

A Significant Journey

John Jones

By the time you're reading this, my family will be well on our way to New Zealand to visit friends and church family there for a few weeks. Erin and I lived in the Wellington region and worked with the churches of Christ in the lower North Island for 8 years and we are excited to see the place where our children were born and where we made so many memories. Please pray for our safe travel and for the spiritual safety and growth of the congregations there.

At one point in time, Australia and New Zealand were known as the 'Antipodes,' a term used from Great Britain to consider its colonies on the opposite side of the earth, as far away as you could imagine. That's certainly what the flight to get there feels like! In the mid 1800's when New Zealand was first colonized, it took three months by ship to get there! Many emigrants didn't survive the hazardous journey.

In terms of distance, how far would your faith take you? Some of our brethren in New Zealand drive 2-3 hours round trip on Sundays to attend the closest assembly of the Lord's people. What great faith! While we were blessed with eight great years in New Zealand, there are many missionaries who devote their entire lives to serve the churches of Christ in places that are on the other side of the earth than where they grew up or where their families live. What a sacrifice!

Throughout the Old Testament prophets, the islands, or coastlands of the sea were highlighted to emphasize how far reaching God's love was. Consider Isaiah 42:10, "Sing to the LORD a new song, His praise from the ends of the earth, you who go down to the sea, and all that is in it, you islands, and all who dwell in them." Jeremiah 31:10 says it like this, "Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in the distant coastlands: 'The One who scattered Israel will gather them and keep them as a shepherd keeps his flock.'" God's grace is not something available only in America or where English is spoken. Anywhere there are people that God has created, his grace extends. In another way of looking at it, "Where sin has gone, must go his grace, the gospel is for all!"

Of all the missionaries this world has known, whose journey was the most significant to arrive in the mission field? I think it was God's own Son, Jesus Christ! Have you ever considered Jesus as a missionary? He left the comforts of heaven and equality with God. He did not consider these things "something to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men" (Philippians 2:6b-7) Jesus's journey took him from heaven to a Bethlehem manger, to exile in Egypt, to obscurity in Nazareth, to the Jordan river to be baptized, to the wilderness to be tempted, through humble ministry throughout Galilee, to the cross outside Jerusalem. Why did my Savior come to earth? Because He loves me so!

Thank you Jesus for your mission to planet earth and your provision of salvation to all who trust in you!

On Our Prayer List... *May we always be using God's blessing & power of prayer for one another: Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them they should always pray & not give up. Luke 18:1.

Recent Medical concerns/updates:

Upcoming Surgeries-Recovery:

*We're blessed that 4 of ours that have been on our prayer list were able to be here-Sunday morning: *Sarah Parnell *Jerry Martin. *Betty Suddeath *Sarah Bell
*Ronnie Holt (Dave Holt's dad) in hospital not doing well

Betty James- will be in the hosp for a procedure on January 20th.

THOSE DEALING/BEING TREATED FOR CANCER:

*Jimmy Phy-CA
*Lillian Childress-successful radiation treatment
*Dale Street-(N. Buttrey grandfather)CA
*Hudson Jones-{2yr old son of Dan & Catherine, Walnut St COC-Leukemia}
*Robert Gardner(friend of Bill Williams) CA
*Alan Jones-esophageal CA-treatments
*David Stokes-(Jordan Stokes& Carly Stone's dad)&Drew Swearns step-dad
*Houston Howell
*Casey Vailes
*Brian Gill-CA-treatments
*Mack Winstead-CA-continued prayers
*Vicki Donegan-taking treatments-needs prayer
*David Nowlin-CA treatments-WcoC elder
*Jackie Borders-Lauren Stuart's mom
*Maggie Wright -(friend of N. Buttrey) CA
*Debbie Gafford-(friend of Diane Curtis)

Listed below are those that are continuing to have on-going medical issues that are in need of our prayers.

