

REFORMATION 500

Do you know what happened in church history 500 years ago today?

On October 31, 1517, a German monk named Martin Luther (or perhaps one of his students) nailed his 95 theses to the door of the church in Wittenberg, Germany. These were criticisms of the Roman Catholic Church and, in effect, challenges for debate. Luther wanted to correct many non-biblical practices in the Catholic Church. His charges spread like a prairie fire among the common people. He believed in the concept of *Sola Scriptura* (Scripture alone) as the basis for church organization and activity. Luther's work was the start of a movement we now call the Reformation. The Reformation was a protest against the corruptions in Catholicism and an effort to reform the departures and innovations of the apostate church.

The Reformation was a significant step in the right direction, but in the end it failed to achieve its purpose. Despite Luther's best efforts, the attempts to reform and correct the abuses of the Catholic Church led only to the establishment of multiple denominations.

In time, men like Thomas Campbell, Alexander Campbell, Barton W. Stone and others began to call for a "restoration of the ancient order." Their cry was, "Let us go back to the Bible." They urged men and women to "speak where the Bible speaks and to remain silent where the Bible is silent." The Reformation sought to correct the abuses of the Catholic Church, but the Restoration sought to return to the original plan for the church as it existed in the first century.

Many were weary of denominational division; they were thrilled by the plea to abandon the doctrines of men and to return to the Bible as their only guide. Churches began to spring up after the New Testament order. The gospel was preached as it was on the day of Pentecost. Thousands gladly heard the word and were baptized into Christ for the forgiveness of their sins (Acts 2:38-41). These disciples were known simply as Christians (Acts 11:26), and they laid aside their denominational names and unscriptural designations.

The hammer blows of Luther have echoed across five centuries, reminding us that we must still stand on Scripture alone. We in Churches of Christ plea for a return to biblical authority. We seek a "thus saith the Lord" for what we teach and practice. The plea to return to New Testament Christianity is a valid and legitimate appeal. We urge men and women today to look back beyond, London, Geneva, Constantinople, and Rome and become what they were in the New Testament - Christians, disciples of Christ, and members of the church that Jesus built.

"I pray you to leave my name alone, and call not yourselves Lutherans, but Christians. Who is Luther? My doctrine is not mine. I have not been crucified for anyone... Cease, my dear friends, to cling to these party names and distinctions - away with them all - and let us call ourselves only Christians after him, from whom our doctrine comes." - Martin Luther

This Week's Lesson

Sunday morning

Are You a Member of the Church?

Acts 2:37-47

Sunday evening

The Dark Side of Joshua



Collins' Corner

JOHN 5:1-9

After this there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, in Aramaic called Bethesda, which has five roofed colonnades. In these lay a multitude of invalids-blind, lame, and paralyzed. One man was there who had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had already been there a long time, he said to him, "Do you want to be healed?" The sick man answered him, "Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, and while I am going another steps down before me." Jesus said to him, "Get up, take up your bed, and walk." And at once the man was healed, and he took up his bed and walked. Now that day was the Sabbath.

There are plenty of times when Jesus enters a city and goes to the Synagogue. That's the local church of the day and Jesus was seeking to proclaim the message to people that were already seeking after God. This is different though — Jesus enters Jerusalem and heads into a place where there is nothing but people that are sick. People are laying around waiting, hoping for something that can make them better, and up walks Jesus. Just prior to this passage, Christ speaks to the woman of Samaria (who is alone), heals an important officials daughter, and is now found here, at this pool. It is safe for us to say that Jesus routinely meets people where they are, in their stage of life.

What Jesus offers can fulfill the person of worldly importance. He can fulfill the person who feels lonely and alienated. He can fulfill the person who has been living in some kind of sickness for years and years. He can meet anyone where they are in life, the gospel has the power to change that persons life — regardless of current circumstance. Jesus' message is just as needed for the person that has grown up in the church as it is for the person who has spent 38 years living at a pool waiting for an angel to heal him. The same gospel captivates and convicts both people.

