

Covington Family News
December 29, 2024

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

10 GUIDELINES FOR NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS

In your relationship to...
GOD: be prayerful. Remember dependence and helplessness in your relationship with God are prerequisites for spiritual health. How about a thorough spiritual check-up this year?

OTHERS: Be helpful. Make a commitment to show love and encouragement to someone everyday. Challenge yourself to be kind and helpful especially to those who least expect it!

YOUR MIND: Read and think about something noble and creative each day. Bring every thought into the captivity of Christ. Start the day with the Bible. Let the words of life fill your heart and mind before anything else gets to them!

FEELINGS: Express them with love and honesty. Whether fear, guilt, grief, rage, shame or anxiety, express your feelings to God, self, and a trusted friend or spiritual mentor.

ACTIONS: Be generous. Without thought or reward or praise be extravagant in your giving to others. Give freely of your love, time, money, spirit, creativity, encouragement, and praise. Don't be stingy with the most important and powerful gifts in your possession. Let your actions reflect the startling love of God!

SUCCESSSES: Be thankful. Most if not all of our successes are the result of God's grace and not our cleverness of hard work. Count your blessings regularly.

TROUBLES: Be trustful. For some mysterious reason, many times, God has chosen to make us mature through trials and hardships. Look for the hand of God in every circumstance and trust His guidance in the highs and lows of life.

HEART: Be careful. Focus your love on the Father and Savior who reside within you. Be careful what you allow to creep into this sacred space which belongs to God.

WORSHIP: Be still. Expressing your love and adoration to God isn't reserved for Sundays only. Don't get too busy throughout the week to make continual offerings of praise to God. Jesus is Lord of every day!

SIN: be repentant. Don't let any sin harden your heart or break the connection between you and God. Confess your sins to the Father every day. Claim His promises to forgive you and make you pure and clean by the blood of Jesus.
Dean Fitch
Bulletin Digest

via Briensburg Church of Christ



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 12/29/24 AM Worship Service

Announcements Jeff Phillips
Song Leader: Michael Wyatt
Sermon: Wayne Dalrymple

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: Jerry Gatlin
Closing Prayer: Brad Evins

Nursery Worker: Kristine Bringle

Attendance Card Collectors: (12/29)

Jaxton Carter, Nolan Carter, Ethan Matlock

December Door Greeters:

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

PM Worship Service

Song Leader: Michael Wyatt
Opening Prayer: Alan Otts
Closing Prayer: Nick Maness
Sermon: Neil Bringle

PROOF OF OUR LOVE

Sunday Bible Classes 147
Worship AM 212
PM 136
Wednesday Bible Study 148

VISITORS ARE OUR SPECIAL GUESTS

Robin Phillips Lakeland, TN
Julianne Phillips Arlington, TN
Jedidiah Phillips family Hawaii
Kylee Mason Murfreesboro, TN
Landon & Christina Miller Bowling Green, KY
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 Church and the kingdom

Two weeks ago, on Sunday night, we learned that the the kingdom of heaven is the same as the kingdom of God. In this lesson we will compare this Kingdom to the church. First, the terms church and kingdom of God/heaven are often used interchangeably. Matthew 16:18-19 – Jesus declares. “I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; . . .” Church is the same as kingdom.

Second, neither the kingdom nor the church is a physical place. Jesus made it plain that the kingdom was not a physical place in His response to Pilate, “My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting so that I would not be handed over to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm” (John 18:36). Neither is the church a physical place. On that first Pentecost following the resurrection of Jesus all those who repented of their sins and were baptized to have their sins forgiven, were added together to form the church (Acts 2:38-41, 47; 5:11). They were not added to a place. In writing to churches, Paul is writing to people (1 Cor. 1:2; Gal. 1:2-3; 1 Thes. 1:1-2; et al.). The church is not a physical place.

Third, the church and the kingdom began to function among men at the same time. Before the first Pentecost following the resurrection of Jesus the Bible refers to the kingdom and the church in the future tense, “I will build My church”; “I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven” (Matt. 16:18-19). After this Pentecost (Acts 2), the Bible refers to the church is past tense, “Great fear came over the whole church” (Acts 5:11). The kingdom is also in past tense, “. . . transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son” (Col. 1:13). There can be no doubt that the Kingdom consists of the same people as the Church does. Both are a community of saved souls, whose bodies have been washed with pure water (Heb. 10:19-22). Both are a community of souls in whose hearts God rules, and Jesus is our Lord (Acts 2:36).

