

Covington Family News

September 21, 2025

The Changing Seasons

One of the times of year I like the most is fall. The leaves begin to change colors. The weather becomes cooler. It reminds me of what the Psalmist wrote: "The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork." (Ps.19:1 KNJV).

God indirectly speaks to us through nature. When we think of nature we should be able to see God's beauty. We should be able to witness and feel God's power. Nature shows us how changes can come rapidly. Perhaps this is why Paul wrote: "For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse." (Rom. 1:20). Let us think about God and all his attributes as we see the changing seasons, but let us always remember that God never changes (Mal. 3:6; Heb. 13:8).

Via Bulletin Digest

Bill Brandstatter
Marion church of Christ



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SERVING THIS WEEK 9/21/25 AM Worship Service

Announcements Brandon Matlock
Song Leader: Ken Bringle Jr.
Sermon Mike Rogers

Presiding Over the Lord's Table:

Head: Robert Charnock
Jimmy McMahan, Brad Evins, Alan Otts, Nick Maness,
Clint Stacks, Will Thomason, Chris Maness, Caleb Smith
Opening Prayer: Bill Murray
Closing Prayer: Jon McCain

Nursery Worker: Leann Maness

Attendance Card Collectors: (9/21)

Jaxton Carter, Nolan Carter, Ethan Matlock

Bus Driver (9/21 & 9/24)

Grant Edmonds

September Door Greeters:

Main Lobby Entrance: Richard & Elaine Shankle

Auditorium Entrance: Michael & Susie Wyatt

PM Worship Service

Song Leader: Ken Bringle Jr.
Opening Prayer: Donnie Benjamin
Closing Prayer: Will Thomason
Sermon: Mike Rogers

Mid-Week Bible Study September 24

Announcements: Brandon Matlock
Song Leader: Ken Bringle Jr.
Closing Prayer: Ron Teems

Sunday Bible Classes	140
Worship AM	214
PM	125
Wednesday Bible Study	146

VISITORS ARE OUR SPECIAL GUESTS

Cyril & Jamie Roethlisberg	Atoka, TN
Cody Smith family	Covington, TN
Tanner & Danielle Baker	Stanton, TN
Kyley Mason	Manchester, TN
Jedidiah, Chasse, Alice & Lucy Phillips	
Debbie Beasley	

Covington Church of Christ
1690 Highway 51 South – PO Box 9
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Schedule of Services

SUNDAY

Bible Classes 9:00AM

Worship 10:00AM & 5:30PM

WEDNESDAY

Bible Classes 7:00 PM

Mike’s Message

Godly Parenting Ephesians 6:4

Paul warns fathers, “Do not provoke your children to anger; but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.” Parents, especially fathers, must be careful how they “bring up” their children. To “bring up” implies not only raising, but nourishing. Too many parents are feeding their children a gourmet diet, clothing them with designer clothes, and buying all the latest toys, but they are neglecting the discipline and instruction of the Lord. The word discipline is from the Greek equivalent of the Hebrew word for train in Proverbs 22:6, “Train up a child in the way he should go....”. Therefore, Solomon’s instruction to “train up a child” and Paul’s warning concerning “discipline” are equal.

“Train” has two fundamental concepts in the Old Testament. One is restraint, and the other is motivation. Restraint is the idea of holding a child to the right path. Motivation describes the action of a midwife who stimulates the palate of the newborn baby so it will take nourishment. The two concepts imply setting a goal and boundaries for the child and holding him on course. When a child goes off course, there are consequences. The wise king Solomon writes: “Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; the rod of discipline will remove it far from him” (Pro. 22:15), “Discipline your son while there is hope” (Pro. 19:18a), “Do not hold back discipline from the child, although you beat him with the rod, he will not die. You shall beat him with the rod and deliver his soul from Sheol” (*death, NIV*) (Pro. 23:13-14). Punishment administered in love, and at the right time, will protect your child from danger (cf. Eph. 6:1-3). “The rod and reproof give wisdom, but the child who gets his own way brings shame to his mother” (Prov. 29:15). “He who spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines him diligently” (Proverbs 13.24). Punishment is never to be administered out of anger.

A child without goals is like a sailboat without a sail. A goal originates with a dream. Most parents bring a child into the world and dream of him or her being a great asset to society, but dreams are useless if they are never set as goals. This is true with spiritual training as well. Every Christian parent desires their children to live godly lives and spend eternity with God, but many parents never set this as a goal. Most parents do a good job raising their children—feed them well, clothe them, take them to doctors, give them medicines, etc. but many fail at training their children for eternity with God.

Join us Sunday for part 1 of Godly Parenting.