The question for us is, if we learn that Christ is willing to meet people where they are, am I willing to do the same? Am I willing to connect with individuals that don't look like me, in a place that isn't where I normally am? Am I willing to reach out, and continue to reach out, to people, regardless of circumstance?

Matt

Fall Family Fun, Food and Fellowship at Fowler Farms

The entire congregation is invited to a Fall Fellowship on **Friday, November 3 at 5:30 p.m.** Come and enjoy the cool, crisp weather, the colorful leaves and family fun. Bring lawn chairs, blankets and your favorite campfire dishes for the pot luck meal. There is a sign up sheet on the family bulletin board; however, if you forget to sign up, come anyway! All of this is weather permitting, of course. See **Doug or Mae Fowler**. (FFFFFFF)



Missions Sunday—November 12

9:00am Class: All classes 5th grade and up will meet in the large auditorium.

Ralph Coles, Board of Directors Member for the **Churches of Christ Disaster Relief Effort, Inc.**, and Elder at the Hillcrest Church of Christ in Springfield, will be our guest speaker during class. Disaster Relief Effort Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation that employs fifteen paid personnel. The success of the organization though is because of the hundreds of volunteers that help. Volunteers help pack the majority of supplies in the Nashville warehouse so they are ready to be distributed as soon as they're received.

10:00am Worship:

Lytle Thomas, President of the **Nashville Inner City Ministry**, will be our guest speaker for worship. Nashville Inner City Ministry was founded by Lytle and Sandra Thomas in 1979, as an outreach to the young people living in the public housing projects of Nashville's inner city area. Today, a core group of 1,000 dedicated volunteers enter every major public housing development in Nashville's inner city communities and transport up to 1,200 children and teenagers to life skill training classes that are held in locations throughout Nashville and the surrounding communities.

We support both of these ministries monthly. All contribution over our regular budget will be distributed to our missions.

News & Announcements

Remember in Daily Prayer!

Cheri McCormick is now at home following a stay in CRMC with kidney problems.

Michael McCord's father, **Greg McCord**, has been dismissed from Saint Thomas West, and is recovering at an in-patient rehab.

Allison Burr's grandfather, **G.E. McCormack**, remains at Centennial following several falls.

Ed & Rosella Smith requests continued prayer for their daughter-in-law, **Judy Loftis**, as she battles cancer.

Angela Leffew, Johnny Bates' sister, will have her blood level checked next week to determine if she can restart her chemo.

Joan Tansil, a friend to many here, is recovering from brain surgery last week.

Bobbie Locke remains in room #542 at CRMC.

Remember those who are dealing with cancer:

Kathy Adams, Linda Alcorn, Kenneth Allen, Dean Boles, Kaye Bowman, Rene' Canfield, Walter Fitzpatrick, Tim Jennings, Dave Leaf, Angela Leffew, Rhett Massey, Paula Palk, Jan Shepherd and Marty Smith

Remember Our Shut-ins:

Bethesda: Jan Shuster, Cornelia Steakley & Lyda Taylor

Heritage Pointe: Peggy Cooper and Wilma Hayes

NHC: Evelyn Solt, Aletha Tino

Signature Health-Algood: Matilda Craighead

At Home: Hugh & Kathy Adams, Sue Clack, Margaret Cunningham, Mary Dyer, Geneva Glasgow, Wilma Judd, Peggy Mackie, Ralph Medley, Pat McCanless, Claudine Smith, Frances Smith, Marty Smith, Jordan Terry and Joyce Williamson

Dishes: There are dishes ready to be picked up!

REMINDER: WEATHER ANNOUNCEMENT TEXT LIST

We have a method of informing members of important announcements such as cancellation of services. This is the same system the youth group uses to send text messages to students and parents. We will also continue to inform members via other means, such as by telephone, Facebook and the website. If you want to be included in this text system, here's what you do: **To be added to our texting list, text "JACOC" to 40650.**

Young-At-Heart Holiday Dinner: Friday, November 10, is our Holiday Dinner in the Fellowship Hall, at 12 Noon. This Sunday (November 5) is the deadline to sign-up. If you would like to decorate a table, there is a sign-up sheet for that too. Everyone please bring a jar of peanut butter or jelly. See **Linda Farris (537-3351)**.

