

Covington Family News

December 22, 2024

**Season's Greetings
and
Sincere Wishes
for a Healthy and
Prosperous New Year!**



**The Rogers family &
The Phillips family**



*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
David Stewart
Robert Trimm
Terry Wall

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SERVING THIS WEEK 12/22/24 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: David Keith
Closing Prayer: Donnie Benjamin

Nursery Worker: Rachel Maness

Attendance Card Collectors: (12/22)

Levi Teems, Houston Davis, Kyle McCain

December Door Greeters:

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

PM Worship Service

Song Leader: Noah Liles
Opening Prayer: Robert Brownlee
Closing Prayer: Robert Trimm
Sermon Mike Rogers

PROOF OF OUR LOVE

Sunday Bible Classes	156
Worship AM	201
PM	134
Wednesday Bible Study	138

VISITORS ARE OUR SPECIAL GUESTS

Thomas Starck	Atoka, TN
Cyril & Jamie Roethlisberg	Atoka, TN

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

The Real Reason for the Birth of Jesus

People who have studied the biblical account of the birth of Jesus understand that it is almost impossible that Jesus was born on December 25. Yet, more people attend church services at this time of year than any other time except for Easter. Any preacher that really wants to make a difference will take advantage of every opportunity to preach lessons that connect with his audience. Therefore, this lesson is about the real reason for the birth of Jesus. The Birth of Jesus is never celebrated in Scripture. Some argue that the gifts brought by the wise men is an example of celebrating His birth. But two points suggest this is not the case. First, the wise men did not come at the birth of Jesus. To prove this, we read that Jesus was born in a stable (Luke 2:7); the wise men came to “the house” where Jesus was (Matt. 2:11). Furthermore, the wise men came nearly two years after Jesus’ birth. Secondly, the gifts the wise men brought were not gifts for a baby—they were gifts for a king (see Matt. 2:11). These men were not celebrating the birth of Jesus—they were celebrating His authority as “King of the Jews” (Matt. 2:2). It was shepherds that came at the birth of Jesus and visited Him in the manger (Luke 2:16). The angel that appeared to the shepherds said, “Do not be afraid; for behold I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; for today, in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord” (Luke 2:10-11). They went immediately, not simply to see the baby, they went to see the child that was prophesied to be born of a virgin (Isa. 7:14), “the Savior, who is Christ the Lord.” He would “save His people from their sins” (Matt. 1:21). When we preach the birth of Jesus, we are not emphasizing the actual birth as much as why He was born. Jesus was born to fulfil prophecy (Isa. 7:14; Isa. 53; et. al.). Jesus was born to be a King of an everlasting kingdom (Dan. 2:44; John 18:36). Jesus was born to save the world from sin (Matt. 1:21). Jesus was born to suffer just like we do (Heb. 4:15). Jesus was born to show us how to be pleasing to God (John 14:31; John 13:15; 1 Peter 2:21). Jesus was born to be the perfect sacrifice for the sins of man, because without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness (Heb. 9:22; 10:10-12). In short, Jesus was born to be the Savior, Lord, and King of our lives. He was not born for His own glory, but for ours. May we celebrate Jesus for the right reasons, honoring His life and death through our own submission to Him as our Savior, Lord and King. May we celebrate Jesus every day!

--Mike Rogers

Prayer List



Donna Sonwineski
LaVerne Baxter—Encompass Health, Union Ave.,
Memphis, TN
Delores Whaley
Lesa Hall—Home
Kay Gatlin
Deborah Cates
John Oliver Wall—Surgery, Dec. 30
Melvin Wall—Dad of Terry Wall
Stan McDvitt—Cousin of Susan Mason
Israel, Storm Victims, Our Country, Our Missionaries, Heath Billings, Carolyn Blackwood, Kathy Brunson, Lynn Butler, Andre’ Cannon, Andrew Canmito, Captain Mike Shipley, Larry Coughlan, Kenneth Coulston, Gabe & Lisa Dunham’s grandbaby, Jason Elliott, Hattie Fields, 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, David South, Anthony Stacks, Paula Stanley, 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 Anthony Stephenson & family in the death of his mother, and our beloved sister, *Pat Stephenson*.

