

THE PROVIDER

VOLUME XXXIV, NUMBER 36



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



Mike's Minute

Team Rubicon. Team Rubicon is a nonprofit organization that utilizes the skills of military veterans with first responders to rapidly deploy emergency response teams when natural disasters strike. The team has come to our area to help with the cleanup from last weekend's flooding. They are currently stationed in our Fellowship Building. We are happy that we can use our facilities for such a good purpose as this. We are grateful for Fairfield's elders who watch over not only our own congregation but also our community and neighboring communities. We are also thankful for the volunteers from Team Rubicon and the volunteers from our community who are helping them in their work. For the next couple of weeks, our elders are asking us to refrain from entering the Fellowship Building, as it is the living quarters for Team Rubicon. We thank all our members for cooperating.

The Cowboy... Preacher! Woody Woodruff is a local treasure. He has worked with country singer George Jones. He has been in movies. He has written and read poems that are known and loved far and wide. He is known as "The Cowboy Poet." I would like to christen him with another nickname... "The Cowboy Preacher." Woody served as our 5th Sunday guest speaker this past Sunday at Fairfield. He did an outstanding job. We are very blessed to have Woody and his family with us at Fairfield. As you know, they are also a great blessing to the Coble congregation, where Woody regularly preaches.

Classes Combining. With Team Rubicon in our Fellowship Building, I'm asking that the Outfielders, the Sunday morning class I lead, meet in the basement with the Centerfielders for the next couple of weeks. Rodney and I will double team the teaching duties. See you there!

In Christian Love,

Mike





There are sheets in both foyers for you to take and update your information for our new directory. Please turn your sheets in to one of the elders or drop it in the box at the office. **The elders have asked that each family fill out a sheet please.**

The next Ladies Craft night will be on Monday, September 13th at 6:00 pm in room 104.

We will be feeding Team Rubicon on Labor Day afternoon. The church will furnish hamburgers, hot dogs and buns. Please sign up to furnish sides and have it here by 5:15 at the Pavilion on Monday to serve at 6:00. Sheets are in both foyers.

A special contribution has been given in memory of **Jenny Chandler** in honor of **Clay & Linda Chandler** and **Phillip & Diane Coates** by **Lorraine Bates**.

The men to serve sheets for September are now in both foyers.

Paul's First Communion

In the upper room that night, Jesus "reclined at the table, and the apostles with him. And he said to them, "I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer" (Luke 22:14,15). That evening Jesus broke the bread and drank the cup with his apostles, but not with all of them. One remained for Jesus to commune with.

The apostle Paul wrote to the Corinthians and reminded them of the importance of the bread and cup and said, "For I received from the Lord which I also delivered to you" (1 Cor. 11:23). It appears that Jesus and Paul had several "face to face" meetings. The first after His resurrection, on "the road" (Acts 9:27). followed by other occasions (Gal. 1:12, Acts 22:18, 2 Cor. 12:8,9).

Exactly how and when Paul received this "one on one" instruction about the Lord's supper we do not know, but what a special time of communion with Jesus that must have been. From that instruction Paul met often with the disciples to "break bread" with them (Acts 20:7), and, as in Corinth, made sure all churches understood the meaning and importance of this memorial meal. Let our communion with Jesus on the first day of the week be important to us as well, as we meet to "proclaim the Lord's death until he comes" (1 Cor. 11:26).

Dennis Doughty

Members: O.D. Pratt, June Prince, Alice Lynn (Centennial-recovering from heart surgery), Dewayne Victory, Faye Rochelle, Helen Shanes, Bob James, Kenneth Chandler, Carol Warren, Thomas Haskins, Lou Dickens, Raymond Stoltz, Paul & Noble Victory, James Coates & Jo Ann Totty.

