

We were blessed last week during our Spring Meeting, to hear some powerful lessons from Andy Connelly on “The Beauty & Behavior of the Church”. One of the things he addressed was the impact we as God’s servants are to have on our community within these walls, but even more so the impact we are to have on our community outside these walls. Declaring the gospel to souls who are needing, although they may not know it, wanting to hear about & see Jesus.

Brother Connelly then ask; Are we doing what we have been asked to do?

\*If you were not fortunate enough to hear Andy’s lessons, they can be found on our McEwen church of Christ YouTube page.

## What Is Our First LOVE?

What is this “*first love*”? Paul spent a total of three years in Ephesus (**Acts 20:31**) teaching and preaching the word of God. From **Acts 18:19** to the end of **Acts 20**, we see the account of great preaching and miracles performed in Ephesus. Paul wrote an epistle to them while in Rome. We can examine these accounts to see what the Ephesian brethren were taught “*first*” about God.

It is plain to see from **Acts 20:37** that the elders at Ephesus loved Paul and the inspired knowledge of God he imparted to them. They wept bitterly over him before he departed for Miletus. How beautiful it is to have leadership in the Church in love with God’s Word!!! No congregation will love like they should unless the leadership gives the example. Paul’s epistle to the Ephesians sheds light on their hearts. They possessed love for one another, a love that was notable, even in Rome when Paul wrote to them (**Ephesians 1:15**). Paul prayed that they would know the rich, broad and deep love of Christ (**3:14-19**). In order to imitate God and act like Jesus, they must walk in love (**5:1, 2**). Husbands are commanded to love their wives by following the model of Christ (**5:25**).

We know what the “*first love*” is. It is the same love Christ expects us to have today. Our first love must be for God, expressed by a desire to follow His commandments, an appreciation for what He has done for us, and a heart to share His spirit of charity and benevolence with both fellow Christians and suffering sinners. We sometimes are caught up in ensuring we are following the “letter of the law” in keeping our congregational organization, administration, instruction, and worship in accordance with Scripture. This is righteous and commendable, but we must remember that we cannot let Satan blind us to our “*first love*”. If so, we become simply sounding brass and clanging cymbals.

by Tim Martin


\*This article taken from our 1/30/22 bulletin.

<b>On Our Prayer List...</b>	<b>Jimmy Long</b> -hip surg on 4/16. <b>Al &amp; Vicki Peek</b>	<b>Earl Forster</b> <b>Jimmy Phy</b>	<b>Rita Stevens-CA</b> <b>Toad Smith</b>	<b>W. R. Long</b>
*{Please keep all our elderly in your prayers}				
<b>Ed Gunn</b> - fall last week	<b>Shane Cobb</b> -complications fr diabetes -toe/foot amputated	<b>Sharon Curtis</b> —Cancer	<b>Norma Ross</b> (Glenn’s mother)	<b>Jerry Belles</b> -now home on hospice
<b>Wayne Hatcher</b> -mass on liver & wife	<b>Debbie</b> -cancer in one eye	<b>Mike Parrish</b> -(Wesley’s son) surg went well -now home recovering	<b>Ethan McClure</b> -(friend of Buttrey family) has mass in stomach	<b>Barry Dean</b> -(grandfather of a friend of Rachel Bell’s) Cancer
<b>Beth Schreiber Fritts</b> (Wesley Parrish’s cousin) breast CA	<b>Linda Burns</b> -(sister-in-law of Mike) broken ribs from fall	<b>Wanda Wright</b> -chemo treatments	<b>Faye Marshall</b> -(Traci Adams) mom / <b>Maggie Wright</b> (friend of N. Buttrey)CA-chemo	<b>Jerry &amp; Judy</b> (blood clot lungs) <b>Smith / Frank Hall</b> -(Brother-in-law Roy Deloach) Dialysis
<b>Larry Hayes</b> (fr Waverly COC) restarted chemo			<b>Kim Marlow</b> - CA	<b>Kenna Rickenbrode</b> -CA
			<b>John Henry &amp; Carlene Davis</b> -could use our prayers	

