

# Covington Family News

## August 3, 2025

### More Please

Ralph Kramden, the lovable oaf portrayed on television by Jackie Gleason in the 1950s, found it easy to put his foot in his mouth. When asked why he didn't treat Alice, his wife, in the same romantic way he did before they were married, he replied, "Why keep running after you catch the bus?" His misguided philosophy not only illustrates what is all too often the case in marriages, it also has found a place in the relationships that some Christians have with God. The tragedy is, that whether in marriage or in Christianity, giving up the pursuit weakens the relationship.

Four times in the sacred text it is said of Moses that he encountered God "face to face" (Exo. 33:11; Num. 12:8; Deut. 5:4; 34:10). Can you imagine how satisfying it must have been for Moses to be closer to God than anyone else (Deut. 34:10)? One might be tempted to think that Moses would rest in that satisfaction thinking that it could get no better. To borrow from the example above, Moses had "caught the bus." Why keep running? But it seems that the closer Moses became to God, the more he pursued Him! In Exodus 33:18, having already experienced "face to face" communication with God (33:11), Moses requested more. "Please, show me Your glory," he asked.

Not only do we live beneath our privileges, but we actually weaken our relationship with God when we stop seeking Him because we know that, at least in some sense, we have already found Him. Nothing compares to knowing God - not human wisdom, power, or wealth (Jer. 9:23-24). Let not the fact that you have pursued and found Him before keep you from pursuing Him still. Seek Him today. Then seek Him again.

Eddie Parrish  
Brown Trail church of Christ  
Bedford, TX  
Via Bulletin Digest



*Serving Our Community  
for the Glory of God*

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### DEACONS

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J.J. Brown  
Benny Collins  
Brad Evins  
Brackton Matlock  
Jon McCain  
Alan Otts  
Craig Robinson  
David Stewart  
Robert Trimm

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### SERVING THIS WEEK 8/3/25 AM Worship Service

**Announcements** Ken Bringle Jr.  
**Song Leader:** Jeff Phillips  
**Sermon** Mike Rogers

### Presiding Over the Lord's Table:

Head: Hadley Mason  
Garrett Howard, Jon McCain, Craig Robinson, Robert Brownlee, Donnie Benjamin, Ken Mason, Myles Benjamin, Gordon Cartwright

**Opening Prayer:** Bill Murray  
**Closing Prayer:** Robert Trimm

**Nursery Worker:** Elaine Shankle

**Attendance Card Collectors:** (8/3)  
Tyler Bringle, Dayton Maness, Beau Glidewell

**Bus Driver** (8/3 & 8/6)

Grant Edmonds

**August Door Greeters:**

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

### PM Worship Service

**Song Leader:** Jeff Phillips  
**Opening Prayer:** Craig Robinson  
**Closing Prayer:** Alan Otts  
**Sermon:** Mike Rogers

### Mid-Week Bible Study August 6

**Song Leader:** Wayne Dalrymple  
**Opening Prayer:** Josh Evins  
**Closing Prayer:** Ron Teems  
**Speaker:** Tim Wooldridge

Sunday Bible Classes	131
Worship AM	214
PM	112
Wednesday Bible Study	153

### VISITORS ARE OUR SPECIAL GUESTS

Steven & Tiffany Kesterson	Covington, TN
Jennifer Ray	Covington, TN
Christie Pickell	Brighton, TN
Caleb, Chelsea, & Camryn Rogers	Henderson, TN
Jada & Lane Rogers	Poplar Bluff, MO
Chris Whaley	Berkley, MI

*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

### Back to School

#### Matthew 10:16: John 10:3-15

Well, it's back to school time again! Some of you are excited. Some of you are sad. Some of you are nervous. You will have new teachers, new friends, and maybe even a new school. Teachers, you have your own challenges with new students, different parents, and possibly even new administration. Matthew 10:16 relates to the situation of both students and teachers, because you are sheep sent out into the midst of wolves. In John 10:3-15, Jesus explains: Sheep refuse to follow anyone who does not sound like the true shepherd, anyone who does not show that he/she cares about you more than themselves (cf. v. 4). Also, Sheep follow the Shepherd wherever He leads because they know He will provide for and protect them (v.9). You know who cares for you so that He gave His own life for you. No one will ever love you more (cf. John 15:13). Jesus promises, "Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness" and everything you need will be provided for you (Matt. 6:33). Follow the true Shepherd!

Wolves are the thieves and robbers (v. 8). It is interesting that wolves and robbers first appear in this text as strangers (v. 5). They are strangers because the sheep do not recognize their voice. They do not talk like or act like Jesus did. We can recognize strangers by comparing everyone to Jesus. Don't follow a stranger! The second thing we learn about thieves and robbers is that they will try and deceive us, make us think they are our friends when all they want is to steal us from Jesus (v. 10). Third, we learn that wolves really do not care about us at all (vv. 12-13). I want to close with some practical advice for everyone.

Start your day early enough so that you do not feel rushed. Feeling rushed causes stress and stress creates more pressure.

Have a good breakfast. It has been said that breakfast is the most important meal of the day. A good breakfast kick-starts your brain and other muscles.

Take a moment to read a short passage from the Bible. (You might read Matthew 10:16; John 10:3-15 for the first week or so just to remind you to follow Jesus).

Pray (Phil. 4:6; 1 Peter 5:6-7). There is nothing more relaxing than leaving all your anxieties at the feet of God before starting a day at work or study.

