

“Living in Light of Jesus’ Arrival”

There is an area of study called “alternative history.” This is where historians imagine what life would be like if real events had turned out differently. For example, what would life be like if Adolf Hitler and the Nazis had won the war. It is all speculative, but likely life would be much different. Imagine how different life would be if Jesus had not been born. George Sarton has said, “The birth of Christianity changed forever the face of the Western world” (Introduction to the History of Science, 1927, 236). Jesus was unlike any other religious leaders. There were actually ten messianic movements in Palestine that failed within about one hundred years before and after Christ. Unlike these other movements, Jesus was not a political figure. He did not take any political action and his followers were for the most part uneducated. Despite this, according to church historian Philip Schaff, he changed millions more than Alexander the Great, Mohammed, and Napoleon put together (The Person of Christ: The Miracle of History, 40-49). This happened because after Jesus’ physical resurrection, his followers did not pick up the sword to defend themselves. Thousands willingly suffered a martyr’s death. Jesus’ followers loved others regardless of their race, sex, ethnicity, poverty, or wealth. They did this because they believed Jesus was the light, and they reflected that light to their world. Jesus was not just another Messiah. He was the Messiah who rose from the dead.

Let’s consider some of ways the arrival of Jesus has changed culture for the better. Consider the value of human life. Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these” (Mt. 19:14). In the ancient world, children were not treated well. When Christianity spread, the value of children was raised. In the ancient world, if an infant was weak or deformed, they were killed. People would leave unwanted children, especially girls, in the woods or drown them. Christians would open their homes to these unwanted children. A half century after Christianity attained legal status, Valentinian, a Christian emperor, outlawed infanticide in A.D. 374. Orphanages were started by Christians in the 4th century.

Consider the example of charity and compassion. Jesus said, “For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me” (Matthew 25:35-36). The early church father, Tertullian, informs us that the early Christians had a common fund that people gave to voluntarily which supported widows, the physically disabled, orphans, the sick, prisoners incarcerated for their Christian faith, and teachers requiring help; it provided burials for poor people and funds for the release of slaves. And Jesus and his followers didn’t just meet spiritual needs, also physical needs. The first hospital was built in Caesarea in A.D. 369. We could go on with things like how Jesus elevated the status of women, the promotion of education and literacy, the influence of Christians on art, architecture, and music. Nathan

Soderblom said accurately that “the entire history of the world since the coming of Christ would have to be fundamentally altered” if Christ did not come.

Mark

Arlington Church of Christ



Our Mission: Connecting People to Jesus and one Another

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Website: www.arlingtonchurchofchrist.org



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. 16	<u>attendance</u>	<u>contribution</u>
	171	\$5,627

Arlington Family Pages

Seeking to edify, educate and
inform the Family of God

Sunday, December 23, 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; 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

- There will be no fourth Sunday fellowship meal today and we will not meet tonight.
- **Hope Central - Just Lead** will not meet again until January 14.
- We will not meet this Wednesday night, Dec. 26.
- **Joe Croteau and Christina Stepien wedding**, Sat., Dec. 29, 2 p.m.
- **Winterfest** is February 15-17, 2019. **Registration forms are due by Sunday, December 30th.**
- We will not meet Sun. night, Dec. 30.
- **Ladies prayer group**, Thurs., Jan. 3, 6:30 p.m. Location to be announced.
- **Deacons meeting**, Monday, January 7, 7 p.m.
- **Senior Servants** will meet for study and lunch, Tues. Jan. 8, 11 a.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.

*Mark your Calendars for
Baby showers:*

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

Carly Rollings, Sun. Feb. 10 2 to 4 pm



Family News

Sermon Topics Today
Sunday Morning:
Christmas Lesson Three
"Living in the Light of His Arrival"

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: David Price

Preside at Table: Charles Owens

Greeters: Mark & Sammie French

Nursery: L Potter & P Snowden

Security: T Mallicoat & C Coomer

HAPPY
BIRTHDAY

HAPPY
BIRTHDAY

Dec 26 Laura Burka
Dec 27 Frances Maples
Dec 29 Rick Johnson
Dec 30 Ann DeBusk



Happy
Birthday!!



For Unto Us A Child is Born

