

## JA Youth Spring Retreat

**WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:  
WHAT YOU NEED TO BRING:**

- ⇒ Leaving at 5:00 on Friday. We will eat on the way (maybe in Cookeville)
- ⇒ Check the weather as we get closer—looks like rain Saturday
- ⇒ Bring money for food Friday night
- ⇒ If we go out shopping during free time, bring money for that as well
- ⇒ Cost for the retreat is \$50. If money is an issue, let Matt know
- ⇒ We should return to JA by 11:30am Sunday
- ⇒ Bible/Journal
- ⇒ Clothes for Saturday/Sunday
- ⇒ Toiletries
- ⇒ Any board games you like
- ⇒ Money for Friday meal, money for going out Saturday
- ⇒ Tennis shoes for an easy hike Saturday (weather permitting)

**IF YOU ARE SO INCLINED TO MAKE SOME  
BAKED GOODS FOR THE RETREAT TO BE  
USED AS SNACKS,  
WE WOULD REALLY APPRECIATE IT!**

### This Week's Lessons

**Sunday Morning**

*Our Father - Matthew 6*

**Sunday Evening**

*Fruit and Figs - Mark 11*

### MOVING CLOSER TO GOD

I believe the Christian life is really about moving closer to God. This idea profoundly affects how I think about discipleship, missions, evangelism, and my purpose as a Christian. I want to get closer to God. And I want to help others get closer to God. I know that's not a profound thought for some, but it's been transformative for me. It's simplified how I view my interactions with others.

Some people are not only negative about God, they are openly hostile. My task with them is to model positive things about God, trying to move them closer to God.

Some are apathetic about God, not caring enough to explore what he might expect of them. With such people, I need to live out God's message and speak it as well. Again, my hope is that I can move them closer to God.

I've met people who follow God by their own rules, making God over in their own image. They're not necessarily against what the Bible says, they just aren't aware of what it says. These people need a better understanding of God's Word in order to move closer to him.

Every now and again, I get to talk to people who want to be disciples of God and just need an explanation as to how to go about it. With those people, I have the wonderful privilege of sharing the gospel, in all its glory, helping them understand what faith is and how it responds to God. It's a crucial time in a person's journey toward God, much like the transition from dating to marriage. My task is to help them move closer to God.

Too often, we Christians forget that new Christians still need to move towards God. Conversion is the beginning of the Christian life, not the end. We're called to make disciples, not just baptize people. In my dealings with other Christians, whether they are longtime believers or new converts, I always want to help them get closer to God.

Finally there's me. My journey to know God and live in his power and humility is an ongoing one. I won't fully realize my goal until I see God face to face. For now, my task is to move closer to God and to help others do the same. Because this life is really all about moving closer to God.

**Buddy Johnson**

## From John's Desk

**1 John 5:1-5** *"Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?"*

"Do I have to?"

That is a question that every parent has heard their child say at some point in time. It is likely a question that is heard regularly. Momma says to the child, "Clean your room." The child responds to momma, "Do I have to?" Daddy says to his son, "Go brush your teeth." The son responds to his daddy, "Do I have to?" Around and around this cycle goes for children that become parents who have more children who become parents. Kids typically do not like to do what their parents ask them to do. The parent wants their child to brush their teeth because it is good for them. It is not as if parents want to have authority over their kids simply for the sake of having authority. Parents ask their children to do things because it is what is best for the kids to do.

Many times in our relationship with God we treat him the way a child treats their parents. We come to God's grace and say, "Thanks be to God!" However, we come to the submission God wants us to walk in and we say, "Do I have to do that?" We think to ourselves, "I don't want to go to church. I don't want to love my neighbor. I don't want to sacrifice some of my wealth." For those of us that walk with that attitude, the motivator for what we do is not Jesus or God's love, it is guilt. If we did not come to the assembly, then we would feel guilty. **Listen: Guilt is an awful motivator that never lasts.**

John says, if we love him, we will do what he wants us to do. We will do those things not out of guilt, but rather because we have been born of him. Do what God has requested because the things he wants are not burdensome, but are blessings. The things God asks of us are for his glory and our benefit. You do not have to do anything. You get to love the Lord your God.

