

“A Heart of Flesh”

When Ezekiel writes his letter, the children of Israel are in captivity in Babylon. Ezekiel, along with 10,000 other Jews, were exiled there by Nebuchadnezzar in 597 B.C. He was married, had a house of his own, and served as a priest. While in Babylon, he received the call to become a prophet of God. As a priest-prophet, he ministered to the exiles who longed to return to Jerusalem. Unlike other prophets of God, Ezekiel was directed to act out in prophetic symbolism God’s message to the exiled people.

At first, Ezekiel’s prophetic message was one of divine judgment by God upon the nation due to their disobedience and idolatry. Ezekiel foretold the destruction of the temple in Jerusalem which came to fruition on August 14, 586 B.C., when the city and temple were burned. Ezekiel’s words were harsh and heart-rending. The only hope Ezekiel was commanded to share with the people was that they should live at peace in Babylon and with God during their exile.

Sadly, for Ezekiel, after being informed by God that Jerusalem would fall, he was told his beloved wife would soon die (24:1-14). The delight of his eyes would be taken from him like the delight of Israel’s eyes, the temple, would be taken from them. Ezekiel was told not to mourn openly for his wife as a sign for the people not to mourn openly for Jerusalem (24:15-27).

After word came that Jerusalem was destroyed, Ezekiel’s message changed to become one of hope for his people. Chapters 33-48 contain words of encouragement that they would experience spiritual revival and restoration. The time was coming when spiritual Israel would have a glorious future as God’s kingdom in the world. It is in this context that Ezekiel shares the following message from God: “I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh” (Ezekiel 36:26).

The Hebrew word for “flesh” (*bawsawr*) refers to the fleshly body that we have. However, if we look at the root word from which *bawsawr* comes from, we can more clearly see what God is talking about. It comes from the Hebrew word *basar* that means “to be fresh, to announce, preach, show forth good tidings.” God wants to take our old heart of stone and replace it with a heart that is soft and pliable. The word “heart” comes from the Hebrew word *lebab* that refers to our feelings and will. It refers to our intellect and even to the center of our very being, or who we really are.

Like the ancient exiled Jews, we need to let God change our hearts of stone into hearts of flesh. Allow God to mold you into the very being of love that he wants you to be. Let God work through you to be a bright light that points people to Christ. The evidence of receiving a heart of flesh by God is revealed by your actions. The fruit that flows from your life will show what is inside of you. Paul told the Galatian church what having a heart of flesh looks like. He wrote about the fruit of the Spirit being manifest in your life: “But the fruit of the Spirit is

love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control” (Galatians 5:22-23). If God has given you a heart of flesh, then this is the fruit that you will be showing to others. **Mark**

Arlington Church of Christ



Our Mission: Connecting People to Jesus and one Another

2206 Tecoma Drive
Knoxville, TN 37917
865-523-1764

e-mail: office@acoc.comcastbiz.net
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
Jan. 13	<u>attendance</u>	<u>contribution</u>
	170	\$3,695

Arlington Family Pages

Seeking to edify, educate and
inform the Family of God

Sunday, January 20, 2019

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: Edith Weldon is recovering from knee replacement surgery; Ben Cavin is recovering from an infection and dehydration; Michael Chumas; Liliana Burbano; Ben Ream; 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; Janie Johnson's mother; David Hunter; Joyce Sanders' dad; the Werkheisers; Mark's friend, Troy Butler; Jalen Green; David Price's boss, Gary Gray; Jean McQuaig's niece, Karen Derry; Laura Owens' cousin.

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

Coming Soon

- **Connection Night**, today at 5 p.m. We will get to know three more of our Arlington members. Please bring finger foods to share. 
- **NO Hope Central**, tomorrow due to Martin Luther King Holiday.
- **Fourth Sunday Fellowship Meal**, Sun., Jan. 27. Please bring food to share.
- **Baby shower** for Liliana Burbano, Sun., Jan. 27, 2 to 4 p.m. She is registered at Buy Buy Baby and Target. 
- **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.
- **YPYF group**, Sun., Feb. 3, 5 p.m. We will meet at the Brackney's for Bible study and then a super bowl party. Please bring finger foods and drinks to share.
- **Ladies prayer group**, Thurs., Feb. 7, 6:30 p.m.
- **Baby shower** for Carly Rollings, Sun. Feb. 10, 2 to 4 p.m. She is registered at Target. 
- **Winterfest**, February 15-17.
- **Seniors Appreciation - Mystery Dinner**, Sat., Feb. 23, 12:00 noon in the fellowship hall. Please sign up on the hall bulletin board if you plan to attend. See Delinda Summers or Jennifer Tatum for questions (but don't assume they will be answered!) 

Family News

Sermon Topics Today
Sunday Morning:
Tommy Drinnen
"New Heart"

Sunday Night:
Connection Night 5 pm

SERVING THE ASSEMBLY TODAY:

Serve @ Table:

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

Opening Prayer: Jason McDougal

Preside at Table: Jay Estes

Greeters: Mark & Sammie French

Nursery: Lori Tiller & Sara Sykes

Security: K Tatum & D Jones

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

BIRTHDAYS

Jan 21 Glenda Thompson
Jan 23 Jerry Fittro
Jan 25 Everette Monroe
Jan 26 Judy Box
Jan 26 Cathy Norris
Jan 27 Meredith Norris

Happy Birthday!! 

Family Matters

New
to Our
Family

Please welcome
Allen & Carly Rollings to our
Arlington family and add
their info to your directory:

2113 Pleasant View Lane
Knoxville, TN 37914 Ph: 865-296-5020
Birthdays: Allen Aug 7
Carly April 28

We now have **Online Giving!**
Online Giving is so much more than just online! Our giving tools provide the ability to further the work of God through the Arlington family with a donation on our website or from a link on your phone or tablet. And you have options that range from giving a one-time donation to scheduling a series of donations directly from your checking account or debit or credit card. For more information as well as detailed instructions visit our website: arlingtonchurchofchrist.org and click **Give Online** from the menu. See Danny Rider if you have questions.

HELPING HANDS MINISTRY

Jay Estes is building a database of Arlington members with special talents and skills that would be useful to other members. Send an email to: helpinghandsarlington@gmail.com with your talent(s) or your needs. Jay will then be working to connect our talents with our needs. See Jay for more details. 