



# LET'S VISIT

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

**Volume 11**

**Number 42**

**November 3, 2024**

## LIVING PEACEABLY WITH ALL MEN

The secret of a happy life is in knowing how to live with one's self and with others as well. The Apostle Paul wrote these words, "*If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.*" (Romans 12:18) It is a basic fact of life that we must live with people. The first law of happiness is to learn how to live with ourselves. You see, every man or woman largely creates the atmosphere in which they live. Some people are always contented, having learned the lesson that "*Godliness with contentment is great gain*". They are those who have sensed the mind of Paul who said, "*I have learned in whatsoever state I am, therein to be content*".

It is always a joy to meet up with the person who lives at peace with himself or herself, with their God and with those around them. That individual can rise from their bed in the morning and looking up to God, can say, "It is alright between us" and looking out to others can say, "It is alright between us" and looking within can say to themselves, "it is alright with us". You see, this person is the happiest of people.

Yet, while some people are always at peace with the world, there are others who are continually in warfare. We must understand that people are never attracted to a grouch. No one likes to see someone who looks as though they were weaned on a sour pickle. Faultfinding, complaining, pessimism, and grumpiness repel others rather than drawing them close to us.

We must strive to be encouragers and not discouragers. In case you haven't noticed, this world is full of discouraged folks. There are many people who feel that "no man careth for my soul". They are alone, quite alone in life. They have sorrows of which they dare not speak. There are grievous disappointments unknown to those around them.

There are aspirations they will not talk about. They are alone and discouraged. What is their state of mind? What's to be the joy of tomorrow? What burdens do they pick up as they shoulder the tasks of today and to what sorrows do they come as they approach home at nightfall? Rather than add to the burdens of others, let us "bear one another's burdens".

We often do not realize the power of our words. On a southern railway some years ago, in the days of the steam locomotive, there was a long wooden bridge. On either side of this bridge was the sign, "shut the ash-pan". This was there to warn firemen that they must prevent the dropping of coals upon the wooden timbers while the train was crossing. Perhaps we would do well to heed that with regard to the words we say. If we would live peaceably with others and be encouragers, we must not let hot words fall from our lips that might destroy the structures of love and unity. More than a few troubles have been brought about in this old world because of careless words.

Our hot words are often brought about because of a lack of tolerance for others. If we would heed Paul's admonition to live peaceably with all men we must put the principle Jesus taught in Matthew 7:12 into practice in our lives. "*Whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them.*"

*tp*

### 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



## *The Bed is Too Short!*

**For The Pantry. . .  
November 3 – Pasta Sauce**

**Offering – October 27, 2024. . . \$ 1,635.00**

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

## **Twenty- Four Years! Where has the time gone?**

Today marks a milestone of sorts. Quietly, and without fanfare, we have now been together for 24 years. Today marks the beginning of my 25<sup>th</sup> year serving as the minister of the Center Church of Christ. In many ways, it seems only yesterday that Norma and I came here to work and labor in this community and yet we have been here nearly a quarter of a century.

During the past 24 years, we have been through a lot together as a congregation. We have said goodbye to many long time friends and faithful members of this congregation. We have held each other as we have wept over the loss of our loved ones and we have rejoiced with each other over welcoming new members both into our church family and our physical family.

There have been ups and downs, high points and low points. There has been weeping and there has been rejoicing. Yet, through it all, the one constant has been our faith in God and our desire to see the Center Church of Christ grow, thrive and prosper. Twenty four years ago, I said "the greatest days of the Center Church of Christ are still in the future." I still believe that. It will happen because of some

and it will happen in spite of some, but it will happen.

If you do the math, the likelihood of us laboring with this congregation for another 24 years are slim. However, I intend to give it my best effort. Let us continue to join hands and hearts. Let us continue to work and pray. Let us go forward together in the work of the Lord in Center, Texas and build a great church to the glory of God.

From the bottom of our hearts, Norma and I love each and every member of this congregation, you truly are our family, and we wouldn't want to have been anywhere else during the past 24 years and we don't want to be anywhere else now. May God richly bless each and every member of this congregation as we strive together in the Lord's work.