Remember, you are a light for God in an ungodly world. Be kind, considerate, polite, and respectful to everyone. Finally, be the sheep that only follows Jesus.

--Mike Rogers

## Prayer List



Elaine Watkins—Heart cath., Monday, August 4

LaVerne Baxter—Recovering from a heart procedure

Joseph Little – Friend of the Mason family

Also remember Israel, Our Country, Our Missionaries, Flood Victims, LaVerne Baxter, Heath Billings, Heather Bowner, Captain Mike Shipley, Georgia Cook, Steve Cook, Jeff Cooper, Larry Coughlan, Kenneth Coulston, Alan Davis, Jason Elliott, Malissa Garner, Kay Gatlin, Pat Gatlin, Kyle Hanks, K.C. Haynes, Helen Kennedy, Kathy McMahan, Stan McDevitt, Phyllis McLillie, Judy Merritt, Gigi Miller, Dorothy Morris, Larry Newman, Sophie Nolan, Larry Osbourne, Randy Rhoads, Bonita Rogers, Tim Scott, Upton Shelton, Donna Sonwineski, David South, Clint Stacks, Paulette Watkins, Larry Whaley II, Michael Wyatt

### NURSING HOME:

**Covington Care:** Shirley Laxton, Cynthia Wilson

**Ripley Healthcare & Rehabilitation Center:** Vicki Mayfield

### MILITARY:

Killian Bridgeman, Logan Bridgeman, Major Creel, Brad Evins, Dayana Fendley, Tanner Mason, Chris Nowak, Michael J. Pena, Jedidiah Phillips, Jacob Sampson, Parker Speight, Isaac Stewart

### SYMPATHY:

We extend our deepest sympathy to Heath Billings and family in the death of his stepmom, *Kathy Billings*.

### BABY SHOWER



All ladies are invited to a baby boy shower honoring *Beau & Hannah Phillips*, Sunday, August 3, at 2PM in the foyer. They are registered at my.babylist.com

*"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me"* (Phil. 4:13).

## Calendar of Events

### AUGUST EVENTS

4 - Monday Night for the Master, Group 1

6 - Summer Series; Speaker: Tim Wooldridge

11 –Monday Night for the Master, Group 2

13 – Summer Series; Speaker: Tim Alsup

16 – Birthday Party at Magnolia Creek Nursing Home

17 - Devotional at Covington Care, 3PM

18 - Monday Night for the Master, Group 3

20 - Summer Series; Speaker: Jermal Blanchard

25 - Monday Night for the Master, Group 4

27 –Devotional/Worship in song

**Ladies Bible Class will resume, Tuesday, August 12**

**August 15-21--Polishing the Pulpit, Sevierville, TN**



***Please pray for our teachers, students & staff as they return to school!***

### AUGUST YOUTH EVENTS

6—1<sup>st</sup> Day of School

24 – Middle/High School Devo

30 – CIA Beach Day



### BIRTHDAYS -AUGUST 3-9

4—Ken Bringle, Jon McCain

5—Zach Higgins

6—J.J. Brown, Michael Howard, Reid McMahan, Carter Coughlan

7—Jaxton Carter

8—Benny Collins

### BIBLE READING SCHEDULE AUGUST 3-9

August 3 – Isaiah 1-3

August 4 – Isaiah 4-6

August 5 – Isaiah 7-9

August 6 – Isaiah 10-12

August 7 – Isaiah 13-15

August 8 – Isaiah 16-18

August 9 – Isaiah 19-21

## Carpenter's Apprentice

"Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, "Speak to Aaron and to his sons, saying, 'Thus you shall bless the sons of Israel. You shall say to them: The LORD bless you, and keep you; The LORD make His face shine on you, And be gracious to you; The LORD lift up His countenance on you, And give you peace'" (Numbers 6:22-26). You may recognize this passage as the words to a song you have heard or sung in church or recognize the familiar send off, "The Lord bless you and keep you." The Hebrew word for countenance is actually the very same word used for face earlier in the passage. We learn more about countenance when we look at Genesis 4:3-7, the story of Cain and Able. After Cain's offering was not regarded by God, Cain's countenance fell. Literally, you could say his face fell. We understand that to mean he was not happy, maybe even ashamed and clearly accompanied by anger. "So Cain became very angry and his countenance fell. Then the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen'" (Genesis 4:5-6)? Our face reveals a lot about how we feel both in the moment and really, how we feel about life in general. Today we understand countenance to be synonymous with expression and the face seems to lead the rest of the body in the message it sends. We can tell a mood by the countenance or expression we carry on our face. We can often tell a fake smile or reaction when the face is incongruent with the body language accompanying it. There are always going to be moments in life where our countenance falls. Disappointment and sadness just happen sometimes but these are not permanent occasions – unless we make them permanent. Surely you know or remember folks who just never seem happy or always appear angry or unapproachable. Often, I wonder why; what happened to make their day/life so rotten? As Christians, no one should ever wonder why we are always angry or sad. Those moments should pass relatively quickly as we recenter our thoughts and motives on the promise we have received from God and His son, "Let not your hearts be troubled ... In My Father's house are many dwelling places ... If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself" (John 14:1-3). In both VBS and Day Camp we sing, "I've got the joy, joy, joy down in my heart" and "I've got the peace that passes understanding down in my heart" (like the blessing God told Moses to give the Israelites). If we have the joy of the Lord and the peace that comes from the promise, how can our countenance fail to reflect that hope? Let's remember who and whose we are and pray for those who have no joy or peace.

-jeff