

Covington Family News

September 28, 2025



*Serving Our Community
for the Glory of God*

SHEPHERDS

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DEACONS

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Benny Collins
Brad Evins
Brandon Matlock
Jon McCain
Alan Otts
Craig Robinson
David Stewart
Robert Trimm

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Office hours: M-F, 9AM-2PM

SERVING THIS WEEK 9/28/25 AM Worship Service

Announcements Brandon Matlock

Song Leader: John Combs

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: David Keith

Closing Prayer: Donnie Benjamin

Nursery Worker: Mandy Billings

Attendance Card Collectors: (9/28)

Tyler Bringle, Dayton Maness, Beau Glidewell

Bus Driver (9/28 & 10/1)

Brandon Hanks

September Door Greeters:

Main Lobby Entrance: Richard & Elaine Shankle

Auditorium Entrance: Michael & Susie Wyatt

PM Worship Service

Song Leader: Jeff Phillips

Opening Prayer: Robert Trimm

Closing Prayer: Caleb Smith

Sermon: Mike Rogers

Mid-Week Bible Study October 1

Announcements: David Keith

Song Leader: Jeff Phillips

Closing Prayer: Brad Evins

Sunday Bible Classes 135

Worship AM 212

PM 122

Wednesday Bible Study 146

VISITORS ARE OUR SPECIAL GUESTS

Cyril & Jamie Roethlisberg Atoka, TN

Robert Knight & Allison Brighton, TN

Theresa Terry Brighton, TN

Andy & Cindy Blackwell Henderson, TN

Jean Bell Courtland, MS

Judy Holcomb Batesville, MS

Benjamin Carter Millington, TN

Jedidiah, Chasse, Alice & Lucy Phillips

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

PARENTS
DO NOT exasperate your CHILDREN
INSTEAD
bring them up in the
TRAINING & INSTRUCTION
OF THE LORD
EPHESIANS 6:4

Mike's Message

Godly Parenting – Part II

Ephesians 6:4

Last week, we discussed the need to set the goal of eternity with God for our children. A goal demands planning. Without a game plan, no coach would send his team onto the field to play the Super Bowl. Parents cannot train children “according to his way” (Prov. 22:6 marginal reading) by accident. It takes planning. Hannah had a dream of having a son. That dream included a prayer and a promise to God (see 1 Sam. 1:9-11, 24-28).

The “instruction of the Lord” is vital for the plan in the upbringing of a child (Eph. 6:4b). Proverbs 6:20-23 confirms that proper instruction from parents is essential to the godly rearing of children: “My son, observe the commandment of your father, and do not forsake the teaching of your mother; bind them continually on your heart; tie them around your neck. When you walk about, they will guide you; when you sleep, they will watch over you; and when you awake, they will talk to you. For the commandment is a lamp, and the teaching is light; and reproofs for discipline are a way of life.”

Proverbs 1:8-19 instills the idea of warning children not to run with the wrong crowd. Proverbs 22:24-25 instructs children on the value of good friends. Proverbs 19:9 warns children of the detriment of lying. All of these concepts embrace the idea of discipline and instruction. Therefore, the indication is that to discipline and instruct a child is to set limits that govern acceptable behavior, and admonish the child to behave acceptably as he moves toward eternity with God. The amount of honor and respect the parents demand will determine the limits of accepted behavior.

God has said, “Children, obey your parents . . . honor your father and mother” (Eph. 6:1-2). To gain the honor and respect of children, parents must set the right example. Parents must show their children that they love God, and He is first in their lives (see Deut. 6:6-9). A Roman Poet once wrote, “The greatest possible reverence is due to a child.” A bishop shows reverence as he quotes an old heathen, “Let nothing unclean ever enter into the house where a little child is.” The bishop adds, “no drunken man, no quarreling father or mother, no bad language, no careless, slovenly habits; let nothing of the sort be seen in the house where dwells the little child” (Diggle, John W. The Lancashire Life of Bishop Frasier. Sampson Low, Marston, Searle & Rivington, London; 1891).

Parents, set the goal for eternity for your children and follow God's plan.

--Mike Rogers

Prayer List

Laverne Baxter – ICU Germantown Methodist

Frank Brown – heart tests

Robbie Renfroe – upcoming heart tests

Patsy Moore – recovering from surgery

Scott Jones – friend of Andy Whaley; recovering from surgery

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

Loved ones to remember: Addley Hodge, Kathy Townsend, Makayla Bishop, Heather Bowner, 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

NEW ARRIVALS



Congratulations to *Nick & Leann Maness* on the birth of a daughter, *Madelyn Kathryn!*

Madelyn was born on September 23, weighing 8lb 5oz and was 20 ¾ inches long.

