

“The Power of Testimony”

According to yourdictionary.com, the word “testimony” is defined as a statement or declaration given under oath in a court of law or the sharing of information about a religious experience. Paul often shared the story of his conversion and how his life was different after becoming a follower of Christ. His conversion did not just change his behavior, it changed his life trajectory. This reminds us that we each believer has a story to share. It is the story of how the gospel has changed your life. Here is something I would like for you to do if you have never done so before. Consider and write down when you became a follower of Jesus and what contributed to you making that decision. Also reflect on how have you experienced God working in your life and how this has changed your life for the better.

It is important to know and share your testimony because it offers the most compelling case you can make for the existence of God. I can argue and debate with an atheist, and neither of us is likely to win. For every argument I make for the existence of God, they have a counterargument. For every argument they make, I have a counterargument. But the greatest case I can make for the existence of God is my changed life – the the peace, joy, love he has given me.

The Apostle Paul had numerous opportunities to share his testimony and share the good news (the gospel) of Jesus Christ. Five of these times are recorded when Paul returned from his third missionary journey with a large sum of money given as a gift from the Gentile Christians to the Jewish Christians. As Paul stood on the steps of the Fortress Antonia just outside the Temple in Jerusalem where he was falsely charged for bringing Gentiles into the court of the Jews, he was given a chance to share his testimony (Acts 21:27-22:21). In his speech, Paul did not offer rational arguments for why Jesus was the long-awaited Jewish messiah nor did not talk about deep theological concepts. He simply shared how he had persecuted followers of Jesus, even to their deaths, and how on the road to Damascus, Jesus spoke to him as he was blinded by a bright light. God got Paul’s attention, and he was changed forever from that moment on. A chief persecutor of these followers of Jesus became one of their biggest advocates.

When you read Acts 22-26, Luke records five different trials in which Paul testified to his faith: First is his testimony before the crowd on the steps of the fortress. The next he spoke before the Sanhedrin where the Roman soldiers had to step in again to save him. He was transferred the next evening at night to Caesarea because of a plot by the Jewish leaders to have him killed. Five days later, Paul gave his defense before the Roman governor of Judea, Antonius. Felix. Two years later Paul would offer his defense before Felix’s successor, Porcius Festus. Later he would do so before King Agrippa II and then again in Rome before a court.

God used these opportunities while Paul was imprisoned and on trial to boldly declare what God had done in his life and what he can do for the life of others. His witness continues today as his story is shared in the Bible. God wants to use your witness as well to share the good news with others.

Mark


Arlington Church of Christ



Our Mission: Connecting People to Jesus and one Another

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Knoxville, TN 37917
865-523-1764

e-mail: office@acoc.comcastbiz.net
Website: www.arlingtonchurchofchrist.org

 Find us on: **facebook.** Arlington Friends
Arlington Church of Christ Youth Group

Welcome

We pray you will be encouraged and uplifted
as we join together in worship.

Guest Information

- There is a **staffed nursery** available for children under age 2. There is also a **parent/child training room** at the rear of the auditorium.
- An optional **children’s worship** is available for ages 3 to 8 during morning worship. Children will be dismissed before the sermon. Please pick up your child after worship
- If you are visiting, **please complete a visitor card** so we have a record of your attendance.

Weekly Meeting Times

Sundays:
Worship 10:30 a.m.
Bible Study 9:30 a.m.

Wednesdays:
Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

Weekly Statistics

	weekly budget	\$4,062
	<u>attendance</u>	<u>contribution</u>
Oct. 28	183	\$4,587

Arlington Family Pages

Seeking to edify, educate and
inform the Family of God

Sunday, November 4, 2018

Elders: Mark Brackney Ph: 622-0376
Leland Price Ph: 925-4424
Danny Rider Ph: 705-9713
Wayne Shannon Ph: 742-0517
Gregg Summers Ph: 223-4515

Deacons: Jay Estes - *Helping Hands Ministry*
Jason McDougal - *YPYF/Vacation Bible School*
Bud Norris - *Worship Participants*
Charles Owens - *Bldg & Grounds/Security/Treasurer*
Keith Tatum - *Education/Picture Board/Family Camp*
Ronnie Weldon - *Attendance/Communion Prep/Bldg*

Minister: Mark Brackney Ph: 523-1764

Secretaries: Becky Johnson Jennifer Tatum

Missionaries: Tom & Angie Langley - WEI
Tommy Drinnen - Hope Central

In Our Thoughts and Prayers: Rick Johnson fighting pneumonia; Ben Cavin; Rick Case; Tina Childress; Carolyn Starks; Danny Davis; Danny Rider; Roger Mink; Terry Trent; Tom & Anita Drinnen; Billie Bayles; Jerry Fittro.

