Anchorage AK*



Stay in touch with us on social media:

Facebook: Fairfield church of Christ-Field Family

Instagram: fcofamily

Website: fairfieldcofc.org

MEN TO SERVE

SUNDAY MORNING:

Song Leader: Darin Cochran

Opening Prayer: Wayne Prince

Scripture Reading: Robert Graf

Scripture:

Preside Lord's Supper: Roy McCoy

Left: Phillip Coates

Right: Ronny Pitman

Buddy Chandler

James Swaw

Lyle Shepherd

Gerry Hinson

Marty England

Kenneth Jett

Announcements: Darin Cochran

Closing Prayer: Adam Jude

Van Driver: Jack Green 931-994-8317

SUNDAY EVENING:

Announcements: Randal Halbrooks

Scripture Reading: Gerry Hinson

Scripture: Isaiah 1:18

Song Leader: Norman Moss

Opening Prayer: Buddy Chandler

Lord's Supper: Gary Bailey, Roy McCoy

Closing Prayer: Chris Wright

Van Driver: Jack Green 931-994-8317

WEDNESDAY NIGHT:

Announcements: Gary Wright

Song Leader: Gary Basford

Opening Prayer: Boyce Cannon

Van Driver: Chris Love 931-994-7855

Heaven cannot wait,
Don't wait til' it's too late.
The day of salvation is today,
Therefore hearken, do not delay!
For too late will be the cry,
No second chances once you die!
Have you yet to heed the gospel call?
Why do you linger, why do you stall?
Do you know the truth that sets man free?
Have you heard of Jesus who died on Calvary?
Did you know He took our place on the cross?
So that we would no longer be eternally lost.
Just as Christ died, was buried and arose again,
So will we, when we are baptized in Him.
The 'old man is buried' with its life full of sin,
We then rise up, "a new creature" within.
No longer wanting to live by the desires of the flesh,
But a life dedicated to living our 'Christian' best.
So if you've not responded to the message of the cross,
Do so now, for an eternity is too long to be lost.
Deb Hibbard



Congratulations to **Rita Beard** on the birth of a great-great niece born December 31st. **Lily Elizabeth Andrew** weighed 6 lbs. 12 oz and was 20 ½ inches long.

We are happy to report the jail ministry had a baptism on Saturday. **Rebecca Jackson** was baptized into Christ.

Ladies' Craft Night will be January 21st in room 104 at 6:00 pm. We will be making Valentine gifts.

Men's Prayer Breakfast is every Tuesday morning at 6:00 am in the basement.

If you enjoy **quilting**, several ladies meet each Thursday @ 9:00 am in the basement to make quilts.

The **Ladies' Bible Class** will resume on Tuesday, January 14th at 6:00 pm in room 104.

If you have a **prayer request**, please use a blue card, and drop it in the wooden box in either foyer.



Sympathy is extended to the family of **Kenneth Chandler** who passed away Monday. He was a long time member of Fairfield. His funeral was Thursday.

Sympathy is extended to the family of **Ruby Church** who passed away Monday. She was the sister of **Jewell Prince**. Her funeral was Tuesday.

Sympathy is extended to the family of **Shirley Gilbert** who passed away last Friday night. His funeral was Tuesday.

Sympathy is extended to the family of **Claude Teet**. His funeral service was Monday at McDonald Funeral Home.

Sympathy is extended to the family of **Doris Claud** who passed away last Saturday.

Sympathy is extended to the family of **Patricia Conley**, grandmother of **Maggie Conley Zervas**, who passed away last Friday. Her celebration of life service was last Saturday.

Members: Floy Cochran, Brenda Stoltz, Ed Sullivan, Jane Washington, Aletha Martin, Angie Stacks, Willie Powers, Rita Sullivan, Donna Pitman, Marlin Lawson, Randy Prince, Deborah McClellan, Joyce Boyd, Carolyn Phillips, Shanon Irwin, Terry Duncan, Dorothy Noonan, Dana McCaleb, Janey Gilbert, Lelia Mae Poore, Dorothy Weatherspoon & Jo Ann Totty.

Friends & Family: Angela Tayes (niece of Rita Beard-knee replacement), Larry Gilbert (cancer), Tony Roder (home), Dorinda Beard, Glenda Coates, Anthony Stacks (hospice-home), Mildred Rochelle (home), Amalia Rose Shaw (Vanderbilt NICU), Edna Copley, B.Y. Peery, Doug True, Nancy Coursey, Marilyn Mathis, Davy Baker, Lottie (Terrell) Williams, Mary Sue Sands, Jeff Clark, Terry Barrenger, Linda Canady, Carmela Brown, Beverly Smith, Paul Harvill, Lorrie Davis O'Guin, Ronnie Carroll, Judy Baggett, Ryan Edwards, Deborah Johnston, James Buffington, Willie Lawler, James Coates, Mike Avery, Pat Garrett, Cory Patterson, Carolyn Nash, Laura DeLong, Ila Faye Jenkins, Kathryn Purcell, Becky Carroll, Bryan Williams, Mary Spears, Kevin Chandler, & Donna Gaspard.

Life Care: Jimmy Jenkins, Ralph Gossett, Cynthia Butler, Hester Moss. Sue Davidson, Gary Yates, Wilma Green.

The Bridge at Columbia: Hattie Mayberry, Daisy Beard.



Jan 12 - 3rd-5th Grade Devo, during evening service FH
Jan 19 - Puppet Show, during evening service in LO
Jan 21 - Middle/HS Devo, 6:30 – 8:30 at FH
Jan 25 - Middle/HS outing to Nashville Zoolumination. Leaving at 3:30 pm. Must sign up by Sunday, January 12th. See Teresa for more information.

FOR THE RECORD

WEEK OF January 5, 2025

MORNING WORSHIP	156
CONTRIBUTION:	\$5442
2024 WEEKLY BUDGET	\$5417