And, congrats to *Jeff & Jennifer Phillips* on the birth of a new granddaughter! *Caroline Joy* was also born on September 23 to Austin & Kensleigh. Caroline weighed 8lb 7oz and was 20 ½ in. long.

CONGRATULATIONS

Carmen Starck has been selected as a student speaker at the Harding University Inspire Lectureship! She will speak on Tuesday, September 30 at 4:00 PM on *All the Marys and Marthas In the World*. Way to go, Carmen!

BIBLE READING SCHEDULE: SEPT. 28 – OCT. 4

September 28 – Ezekiel 47 - 48

September 29 – Daniel 1-3

September 30 – Daniel 4-7

October 1 – Daniel 8-10

October 2 – Daniel 11-12

October 3 – Hosea 1-3

October 4 – Hosea 4-7

Calendar of Events

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

27 – Ladies' Day @ Forest Hill Irene Church of Christ

29—Monday Night for the Master, Group 4

OCTOBER EVENTS

5 – guest speaker: Tony Solaita from Honolulu, HI

13 – Monday Night for the Master, Groups 1&2

18 – Birthday Party @ Magnolia Creek Nursing Home

18 – Family Movie Night

19 – Devotional @ Covington Care; 3:00

19 – Lads To Leaders registration forms due

20 – Monday Night for the Master, Group 3

25 – Ladies' Day @ Henderson Church of Christ

27 – Monday Night for the Master, Group 4

LOOKING AHEAD

November 1 – Fall Festival

November 2 – Friends & Family Day

November 8 – Young adult game night @ the home of David & Heather Keith; babysitting provided by the youth group!

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

SEPTEMBER YOUTH EVENTS

28 – Singing Devo @ the home of Brenda Mason

OCTOBER

3&4 – Lock In for grades 4-12

12 – Devo

25 – Devo/Haunted Trail & Corn Maze

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



BIRTHDAYS: SEPTEMBER 28 – OCTOBER 4

9/28 – Elaine Watkins

10/2 – Matt Higgins, Carmen Starck

ANNIVERSARIES

9/29 – Jimmy & Shirley Weir

Ladies' Bible Class: Tuesdays @10AM

Carpenter's Apprentice

He stepped up on the bus and said, “Mr. Jeff, do you like my new outfit?” In the predawn light, I really hadn't noticed and probably wouldn't have in full sun at high noon, but I responded with a generic, “Hey! That's pretty cool! Did you and mom go shopping this weekend?” Six stops later, she got on the bus smiling broadly and running her fingers through the new braids she'd had installed over the weekend. I did notice the hair. It was colorful and more than three feet long! “Nice hair this morning! Happy Monday!” I exclaimed. Both children beamed proudly at their new looks. I wanted to say to him, “Does such a cool new look come with a sweet, caring heart too? Does this new look mean you will keep your hands to yourself this morning and not aggravate the preschoolers until they cry?” I wanted to ask her, “Does that beautiful hair come with a kind tongue, speaking kind words quietly to those around you on the bus, or can I expect those braids to be pulled out when you start a fight with the rest of the sixth graders?” Ahh, but as I was preparing to speak, I remembered the proverb, “A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger” (Proverbs 15:1). There was really no need to stir the pot before 6:40 in the morning. Before I got to school, I would have plenty of stirrers! Furthermore, for the first time in days, both he and she were confident and, for the moment, ready to take on the day. I just wish they all understood: it is not the clothes or the hair or even the smile you are wearing that makes you beautiful - it is what is in your heart. The ‘true you’ can be covered with fancy, long, multi-colored braids or new, in-style threads and even a fake smile; maybe even all of those things at once, but the true you comes straight from the heart. Jesus said it. “That which proceeds out of the man, that is what defiles the man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed the evil thoughts, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries, deeds of coveting and wickedness, as well as deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride and foolishness. All these evil things proceed from within and defile the man” (Mark 7:20-23). A lot of my bus kids don't get very much encouragement and/or guidance, so I look for opportunities to build, mold and shape them, but honestly, there are a lot of people who operate under the delusion that the outside is more important than the inside, from the cars we drive and the houses we live in to the “friends” we run with and try to fit in with. Jesus says something about that too. “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which on the outside appear beautiful, but inside they are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness. So you, too, outwardly appear righteous to men, but inwardly you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness” (Matthew 23:27-28).

--jeff