The Amazing Ladies

We will meet for lunch at *Mauricio's* Italian Restaurant on **Tuesday, November 14 at 11:30**. Please sign up on the YAH Board. The address is 232 N. Peachtree Street, Cookeville.

NHC Worship Service: Jefferson Avenue will conduct the worship services at NHC **Sunday, November 5 at 2:00pm**, The **Teens** are scheduled to assist.

Job Opportunity

Happy Haven is looking for a part-time employee (20-25 hours per week) who is proficient in Peachtree or Quick-Books, Microsoft Word and Excel. Applications are available at www.happyhaven.org. See **Houston Bynum**.

Ladies
LUNCHEON We will not meet until after the Winter months.

"I WILL SING UNTO THE LORD"

Thanksgiving Singing this year will be **Sunday, November 19, 6:00pm, at Sycamore Church**. We encourage all of us to worship in song with our brothers and sisters there. We will **NOT** have an evening service here.

Care Packages to Military Troops: One of our members, **Ryker Lintz**, 8th grader at Avery Trace, is engaging in a project to send care packages to military troops overseas. If you would like to help with this drive, please see the Family Board for more details and items to donate or contact Travis Little at 520-2200.

Church of Christ
521 S. Jefferson Ave.
Cookeville, TN 38501

Web Site: <http://www.jacoc.org>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/JeffersonAvenueCOC>

Say a good word for Jesus this week!

<u>Sunday, October 29, 2017</u>	
SHEPHERDS Glenn Binkley *Jann Cupp Doug Fowler Don Foy Bobby Lane John Mason John Rhodes *Chairman of Month	DEACONS (cont.) Phillip Burr Brian Carver Randy Chafin Ken Clark Jim Dale Jason Fowler Chad Gilbert Seth Gilbert Jim Hicks Chuck Lankford Bryan Limer Bob Mackie Ken Mayes Brian McDaniel Andy Milton Dean Olson Jimmy Patterson Dave Piggott Gaylon Presley Bud Simpson Pete Story Don Viar Donnie Westbrook
MINISTERS Buddy Johnson Pulpit Minister Matt Collins Youth Minister Bo Perez Hispanic Ministry	Service Schedule Sunday Bible Study.....9:00 AM Sunday Morning.....10:00 AM Sunday Evening.....6:00 PM Wednesday Bible Study.....6:30 PM
Bible Class.....NC Sunday Morning.....550 Sunday Evening.....No Service Wednesday Night.....284 Contribution.....\$16,861	Email Church Office.....info@jacoc.org Buddy Johnson.....buddy@jacoc.org Matt Collins.....mattc@jacoc.org Bo Perez.....bo@jacoc.org Mother's Day Out.....laura.fox@jacoc.org
Church Office.....931-526-4605 Information Line.....931-528-1006 Fax Line.....931-520-8708 Mother's Day Out.....931-260-7861	

BIRTHDAYS

November 5-11

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|---------------------|---------------------|
| 5 - Jesse Allen | 8 - Robyn Carver |
| 5 - Taylor Carter | 8 - Frances Foley |
| 6 - Sandy Cupp | 8 - Jim Lynn |
| 6 - Andrew Hamilton | 9 - Linda Carver |
| 6 - Alfred Weaver | 9 - Michael McCord |
| 7 - Linda Lewis | 10 - Callie Gilbert |



This Week's Bible Reading November 1-7

- Wednesday, November 1—Matthew 20-21
Thursday, November 2—Luke 18:15—19:48
Friday, November 3—Mark 11, John 12
Saturday, November 4—Matthew 22, Mark 12
Sunday, November 5—Matthew 23, Luke 20-21
Monday, November 6—Mark 13
Tuesday, November 7—Matthew 24



NOVEMBER

- 5—Devo @ Viar's
5—NHC Service 2pm
19—Devo @ Mackie's
22-24—Thanksgiving Break
1,8,15,29—W.A.S.

DECEMBER

- 2—Christmas Party
21—Opry Mills
21-1/2—Christmas Break
6,13—W.A.S.

