



LET'S VISIT

**A Publication of the Center Church of Christ
110 Hurst Street Center, Texas 75935**

Volume 11

Number 23

June 9, 2024

FALLEN LIGHTHOUSES

With the advanced navigation instruments that ocean going vessels have today, the Lighthouse of the past has for the most part gone the way of the buggy whip. There are many who still wax nostalgic about lighthouses, who find a certain romanticism about them. My mother was one who had a passion for lighthouses. More than once on a family vacation we went miles out of the way so we could go and look at a lighthouse, if that only meant driving by or stopping and looking through the fence. There is a painting in the foyer of our building that maintains the symbolism of the Church as the Lighthouse of God.

Reading about the history of lighthouses, I came across a statement that “a fallen lighthouse is far more dangerous than a reef.” The reason for that statement and the truth contained is obvious. Before modern navigation techniques, seamen came to depend on a lighthouse. They would throw caution to the wind when they knew they were being directed away from harm by the light from the lighthouse. Where there was no lighthouse, they were much more careful. Therefore, a lighthouse which was not performing the work it was designed for could become a source of peril. There is a lesson there for us.

An unfaithful child of God is more dangerous than an individual who is not God's child. We come to expect something from Christianity. It is the nature of people to follow the leader and because of this many people are going through life seeing only by the rays of someone else's light. This being true, you can readily see what a tragedy it will be for the one being followed to allow his light to go out. People do

not expect to find anything worthwhile following the life of those who are worldly, however a Christian, one who claims friendship with the Almighty is usually thought of as one who can be trusted. So it is that the faith of many people can be destroyed by a Christian who does not take their responsibilities to the Lord and the church seriously.

The individual who once was faithful to the cause of Christ and has gone back into the world says to those in search of the benefits of Christ's Gospel, “I have tried it and there is nothing to it.” Perhaps they do not intend to leave that impression, but they do. Let's consider something else. Before we become too smug and feel this does not apply to us, let's realize that our definition of “going back into the world” is often too narrow. “Going back into the world” involves more than engaging in sinful practices, the lusts of the flesh. It actually means we reach the point that the Lord and the Church are no longer a priority in our lives. When we place our amusements, families and recreation above the Lord, it is then that “we have gone back into the world.”

Sadly, there are many good people who have once tasted the good word of God and have fallen away.

(Continued on page 2)

In Search of the Lord's Way



Tune in to this Television Ministry
KSHV 45 –Shreveport – 7:30 a.m. Sunday
KSLA 12 –Shreveport – 11:00 a.m. Sunday
DISH channel 373 – 7:00 a.m. Sunday
DIRECT TV channel 83 - 7:00 a.m. Sunday

Gathered Here and There



Don't Be Discouraged!

**For The Pantry. . .
June 9 – Brownie Mix**

Offering – May 26, 2024. \$2,365.00

The Lord's plan of giving ... "as ye have prospered"

Fallen Lighthouses – continued from page 1

Those who are unfaithful, and yet hang on with an air of hypocrisy, say to those on the outside, "Religion is something to use for your own selfish purposes, but not for salvation." How many souls have been driven away from Christ by a fallen lighthouse? How many souls will be lost because of the unfaithfulness of the saints? How many children's souls will be lost because of unfaithful parents? Only God can know.

Living a Christian life is very important, not only because of the personal salvation we receive, but also because of the salvation others receive because they see us do it.

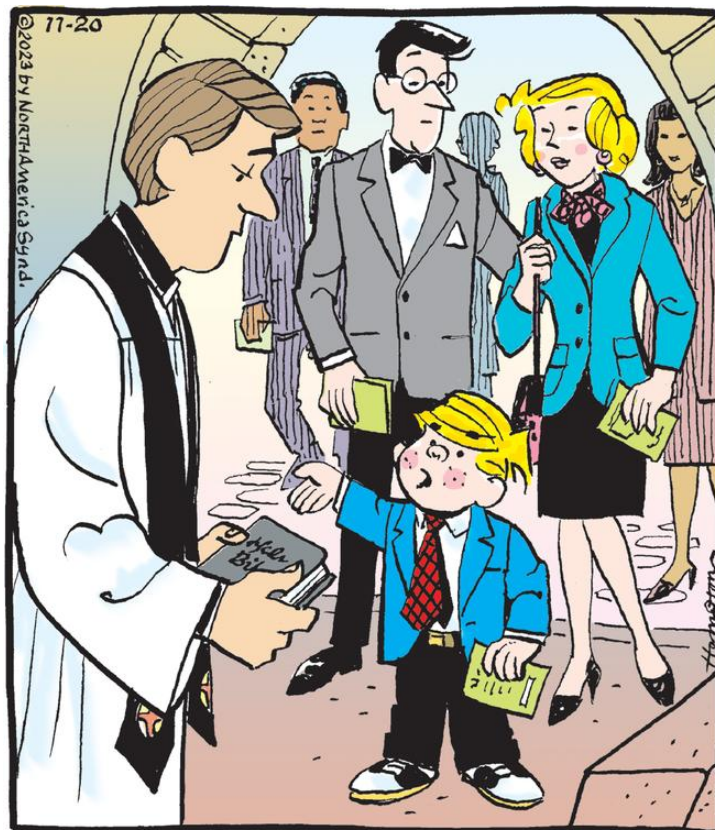
tp

Ways To Improve The Local Church

1. Take a definite interest in the planned program of the church.
2. Attend every Bible Class, every Worship Service and every other gathering of the church if possible.
3. Constantly keep in mind those who are unsaved and continually pray and work for their salvation.

