

# THE PROVIDER

VOLUME XXXVII, NUMBER 20



## 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*  
931-729-4108  
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  
Jeff Stacks - *Transportation*  
931-994-7631  
Vance Willis - *Finance/IT*  
615-975-3938

### Pulpit Minister:

Mike Kelley - 931-994-1911

### Associate Minister:

Rodney Rochelle-931-374-8223

### 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

*Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

Matthew 6:21

There is an ancient parable, "The Monkey's Fist," that teaches a profound lesson.

Native tribes would hollow out coconuts, fill them with bait, then tether them to trees to lure monkeys. When a monkey would reach into the small opening of a coconut, his hand would fit. But once his fist was full of the bait, the monkey couldn't get his hand out and free himself. All the monkey had to do to be free was let go. Those monkeys who refused to do so remained trapped.

The lesson for us is that the coconut was not the monkey's undoing, but rather his greedy unwillingness to let go of the bait.

People can be like that. They clutch their material possessions so tightly in the attitude of their hearts that greed and worry handicap them, negatively impacting their faith, family, friendships... and their future.

If you are grasping some material thing too tightly right now, please know that it is a trap. You need to loosen your grip. There's not a better time to let go than right now. God has incredible gifts and resources for you... more than you could ever hold in your clenched fists.

Let go and let God!

*In Christian Love,*

**Mike**





It was good to see **Joyce Boyd** back to Bible study Wednesday night after being out for several weeks.

Congratulations to **Drew & Kelsey Pierce** on the birth of a son, **Sawyer DeWayne**, born last Wednesday night. The proud grandmother is **Andrea Wright** & proud great-grandparents are **Butch & Rita Sullivan**. Big brother, Sutton, is very excited!

Any lady not already serving on the Meal Train list that would like to participate in this, please see Bettina Horner or Lisa Truett.

**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 every 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday 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.



We express our sympathy to the family of **Larry Buttrey** who was the brother-in-law of **James Swaw**. There are no arrangements at this time.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS IN MAY:**

The Ladies' Tea Party is today, Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Ladies' craft night** will be Tuesday, May 21<sup>st</sup> in room 104 at 6:00 pm. We will be making fabric or paper flowers,

The **Golden Agers** will be going to Log Cabin on May 23<sup>th</sup>. The church van will leave at 5:30. Sign up sheets are in both foyers.

***"Is your glass half-full or half-empty? It depends on whether you are pouring or drinking."***

**Mike Kelley**



**Members:** Joyce Boyd, Brenda Stoltz, Floy Cochran, Carolyn Phillips (Dickson Horizon), Reda Springer, Shanon Irwin, Kenneth Chandler, Terry Duncan, Dorothy Noonan, Dana McCaleb, Woody Woodruff, Janey Gilbert, Lelia Mae Poore, Dorothy Weatherspoon, Helen Shanes & Jo Ann Totty (Dickson Horizon).

**Friends & Family:** Paul Harvill, Freda Simmerly (sister of Kenneth & Clay Chandler-Dickson Horizon Rehab), Elizabeth Dunn, Nicholas Wright, Barbara Beard, Edwin Garner, Chris Chilton, David Stewart, Willie Lawler, James Coates (Select Specialty hospital Nashville), Trevor Buchanan, Pam Sullivan, Pam Simmons, Mike Avery, Pat Garrett, June Roder, Mary French, Anthony Stacks, David Talley, Billie Lynn Tyler, Cory Patterson, James Stoltz, Grayson Gunter, Becky Gatewood, Ann Spencer (hospice), Jimmie Jenkins, Stephanie Pitman, Carolyn Nash, Laura DeLong, Roy Harris, Ila Faye Jenkins, Kathryn Purcell, Becky Carroll, Bryan Williams, Mary Spears, Kevin Chandler & Donna Gaspard.

