

THE PROVIDER

VOLUME XXXVII, NUMBER 26



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:

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

*Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you
from the foundation of the world.*

Matthew 25:34

In Matthew 25, Jesus tells of a day when he will return to judge the nations. He will separate people as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats.

He will say to the sheep, "Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you" (verse 34). To the others, He will say "Depart from me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels" (verse 41).

The first group, the "sheep", represent the saved. These people are saved by grace through faith. Out of their salvation flow their good works— they feed the hungry, clothe the naked, visit the sick, care for the imprisoned, and minister to "the least of these."

No one is saved on the basis of those good deeds, because no amount of good works can save us. We engage in these acts of service *because* we have been saved. Our kindness and compassion is simply *evidence* that we have been saved and transformed by God.

Our lives should be filled with efforts to bless those around us. It is a blessing to be a blessing!

The benefits of being a blessing are numerous and powerful. The greatest of which will be finally hearing the words of Jesus, calling us to come home to Him and receive the life that He has been preparing for us.

In Christian Love,

Mike





Congratulations to **John & Kaitlyn Harris** on the birth of their baby girl, **Elliana Rose** on June 27th. The proud grandmothers are Lynette Harris and Tonya Rochelle.

The Fairfield Relay Team are selling luminaria bags for \$5. They will be displayed at Relay for Life in September. See any Relay Team member to order.

Mark your calendar now for VBS on July 14, 21, & 28. Sign-up sheets are in both foyers for teachers and volunteers.

Donations for the annual school supply drive are due by this coming Monday, July 8th. Please give your donation to Joyce Boyd or one of the elders.

Christmas in July is coming up later this month for all ladies that wish to attend. Details will be announced later.

The Men-to-Serve and Van Drivers sheets for July are in both foyers. Please pick one up.

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 2nd & 4th 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 **Rose Scribner** of Big Sandy, TN who passed away on Thursday. She was the sister of **Woody Woodruff**.

We also express sympathy to the family of **Alice Lynn** who passed away this week. Alice has been a longtime member here at Fairfield along with her sons **Ron & Kerry**. Her visitation and funeral are Sunday, July 7th at 12 noon at McDonald Funeral Home.



Members: Marlin Lawson (reverse shoulder replacement surgery July 18th), Dave Davidson (home), Kita Wright (home), Brenda Scott-Carroll (home), Randy Prince (St. Thomas West-therapy), Deborah McClellan, Sherry Breece, Joyce Boyd, Floy Cochran, Carolyn Phillips, Reda Springer (Skyline Medical Center-accident), Shanon Irwin, Terry Duncan, Dorothy Noonan, Dana McCaleb, Woody Woodruff, Janey Gilbert, Lelia Mae Poore, Dorothy Weatherspoon, Helen Shanes (hospice in Dickson facility), & Jo Ann Totty (St. Thomas Hickman swing bed).

Friends & Family: Chris Kimbro (heart attack), David Gossett (home-2nd degree burns from an accident), Jimmie Jenkins (home), Ryan Edwards, Brian Powers, Martha Ann McCord, Jean Greer (health facility near her home), Lou Gann, Gethlyn Gardner, Deborah Johnston, James Buffington, Nicholas Wright, Barbara Beard, Edwin Garner, Chris Chilton, David Stewart, Willie Lawler, James Coates (Clarksville healthcare facility), Trevor Buchanan, Pam Sullivan, Mike Avery, Pat Garrett, Mary French, Anthony Stacks, David Talley, Billie Lynn Tyler, Cory Patterson, James Stoltz, Grayson Gunter, Stephanie Pitman, Carolyn Nash, Laura DeLong, Ila Faye Jenkins, Kathryn Purcell, Becky Carroll, Bryan Williams, Mary Spears, Kevin Chandler & Donna Gaspard.

Life Care: Dot Davidson (rehab), Kenneth Chandler (therapy), Cynthia Butler, Hester Moss. Sue Davidson, Gary Yates, Wilma Green.

The Bridge at Columbia: Hattie Mayberry, Daisy Beard.



July 14 - VBS Ice Cream Social to follow
July 16 - Middle/High School devo, 6:30-8:30, @ FH
July 21 - VBS Popcorn & Candy fellowship to follow
July 28 - VBS Hot Dogs, Inflatables & Games to follow



Just Joshin'

It is so easy to lose sight of what is important in life. We are surrounded by a constant bustle and we can, sometimes, be overwhelmed by it. Thankfully, Paul has a reminder for all of us on what really matters: love. 1 Corinthians 13 is regarded as the “love” chapter and emphasizes the greatest trait that we possess as human beings.

So, what is so special about love? Paul outlines a few major reasons for why love is so valuable. He describes in 1 Corinthians 13:4 that love is “patient and kind.” We are bound to make mistakes and we should appreciate those who are not easily angered or quick to push us away when we do and we should reciprocate that to those whom we love. God is the same way. He is patient with us and forgives us because of His infinite and complete loving nature.

Paul, in verse 5, also says that love “does not insist on its own way.” In our self-serving society, we are told by the world that each person is entitled to their own “truth.” Many hold on to this mindset of “it’s either my way or the highway” and this is extremely detrimental to the soul. If we are to love as God does then we have to be humble and look out for others. We cannot love and be selfish simultaneously. We cannot be “arrogant” as Paul says in verse 4.