Additionally, the kingdom and the church are used in the eternal sense. Daniel declares that the kingdom that would be established in the days of the Roman kings “will never be destroyed” (Dan. 2:44). Paul declares the church is the “heavenly kingdom” (2 Tim. 4:18). Peter confirms it is an “eternal kingdom” (2 Peter 1:10-11). The “Kingdom of Heaven” and the “Kingdom of God” and “the church” are the same thing. They all refer to the rule or reign of God in the hearts of mankind.

--Mike Rogers

Prayer List



LaVerne Baxter—Encompass Health, Union Ave., Memphis, TN

Debra Brownlee’s granddaughter - tests for cancer
Donna Sonwineski

Delores Whaley

Lesa Hall

Deborah Cates

John Oliver Wall—Surgery, Dec. 30

Coy Hendrix—Recovering from surgery

Stan McDvitt—Cousin of Susan Mason

Israel, Storm Victims, Our Country, Our Missionaries,

Heath Billings, Carolyn Blackwood, Frank Brown,

Kathy Brunson, Lynn Butler, Andre’ Cannon, Andrew

Canmito, Captain Mike Shipley, Larry Coughlan, Ken-

neth Coulston, Gabe & Lisa Dunham’s grandbaby, Jason

Elliott, Hattie Fields, Debra Foshee, Malissa Garner,

Jackie Gatlin, Kay 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 Montgom-

ery, Dorothy Morris, Jacob Navarro, Larry Newman,

Sophie Nolan, Jimmy Parsons, Randy Rhoads, Bonita

Rogers, Gillian Sanders, Anthony Stacks, David South,

Paula Stanley, 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

RESPONSE

Debra Brownlee responded Sunday morning asking for prayers. Please remember her.

Sympathy:

We extend our deepest sympathy to Ken Jr and Neil Bringle and families in the death of their grandfather, Charles Hays.

Calendar of Events

DECEMBER EVENTS

Tuesday morning Ladies Bible Class will not meet again until, Tuesday, January 14.

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.

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***Sunday, December 29 following the AM Worship Service we will have a Pot-luck Meal followed by a 1:00PM Wor-ship Service.**

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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BIRTHDAYS DECEMBER 29-JANUARY 4



29—David Keith

30—Larry Coughlan

4—Rachel Sanders, Parker Moody, Levi Teems

BIBLE READING SCHEDULE DEC. 29-JAN. 4

December 29—Rev. 14-16

December 30—Rev. 17-19

December 31—Rev. 20-22

January 1—Genesis 1-3

January 2—Gen. 4-6

January 3—Gen. 7-9

January 4—Gen. 10-12

The Carpenter’s Apprentice

In Matthew 13:44 Jesus compares the kingdom of heaven to a treasure buried in a field. A man discovers the treasure, re-hides it, then goes and sells all he had in order to purchase the field so he could own the treasure. Commentaries suggest the treasure, Christ, is hidden in the open and is available to all who would have it. Recently, I began to wonder exactly how the treasure wound up in the middle of the field in the first place. After all, it’s not exactly hidden well; it’s in the middle of a field. Granted, a foot of grass can hide a sizable treasure and one cannot ignore the cleverness of hiding a treasure in the wide open. If I can’t find a single shoe in the middle of the floor, I am just as likely to miss a treasure in the middle of a field. The catch is, somebody placed the treasure in the middle of the field. If it was the owner, why did he sell without getting his treasure first? If it was really a treasure, wouldn’t the original owner be checking up on it? Maybe the original owner had the treasure so long he forgot its value. Possibly death came before the treasure could be handed down to the next generation. Could be the next generation knew about it but didn’t feel like they needed it. The treasure could have been taken for granted. “It’s been there for years and it will be there when I need it.” Then there is the saying, “One man’s trash is another man’s treasure.” Maybe the original owner didn’t even see it as treasure and put it in the middle of the field, out of sight, to avoid being reminded about it all the time. Surely, no one would view the kingdom of heaven as trash, and yet someone let a great treasure get away because they no longer saw its value or realized its importance. In any case, the message of this parable is not only about the availability of Christ, His eternal value and the lengths we should go to obtain the treasure, but there is a message of caution to those of us who already possess this treasure. Don’t let it slip away. Don’t forget about it. Don’t forget to pass it on to our children and grandchildren, making sure they understand the value of the treasure by showing them its value not telling them. Never take the treasure for granted or leave it unattended. A hidden treasure isn’t worth much. When we have the treasure with us it is much easier to share. If you’ve lost your treasure, it’s right out in the open, do what it takes to get it back (even if you have to sell everything). If you never had the treasure, I can tell you where I found mine and I’d be happy to share.

As the new year approaches, let’s make a point of not only securing our treasure but sharing it with the world around us!

--Jeff