

“Answering God’s Call”

The book of Acts ends in a rather abrupt way. We are told Paul spent two years under house arrest as he boldly preached the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 28:30-31). That’s it. There is no mention of his trial or his death. The tradition of the early church is that Paul died around A.D. 64 or 65, about the same time Peter was martyred. Emperor Nero started to persecute Christians, making them scapegoats for the Great Fire of Rome. So, if Paul was under house arrest for two years, from A.D. 60 to 62, then what happened between A.D. 62 and 64? We don’t know for sure what happened, but whether Paul was acquitted at the end of two years or remained in prison until his death, we do know he continued to teach, preach, and write letters.

One of the prison epistles likely written from Rome around A.D 61, was the book of Philippians. This letter gives us an idea of what Paul was dealing with as he was jailed and faced the possibility of death (Philippians 1:20-24; 4:4-7). The earliest church traditions place Paul’s death around A.D. 64 or 65. In mid-July, A.D. 64, a fire broke out in Rome. It destroyed much of the city and left hundreds of thousands homeless. Some speculated that Emperor Nero had hired some ruffians to start the fire so he could rebuild the city to his liking. According to tradition, Peter and Paul were in Rome during this period. Both were convicted and put in the Mamertine Prison, located on Capitoline Hill.

Prisoners used to be lowered by ropes into the lower dungeon of the prison and today, steps have been built so you can descend into the dark, damp room. Imagine Paul being in this room when he penned his final letter (read Paul’s words in 2 Timothy 4:6-8). Tradition says Paul was taken from the Mamertine Prison to the place of his execution. The apocryphal Acts of Paul, written about A.D. 160, tells us that Paul was beheaded after testifying before Nero. It reads, “Then Paul stood with his face to the east and lifted up his hands unto heaven and prayed a long time, and in his prayer, he conversed in the Hebrew tongue with the fathers, and then stretched forth his neck without speaking.” Paul was then beheaded.

Aside from Jesus, no one has had a greater impact on the Christian faith than Paul. Paul’s burial, however, was not the end of the story. Paul proclaimed, “For me to live is Christ, but to die is gain” (Philippians 1:21). Paul was not fearful of death, in fact, he would quote Isaiah 25:8 when writing to the Corinthians, “Death has been swallowed up in victory” (1 Corinthians 15:54). He would also write, “Now we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands” (2 Cor. 5:1).

Paul was called to teach and preach to the Jews and Gentiles. He lived out his calling. You have also been called by Christ. Your life may not be as dramatic as Paul’s, but you have been called by Christ to follow him one day at a time. You are to be an instrument of God’s grace and love to this broken world. As you answer God’s call, your own life will be changed dramatically.

I like the quote of minister Paul Rasmussen who routinely asks his congregation, “What won’t happen if you don’t do what God has called you to do?” Answer that question. It might just change your life and our world.

Mark

Arlington Church of Christ



Our Mission: Connecting People to Jesus and one Another

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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 |
| Nov. 4 | <u>attendance</u> | <u>contribution</u> |
| | 183 | \$6,610 |

Arlington Family Pages

Seeking to edify, educate and
inform the Family of God

Sunday, November 11, 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; Ben Cavin; Rick Case; Tina Childress; Carolyn Starks; Danny Davis; Danny Rider; Roger Mink; Terry Trent; Tom & Anita Drinnen; Clovis Taylor; 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; Diane Elliott; Becky Nix; the Summers' 4 yr. old neighbor, Gage Carenas; Jean McQuaig's niece, Karen Derry; Paige Mallicoat's family as her sister, Sabela, mourns her husband's death.

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.
- We rejoice with **Andrea James** and her fiancé, **Keron Wright**, as they were baptized into Christ last week. Pray for them as they prepare for their marriage this Saturday, Nov. 12.
- **Small groups**, tonight at 6 p.m. Talk with an Elder to determine the one that is closest to you.
- **Hope Central - Just Lead**, tomorrow afternoon from 3:30 to 5:30.
- **Men will meet at Shoney's**, this Thurs., Nov. 15, at 8:30 a.m.
- **Ladies brunch/prayer group**, this 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**, presented by the Hope kids on Wed., Nov. 21, 7 p.m.
- **Happy Thanksgiving!** Nov. 22.
- **Senior Trip** to watch Country Tonight Christmas Show, Tuesday, Nov. 27, 3 p.m. See Edith Weldon for details.
- **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
"Answering God's Call"

Sunday Night:

Small Groups @ 6 p.m.

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: S Galbreath & C Wallace

Nursery: Niki & Lexi Price

Security: R Weldon & P Ramsey

HAPPY BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Nov 17 Janet McQuaig

Nov 18 Rick Case

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