

Covington Family News

December 15, 2024

Giving To Thee

As I progress through my life,

more clearly do I see,

It is not what I gather, Lord,

but what I give to Thee.

I give to thee by pouring out,

my body, heart, and soul,

in glory and devotion,

trusting Thee to make me whole.

I give to Thee by kindly helping,

all others, great and small,

Humbly loving, serving, forgiving,

not with part, but with all.

I give to Thee by giving free,

not expecting in return,

knowing my full reward will come,

at the end of my sojourn.

As I progress through my life,

more clearly do I see,

the more I give to You, Dear Lord,

the more You give to me.



*Serving Our Community
for the Glory of God*

SHEPHERDS

Wayne Dalrymple 901- 573-3908
David Keith 901- 430-3940
Andy Whaley 901- 626-2911
Mike Rogers 901- 229-4305

DEACONS

Ken Bringle Jr.
Neil Bringle
J.J. Brown
Benny Collins
Brad Evins
Brandon Matlock
Alan Otts
Craig Robinson
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SERVING THIS WEEK 12/15/24 AM Worship Service

Announcements Jeff Phillips
Song Leader: Noah Liles
Sermon: Mike Rogers

Presiding Over the Lord's Table:

Head: LeRoy Finto
Brad Evins, Craig Robinson, Donnie Benjamin, Ken Mason,
Nick Maness, Breck Beasley, Myles Benjamin, Landon Bringle

Opening Prayer: Bill Murray
Closing Prayer: Jon McCain

Nursery Worker: Teri Robinson

Attendance Card Collectors: (12/15)

Eli Charnock, Noah Charnock, August Charnock

December Door Greeters:

Main Lobby Entrance: Richard & Elaine Shankle
Auditorium Entrance: Hadley & Brenda Mason

PM Worship Service

Song Leader: Noah Liles
Opening Prayer: Ken Bringle Jr.
Closing Prayer: Michael Wyatt
Sermon Mike Rogers

PROOF OF OUR LOVE

Sunday Bible Classes	132
Worship AM	194
PM	118
Wednesday Bible Study	120

VISITORS ARE OUR SPECIAL GUESTS

Tessa Stacks & Erik Harford Colonial Beach, VA
Winona Robinson
Wesley Wiley

Covington Church of Christ
1690 Highway 51 South – PO Box 9
Covington, TN 38019

Schedule of Services

SUNDAY

Bible Classes 9:00AM
Worship 10:00AM & 5:30PM

WEDNESDAY

Bible Classes 7:00 PM

Mike’s Message

“Reigniting Our Vision”

In 2006 the church in Covington developed a vision to be realized by 2020. It was referred to as our 2020 Vision. That vision has been realized, at least the vast majority has been. It is time to kindle another vision for the future of the Covington church.

A vision is the ability to see beyond the present. One with a vision believes in the future, and that vision motivates him to action. Some people fail to see past the present because they do not believe in the future. Some people get knocked down so often that they tend to believe that the way it is now is as good as it can be. Still others fail to see past the present because they are afraid of what the vision will demand. Furthermore, some people just do not want to be involved. Fear, unconcern, or complacency often keeps people from seeing past the present. So, they never move into action.

A vision begins with a dream. A dream is an idea that is far-seeing. It may even seem unrealistic. Then comes a goal. The goal is that same dream that has been thought through and made realistic. Following the set goal, is a plan of action. A plan is an itemized drawing or detailed outline of how one expects to accomplish his dream and goal. The vision is seeing the reality of the dream and the goal accomplished before putting the plan of action into place.

There are challenges in any vision. First, for a church to reach the goal every member must share the same vision. This is only possible when every member puts complete trust in God. In reading James 4:13-15 we learn that we must focus on God’s will to be successful in anything. If any member refuses to see beyond the present – doubting the possibility of accomplishing the vision – he/she may be placing unfair limitations on God. Jesus said, “. . . with God all things are possible” (Matt. 19:26). Someone once said that having a spiritual vision is more than looking on the bright side. It is looking on God’s side. Once we learn to trust God, we will not hesitate to believe in our vision for the future.

In addition to trusting in God, we must depend upon one another. No one can do everything alone. We need one another working together, sharing the same dream, goal, and working the same plan. Proverbs 27:17 reminds us that “Iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.” Trusting God and each other is the key to accomplishing any vision.

It has been a long time since we talked very much about the future of the church in Covington. We have had many challenges, but still fulfilled our vision of 2006. It is now time to develop a new vision, dream a new dream, with new goals, and a new plan of action. With God’s blessing and your help, we can do anything.

--Mike Rogers

Prayer List



- LaVerne Baxter—Home
Lesa Hall—Jackson-Madison Co. Hospital
Kay Gatlin
Deborah Cates
Pat Stephenson
Paula Stanley
Kathy Brunson—Sister of Debra Brownlee
Hattie Fields
Carolyn Whaley & family in the death of her sister, *Gwen Coffee*. Also remember Israel, Storm Victims, Our Country, Our Missionaries, Heath Billings, Carolyn Blackwood, Frank Brown, Lynn Butler, Andre’ Cannon, Andrew Canmito, Captain Mike Shipley, Larry Coughlan, Kenneth Coulston, Gabe & Lisa Dunham’s grandbaby, Jason Elliott, Debra Foshee, Malissa Garner, Jackie Gatlin, Pat Gatlin, Mayson Hall, Kyle Hanks, Charles Hays, K.C. Haynes, Ruth Heath, Joe Hendricks, Ferlando Howard, Angie Jackson, Jeff Kirkpatrick, Odell Kirkpatrick, Charlotte McCalister, Linda Maclin, Vicki Mayfield, Phyllis McLillie, Kathy McMahan, Judy Merritt, Gigi Miller, Robin Montgomery, Dorothy Morris, Jacob Navarro, Larry Newman, Sophie Nolan, Jimmy Parsons, Randy Rhoads, Bonita Rogers, Gillian Sanders, Anthony Stacks, David South, Patti Taylor, Melvin Wall, Sara Walton, Larry Whaley II, Tina Williams, Jeff Wood
- NURSING HOME:**
Covington Care: Shirley Laxton, Cynthia Wilson
MILITARY:
Killian Bridgeman, Logan Bridgeman, Major Creel, Bradley Evins, Dayana Fendley, Danny Fields, Tanner Mason, Richie Newbill, Chris Nowak, Jedidiah Phillips, Jacob Sampson, Parker Speight, Isaac Stewart
SYMPATHY
We extend our deepest sympathy to Wesley Fowler & family in the death of his brother, and our beloved brother, *Randy Fowler*; and to Bill & Pat Gatlin & family in the death of their granddaughter, *Amber Gatlin*.