Friends & Family: Donald Canady, Loretta Burke, Bobby McCoy, Jane Gilbert, Melvin Roberson, Willie Taylor, Ronald Loveless, Billie Church, Daniel Spears, Harley Parker, Ann Spencer, Thomas Brady, Donald Brady, Michael Noonan, Doris Elam, Jean Greer, David Dansby, Neil Jobe, Adam Lawson, Evan Boyd, Donna Gaspard, Roman Surra, Anthony & Rita Stacks, McKinley Moore, Jimmy Jenkins, Doug & Ruby Church, Carolyn Nash, Kathy Swinford Coleman, Grayson Gunter, Jimmy George & William Dale Nash.

Life Care: Hester Moss

St. Thomas Hickman Nursing Home: Barbara Beard, Naomi Bailey

Olive Branch Senior Living, Dickson: Martha Page

SPECIAL PRAYERS: Let's continue to remember the flood victims who lost their homes and the churches that were flooded recently. Also, several have come forward the past few weeks asking for prayers.



Sept 6 - Middle/High School Devo, 6:30-8:30 @ the FH
Sept 12 - Puppet Show, during evening service.
Sept 19 - 3rd-5th grade Devo, during evening service @ FH
Sept 21 - Middle/High School Devo, 6:30-8:30 @ the FH

ATTENTION YOUTH: Celebration is November 5 - 7 this year. This youth rally is in Gilbertsville, KY and is for the middle school and high school youth. The cost is \$70 each. There is a sign up sheet in the Field House or see Teresa Craft. Deadline to sign up is Sunday, September 19th.



Center Fielders News

“Examining Myself”

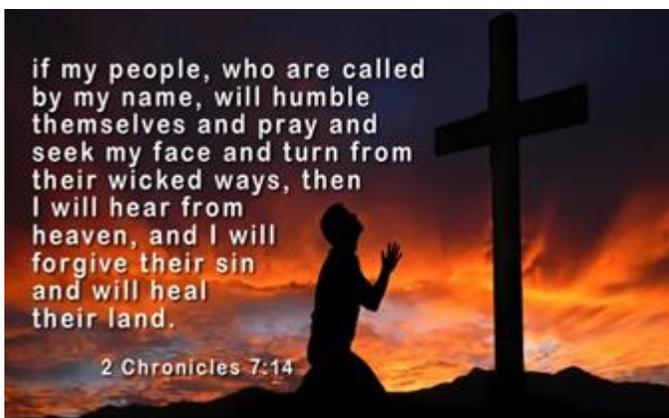
The most important examination I need to make is an examination of myself. But actually, God should do the examining. David said in Psalm 139:23, “Search me O God and know my heart, test me and know my thoughts.” Letting God search me in this way is a very humbling experience, and should bring repentance and improvement in each individual.

The life of ministry is sometimes overwhelming and sometimes it is very easy to focus away from myself when seeking self-improvement. Thoughts like, “If only he or she would change their ways, I would be happier,” is sometimes a natural mindset. I need to consider how others see me so I can improve the person that is most important to improve, which is myself. What mentality do I display to others? Is it to seek first my own needs and wants, or is it to help others? Do I have a nature of the “Good Samaritan,” or is my focus all on myself?

Jesus bought the church with His own precious body and blood. The church does not belong to the elders, the deacons, the ministers, or the congregation. It belongs to Christ and we all have a role to play. Jesus left us all an example to follow, and when we search our hearts, it helps us to better follow that example. I do realize that it is our duty as Christians to pray for those whose faults we think are obvious, but we need to remember that we have some obvious faults as well. We need the “spirit of meekness” when we view other people’s faults. Then and only then, can one begin to improve themselves. I have examined myself, and I challenge us all to do the same.

