

Sunday, February 11

Greeters Matt & Shaina Woodruff
Bible Reading Chuck Cleghorn
Devotional Prayer Marl Fuller
Song Leader (AM & PM) Paul Gilliland
Worship Prayer Larry Little

Lord's Table

(B) Casey Pirtle (J) Kenneth Grover
Frank Pitts (O) James Rogers
Jerry Hall Jimmy Jones
Jamie Patterson Harry James

Announcements Brent James
Dismissal Prayer Will Fletcher

Control Room (Sunday & Wednesday)

-Streaming Chris James
-Songs/Audio Sam Scott

Prepare Communion Kelli Barker-Anna Hill

Sunday Evening

Opening Prayer Paul Rogers
Dismissal Prayer Mark Biles

Wednesday, February 14

Song Leader Paul Gilliland
Closing Prayer Ken Nelson
Ushers Houston Hutto - Aaron Fletcher
Lock Building Jamie Patterson-Matt Addison

Sunday, February 18

Greeters Aaron & Christie Fletcher
Bible Reading Preston Grover
Devotional Prayer Matt Addison
Song Leader (AM & PM) James Rogers
Worship Prayer Marl Fuller

Lord's Table

(B) Nathan Lee (J) Jamie Patterson
Paul Gilliland (O) Danny Standridge
Ben Rogers Roger McCaghren
Rex Free Will Fletcher

Announcements Larry Little
Dismissal Prayer Aaron Fletcher

Control Room (Sunday & Wednesday)

-Streaming Brent James
-Songs/Audio Bryant Addison

Prepare Communion Benita James-Sabrina Standridge

Sunday Evening

Opening Prayer Ken Nelson
Dismissal Prayer Chris James

Wednesday, February 21

Song Leader Sam Scott
Closing Prayer Casey Pirtle
Ushers Chuck Cleghorn - Sam Scott
Lock Building Jamie Patterson-Matt Addison

ELDERS

Roger Thomas Harry James

Brent James Sam Scott
Nathan Lee

MINISTER David Barker
256-303-1755

DEACONS

Benevolence
Deacon: Windell Denney

Visitations
Deacons: All

Education
Deacons: Jamie Patterson, Houston Hutto

Missions
Deacon: Larry Little

Youth
Deacon: Matt Addison

Building & Grounds
Deacons: Jamie Patterson, Aaron Fletcher

Technology
Deacon: Tim Hester

Worship Assignments
Deacon: Matt Addison

FELLOWSHIP HALL RESERVATIONS

February 10 & 11

March 9 & 10

April 6

April 17

April 20

April 28

May 18

June 22

August 10

November 2

December 8

December 20

*Please see Harry
James for all
Fellowship Hall
requests.

HAPPY
BIRTHDAY

Megan Pitz Feb 4
Judy McCaghren Feb 6
Jane Biles Feb 7
James Rogers Feb 10
Anna Hill Feb 11
Julie Carter Feb 15
Jennifer Addison Feb 17
Jacob Hutto Feb 18
Roger Thomas Feb 21

Happy Anniversary!

Bradley & Brittany Liles Feb 17

February 11, 2024

Midway Church of Christ

THE DOOR OF DEATH

For the faithful Christian, the door of death is an entrance into glory. When we are absent from the body, we are at home with the Lord (2 Cor.5:6-8). We do not see this glory... yet, for we walk by faith not by sight (2 Cor.5:7). But just as sure as Jesus lived, was crucified, and was raised (1 Thess.4:14,15), even so, heaven is real. According to Jesus, the angels carry us into "Abraham's bosom," a place of comfort and eternal joy (Luke 16: 25). Though Lazarus was poor (Luke 16:20,21); yet, in his life, he had chosen the good things which cannot be taken away from him (cf.Luke 10:38-42).

