

Covington Family News

January 5, 2025

SINGING FROM THE HEART

Singing is one of my favorite things to do, especially in worship. I love the sound of the songs as well as the beautiful messages they teach. Even though I am not able to sing as well as many people, I look forward to the song services that we engage in.

We have an example of two people in the New Testament who apparently loved to sing as well. In Acts 16:25, as Paul and Silas were in the inner prison with their feet fastened in the stocks, they were not moaning and groaning as they easily could have been doing; rather they were praying and singing hymns of praise to God. They were expressing emotions of their hearts. We are told that the other prisoners were listening to them. Most likely, this had nothing to do with the beauty of their voices; rather the hope, joy, and peace that Paul and Silas felt were evident in the way they sung. Remember, when the earthquake occurred and all the bonds were loosed, none of the prisoners left (Acts 16:26-28).

God has no interest in the way our voices sound when we are singing in worship. Instead, he wants to hear what is in our hearts. In Ephesians 5:19, Paul says a person ought to engage in "singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart." In Colossians 3:16, Paul says we should sing "with thankfulness in your hearts to God." The question we must all ask ourselves is, "When I sing in worship, do I go through the motions, sing to be heard by others, or do I sing to the Lord with all my heart?" I pray that you can answer that question with the last option. May God help us to worship Him wholeheartedly as we sing.

Wayne Dalrymple



*Serving Our Community
for the Glory of God*

SHEPHERDS

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DEACONS

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SERVING THIS WEEK 1/5/25 AM Worship Service

Announcements Ken Bringle Jr.
Song Leader: John Combs
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: Andy Whaley
Closing Prayer: Ron Teems

Nursery Worker: Brandy Brown

January Food Committee Leader: Debbie Otts

Attendance Card Collectors: (1/5)

Tyler Bringle, Dayton Maness, Beau Glidewell

January Door Greeters:

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

PM Worship Service

Song Leader: John Combs
Opening Prayer: Brad Evins
Closing Prayer: Eason Robinson
Sermon Mike Rogers

PROOF OF OUR LOVE

Sunday Bible Classes	142
Worship AM	204
PM	115
Wednesday Bible Study	73

VISITORS ARE OUR SPECIAL GUESTS

Cyril & Jamie Roethlisberg	Atoka, TN
Karen Hathaway & Vincent	Burlison, TN
Lindsey & Evie Cobb	Germantown, TN
Chris Fowler	

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

Success in 2025

21% of people surveyed said saving money was their top priority for 2025. James 4:13-15 presents a perfect pattern for success, not only in business, but also in life. A few weeks ago, we talked about a vision for the church and seeing ourselves in that vision. Vision as well as success includes a dream, goals, and a plan for action. This text presents three things necessary for success. Success begins with a SMART goal. A SMART goal is Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time bound. The goal James presents in this verse is to “make a profit.” Our goal for 2025 may be the same as many people, to save money. To be successful in this we must first, build a *specific* budget, that is *relevant* to our situation. This is the only way to determine how much money we can save; and the only way to *measure* our success. Second is a plan of action. James refers to making a profit by “engaging in business.” (NASB). Your financial strategy for saving may be to cut back on spending. There are many ways to save money, but we have to stick to it to *achieve* it. Part of that plan is when to start. James says, “today or tomorrow.” The sooner we start the quicker we succeed. Another part of the plan is to decide the best location to reach the goal. In this case James says, “go to such and such a city.” We must decide where we want to put our savings so that it works best for us. Also, one must set a *time limit* to reach the goal. The time set for the goal in this verse is to “spend a year there.” The reason for our goal will likely determine the time limit, but it is probably best to break our saving down to a certain amount from each pay period. Yet one other thing is essential for guaranteed success: One must include God. James emphasizes this point in verses 14-15, “whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is only a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. Instead, you ought to say, ‘If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that’” (NKJV). The point is, tomorrow may never come. Tomorrow may bring sickness, or some crisis that will negatively affect the plans and the goal. The main point of this text is that true success can only be achieved when God is included in the plans. Consider the failure of the people in building the Tower of Babel (Gen. 11:1-6); and Jesus’ message about the rich farmer (Luke 12:13-21). To be certain, life is far too short and uncertain not to include God in all of our plans. Therefore, whatever your goals “Commit your works to the LORD and your plans will be established” (Prov. 16:3).