*tp*

## **On The Lighter Side. . .**



**HE LATER ADMITTED THAT THE SERMON DIDN'T SEEM QUITE AS INTERESTING AS IT DID WHEN HE WAS CREATING IT**

**SOME GO TO CHURCH TO TAKE A WALK; SOME GO THERE TO LAUGH AND TALK. SOME GO THERE TO MEET A FRIEND; SOME GO THERE THEIR TIME TO SPEND. SOME GO THERE TO MEET A LOVER; SOME GO THERE A FAULT TO COVER. SOME GO THERE FOR SPECULATION; SOME GO THERE FOR OBSERVATION. SOME GO THERE TO DOZE AND NOD; THE WISE GO THERE TO WORSHIP GOD.**

- CHARLES SPURGEON -



# No Excuse Sunday!

Sunday, December 8, 2024 is the day set aside for our annual “No Excuse Sunday”. There will be no acceptable excuse for missing worship that day! Make your plans **NOW** to be here and bring someone or several someones to be your guest.

Of course we will be having a covered dish luncheon that day following the morning worship. Hospitality group 3 will be responsible for this luncheon. The members of that group are: LaJuan Baugh, Martha Bradshaw, Sheri Burgay, Tiffanne Klein, Trish Lout and Dee Sims.

**We will not have any more Wednesday night meals in 2024. We will resume having them in 2025.**



The truck from Sunny Glen Children’s Home will be here the week of November 10<sup>th</sup>. They have requested Spaghetti Sauce, Salad Dressing, Zip Lock Bags and Trash Bags. Let’s fill the Little Red

“Your hope must not be based on anything you feel, but on the cross.”  
*Charles Spurgeon*

### 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), **Jackie Barnes** (Friend of Gene & Martha Bradshaw) **Cohen Byrnes** (infant son of Trey and Alex Byrnes) **Patrick Elam** (friend of Norma Perkins) **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) **Debbie Lynn** (Abbey Perkins’ mother dealing with memory issues) **Lamar McCormick** (friend of Sarah Fletcher, multiple health issues) **Kutter Milford** (Cissy Amos’ grandson) **Gene Perkins** (Tim Perkins Aunt) **Eddie Paul** (Wayne Sims son-in-law) **Addi Scott** (LaJuan Baugh’s great-granddaughter) **Calvin Smith** (Debra Pate’s uncle); **Michael Smith** (Debra Pate’s cousin) is being treated for lung cancer in Green Acres; **Buddy Sowell** (friend of Debra Pate) Heather Simmons Steward (Friend of Cissy Amos ) cancer; **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

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### **UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER!**

**December 15, 2024** – Christmas Party

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**March 2, 2025** – “Pack-A-Pew Sunday”

**April 25-27, 2025** – Area-Wide Singing and Gospel meeting with Phil Sanders.

**June 1, 2025** – Covered Dish Luncheon

**PUT THESE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR!**



## **Across The Preacher's Desk**

I once read where someone said the most dangerous thing in the world is to try to leap over a chasm in two jumps. That ranks right up there with the story of the young boy who cut his puppy's tail off an inch at the time so it wouldn't hurt so badly by cutting the entire tail off all at once. Both of those little stories illustrate the tragic mistake many people make about Jesus.

Living for Jesus is not a partial thing nor is it a sometime thing. Living for the Lord is an all or nothing commitment. As we have said on many occasions, if Jesus is not Lord of all of your life, He is not Lord at all in your life. Attempting to live for Jesus without a total commitment is like trying to leap a chasm in two jumps. You leave one bank and miss the other. Here is the way Jesus put it, "He that is not for me is against me". (Matthew 12:30). Jesus Christ will not share a divided heart. We must give him our all, our life, our talents, our service.

The second story shows us another side of commitment to Jesus. You see, Commitment to one thing means forsaking something else. We cannot hold on to the Lord and the world. Often folks try and give up the world like that little boy cut off the puppy's tail, a little at a time. The result is the same, pain is multiplied.

We must commit every part of our lives to Jesus and give up the baubles of the world in cleaving to the Lord. Let's resolve to live for Jesus, wholeheartedly and unreservedly.

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

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