For the faithful Christian, there is no fear of death. Christ came to earth to deliver us from the fear of death. Of course, in taking on flesh, Jesus paid the price for sin on the cross, destroying the power of Satan and sin (Heb.2:14; John 8:44). "He abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel" (2 Tim.1:9,10). In so doing, He delivers us from the fear of death if we have the courage to believe (Heb.2:15). Death is simply easing into the arms of Jesus. "For me to live is Christ and to die is gain" (Philippians 1:21-23).

For the faithful Christian, courage toward death produces a wonderful influence for Christ. People long to know the meaning and purpose of life. Life on earth is about bringing glory to God (Isa.43:7) by doing the Father's will (Matt.5:16) and preparing ourselves for the eternal home (2 Tim.4:18). Life on earth is like "a vapor;" eternity is forever (James 4:13,14). Most do not know this purpose and are fearful of death. (To brethren who doubt: what sort of impact can we possibly have in the world if we are as fretful about death as they are? The cross is the opposite of fear. Jesus says, "If I be lifted up, I will draw all men unto me" — John 12:32).

For the faithful Christian, death is rest in the presence of God (Rev.14:13), a refreshing environment for further service to our Creator (Rev.22:3), and a glad reunion with those of like precious faith (2 Peter 1:1).

It is appropriate to consider death as a "door." Everyone will continue to exist after death, but only a few will see eternal life. According to Jesus, those who refuse the Father's will, will experience "anguish and torment" (Luke 16:23-25).

— David

Prayers

- Chris James will be having back surgery tomorrow.
- Eulene Logan will be having neck surgery Wednesday.
- Continue to remember to Tim LeMay in your prayers.

SYMPATHY

Our thoughts and prayers are extended to the family of Rachel James. Her niece, Tonya Walker, passed from this life last Saturday and memorial services were conducted this past Wednesday. Rachel is a dear, faithful sister and is a sweet friend to all of us in the church family at Midway. She wields a Christ-like influence among family and friends. We pray for her in this loss. *“God comforts the downhearted”* (2 Cor.7:6).

A SWEET GOOD-BYE

Our sister, Marie Faircloth, passed from this life last Sunday. Her loss is heart-breaking, but her reward is great (Matt.5:12). *“Our light affliction, which is but for a moment, works for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory”* (2 Cor.4:17). Sister Marie’s remarkable influence extends onto the eternal shores of that heavenly land. Faithful wife, godly mother, effective Bible teacher, diligent Bible-reader, sweet grandmother, patient mother-in-law, humble servant – there are not enough words. Please pray for Kelli, Kayla, Anna, David and the entire family. *“Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised”* (Prov.31:30).

OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS

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DID ALEXANDER CAMPBELL START THE CHURCH OF CHRIST?

It is not uncommon for someone to affirm that Alexander Campbell started the church of Christ. Recently, a preacher on television taught this and, as a member of the church of Christ, I feel obligated to address this matter.

Alexander Campbell was a prominent man who lived and worked during the days of the Restoration Movement. This was a movement that began in the early part of the 19th century. Campbell, along with Barton Stone and others began working to bring unity to a religious world that was divided. The plea of the movement was to “speak where the Bible speaks, and to be silent where the Bible is silent.”

“Upon this rock, I will build my church” (Matthew 16:18). Jesus loved the church and gave Himself for it (Ephesians 5:25). Jesus shed His blood to purchase the church (Acts 20:28). Jesus is the Head of His church (Colossians 1:18). It is clear from all these passages that, in the first century, the Lord Jesus Christ started His church (Acts 2:1-47). His church was not and is not a denomination.

In view of these facts, the question we should ask is this: Is it possible to be a member of Jesus’ church, without joining a denomination? Some who desire membership in Jesus’ church are not aware that there is an alternative to denominationalism. The alternative is membership in the church of the New Testament. None of the Protestant denominations of our day are in the Bible, but the church started by Jesus is in the Bible. Early Christians were part of that one body (Ephesians 4:4), and it is still possible to be part of that body without denominationalism.

The term “church of Christ” is not a proper name; rather, it is a designation which shows ownership. It is the church “of” Christ (belonging to Christ). This is what we mean by “church of Christ.” It is not a denomination. Paul wrote: *“The churches of Christ salute you”* (Romans 16:16). This was written long before the birth of Alexander Campbell!