God Bless, **John**

## Collins' Corner

**Ezekiel 34:1-6,16** *"The word of the Lord came to me: Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel; prophesy, and say to them, even to the shepherds, Thus says the Lord God: Ah, shepherds of Israel who have been feeding yourselves! Should not shepherds feed the sheep? You eat the fat, you clothe yourselves with the wool, you slaughter the fat ones, but you do not feed the sheep. The weak you have not strengthened, the sick you have not healed, the injured you have not bound up, the strayed you have not brought back, the lost you have not sought, and with force and harshness you have ruled them. So they were scattered, because there was no shepherd, and they became food for all the wild beasts. My sheep were scattered; they wandered over all the mountains and on every high hill. My sheep were scattered over all the face of the earth, with none to search or seek for them... I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice."*

Shepherd is a word that we see all throughout the Bible. We have all kinds of examples of different people who were shepherds and writings about them. We know about David and Moses. We see how Christ refers to himself as the "Good Shepherd". We read about God's people being a flock. We see how elders today are referred to as shepherds.

I think we find an interesting passage here in Ezekiel when God is discussing the shepherds of his people in that day. A problem God had with the shepherds in Ezekiel is one that he has with his people still today: selfishness. The shepherds of God's people in Ezekiel seem to be watching out for only themselves. They are taking advantage of their power, and only doing things that will benefit themselves, not the flock at large. Because of that, the sheep have become scattered, tossed about all over the place. God is unhappy with that. When God's people look out for only themselves, and not others, they are not doing their job.

God has a response for those shepherds in the verses that follow verse 6, but I would like to focus on verse 16 in this passage. God is the ultimate shepherd. When humans fail, God does not. God takes care of his people.

**Matt**

# News, Prayers & Announcements

## Our Sick:

**Mae Stults** will have eye surgery this Friday, and surgery on the other eye next Tuesday, the 22nd.

**Jackie Tidwell** remains at Cookeville Regional and is now in room #422. She had pacemaker surgery Monday and is recovering very well.

**Glenda Johnson** is being transferred from Cookeville Regional to Bethesda for therapy.

**Clay Holloway** is having lung issues.

**Maggie Billingsley** was dismissed from Cookeville Regional Wednesday and is now recuperating at her home.

**Willie Tackett** remains at the Hospice House on State Street.

Sympathy to **William Dunn** in the death of his sister, **Gerrie Neal**. Her funeral was held Sunday.

Sympathy to **Sandra Wilson Poller** in the death of her mother-in-law, **Kathryn Poller**. Her funeral was held Friday in Platteville, Wisconsin. Sandra is the daughter of our **Faye Wilson**.

Remember our shut-ins and those dealing with cancer.



Thank you for the prayers, food, cards, phone calls and visits during my surgery and recovery. I am so blessed to have a great Christian family. **Betty Brotherton**

What a wonderful group of Christians. I had 26 people visit me while in the hospital, but now I am home and feeling well. Thanks to everyone for your visits, prayers, phone calls, cards, plants, etc., but most of all for your friendship and care. Thanks for everything.

**Leighton Sissom**

We cannot find the words to adequately express our thanks for your expressions of love and sympathy. Our thanks to Bro. Johnson for his words of comfort in the service. And to each of you that were able to attend, we appreciated each word. Also, to the ladies who prepared the amazing meal and those who worked so hard in the kitchen serving our family and guests. Charlie Moore, thank you for the song books, tables and chairs. We also enjoyed worshipping God with you Sunday. We were able to apply the sermon. The Family of **June Gentry**



Easter Egg Hunt: *Candy, Candy, Candy!!!* Please help us fill our eggs with prepackaged candy for the Kid's Avenue Egg Hunt. It will be at Brook & Seth Gilbert's house on Sunday, **April 3 at 1:00pm**. Bring desserts, yard chairs and your baskets.

Children's Bible Hour: We need volunteers for our Children's Bible Hour for a 3 month rotation. Lessons will be provided.

Cradle Roll: We need Cradle Roll rotation teachers also.

For any or all of these, please contact **Allison Burr**, at 252-2084 or amwburr@gmail.com.