BIBLE READING SCHEDULE DECEMBER 15-21

December 15—Hebrews 1-4
December 16—Heb. 5-8
December 17—Heb. 9-13
December 18—James 1-3
December 19—James 4-5
December 20—1 Peter 1-3
December 21—1 Pet. 4-5

Calendar of Events

DECEMBER EVENTS
15—Devotional at Covington Care, 3PM
16—Monday Night for the Master, Groups 3 & 4
17, 31—Ladies Bible Class
21—Birthday Party at Magnolia Creek Nursing Home
Teachers, please give your list of kids who said their memory verses for the last quarter to Ken Bringle Jr. Memory verse certificates will be given out, Sun.Dec.15. Everyone is invited to the Fellowship Room on Wednesday nights from 6:00-6:45 for sandwiches, chips, & drinks. The cost is \$5.00 per family. Following Bible classes, you are also invited to stay for coffee, hot chocolate, & cookies.
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***C.I.A. Christmas shop & Christmas party, Friday, December 14, 6PM. Chicken tenders will be provided. Please bring sides & desserts. Also please bring in gently used items that you no longer want but still have a lot of life in them! The kids will come with their lists to shop for their loved ones. We will also need wrapping paper, ribbon, tape, bags, tags, & tissue paper.**
***Ladies Christmas Party, Sunday, December 15 after the evening service at the home of Karen Wall. Bring finger foods, & a \$10.00-\$15.00 wrapped gift, and we will play Dirty Santa.**
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Wednesday, December 25, we will have a Devotional/Worship in song. Singing Night for December will be Tuesday, December 31. Following the singing everyone is invited to the Fellowship Room for a New Year’s Eve Party. Please bring games and snacks.
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DECEMBER YOUTH EVENTS
Four small, stylized Christmas tree icons arranged horizontally.
14—C.I.A. Christmas Party & Store, 6PM
15—Devo. Night at the home of Andy & Delores Whaley
20—Half day of School
BIRTHDAYS DECEMBER 15-21
15—Mary Isome Newman, Allison Cox
17—Emma Matlock
21—Robert Brownlee, Judy Merritt
ANNIVERSARIES
15—Robbie & Genie Renfroe
21—Levi & Zoe Bridges

The Carpenter’s Apprentice

So according to the internet, the thorns of a Honey Locust tree are not poisonous. The tree is quite native to West Tennessee and while it can grow practically anywhere, it loves “the moist soil of river valleys.” Being prolific in the moist soils of river valleys would explain why a duck hunter might come into contact with one of these spikey trees. One of my favorite spots to hunt is literally surrounded, or maybe I should say protected by thousands of them. In my experience, the spikes on the tree trunks grow in clusters and can get as long as 4-6 inches and be almost a quarter inch thick at the base. They are incredibly sharp and fine tipped so when you are impaled by one, invariably the tip breaks off well beneath the surface of the skin and while not poisonous, the little foreign particle is rarely welcomed by the human body. Furthermore, while scientific evidence has eluded me, I am fairly certain the thorns are coated in some kind of anti-coagulant, because in a very short time, there seems to be blood everywhere as the bleeding just won’t stop! Which is really fine, because when it does, the swelling and festering starts and the real pain begins. Whether you stop to cut your body open to find the tiny tip of the thorn (often hard to see through the blood) or wait and soak the wounded part in Epsom salts, the next 24 to 48 hours are going to be painful when the affected area is touched or moved. One thing is for sure though, the pain will not stop until the tip of the thorn is removed. Unfortunately, I know this from too much experience the most recent being last Saturday when the tip of my right index finger was impaled deeply by what was probably a world record setting locust spike in the categories of length, strength and sharpness. We will never know though as the thought of being named in Ripley’s Believe It or Not or the Guinness Book of World Records came as an afterthought while I was doing the one-legged crotch hop, a move often thought to help relieve pain achieved by wrapping the non-wounded hand around the wounded one, placing both between the legs and jumping up while down howling or muttering intelligibly. I am a mutterer and I think I was muttering as I studied Matthew 18:22 and Jesus words on forgiveness after Peter asked how many times to forgive a brother. I found an article based on a sermon by a guy named Dr. MacArther entitled, The Danger of Unforgiveness. The author outlined four points of what holding on to the wrongs done to us will do. First, a lack of forgiveness imprisons us in the past, then it produces bitterness and opens the door for Satan to take root in our lives and finally, the inability to forgive hinders our fellowship God. As my finger throbbbed, I couldn’t help but notice, that little thorn tip inside of me is just like unforgiveness. It’s not hurting the tree I got it from, but it’s killin’ me! -jeff