4. Plan your own personal program of work and play so that you can clear the way for all the work of the church.
5. Take a personal responsibility to make every meeting, every revival and every lecture a success.
6. Have a definite visitation program for yourself and encourage others to join you in it.
7. Make it a definite aim and goal to say something in behalf of the Lord and his church to somebody every day, either by speaking of them personally or by writing letters or notes.
8. Refrain from loose and hurtful talk that will not help yourself or someone else.
9. Make new members feel at home and that "it is good to be here."
10. Do something every day that will definitely help the church, and that will prove the worth of the Lord's religion to those around you.

On The Lighter Side. . .



"WHAT HAPPENS WHEN EVERYONE STOPS SINNING... WHAT WILL YOU DO?"



SEPTEMBER 8th

Mark your calendar for September 8, 2024.

That is the day for our annual "Friends and Family Day". We want this to be the best Friends and Family day we have ever had. To

do that depends on EVERY MEMBER of this congregation making their plans to be here and inviting their friends and family members to come and join them. We can do great things but it takes effort and commitment on the part of every member.

Hospitality group 2 will be responsible for this dinner. Those members are Sarah Fletcher, Jana O'Brien and Norma Perkins.

* * * * *

Wednesday Night Fellowship Meal
June 26th
6:00 P.M.



Plan to come and join us!

* * * * *

Upcoming Events

MEN'S BUSINESS MEETING – Today (June 9, 2024) immediately following worship in the church office. All men of the congregation are encouraged to attend.

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER!

December 8, 2024 – No Excuse Sunday
December 15, 2024 – Christmas Party

PUT THESE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR!

LaJuan Baugh is now at Pine Grove for re-hab. **Addi Scott** (LaJuan Baugh's great-granddaughter) is hospitalized in Houston and in need of prayer.

OUR "CHURCH FAMILY"

Cissy Amos, LaJuan Baugh, Martha Jean Golden, Geneva Graves, Alice Hall, Thelma Hinton, LaResa Livingston, Mike Lout, Debra Pate, Jerry Pate, Wayne Sims, Betty Willis

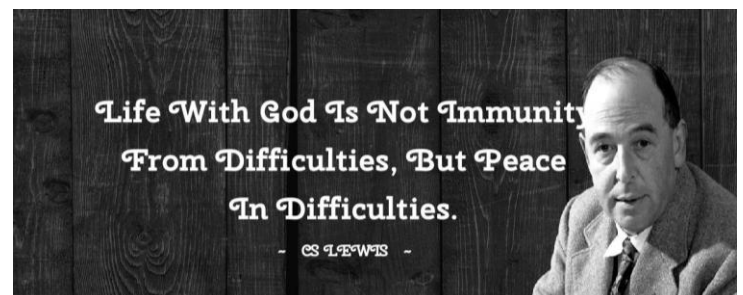
"EXTENDED FAMILY" AND FRIENDS

Cody Anthony (LaResa Livingston's nephew) **Mitchell Anthony** (LaResa Livingston's brother), **Alton Bradshaw** (Gene Bradshaw's cousin – cancer) **Curtis Bradshaw** (Gene Bradshaw's brother) recovering from a stroke. **Hugh and Pat Fletcher** (Sarah Fletcher's brother and sister-in-law dealing with multiple health issues) **Joyce Fontenot** (Debra Pate's mother) **Bobbie Gray** (Jerry Pate's Aunt) **Geneva Harrison** (Mike Bostick's mother) **Glynn Hartt** (friend of Cissy Amos) **Joe Hughes** (Cissy Amos' father); **Debbie Lynn** (Abbey Perkins' mother dealing with memory issues) **Lamar McCormick** (friend of Sarah Fletcher, multiple health issues) **Kutter Milford** (Cissy Amos' grandson) **Vervyn Pate** (Jerry Pate's brother) is being treated for stomach cancer. **Calvin Smith** (Debra Pate's uncle) heart and blood pressure issues; **Michael Smith** (Debra Pate's cousin) is being treated for lung cancer in Green Acres; **Buddy Sowell** (friend of Debra Pate) **J. C. Tate** (Jana O'Brien's father) **Clark Paul Williams** (LaResa Livingston's cousin)

THOSE IN THE MILITARY AND FOREIGN SERVICE

Cole Barbee, Adam Bradshaw, Andrew Bradshaw, Michele Bradshaw, Rosie Tate and Lucas Tate

* * * * *





Across The Preacher's Desk

With the storms last week and this past weekend, we have all seen what it like when the lights go out. We are accustomed to the darkness of night, and yet, there is always some light even then. The light from the street lights or security lights filters through the window, there is the light from the digital clock and the lights on the other various appliances that are plugged in. Then, many times we have a "night-light" of some fashion that burns during the night. Yet, when the power completely fails, we are plunged into a black darkness we are not accustomed to.

That darkness when the power goes out is the kind of darkness a world without the light of Jesus Christ experiences. It is the kind of darkness a world without the influence of Christian people experiences. Jesus told his followers in the Sermon On The Mount (Matthew 5:14) that they were the light of the world. As followers of Jesus Christ, those who belong to Him are to let their light shine so that those who see their good works will glorify God, the Father in Heaven.

To plain, provincial people Jesus said, "Ye are the light of the world!" The light that Christians have is indispensable to the solution of the problems of mankind. As Christians, we are to let our light shine brightly and conspicuously. Just as light influences the darkness, we are to influence the world around us. The question is, how are we doing with that? Is our light shining brightly for God?

it's something to think about.....tbp

**The Lord's Plan
For Evangelism –
Each one Bring one!
54 in '24!**