

THE PROVIDER

VOLUME XXXVIII, NUMBER 4



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

The fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

James 3:18

Our planet is not a peaceful place. The University of Oslo and Norwegian Academy of Sciences have determined that there have been more than 14,000 wars in the world since 3,600 BC. The world has known relative peace only 5 percent of the time over the last 5,600 years.

It is painfully obvious to everyone on the planet that peace is rare these days... and not just between nations. There are innumerable wars going on between individuals, in families, in business, and in government.

The Bible puts the responsibility for peace in the world on *individuals*. "If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men" (Romans 12:18).

If every individual decided to live peacefully, then nations could live in peace as well.

R. V. G. Tasker said, "The peacemakers are those who are at peace with God and who show that they are truly children of God by striving to use every opportunity open to them to effect reconciliation between others who are at variance."

Today and every day, try to create peace wherever you go.

In Christian Love,

Mike





Just Joshin'

This last week we saw the inauguration of a new presidential candidate. A new administration has been ushered in and the old has taken their leave. During major political events, it never fails that social media, and real life for that matter, becomes a battleground of sorts. Insults and nasty words are hurled back and forth while arguments and debates flare up. I believe at some point we need to take a step back and see the bigger picture, and that is we are all one body. One community. One nation under God. As Christians, we should be praying for, not only the new administration stepping up, but also for the old one, as well. As Americans, we should be rooting for whoever is leading us because we all feel the impact of the decisions made by the higher ups whether we like it or not. We wouldn't cheer for the pilot to crash a plane that we're flying on, would we? The Bible preaches unity and how beautiful it is. Psalm 133:1 tells us that it is good and blessed when brothers dwell in unity. Matthew 5:9 tells us that peacemakers will be blessed for we are children of God! Remember, no matter what side of the aisle you sit on, ultimately, we are all on the same team. We shouldn't have to find out what allegiance someone holds before we choose to be a loving people. Let's try every day to be more like our Savior!

To God be the glory,
Josh



Stay in touch with us on social media:

Facebook: *Fairfield church of Christ-Field Family*

Instagram: *fcocfamily*

Website: *fairfieldcofc.org*

A TOUGH DECISION

After a few of the usual Sunday evening hymns, the church's minister slowly stood up, walked over to the pulpit and, before he began his sermon for the evening, briefly introduced a guest minister who was in the service that evening.

In the introduction, the minister told the congregation that the guest minister was one of his dearest childhood friends and that he wanted him to have a few moments to greet the congregation and share whatever he felt would be appropriated for the service. With that, an elderly man stepped up to the pulpit and began to speak.

"A father, his son, and a friend of his son were sailing off the Pacific coast," he began, "when a fast-approaching storm blocked any attempt to get back to the shore. The waves were so high, that even though the father was an experienced sailor, he could not keep the boat upright and the three were swept into the ocean as the boat capsized."

The elderly minister hesitated for a moment, making eye contact with two teenagers who were, for the first time since the service began, looking somewhat interested in his story. He continued his story, "Grabbing a rescue line, the father had to make the most excruciating decision of his life: to which boy would he throw the other end of the life line. He had only seconds to make the decision. The father knew that his son was a Christian and he also knew that his son's friend was not. The agony of his decision could not be matched by the torrent of waves. As the father yelled out, "I love you, SON?" he threw out the lifeline to his son's friend. By the time the father had pulled the friend back to the capsized boat, his son had disappeared beneath the raging swells into the black of night. His body was never recovered!"

By this time, the two teenagers were sitting straight up in the pew, anxiously waiting for the next words to come out of the elderly minister's mouth.

"The father, He continued, "knew his son would step into eternity with Jesus and he could not bear the thought of his son's friend stepping into an eternity without Jesus. Therefore, he sacrificed his son to save the son's friend. How great is the love of God that He should do the same for us. Our Heavenly Father sacrificed His only begotten Son that we could be saved. I urge you to accept His offer to rescue you and take hold of the life line He is throwing out to you in this service." With that, the older gentleman turned and sat down in his chair as silence filled the auditorium.

(continued next page)

The minister again walked slowly to the pulpit and delivered a brief sermon with an invitation at the end. However, no one responded to the appeal. Within minutes after the service ended, the two teenagers were at the elderly minister's side.

"That was a nice story," politely stated one of them. "But I don't think it was very realistic for a father to give up his only son's life in hopes that the other boy would become a Christian."

"Well, you've got a point there," the elderly minister replied glancing down at his worn Bible. A big smile broadened his narrow face. He once again looked up at the two boys and said, "It sure isn't very realistic, is it? But I'm standing here today to tell you that story gives me a glimpse of what it must have been like for God to have given up his Son for me. You see . . . I was that father and your minister is my son's friend."