--Mike Rogers

Prayer List



LaVerne Baxter—Home
Delores Whaley
Donna Sonwineski
John Oliver Wall—Recovering from surgery
Debra Brownlee’s granddaughter - tests for cancer
Fran Westmoreland—Mother of Jacque Trimm
Coy Hendrix—Recovering from surgery
Stan McDvitt—Cousin of Susan Mason
Laxton family in the loss of their loved one, *Emma Laxton*. Also remember Israel, 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, 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

Remember Our Troops
and Their Families in Your Prayers

GOOD DEED FOR THE WEEK:

Tell someone how much you appreciate and support them. We all need encouragement!!!

via North Marshall Messenger

LOVE doesn’t make the world go ‘round,’
LOVE is what makes the ride worthwhile.

via North Marshall Messenger

Calendar of Events

JANUARY EVENTS

5— Deacon’s Meeting, 4:30PM.
6—Monday Night for the Master, Group 1
12—Secret Sister’s Reveal following the PM Worship Service. Please bring a gift & finger foods.
13—Monday Night for the Master, Group 2
14, 21, 28—Ladies Bible Class, 10AM
18—Birthday Party at Magnolia Creek Nursing Home
19—Devotional at Covington Care, 3PM
20—Monday Night for the Master, Group 3
27—Monday Night for the Master, Group 4
29—Devotional/Worship in song

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 5-11



6—Case Maxwell, Noah Maxwell
11—Gale Sutton

ANNIVERSARIES

6—Sandy & Mary Isome-Newman

To Realize The Value OF:

One Year, ask a student who has failed his final exam.
One month, ask a mother who has given birth prematurely.
One Week, ask the editor of a weekly newspaper.
One hour, ask the lovers who are waiting to meet.
One minute, ask the person who missed the plane.
One second, ask the person who survived an accident.

via Camden Church of Christ bulletin

BIBLE READING SCHEDULE JANUARY 5-11

January 5—Gen. 13-15
January 6—Gen. 16-18
January 7—Gen. 19-21
January 8—Gen. 22-24
January 9—Gen. 25-27
January 10—Gen. 28-30
January 11—Gen. 31-33

The Carpenter’s Apprentice

There are some verses in the Bible we should put a mental asterisk by, especially when applying them to life situations of those outside of Christ and those who refuse to walk in the light. 1 Corinthians 10:13 says, “No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.” What an encouraging verse for one trying to be a disciple of God! Yet the way of escape is not always easy. It is not always marked with a neon sign or flashing arrows and it may not even be recognizable as a way out. I think of Peter prior to Judas’ betrayal professing his undying commitment and love for Jesus only to hear Jesus say, “Satan has demanded permission to sift you like wheat; but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers” (Luke 22:31-32). Three times that night, he was tempted to deny Christ. Three times he failed to see his way out. I think of Noah and Lot, the former having to build an ark and the latter told to, “Escape for your life! Do not look behind you, and do not stay anywhere in the valley; escape to the mountains, or you will be swept away” (Genesis 19:17). Peter tells us if God can save Noah and Lot, then certainly he knows “how to rescue the godly from temptation” (2 Peter 2:9). This supports Paul’s words to the Corinthians about God making a way. The asterisk is needed because we often use this verse when we find ourselves or an acquaintance in the proverbial hole because they did NOT resist temptation in the first place. The context of the passage in 1 Corinthians 10 tells the church to quit making the same mistakes Israel made. This chapter directly references Numbers 25 where 23000 died because they refused to follow God; apparently only realizing the cause of their affliction when Phinehas rose and killed an unrepentant, blatantly disrespectful Israelite who pranced his unrighteous relationship in front of the whole assembly. It took this most drastic measure for them to see the way out was to turn back to God. We pray, “Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.” We quote, “He maketh me lie down in green pastures, He leadeth me beside still waters ...” But we live like, “Hey God, *I* said, let’s go *this* way!” If we expect to find the ways to overcome temptation, we must first understand what tempts us, recognize when temptations are coming and with eyes wide open, put on the whole armor of God, draw near to God and submit to His entire word. May we all say, “‘Yea though I walk through the valley of death,’ but I walk with the King and I will not be afraid.”

-jeff