—Mark Lindley

Upcoming EVENTS

- **Today**—Bridal Shower for Allyson James
- **Today**—Men’s Day meeting after morning service
- **February 18**—Young Men's Training Class
- **February 20**—Ladies Devo at the home of Alison James
- **February 23-25**—CYC Pigeon Forge
- **March 9**—Men’s Day with Vance Hutton
- **March 10**—Friends & Family Day with Glenn Colley

SECOND SUNDAYS

Beginning next month with our annual family day (March 10), our second Sunday of the month evening service will meet at 2 p.m. With the Lord’s help, this extra time will give us the opportunity to do more good. *“A wide door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many adversaries”* (1 Cor.16:9).

AGAPE LOVE

Most of us recognize that “agape” is one of the primary Greek words for the word “love” in the New Testament. Agape love seeks the eternal, best interest of the other person. Jason Jackson, a gospel preacher from Jackson, Tennessee, focusing on the marriage relationship, suggests an idea from each letter of this great word .

- A – The proper attitudes toward our spouse – love is patient, kind...(1 Cor.13)
- G – Setting proper Goals is marriage is important, such as living out the fruit of the Spirit (Gal.5:22,23).
- A – Means to love Always – especially when the other person is facing a difficult time. *“A friend loves at all times”* (Proverbs).
- P – Priority. Older women are to teach younger women to love their husbands and love their children (Titus 2).
- E – Love elevates and enhances the other person’s self image – letting them know God loves them more and better than anyone on earth.

HONORING MARRIAGE

This week, February 14, the world celebrates love and romance. For Christians, we stop once again and are thankful for God’s creation of marriage. We are thankful for godly wives – the truest of blessings – *“her children rise up and call her blessed, her husband also praises her”* (Prov.31:28). We are thankful for godly mothers, who rear spiritual strong men and produce mothers of faith (2 Tim.1:5). This is God’s will. Notwithstanding the influence of worldly women, godliness is learned and shown at home (1 Tim.5:4) and requires the presence and influence of faithful wives and mothers (Titus 2:1-5).

SERVICE PROJECT

February 18th following morning worship, there will be a service project for the 6th grade and under in the Fellowship Hall. Chicken fingers will be provided; parents please bring sides. See Matt or Jennifer for more information.

ADVENTURES

Our little ones are studying the prophet, Jonah. Is it not thrilling to read of a ship, a storm, a sea monster, being swallowed...? Does this account not resonate with all of us – someone running away from God, experiencing misery, doing God’s bidding, yet still struggling to form the right heart in the sight of God? Isn’t it inspiring to see a group of people hear God’s warning and turn from sin? And, what about Jonah’s experience being a prediction of the great resurrection of Jesus? Thank you, Lord, for the book of Jonah. Thank you, Lord, for our teachers and students coming to Bible class.

GOD IS IN CONTROL TODAY AND ALWAYS

One of the great messages of the Old Testament is that God is in control, and He wants us to trust in Him. Control is an illusion that we tell ourselves that we have. Truthfully, I am in control of only one thing, myself. Even that is limited. Much of my body runs autonomically. I cannot turn off physical pain. My emotions are very hard to control. We are limited in the amount of control we have. Moreover, we often make the wrong decisions regarding the things that we can control, which results in less control. How much better is it to trust God! Proverbs 3:5-6 says, *“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean to your own understanding. In all of your ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct your paths.”* Trusting God with control of my life removes anxiety, and I can be at peace trusting that God will do what is right. Philippians 4:6-7 says, *“In nothing be anxious; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus.”* This verse is about understanding that God is in control. We pray to God because He will actively respond to our requests in the absolute best way. When we trust Him, we will have no worries. This brings great peace, and allows me to understand my identity in Christ Jesus. When I am at peace, and know who I am, my heart and thoughts are perfectly guarded in Christ Jesus. This keeps me in a state of salvation so that I will be ready for Christ’s return.

— Kevin Cauley