

# Covington Family News

## January 19, 2025

### Twenty-Five Years Later

One day as a wife and her husband quarreled, harsh words were spoken. Each was too proud to ask the other's forgiveness and the bitter feelings finally led to divorce. Neither found a new mate during the intervening years. And now 25 years later, with one son already dead and the whereabouts of the other unknown, this woman learned that the only man she ever loved was in the hospital. She went to see him, and with tears they finally forgave one another. At their request, the preacher gladly remarried them right there in the hospital room. As he left after performing the ceremony, he thought of the price they had paid for their unwillingness to forgive. The prayers of both had been powerless (**1 Peter 3:7**), the joy of salvation could not be experienced (**Psalm 51:12**), and their sons had suffered because of a broken home. Although the husband and wife were reunited, the wasted years could never be recalled. Harboring an unforgiving spirit cheats one of fellowship with God, the beauty of the Christian character, and the best joys of life.

*"But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses" Matthew 6:15.*

Bulletin Digest

Church of Christ  
Crosbyton, TX

Theme For 2025:  
A Common Love



*Serving Our Community  
for the Glory of God*

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#### DEACONS

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Neil Bringle  
J.J. Brown  
Benny Collins  
Brad Evins  
Brandon Matlock  
Alan Otts  
Craig Robinson  
David Stewart  
Robert Trimm  
Terry Wall  
Jon McCain

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#### SERVING THIS WEEK 1/19/25 AM Worship Service

**Announcements** Ken Bringle Jr.  
**Song Leader:** Jimmy McMahan  
**Sermon:** Mike Rogers

#### Presiding Over the Lord's Table:

Head: Breck Beasley  
Chris Huggins, Hadley Mason, Ron Teems, Caleb Smith,  
Eason Robinson, Wesley Fowler, Chris Maness, Clint Stacks

**Opening Prayer:** George Watkins  
**Closing Prayer:** Donnie Benjamin

**Nursery Worker:** Mandy Billings

**January Food Committee Leader:** Debbie Otts

**Attendance Card Collectors:** (1/19)

Levi Teems, Houston Davis, Kyle McCain

#### **January Door Greeters:**

Main Lobby Entrance: Alan & Debbie Otts  
Auditorium Entrance: Brad & Becky Evins

#### PM Worship Service

**Song Leader:** Jimmy McMahan  
**Opening Prayer:** Robert Brownlee  
**Closing Prayer:** Nick Maness  
**Sermon** Mike Rogers

#### PROOF OF OUR LOVE

Sunday Bible Classes	143
Worship AM	224
PM	142
Wednesday Bible Study	153

#### VISITORS ARE OUR SPECIAL GUESTS

Chris Wolfe  
Josephine Draine

**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

### Foundations for the Home

Several years ago, I started writing a book entitled, “Foundations for the Home.” Over the years, I have gotten sidetracked from this project, but it has always been on my computer and in the back of my mind. I pray God will give me time to finish it, but even if He doesn’t, I grow in my love for God and His design for marriage, and my wife every time I think about God’s plan for the home. In this lesson, I want to discuss the introduction of this project, and why I began to write the book in the first place. Nearly 1000 years before Jesus was born, David asked this question: “If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do” (Ps. 11:3)? David’s question is raised because the wicked were attacking the righteous people and reshaping the foundation God intends for society. While David does not specifically mention the home, destruction of a society begins in the home. We live in a time when the foundations of our society are crumbling beneath us. There are terrorist attacks on our nation, gang violence, children killing other children in our schools, suicide, increasingly high divorce rate, cohabitation as an accepted living arrangement, homosexuality as an accepted alternative lifestyle, gender confusion, murder disguised as abortion, drug and alcohol abuse, child abuse and spouse abuse, pornography, and the rising popularity of gambling. These are all evidence of the deterioration of a moral society; and statistics reveal that many young people become involved with gangs, drugs, and gambling because of the lack of adult supervision in the home. The divided family is one of the leading causes for depression and suicide among America’s youth. Combine the above facts with the statistics that the divorce rate is about 50% of all marriages (US has third most divorces in the world), and the fact that on average children from broken homes do not do as well academically or socially; and the direction of our country is obvious. We are a nation that is becoming more violent, having more addictions, more depression, and more unnecessary deaths. We are a nation that is becoming less educated, more insecure, with poorer social skills. In 1974 Batsell Barrett Baxter wrote, “America needs more than slight surface repair.” He insists, “We need to rebuild the entire foundation our families are built upon” ([America, It’s Not Too Late](#) p.7). If this was true in 1974, how much truer is it today! Since the foundations of our world are crumbling beneath us, what can the righteous do? David’s answer: the righteous must keep on being righteous (vv. 4-7). Join us Sunday for more on this study!