Obey God and watch Him work,

Rodney



MEN TO SERVE SEPTEMBER 5

SUNDAY MORNING:

Song Leader: Darin Cochran
Opening Prayer: Mike Breece
Scripture Reading: Keith Harvill
Scripture: Hebrews 12:1-3
Preside Lord’s Supper: Roy McCoy
Alternates: Willie Powers, Adam Jude
Announcements: Rodney Rochelle
Closing Prayer: Jerrie W Barber
Van Driver: Gary Basford 931-628-0355

SUNDAY EVENING:

Announcements: Randal Halbrooks
Scripture Reading: Jeff Stacks
Scripture: 2 Chronicles 7:14
Song Leader: Jeff Rose
Opening Prayer: Lafayette Spears
Lord’s Supper: Chris Wright, Boyce Cannon
Closing Prayer: James Swaw
Van Driver: Gary Basford 931-628-0355

WEDNESDAY NIGHT:

Announcements: Gary Wright
Song Leader: Gary Basford
Opening Prayer: Randal Halbrooks
Invitation: Mike Kelley
Van Driver: Gary Basford 931-628-0355



1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, 2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

Hebrews 12:1-3

FOR THE RECORD

WEEK OF August 29, 2021
MORNING WORSHIP 146
CONTRIBUTION: \$10678
2021 WEEKLY BUDGET \$4167

TO BELIEVE OR NOT TO BELIEVE

Some people believe in God. Some people don't. What makes the difference?

Not to believe in God is called "atheism." Open a dictionary, and it defines atheism as "disbelief in the existence of deity." Of course, some people have a conversion, of sorts, to change from unbelief in God to belief in God, and sometimes it goes the other way—they change from belief in God to unbelief.

Dr. Paul Vitz is a Professor Emeritus of Psychology at New York University. He is also a Professor for the Institute for the Psychological Sciences. Dr. Vitz went deep into atheism, spending 20 years as a forthright atheist (that is, one who was outspoken in his disbelief in God), then he became a Christian. He has written a book about his journey called **Faith of the Fatherless**. In that book, he wrote this:

There seems to be a widespread assumption that belief in God is based on all kinds of irrational, immature needs and wishes, whereas atheism or skepticism flows from a rational, grown-up, no-nonsense view of things as they really are.

But the major factors involved in my becoming an atheist—though I was not really aware of them at the time—were not intellectual, but social and psychological. I turn to these since they are rarely discussed, even though there is good reason to believe that, at least for many people, social-psychological factors are far more influential than rational arguments.

I desired to be accepted by the powerful and influential scientists in the field of psychology. In particular, I wanted to be accepted by my professors in graduate school. As a graduate student, I was thoroughly socialized by the specific "culture" of academic research psychology. My professors were, as far as I could tell, united in two things: their intense career ambitions and their rejection of religion. I learned to think like a proper psychologist by putting on the right—that is atheistic—ideas and attitudes.

I find that very interesting. He made the switch to atheism because he wanted to follow his professors and his peers in graduate school. He thought that would increase his standing and his esteem with people he respected. But then he had 20 years to think about it, and eventually he backed off his

(continued next column)

atheistic beliefs and began acknowledging allegiance to God and his Son, Jesus Christ. The title of his book is intriguing: **Faith of the Fatherless**. In those 20 years of atheism, it apparently dawned on him that as an atheist he was really without a father, whereas in fact he really did need a Father, the Father he eventually acknowledged as God.

When I think about the change he made, I can't help but think of a figure from the New Testament who stands in such contrast to Dr. Vitz. It was a woman whose name we don't even know. The incident from her life comprises no more than four verses from the gospel of Luke. This is the way the story goes:

As Jesus looked up, he saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. "I tell you the truth," he said, "this poor widow has put in more than all the others. All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth, but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on."

No, the word "atheism" isn't mentioned here. But the point is obvious. This woman believed in God to the point that she was willing to put into the temple treasury all the money she had. Her belief in God was so strong that she knew God would take care of her in spite of the fact that she left the temple that day without any money at all to live on. She just knew God would take care of her.

And that, my friend, is the definition of what belief in God really is. In his 20 years as an atheist, Dr. Vitz bought into a belief that meant nothing other than falling down at the feet of people he wanted to like him. But then, thankfully, he woke up and realized that belief in the Almighty God is much more important than the good wishes of professors who would give him a good grade in their class. Belief in God is a constant and continual encounter with the God who is really and genuinely Father and God over all.

Those encounters changed people hundreds of years ago, and they will change you today.

Gayle Crowe
Nashville, TN
"Encounters with Jesus"