**Life Care:** Gethlyn Gardner, Martha Ann McCord, Cynthia Butler, Hester Moss. Sue Davidson, Gary Yates, Wilma Green.

**The Bridge at Columbia:** Hattie Mayberry, Daisy Beard.

**NHC Hendersonville:** Sherry Breece

*Please keep Ethan Willis in your prayers as he will be leaving on May 25<sup>th</sup> to study for the summer in Jordan.*



**May 19** - Cedar Point Trip Meeting - immediately following Sunday School at the Field House  
3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade Devo, during evening service, FH  
**May 21** - Middle/High School Devo, 6:30-8:30 @ FH  
**May 26** - Puppet Show, during evening service in LO



## Center Fielders News

“Righteous or Merely Religious”

To disguise their motives, shoplifters appear as ordinary shoppers. Scammers hide their intent by seeming to have their victim's best interests in mind. And people with hearts blackened by sin sometimes conceal their true condition, at least for a time, with religious words, clothes, and actions. Jesus pronounced severe judgments on such hypocrites. He even called them “serpents” and a “generation of vipers.”

So, does it matter whether we are righteous or merely religious? Let's consider a few points, and the answer I believe will become obvious. We cannot see into a person's heart and decipher their real motives. But there is something that can. It is the Word of God, which is “living, powerful, and sharper than a two-edge sword and is a discerner of the thoughts and intent of the heart.” Reading the Bible will bring conviction and repentance if one is righteous and not merely religious.

There is also Someone who can. It is Jesus, the Son of God, who could read people's hearts when He was on this earth. This is still true today as He sits at God's right hand. God's Spirit is also knowledgeable, and therefore convicts the world of sin. A person cannot be merely religious and expect to escape the judgment of God.

Of course, we ourselves cannot be righteous. It takes the Word of God in our hearts to make us so. We must surrender ourselves to the Lordship of Jesus the Christ. The religious may appear righteous, but the righteous will always be religious.

*Obey God and watch Him work,*

**Rodney**

### FOR THE RECORD

WEEK OF May 12, 2024

MORNING WORSHIP	253
CONTRIBUTION:	\$5207
<b>2024 WEEKLY BUDGET</b>	<b>\$5104</b>

## MEN TO SERVE

### SUNDAY MORNING:

**Song Leader:** Darin Cochran

**Opening Prayer:** Chris Wright

**Scripture Reading:** Ethan Willis

**Scripture:** Mark 6:30-32

**Preside Lord's Supper:** Ken Copley

**Left:** Keith Harvill

**Right:** Adam Jude

Erik Hassell

Wallace Smith

Ethan Willis

Cole Patton

Vance Willis

Mike Worley

**Announcements:** Darin Cochran

**Closing Prayer:** Zack Harvill

**Van Driver:** Angie Green 931-219-7979

### SUNDAY EVENING:

**Announcements:** Gary Basford

**Scripture Reading:** Chris Love

**Scripture:** Matthew 16:13-20

**Song Leader:** Norman Moss

**Opening Prayer:** Mathew Wright

**Lord's Supper:** Gary Wright, Kenneth Jett

**Closing Prayer:** Randal Halbrooks

**Van Driver:** Angie Green 931-219-7979

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT:

