

“Deliverance”

Christmas is known for many fun things: presents, lights, family traditions, trees, music. For most, there is much joy at Christmas time. But for others, Christmas is a difficult time. A loved one is not around the table because they passed away. For others, you long to have a relationship to share this time of year with. Others have difficulty when they get together with family over the holidays due to estranged relationships or conflict. You are “supposed” to have a great time, but you are not and it intensifies despair. Despair is defined as the complete absence of hope. Many will feel despair this Christmas season, but the Christmas story is about moving from despair to deliverance. God’s people had a history of despair. Even in the midst of our despair, we have been promised deliverance.

Our problems began in the Garden of Eden. Every person commits sin and we recognize that we need a Savior. Some people fall into a false premise: as long as my good deeds outweigh my bad deeds, I am deserving of heaven. But if you break one deed, you are guilty of breaking all of them. If we could earn our deeds, there would then be no need for Jesus to die as a sacrifice for us. But man can’t save himself. Someday we will all stand before God and we won’t be compared to anyone other than the righteousness of Jesus. Our only hope is to put our trust in him, in the deliverer.

In Isaiah 9, the king on the throne was Ahaz. Isaiah was encouraging Ahaz and the nation to turn back to God. Ahaz refused and the people were experiencing despair. There didn’t seem to be peace or hope in Jerusalem. But Isaiah tells the people there are better days ahead. No matter how bad or how long, deliverance is on the way. “Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future, he will honor Galilee of the nations, by the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan” (Isaiah 9:1).

Isaiah goes on to write: “The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned” (Isaiah 9:2). The first recorded words of God are: “Let there be light” (Genesis 1:3). Jesus calls himself the light of the world (John 8:12). Jesus wants us to be his light in a world of despair. We are to reflect Jesus Christ. We, like the moon reflecting the brilliance of the sun, get to reflect the brilliance of the Son of God.

Israel had many kings, but those kings often got them into the messes they found themselves in. But Isaiah says a lasting solution is on the way. “For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders” (Isaiah 9:6).

In the midst of difficult times, Isaiah makes a strange promise. A child will be born. But this is no ordinary child. God will enter history himself. The depths of despair will not be healed until this new child is born. Deliverance is not the answer; the deliverer is the answer. His name will be called: “Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6). His kingdom will have no end.


Arlington Church of Christ



Our Mission: Connecting People to Jesus and one Another

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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
Dec. 9	<u>attendance</u>	<u>contribution</u>
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Arlington Family Pages

Seeking to edify, educate and
inform the Family of God

Sunday, December 16, 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: Ben Ream; Diana Yarborough recovering from surgery; Ben Cavin; Rick Case; Ronnie Weldon; Carolyn Starks; Danny Rider; Roger Mink; Terry Trent; Tom & Anita Drinnen; Clovis Taylor; Jerry Fittro.

Friends and Loved ones: Jerry Tallman; Marge Percell's sister, Carolyn; Jerry Brackney; Gordon Norman; Michael Maddox; Linda Graybeal; Edith Weldon's neighbor, Paul Phelps; Deb & Rob Colones; Faith Tindell; Heather Ream's mom, Linda; Janie Johnson's mother; David Hunter; Joyce Sanders' dad; the Werkheisers; Mark's friend, Troy Butler; Jalen Green; David Price's boss, Gary Gray; Lisa Potter's sister, Radha Smith; Tim Howell.

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

Missionaries: Tom & Angie Langley; Tommy Drinnen.

Coming Soon

- **Present Hope**, rescheduled to today at our building from 2 to 5. We will start setting up at 12:30. See Tommy for details
- **Due to Present Hope being moved** to today, there will be **no evening services tonight**.
- **Hope Central - Just Lead**, tomorrow afternoon from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.
- **Men meet at Shoney's** for breakfast this Thurs., Dec. 20, 8:30 a.m.
- **Teen/College Christmas party** this Saturday, Dec. 22, 7 p.m., at the Estes' home. Please bring a pair of Christmas socks for a gift exchange.
- **Joe Croteau and Christina Stepien wedding**, Sat., Dec. 29, 2 p.m. Please sign up on the hall bulletin board if you plan to attend.
- **Winterfest** is February 15-17, 2019. *Registration forms are due by Sun., December 30th.*
- **Deacons meeting**, Monday, January 7, 7 p.m.
- Sharon Galbreath will begin a **Ladies Bible class** studying the book of Ephesians on Wed., Jan. 9, 7 p.m.
- **Marriage Workshop** - classes for 6 Sunday nights beginning Jan. 27 from 4 to 6 p.m. Go to the Arlington website: Arlingtonchurchofchrist.org to register. See Gregg Summers for details or questions.



Family News

Sermon Topics Today

Sunday Morning:

*Christmas Lesson Two
"Deliverance"*

Sunday Night:

NO Services this evening

SERVING THE ASSEMBLY TODAY:

Serve @ Table:

Jedidiah Cavin, Jonathan Cavin
Caleb Brackney, Joe Croteau
David Giles, Bob DeWitt
Pat Ramsey

Opening Prayer: Danny Davis
Preside at Table: Dan Chapman
Greeters: R Weldon & C Wallace
Nursery: Lori Tiller & Sara Sykes
Security: S Cooke & H Box



BIRTHDAYS

Dec 10 Roger Mink
Dec 11 Charles Owens
Dec 11 Luke Brackney
Dec 15 London DeBusk
Dec 18 Helen Monroe
Dec 19 Dawson Daulton
Dec 22 Kelly Hunter

Happy Birthday!!

Family Matters


Holiday Schedule

Present Hope

Today from 2 to 5 p.m. at ACOC
Setup starts at 12:30
See Tommy Drinnen for details

Teen/College & families Christmas Party

Sat., Dec. 22, 7 p.m. at the Estes home
Bring a pair of Christmas socks
for a gift exchange

No Fourth Sunday

Fellowship Meal on Dec. 23

No Evening Services on:

Sunday, December 23
Wednesday, December 26
Sunday, December 30

Collecting socks and candy canes
to be distributed to KARM residents
Put them in the collection box in the lobby



**Mark your
Calendars
for
Baby showers:**

Liliana Burbano, Sun. Jan. 27 2 to 4 pm

Carly Rollings, Sun. Feb. 20 2 to 4 pm