--Mike Rogers

## Prayer List



Ken Bringle Sr—Recovering from surgery  
Susie Wyatt—Recovering from surgery  
Paulette Watkins—Encompass Health- Austin Peay  
Larry WhaleyII—Baptist East  
Judy Merritt  
Robert Brownlee  
Sandy Newman  
LaVerne Baxter  
Delores Whaley  
Stan McDivitt—Cousin of Susan Mason  
John Oliver Wall—Recovering from surgery  
Gloria Brownlee—Sister of Margie Crews  
Debra Brownlee’s granddaughter  
Fran Westmoreland—Mother of Jacque Trimm  
Coy Hendrix—Recovering from surgery  
Israel, Wildfire Victims, Storm Victims, Our Country,  
Our Missionaries, Heath Billings, Captain Mike Shipley,  
Larry Coughlan, Kenneth Coulston, Jason Elliott, Hattie Fields, Malissa Garner, Jackie Gatlin, Kay Gatlin, Pat Gatlin, Kyle Hanks, K.C. Haynes, Ruth Heath, Vicki Mayfield, Phyllis McLillie, Kathy McMahan, Judy Merritt, Gigi Miller, Robin Montgomery, Larry Newman, Sophie Nolan, Randy Rhoads, Bonita Rogers, Donna Sonwineski, Anthony Stacks, David South, Melvin Wall, Larry Whaley II

### 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

### RESPONSES

*Chris Huggins* responded, Sunday, December 29 asking for prayers. Please remember him.

*Robert Brownlee* responded Sunday, January 12 asking for prayers. Please remember him.

### BABY SHOWER



All ladies are invited to a baby shower honoring Landon & Christina Evins Miller, Saturday, January 18, 10AM at the home of Judy Dunaway. She is having a baby girl, *Abigail Lynn Miller*, & Brad & Becky Evins are having their first grandbaby. She is registered at Amazon.

## Calendar of Events

### JANUARY EVENTS

18—Birthday Party at Magnolia Creek Nursing Home  
19—Devotional at Covington Care, 3PM  
20—Monday Night for the Master, Group 3  
21, 28—Ladies Bible Class, 10AM  
27—Monday Night for the Master, Group 4  
29—Devotional/Worship in song

**Secret Sister’s Reveal, Sunday January 19 following the PM Worship Service. Please bring a gift & finger foods.**

***If you would like to be in a Fellowship Group, please sign the sheet on the table by the Auditorium.***

### JANUARY YOUTH EVENT



17-19 – Evangelism University in Savannah, TN

### BIRTHDAYS JANUARY 19-25



19—Joyce Scott, Haley Hall  
21—Landon Bringle  
23—Tracy Speight  
24—Cynthia Wilson  
25—Corban Coughlan

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### **Why I Attend the Sunday Evening Services**

1. I want to go, and I am wanted.
2. I need to go, and I am needed.
3. I had rather be there than anywhere else.
4. My children are watching me and will follow my example.
5. My soul is strengthened by the teachings.
6. My heart is warmed by the spiritual songs.
7. I am better prepared to meet in discussion.
8. I hunger and thirst after righteousness.

via Bulletin Digest

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### BIBLE READING SCHEDULE JANUARY 19-25

January 19—Ex. 5-7  
January 20—Ex. 8-10  
January 21—Ex. 11-13  
January 22—Ex. 14-16  
January 23—Ex. 17-19  
January 24—Ex. 20-22  
January 25—Ex. 23-25

## The Carpenter’s Apprentice

The movie came out in 2013 and I probably would not have watched it except a very special little girl in my life loved it! Friday as I held another special little girl and watched the snow falling, I looked down into her very tired baby blue eyes and whispered the only line I can remember from the movie, “Do you want to build a snowman?” Her big green pacifier stopped bobbing and a sweet little smile emerged around its edges as heavy eyelids fluttered shut. A couple hours later, I was rolling the middle section of their snowman as they slept and Austin came out of the house and said, “Dad! You should have told us you were building snowmen; we could have helped! The team is on the way.” The house was full, it has been for weeks and the snow had brought everyone back together one more time to hunt, play and spend time together. For me, it was better than Christmas and the truth was, I kind of wanted/needed to roll a few snowballs on my own for a little bit. I was not looking forward to everyone leaving. As I finished the body of my snowman and lifted it into place, the “team” started filtering out of the house bundled in warm snow gear, ready to work on the best snowman ever. I watched them and thought of Austin’s statement and it reminded me of the church. We are family and so many times we have shared each other’s burdens. Paul wrote to the church on Rome, “Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor; not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer, contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality” (Romans 12:10-13). My “team” as Austin referred to them, showed up to help. It wasn’t that I couldn’t handle building the best snowman ever on my own. It wasn’t that the boys and their wives thought I needed the help to finish the task. They were just happy to help and they all pitched in from retrieving charcoal for the eyes, sticks for arms and hydrangea blooms for buttons on his coat to rolling and lifting the heavy sections of the perfect snowman, they all played a part, different parts in completing the task. In the end, they made it more fun. They made it easier. They made it memorable and I look forward to the next time and doing it again. I can think of a number of times when the church came together to help complete a task, but I can also remember plenty times when I thought, “Man! I wish I’d known; we could have helped!” The Hebrew writer wrote, “consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds” (Hebrews 10:24). We often have no problem letting our needs be known to God (Philippians 4:6), but very often we forget He left the church as an answer to our prayer.

-jeff