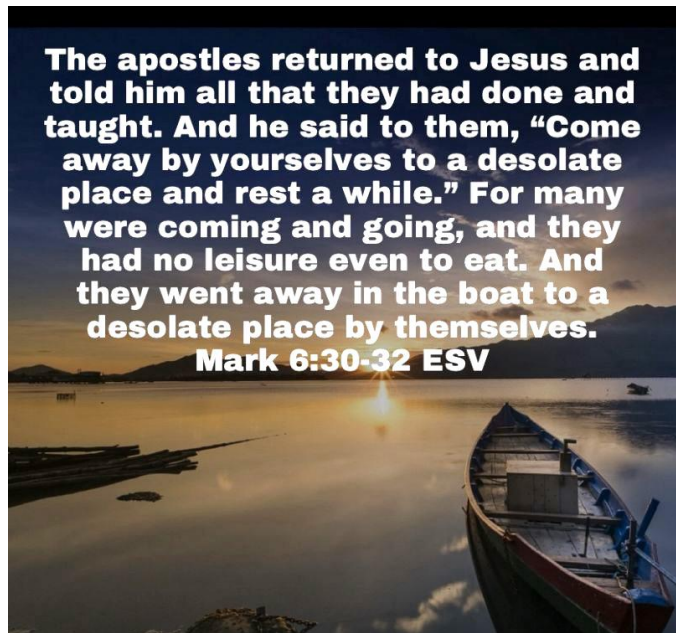
**Announcements:** Gary Basford

**Song Leader:** Damon McCoy

**Opening Prayer:** Willie Powers

**Van Driver:** Chris Love 931-994-7855

**The apostles returned to Jesus and told him all that they had done and taught. And he said to them, “Come away by yourselves to a desolate place and rest a while.” For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a desolate place by themselves.**  
**Mark 6:30-32 ESV**



## THE PREACHING GAME

Graham Johnston told about a preacher who preached the same sermon three Sundays in a row. After the third time, someone asked him, “When are you going to preach something different?” He answered, “When this church starts practicing this lesson, you can have a new one.”

Johnston used that story to set the tone in a section on encouraging accountability in a book chapter entitled “Challenging Listeners.” It illustrates what he called *the preaching game*, which he explained as follows:

With the preaching game in most churches, people have learned how to play and win. You know the game: If the preacher should stumble across something that strikes a certain note of conviction, don’t sweat it. The following Sunday the preacher will move on to address an entirely new topic and what brought about conviction won’t be heard again for a while. Isn’t it interesting how preachers and churches can function in this manner year after year, where most businesses wouldn’t survive that approach? In a business, after all, once a problem area is identified, effective management focuses on remedying it. (Graham Johnston, *Preaching to a Postmodern World: A Guide to Reaching Twenty-first Century Listeners* [Baker Books, 2001], 84).

I did a mental double take when I read that paragraph. The irony had never before occurred to me that I can let myself off the hook when I hear a sermon that steps on my toes because I know that, as uncomfortable as I may be, next Sunday it will be someone else’s turn to squirm.

One solution to this dilemma is suggested by a conversation I had with a man during a preaching series I was doing on the letter of James. He came to me after one sermon to express his distress over the fact that I had *again* spent time on the dangers of wealth and the need to attend to the needs of the poor. I pointed out that the reason I kept returning to the subject was because I was preaching sequentially through the letter and James kept returning to it. Honest exposition required me to deal with subjects as James presented them, not gloss over the ones that made my hearers—or me—uncomfortable. I assured him that when we studied a section of text that addressed different topics, the sermon subjects would change.

What I aimed to do was place 2 Timothy 4.2’s command to “preach the word” alongside Acts 20.27’s example of Paul who was “declaring ...

(continued next column)

the whole counsel of God.” By choosing a Bible book or unit within a book and working through the text, we let the Spirit’s authorship dictate the topics and what will be said about them. Whether the week-to-week messages reprove, rebuke, or exhort (2 Timothy 4.2) is then governed less by the preacher, who still chooses what to emphasize in the text, and more by God. And over time, as we expose more sections of the entirety of Scripture, the Spirit leads us into more of God’s counsel.

And if a section of the Spirit’s text repeats a topic in more than one passage? Well, maybe he is telling us we need to practice that one before we get a new one.

David Anguish  
Searcy, AR  
May 2024



### Blood Drive Centerville Fairfield Church of Christ

Fellowship Hall  
1860 Hwy. 100  
Centerville, TN 37033

**Monday, June 3, 2024  
12:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.**

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit [RedCrossBlood.org](https://RedCrossBlood.org) and enter: Centerville19 to schedule an appointment.

Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting [RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass](https://RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass) to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of your appointment.



Build the blood supply: Come give 5/20 to 6/9 for an exclusive Tetris and Red Cross shirt, ltd. qty.



1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | [RedCrossBlood.org](https://RedCrossBlood.org) | Download the Blood Donor App



Stay in touch with us on social media:

**Facebook:** Fairfield church of Christ-Field Family

**Instagram:** fcocfamily

**Website:** [fairfieldcofc.org](https://fairfieldcofc.org)

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