<b>ASSISTED LIVING &amp; NURSING HOME</b>		<b>MILITARY</b>
<b>AHC Decatur County</b> -726 Kentucky Ave., Parsons,TN 38363- <b>Wyle Marshall</b> (Rm 726)-Traci Adams dad	<b>Dickson Health &amp; Rehab</b> -901 North Charlotte,Dickson,TN 37055 - <b>Clayton England</b> -Marvin’s brother	<b>Dustin Proctor</b> (Navy-Japan) PSC 562 Box 7273, FPO AP 96311-0073
<b>Humphreys County</b> -Billy Adams-Rm 712/ <b>Jane Ridings</b> -Rehab-Rm 704/ <b>Bonita Madewell</b> -Rehab-Rm 714 104 Forte Hill Rd, Waverly, TN 37185	<b>NHC-Jim &amp; Anita</b> -(Rehab) <b>Buckner</b> -both in Rm 102/ <b>Jim &amp; Earline Davis</b> -Rm 103/ <b>Doris Stokes</b> -(Rm 127) 812 N. Charlotte, Dickson, TN 37055	<b>Dalton &amp; Hope Palk</b> - (Navy-Louisiana) 500 Woodland Dr, Apt 597, New Orleans, LA 70131
<b>Horizon Rehab</b> -111 Hwy 70 East, Dickson, TN 37055— <b>Earl Forster</b> —( Rm 16)		

<b>AT HOME</b>	<b>HERBERT CAPPS</b> - 1400 Bradley Rd, McEwen	<b>ELTON SMITH</b> - 7731 Hwy 70 East , McEwen
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## ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS

 <p>This coming Sunday, April 21st @ 5:00 PM in Adult Classroom I. If you are helping this year or would like to help please plan to attend.</p>	<p><b>OUR SYMPATHY TO: Kathy Martin &amp; family on the loss of her nephew “Tim Crafton” last week.</b></p>	<p>Camp Applications for Leatherwood are here.....on the back table of auditorium . Be sure to get one &amp; send in this week to ensure your spot !!!!! Will be held the week of June 23rd-29th</p>
<p>Your invited to a 90th Birthday party for “<b>Ruby Dell England</b>”, on Saturday, April 27th @ 6:00 PM @ McEwen Senior Center. RSVP to Connie at 931-209-3577 by April 22nd.</p>		

## I.N.F.O.C.U.S. Faith, Obedience, Character, Unity, Salvation

Our youth activities for last week began on Wednesday night with FLAME. Our youth met at the building at 4:30 to prepare care packages and sign cards for some of our members who are in the hospital, nursing homes, and those who have recently been in the hospital. We fixed 10 care packages in all. At 5:00, we split up the group with the guys heading to Dickson and the girls heading to Waverly and McEwen. Both groups were able to deliver the packages and cards and visit with each one for a short period of time. It was great for the kids to be able to do this and I know the ones they visited really enjoyed and appreciated it!

Our final activity was our youth devotional Sunday night. We had a group of 7 youth, 6 little ones, and 9 adults in attendance. We began the night with a devotional period outside under the tree. We sang and heard a great message from Derek Berryman. After devo we headed in for a GREAT meal together! I appreciate the Berryman’s so much for hosting and providing the delicious food and I appreciate Derek speaking at the devo. We all had a great time together!

In Christian Love, Keith

## SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

### Sunday April 21<sup>st</sup> 2024

**Welcome** .....Ethan Tummins  
**Lead Singing**.....Mark Forster  
**1<sup>st</sup> Prayer**.....Jim Suddeath  
**Sermon**.....John Potter  
**Lord's Table**.....Wayne Coates  
     W. R. Long           Mike Burns  
     Andy Marlor       Gerald Curtis  
     Wayne Vaughn     Mike Robertson  
**Closing Prayer**.....Drew Buttrey  
**Collect Cards**.....Jaxon Holt  
                                     & Matthew Dotson  
**Greeters**..... Not at this time  
**Nursery**..... Not at this time  
**Collect Cups**.....Youth  
**Security**.....Team #4

### Sunday 6PM, April 21<sup>st</sup> 2024

**Lead Singing**..... Mark Forster  
**Prayer**..... Dennis Tester  
**Sermon**.....  
**Lord's Table**.....Keith Grigsby  
                                     Jimmy Suddeath  
**Closing Prayer**.....Carter Howard

### Wednesday 6:30 PM, April 24<sup>th</sup> 2024

**Lead Singing**.....Keith Grigsby  
**Prayer**.....Mark Forster  
**Adult Class**.....Bruce Mayfield

If you are unable to serve...please contact  
 Wade Tummins, in advance. (cell 931-209-6291)  
 If changes need to be made in scheduling please  
 contact Jimmy Phyl.