Friends and Loved ones: Jerry Tallman; John Potter's sister, Maria Hoyt; Danny Davis' grandson, John Kazewell; Marge Percell's sister, Carolyn; Jason McDougal's grandfather; Ted Fields; Jerry Brackney; Gordon Norman; Michael Maddox; Lisa Potter's sister, Radha Smith; Linda Graybeal; Edith Weldon's neighbor, Paul Phelps; Missy Essary; Deb & Rob Colones; Faith Tindell; Heather Ream's mom, Linda; Janie Johnson's mother; David Hunter; Brad Owens; Joyce Sanders' dad; the Wurtheisers; Sue Nipper; Diane Elliot recovering from a stroke; Becky Nix; the Summers' 4 yr. old neighbor, Gage Carenas, recovering from a car accident; Jean McQuaig's niece, Karen Derry.

Shut-ins: Rosaline Davis; Lynda Elliott; Peggy Mehlhorn; Kathryn Norman; Jessie Rutherford; Dan Trent.

Missionaries: Tom & Angie Langley; Tommy Drinnen.

Coming Soon

- Please take a moment to **pick up a card or two** to mail this week from the Caring Cards Ministry table.
- **Hope Church**, today at 3:30 p.m. at the Cansler YMCA.
- **YPYF small group**, today at 5 p.m. at the church building. Topic: 1 Corinthians 7.
- **Hope Central - Just Lead**, tomorrow afternoon from 3:30 to 5:30.
- **Ray Vander Laan** will be speaking in Maryville, TN, this coming Friday-Sunday, Nov. 9-11. You can register for all or part of the conference at: <https://www.fairviewumcorg/rvl/>
- **Small groups**, Sun., Nov. 11, 6 p.m.
- **Men will meet at Shoney's**, Thurs., Nov. 15, 8:30 a.m.
- **Ladies brunch/prayer group**, Thurs., Nov. 15, 10 a.m. Location will be announced.
- **Connection Night**, Sun., Nov. 18, 5 p.m. Please bring finger foods to share after we get to know three more of our Arlington members better.
- There will be **NO fourth Sunday fellowship** in November or December.
- **Thanksgiving Devotional**, Wed., Nov. 21, 7 p.m.
- **Happy Thanksgiving!** Nov. 22.
- **Christmas banquet** will be on Sat., Dec. 8, 6 p.m.



Family News

Sermon Topics Today

Sunday Morning:

The Final Chapter of Paul's Life
"Trouble in Jerusalem"

Sunday Night:

No Services at the building

SERVING THE ASSEMBLY TODAY:

Serve @ Table:

Jacob Shannon, Bill Pruet
Bill Langley, Noah Brackney
Bob Campbell, Paul Cooke
Pat Ramsey

Opening Prayer: Danny Davis

Preside at Table: Ben Ream

Greeters: T & P Mallicoat

Nursery: B Borg & S Bivens

Security: B DeWitt & B Pruet

HAPPY BIRTHDAY BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Nov 4 Allison Thomas

Nov 7 Sara Sykes

Nov 9 Bobbie Lynn Rider

Happy
Birthday!!



Family Matters



Praise
Him,
All Ye
Little
Children

Optional children's worship...

is available for ages 3 to 8 during morning worship. Children will be dismissed before the sermon.

Please pick up your child after worship.



Caring Cards Ministry

The Caring Cards Ministry provides cards for our sick and shut-ins, as well as friends and family members.

Please see the information on the table in the hallway leading to the office for additional information.

Your participation is needed to send cards as well as to provide information regarding those who would benefit from receiving cards. Please talk to John or Barbara Hoff for more details.



Caring Cards