THANK YOU
The ladies thank *Karen Wall & Ellie Hoffman* for hosting the Ladies Christmas Party this year!

BIBLE READING SCHEDULE DECEMBER 22-28

December 22—11 Peter 1-3
December 23—1 John 1-5
December 24—11 John 1-14
December 25—Revelation 1-4
December 26—Rev. 5-7
December 27—Rev. 8-10
December 28—Rev. 11-13

Calendar of Events

DECEMBER EVENTS

21—Birthday Party at Magnolia Creek Nursing Home
Tuesday morning Ladies Bible Class will not meet again until, Tuesday, January 14.
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.



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.

Sunday, December 29 following the AM Worship Service we will have a Potluck Meal followed by a 1:00PM Worship Service.

If you would like to be in a Fellowship Group, please sign the sheet on the table by the Auditorium. See J.J. Brown for more information.

DECEMBER YOUTH EVENTS

22-31—Christmas Break

BIRTHDAYS DECEMBER 22-28



22—Genie Renfroe, Jeff Coughlan, Neil Bringle, Chris Max
25—Shane Hall
26—Bruce Hazlerig, Jill Matlock
28—Cammy Evans, Justin Harrell

ANNIVERSARIES

25—Bill & Pat Gatlin
28—Jerry & Kay Gatlin, Jeff & Jennifer Phillips

CONGRATULATIONS

We congratulate *Hailey Rimmer* on graduating from Dyersburg State Community College with an Associate’s Degree in Health Science & Nursing.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome *Jimmy & Carol Willis* to our family at Covington. Their address is 524 So. College, Covington, TN. 38019; Ph. 479-366-6514.

The Carpenter's Apprentice

It’s almost here! Behold the Fat Man cometh! Ready or not Christmas is only days away. “In the air there is a feeling of Christmas. Children laughing (giddy with anticipation and on their best behavior because ‘you know who’ is watching) people passing; meeting smile after smile (for the most part even though some seem to forget ‘you know who’ is watching).” “Santa’s big scene” is quickly approaching. Candies, stuffing and even the Christmas Goose are all being prepared to celebrate family, fellowship and love (at least that’s the idea). Anticipation of the big day is palpable. It is difficult not to get caught up in the excitement. My world is filled with people preparing for one big day. It may happen in the first light of dawn or later in morning but most people I know will be racing to the tree in anticipation of what might be there with their name on it (remember I work with children). If you know me well, you know I am not a big fan of the commercialization of Christmas nor am I a big fan of those who go over the top to celebrate Jesus birthday but maybe Jesus is more the reason the reason for the season than we like to admit. Maybe once a year we get to practice the way we ought to be living. Think about this for a second. Jesus said, “In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also” (John 14:2). He further states “I am coming soon. Hold fast what you have, so that no one may seize your crown” (Revelation 3:11). In other words, get ready for the day is coming. Imagine a world full of people rushing around getting ready for the big day. Imagine the continued excitement, anticipation and joy of everyone you know and meet getting ready for the coming of the King. Suddenly The Night Before Christmas takes on a whole new meaning. Dick’s Sporting Goods used to have the ad campaign, “Give a gift worth giving.” As I think about the merchandise in that store, I wonder, “If Jesus is coming soon, is there a single thing in this store worth giving?” For God So loved the world He gave His son Along with all you other gifts this year and while people are looking under the tree to make sure nothing was overlooked, remember God left His gift on the tree not under it. The best gift we can give is the Gospel. So, while folks are talking about his birth, let’s keep our eyes and ears peeled for opportunities to tell the ones we love most about the good news of His death burial and resurrection and the promise of hope that comes with it!

-jeff