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Return Service Requested

\*If you are unable to attend  
 any service please tune in to  
 our Facebook page or our  
 YouTube page to watch the  
 services. This is NOT a replacement for the  
 command to assemble together as Christ's  
 Body, but a tool for those who may be  
 homebound/shut-in or sick.

**The MESSENGER is online!**  
**Visit the church website**  
**to view!**



### OUR RECORDS for 4/14/2024

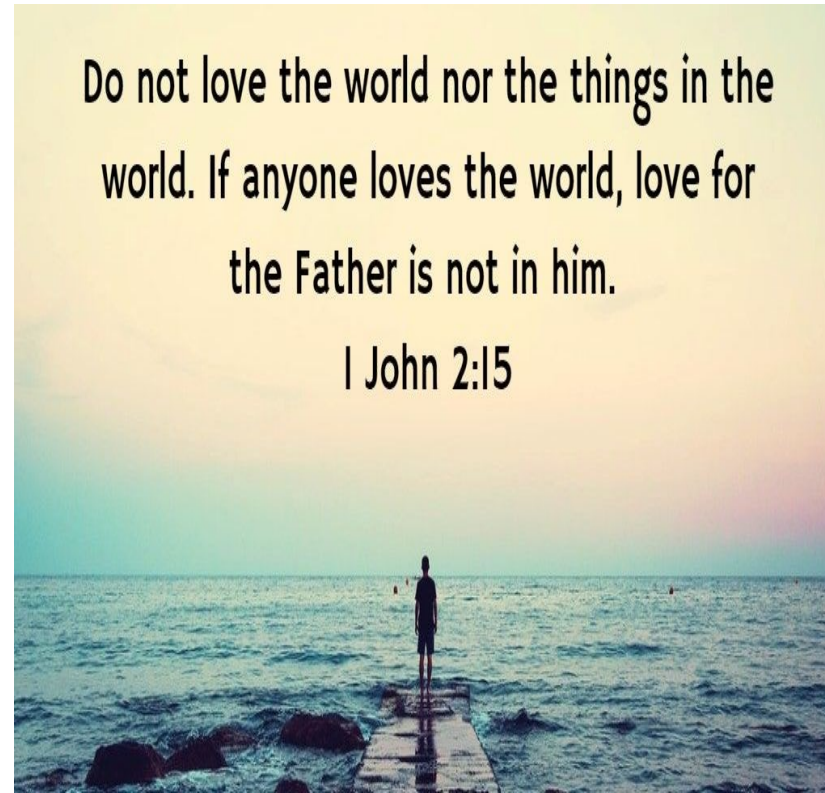
Sunday Morning Bible School	-----	103
Sunday Morning Worship	-----	177
Sunday Evening Worship	-----	78
Wed. -(Spring Meeting-Mon- 72,Tues-92)-		118
Sunday Contribution	-----	\$7,015
Number of Seeds Planted	-----	3



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Week of April 14<sup>th</sup> 2024

A Caring Church Lifting Up The CROSS And CROWN of CHRIST



Do not love the world nor the things in the  
 world. If anyone loves the world, love for  
 the Father is not in him.  
 I John 2:15

### Schedule of Services

#### Sunday

Bible Study.....9:00am  
 Worship..... 10:00am  
 Evening.....6:00pm

#### Wednesday

Bible Study..... 6:30pm

#### Elders:

James Buckner	Calvin Buckner
Billy Buttrey	Bruce Mayfield
W.R. Long	Mike Robertson

#### Deacons:

Derek Berryman	Mike Burns
Wayne Coates	Mark Forster
John Hurt	Barry Phyl
Robert Proctor	James Ridings
Elton Smith	Joe Smith
Dwight Stuart	Drew Swearns
Dennis Tester	Ethan Tummins
Wade Tummins	Ronnie Tyler

#### Staff:

Ministers ---- Every Member  
                     Pulpit -----  
 Youth ----- Keith Grigsby  
                     Secretaries  
 Terri Tummins/Teresa Fleming

#### To Contact Us:

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