One of the most powerful aspects of love is highlighted in verse 8. Paul simply says that “Love never ends.” Everything that we can see and touch and smell in our physical world is temporary. Nothing lasts forever and this includes people. Love, however, is eternal. Love is forever. Paul is comparing love to the other miracles and spiritual gifts that were present at the time. There will be a day, Paul is saying, when prophecies and speaking in tongues are useless and their purpose will have been served but love will always have a purpose. Once Jesus comes back, then all will pass away and will no longer be necessary but love will always be there.

Paul concludes in verse 13 by writing, “So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.” This might raise some questions for many believers. “Is faith not important?” “Is it not good to have hope?” Of course, having faith and hope are vital for the Christian walk, but there will come a time when these things won’t be needed. We don’t need faith when we’re face-to-face with Christ. We don’t need hope when we have

a perfect life in Heaven. However, so long as our souls exist (which is forever), there will always be a need for love. Above all else, love is the essence of every Christian.

Josh

Pictures from the Golden Ager’s cookout last Thursday!



A great time was had by all!

WHY CHURCHES WON'T GROW

This is loaded question that has seen much ink spilled (or keypads struck) attempting to answer. The church is stuck in the past; too slow to navigate the ever-changing cultural landscape; too racist or scandal plagued; too institutional; too conservative; too progressive; their worship is out-of-touch; too political; aging out; irrelevant; etc. and etc.

All of which have merit. All of which has to be examined and included in the conversation. Layers upon layers of possible answers—making it a complex discussion. But what if, after peeling back all of these layers, there is something else; a core reason that just may not be that complex?

Could it be; that maybe, perhaps, churches do not grow because—they do not really want to? Is it possible that churches become very comfortable with their status quo and find real, lasting growth simply too difficult to consider?

In my ministry, I have only been a part of one truly growing church. I define that as a church realizing the kind of sustained, steady growth that challenges space in the pews, classrooms and on the parking lot, as well as leadership, volunteers, planning, and comfort zones. It was marvelous to experience, but it also wasn't. With new people came new ideas, fresh minds, new resources, and new energy. It was exciting, that is, until the pushback came against newness; until the growth overwhelmed the capacity of the leadership and the facilities; until the fallout to the growth and the attempted management of it all stymied it. There were simply unseen, unrecognized, unexpected minefields already in place waiting to explode as the growth occurred. While never acknowledged, it seemed that this church (at least as a whole) did not want to grow. It created too many problems; too many difficult decisions; and an atmosphere that challenged too many previously entrenched norms.

Without a doubt church growth is hard on almost every level. So, could it be that churches just don't want to go there—choosing instead to manage what they have; keep the peace and stay put? It is the safer option for sure, but an option that sooner or later will likely catch up with you. Just ask the churches closing their doors forever.

Again, do not misunderstand. There a litany of factors why churches do not grow; why some have ceased to be. Location; demographics; internal strife and division; economic downturns; just to name a few. And yes, some churches do want to grow; plan for it; execute the plans and adjust as they go—planting and watering and trusting God to give the increase.

But my guess, after 40+ years in ministry, is that most do not—whether they would ever admit it or really, even be aware of it. It requires too much.

Maybe I am wrong. I hope I am. I love the church. I love my congregation. I am not cynical, bitter or suffering from burn-out

(continued)

I trust in the power of God to enable us to do more than we can ask or imagine. I have just come to believe that we cannot imagine our churches really growing.

What else, truthfully, is stopping us? If the church could grow rapidly in the hostility of the Roman world in the first few centuries, why not now?

Danny Dodd

North Little Rock, Arkansas

MEN TO SERVE

SUNDAY MORNING:

Song Leader: Darin Cochran

Opening Prayer: Norman George

Scripture Reading: Carter Bates

Scripture: Hebrews 13:15-16

Preside Lord's Supper: Randal Halbrooks

Left: Phillip Coates **Right:** Rusty Bates

Willie Powers

Gerry Hinson

Chris Wright

Steve Baker

Lyle Shepherd

Damon McCoy

Announcements: Darin Cochran

Closing Prayer: Adam Jude

Van Driver: Gary Basford 931-628-0355

SUNDAY EVENING:

Announcements: Gary Basford

Scripture Reading: Boyce Cannon

Scripture: Ephesians 6:11-12

Song Leader: Norman Moss

Opening Prayer: Wayne Prince

Lord's Supper: Edwin Wright, Gerry Hinson

Closing Prayer: Rick Bruno

Van Driver: Gary Basford 931-628-0355

WEDNESDAY NIGHT:

Announcements: Randal Halbrooks

Song Leader: Ronny Pitman

Opening Prayer: Gary Wright

Van Driver: Chris Love 931-994-7855

FOR THE RECORD

WEEK OF June 30, 2024

MORNING WORSHIP 197

CONTRIBUTION: \$6511

2024 WEEKLY BUDGET \$5417



Stay in touch with us on social media:

Facebook: Fairfield church of Christ-Field Family

Instagram: fcocfamily

Website: fairfieldcofc.org

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