**HAPPY HAVEN CHILDREN'S HOME - 51<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Celebration Banquet** is this Saturday night, 6:30 p.m., at the Leslie Town Centre. Call 931-526-2052 for reservations, sponsorships or to host a table. See **Houston Bynum**.



Magi Items for March: yo-yo's, paddle balls and toothbrushes.

VBS 2016 - There will be a short meeting after church on Sunday, **March 20**, immediately following the evening service in the Fellowship Hall, for anyone interested in helping with VBS: teachers, builders, actors, helpers, etc.

Young At Heart - **April 15, Cheekwood Art & Gardens Guided Tour**. We will leave at 9:00am and return about 4:00pm. Tickets are \$15.00 each; lunch on your own. More details and sign up sheet are on the YAH board. See **John Mayher**.

## Puppet Schedule:

**03/20-3-5:45pm-Final Practice/Work day**

**03/25-2 to 4pm-Grade 3-7 Puppet Theatre**

**03/25-4 to 6pm-Grade 8-12 Puppet Theatre**



Spring Meetings: Area meetings are filling up the office bulletin board. Please stop by and see what is coming up that you would like to attend.

# BIRTHDAYS *March 27 - April 2*

- |                       |                      |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 27 - Madison Lane     | 29 - Hayden Cowan    |
| 27 - Valerie Loftis   | 29 - Brenda Keisling |
| 27 - Mallory Mackie   | 30 - Laurie Bell     |
| 28 - Lane Baggett     | 30 - Pat Taylor      |
| 28 - Christy Heinzman | 31 - Josie Hamilton  |
| 28 - Wade Stephens    |                      |



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

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

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

<u>Sunday, March 13, 2016</u>	
<b>SHEPHERDS</b>	<b>DEACONS (cont.)</b>
*Glenn Binkley	Brian Carver
Doug Fowler	Randy Chaffin
Don Foy	Ken Clark
Bobby Lane	Jim Dale
John Rhodes	Jason Fowler
Leighton Sissom	Chad Gilbert
*Chairman of Month	Seth Gilbert
<b>MINISTERS</b>	Jim Hicks
Buddy Johnson	Sean Kelly
<i>Pulpit</i>	Chuck Lankford
John Nichols	Bryan Liner
Associate	Bob Mackie
<b>Matt Collins</b>	Ken Mayes
<i>Youth</i>	Brian McDaniel
Bo Perez	Andy Milton
<i>Hispanic</i>	Dean Olson
<b>John Mayher</b>	Jimmy Patterson
<i>Visitation</i>	Dave Piggott
<b>DEACONS</b>	Gaylon Presley
Jason Bennett	Bud Simpson
William Birdwell	Pete Story
Sam Brown	Don Viar
Philip Burr	Donnie Westbrook
Bible Class.....254	Church Office.....931-526-4605
Sunday Morning.....468	Information Line.....931-528-1006
Sunday Evening.....131	Fax Line.....931-520-8708
Wednesday Night.....318	Mother's Day Out.....931-260-7861
Contribution.....\$17,200	<b>Email</b>
	Church Office (Mary).....info@jacoc.org
	Church Office (Carol).....carol.hart@jacoc.org
	Buddy Johnson.....buddy@jacoc.org
	John Nichols.....john@jacoc.org
	Matt Collins.....mattc@jacoc.org
	John Mayher.....john.mayher@jacoc.org
	Bo Perez.....bo@jacoc.org
	Mother's Day Out.....laura.fox@jacoc.org
	<b>Service Schedule</b>
	Sunday Bible Study.....9:00 AM
	Sunday Morning.....10:00 AM
	Sunday Evening.....6:00 PM
	Wednesday Bible Study.....6:30 PM

# A News and Notes youth

## MARCH

- 18-20 Spring Retreat
- 25-27 Lads 2 Leaders

## APRIL

- 6 Short Mountain Bible Camp Registration
- 10 Devo @ the Rhodes'
- 17 T4C @ Netherland

## MAY

- 1 Senior Night
- 18 100% Night
- 22-25 VBS

## JUNE

- 19-24 SMBC

[www.jayouth.org](http://www.jayouth.org)