Submitted by Cindy Bailey

"IT'S ALL GONE"

The fires in Los Angeles County are difficult to comprehend. Those who lost everything in the wind-whipped flames gazed in shock upon the ashes of their once beautiful homes. When asked, many could only reply, "It's all gone."

Jesus can empathize, for he had no home either. "The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head." (Matthew 8:20). After the fires, many were left with only the clothes on their backs. So too, Jesus possessed only the robe and tunic he was wearing when he was crucified. The soldiers cast lots to see "who would get them (John 19:23-24).

The Californians lamented all the personal possessions they lost in the fires. Jesus taught that all we possess would eventually be lost to "moth, rust," or "thieves." Rather, "store up for yourselves treasures in heaven...for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Matthew 6:19-20). May all who have suffered this tragic event look to Jesus and be drawn closer to him. We do not serve a savior "who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin" (Hebrews 4:15).

-Dennis Doughty

MEN TO SERVE

SUNDAY MORNING:

Song Leader: Darin Cochran

Opening Prayer: Gary Bailey

Scripture Reading: Carter Bates

Scripture: Psalm 19:7-8

Preside Lord's Supper: Mike Breece

Left: Keith Harvill

Right: Rusty Bates

Zack Harvill

Tom Gosser

Chris Love

Carl Daugherty

Jeff Warren

Larry Primm

Announcements: Darin Cochran

Closing Prayer: Buddy Chandler

Van Driver: Gary Basford 931-628-0355

SUNDAY EVENING:

Announcements: Gary Basford

Scripture Reading: Gary Wright

Scripture: Romans 12:9-13

Song Leader: Ronny Pitman

Opening Prayer: Roy McCoy

Lord's Supper: Ken Copley, Phillip Coates

Closing Prayer: Kenneth Jett

Van Driver: Gary Basford 931-628-0355

WEDNESDAY NIGHT:

Announcements: Rodney Rochelle

Song Leader: Gary Basford

Opening Prayer: Mathew Wright

Van Driver: Chris Love 931-994-7855

DID YOU KNOW THIS ABOUT JUDGES?

After the conquest of the promised land and the death of Joshua, the Bible tells us that "another generation arose after them who did not know the Lord, nor the work which He had done for Israel" (Judges 2:10).

A phrase that is repeated four times in Judges is, "...in those days there was no king in Israel." And twice the book says that everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

Doing what is right in our own eyes will always lead to chaos and trouble!

As Proverbs 14:12 says, "There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death."

That's why it is so important to study the Bible, which is the wisdom of God.

Matt Clifton



We are compiling a list of college students to be blessed by the Purpose Field Women's Ministry. Please give the name and preferred address of any college student to Amber Kelley by February 1st.

The Valentine banquet will be held Saturday, February 8th at 4:00 pm in the fellowship hall. Signup sheets are in both foyers.

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** meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month 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 **Martha McCord**. Her funeral was Saturday.



Thank you, Fairfield, for the windchimes and the meal for family and friends after the service. The meal was delicious. The kindness shown to me and family has been a blessing.

In Christian Love,
Barbara Chandler & Family

Memorial

A contribution has been given in memory of **Kenneth Chandler** by **Phil & Diane Coates**.

Members: Jeff Rose, Chris Love (heart valve replacement Monday), Tom Gosser (reverse shoulder surgery Tuesday), Carolyn Phillips, Floy Cochran, Brenda Stoltz, Ed Sullivan, Jane Washington, Aletha Martin, Angie Stacks, Willie Powers, Rita Sullivan, Marlin Lawson, Randy Prince, Deborah McClellan, Joyce Boyd, Shanon Irwin, Terry Duncan, Dorothy Noonan, Dana McCaleb, Janey Gilbert, Lelia Mae Poore, Dorothy Weatherspoon & Jo Ann Totty.

Friends & Family: Lois Gilbert (mother of Paulmyeloma), Angela Tayes, Larry Gilbert (cancer), Tony Roder, Glenda Coates, Anthony Stacks (hospice-home), Mildred Rochelle (home), Amalia Rose Shaw (Vanderbilt NICU), Edna Copley, B.Y. Peery, Doug True, Nancy Coursey, 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: Joe Qualls, Jimmy Jenkins, Ralph Gossett, Cynthia Butler, Hester Moss, Sue Davidson, Wilma Green.

The Bridge at Columbia: Hattie Mayberry, Daisy Beard.



Jan 25 - Middle/HS outing to Nashville Zoolumination. Leaving at 3:30 pm. See Teresa for more information.

FOR THE RECORD

WEEK OF January 19, 2025

MORNING WORSHIP CONTRIBUTION:	202 \$5429
WEEKLY BUDGET	\$5417