—Mike Rogers

Prayer List

Bear Phillips—LeBonheur Children’s Hospital
Ginger Sallee – health problems
Robbie Renfroe – upcoming heart tests
Anna Kathryn Word – daughter of the Murrys; injured back
Addley Hodge – great granddaughter of Elaine Shankle; born prematurely and in the NICU

Members with ongoing needs: LaVerne Baxter, Heath Billings, Larry Coughlan, Kay Gatlin, Pat Gatlin, Kathy McMahan, Judy Merritt, Bonita Rogers, Donna Sonwineski, Paulette Watkins, Larry Whaley II, Jimmy Willis

Loved ones to remember: Kathy Townsend, Makayla Bishop, Heather Bowner, Debbie Beasley, Jason Elliott, Stan McDevitt, Randy Rhoads, David South

NURSING HOME

Covington Care: Shirley Laxton, Cynthia Wilson
Ripley Healthcare & Rehab Center: Vicki Mayfield

MILITARY: Tanner Mason, Chris Nowak, Parker Speight, Isaac Stewart

SYMPATHY

We extend our deepest sympathy to Rita Benjamin in the death of her cousin, *Lillian Dennison*.

NEW ARRIVAL

Congratulations to Elaine Shankle on the birth of her first great-grandchild, *Addley Mae Hodge*, born on September 14th!

BAPTISM

Praise God! *Conrad Scherffius* was baptized into Christ this past Wednesday! Please welcome our new brother in Christ, and help him along the way as he walks with the Lord.

BABY SHOWER

All ladies are invited to a baby boy shower honoring *Matt & Mallory Moody* on Sunday, September 21 at 2PM in the foyer. They are registered at Amazon.

Calendar of Events

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

20—Redbirds game, 3:05PM
20—Birthday Party at Magnolia Creek Nursing Home
21—Lads to Leaders meeting; fellowship room
21—Devotional at Covington Care, 3PM
23—Monday Night for the Master, Group 3
30—Monday Night for the Master, Group 4

Sign up on the church Facebook page to attend the Wednesday night dinner. See you Wed. Night @ 6:00!

SEPTEMBER YOUTH EVENTS

24 – Meeting with Carlos Diaz & students from FHU: parents and high school students, come with your questions and learn all about Freed-Hardeman University!
28 – Singing Devo

OCTOBER

3&4 – Lock In for grades 4-12
12 - Devo

If you would like to host a youth devo in your home, please see Jeff to pick your date.



BIRTHDAYS: SEPTEMBER 21-27

22 – Brandon Matlock
23 – David Foshee, Beau Glidewell, Luke McMahan
24 – Robin Higgins, Kathy McMahan
26 – Rhett Benjamin
27 – Crystal Fowler

Ladies’ Bible Class: Tuesdays @10AM

BIBLE READING SCHEDULE: SEPTEMBER 21-27

September 21 – Ezekiel 26 - 28
September 22 – Ezekiel 29 - 31
September 23 – Ezekiel 32 - 34
September 24 – Ezekiel 35 - 37
September 25 – Ezekiel 38 - 40
September 26 – Ezekiel 41 - 43
September 27 – Ezekiel 44 – 46

Carpenter’s Apprentice

We do not have much time to watch TV at our house, so very often, it takes a minute to find the remote - but today, it was simply gone. It was nowhere to be found. I could not help but smile. I knew exactly why! I first looked in all of Jennifer’s hiding places; the ones she uses when company is coming. Nope. Then I looked in the cardboard box I fashioned into a house for the girls. It was not there either. I looked in the toy box and under the pillows on the couches to no avail. I gave up and went to get a snack in the kitchen and there, on the table, I found the remote. I think I laughed out loud picturing the scene of one of the girls bringing the remote into the kitchen and handing it to Chasse or Jennifer, with two possible expressions. Either they were pleased with finding the misplaced remote, telling on me for not putting it up, or confessing they had it even though they knew not to touch it! Still smiling, I marvel at the change in me. Zero frustration. Zero anger. I was totally unphased, possibly even joyful over the “lost” remote, all because I knew who the culprits were! Even more amazing, as I reflect, is how something so small and inconsequential could cause angst and frustration in the first place, and yet, so many times in life we lose sight of the big picture while focusing on the insignificant. The truth of the matter is, I’d rather look for the remote 100 times a day because my grandkids took it than find it in the same old tired spot every day because none of them ever visited. While they are with me, I can teach them boundaries and the importance of not losing, breaking, or slobbering on the remote. I can also hold them, rock them, sing to them, and read to them. I can put the remote away and play with them, have tea with them, snack with them, and go on walks with them. I can pray with them, hug them, and tell them all about the God who sent His only begotten son, so that whosoever believes in Him can have everlasting life in a place far better than the one we live in now. I can show and tell them what believing in something or someone really means. I know their parents will do all of this and more, but I’d rather have a lost remote than not have a chance to show my love to them.

It makes me think about God. He could have made us in such a way that we never would have sinned, but then he would have had to have kept up with the remote control too, because love never would have been a choice - and if you really think about it, most likely, there never would have been love. So, when things don’t go exactly our way, let’s not lose sight of the big picture and the promise (John 14:1-3).

-jeff