*Gary Davis *Hattie Tate *Al & Vicki Peek *Marvin England *Diane Curtis *Joe Wright
*Claude Hurt *Carlene Davis *Chase Lewis *Doug Simpson *Josh Barnett *Marcia Simpson
*Sue Edmision *Alyssa Gold *Carolyn Wilson *Mike Gunn *Scotty Palk *Margie Gunn
*Joshua James-now hm *Shane Cobb *Larry Fuqua *Janie Brown *Thelma Davidson *Warren(Johnny) Proctor
*Savannah Patrick-(Rhetts syndrome-Marsha Patrick's granddaughter-she loves cards) c/o Jaimie Patrick—111 McJury Lane, Lafayette, TN

{Assisted Living/Nursing Home/Rehab}

AHC Decatur County-726 Kentucky Ave, Parsons, TN 38363 **Wyle Marshall**-(Rm 726) (Traci Adams dad)
NHC-812 N.Charlotte, Dickson, TN 37055

At Home in McEwen

Jim & Jane Ridings-172 Indian Ck Rd

Humphreys County NH 104 Fort Hill Rd. Waverly, TN 37185-**June Dreden**- Rm 204

Robert Bradford-347 Brown Mill Rd.

Magnolia Place- 811 W. Main St, Waverly, TN 37185-**Jimmy Tyler**-(room 106)

Jimmy Mullinicks-56 Mike Street

Waverly Hills Post Acute-895 Powers Blvd, Waverly, TN 37185-**Bertha Bradford**-rm 102A / **Gary Pace**

ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS



Upcoming Bridal Shower for Thora Tomlinson on Sunday, Feb 8th from 2:00-3:30 PM in the Fellowship Room. Evan & Thora were married on Nov. 28th, 2025, so lets join in their celebration! They are registered @ Amazon.

<https://www.amazon.com/wedding/guest-view/3704BSBNLNUJZ>



The Valentine Dinner is scheduled for Monday, Feb 2nd @ 6:00 PM (due to conflicting events). It is for all members 50 & above, sign-up sheet is on the foyer bulletin

There's still time to sign up for the Great Smokey Mountain Marriage Retreat (February 11-15) for any of our couples interested. Info is on the back table in the auditorium & the church will be covering your tuition cost. See Keith if you would like to sign up.



Ladies of Leatherwood's Annual Retreat February {27-28}, 2026 Cost \$40.00 Speaker Judy Hinson Flyers with more info on back of auditorium

SONGfest (Praise & Harmony) on January 24th, 2026 from 2:00-4:00 PM@ Walnut Street Church of Christ.

INFO.C.U.S.

Faith, Obedience, Character, Unity, Salvation

Our youth activities for last week began on Wednesday night with our first FLAME of the new year. We had a really good group of kiddos in attendance. We began our time with our Faith over Fear bible study that we started last year. I plan to continue this study for a couple more months before changing things up and going in a different direction. After our study, we enjoyed a meal together before the start of our mid-week service. Our final activity was our devotional Sunday night after evening service. We had a group of 9 youth and 7 adults in attendance. We began with a devotional period of singing and a devotional thought on our worth to God. After devo, we enjoyed a great meal together and wonderful time of fellowship. A big thank you to Laurie for preparing the meal and thank you to the ladies who helped get it all ready for the kids. I also want to say thank you to our youth for helping clean up afterwards!!

In Christian Love, Keith

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday, January 25th 2026

Welcome	John Potter
Lead Singing.....	Mark Forster
1 st Prayer.....	Gerald Curtis
Sermon.....	Jim Suddeath
Lord's Table.....	Mark Forster
Wade Tummins	Wade Tummins
Noah Stuart	Drew Buttrey
Robert Proctor	Joe Smith
Closing Prayer.....	Billy Buttrey
Collect Cards.....	Abel Tummins & Colt Stanfill
Greeters.....	Wayne & Patsy Vaughn
Nursery.....	Not at this time
Collect Cups.....	Youth
Security.....	Team #1

Sunday 6PM January 25th 2026

Lead Singing.....	Mark Forster
Prayer.....	Thomas Cook
Sermon.....	Joe Wilkie
Lord's Table.....	Mike Robertson & Mike Burns
Closing Prayer.....	Jack Grigsby

Wednesday 6:30 PM, January 28th 2026

Lead Singing.....	Andrew Peyton
Prayer.....	Keith Grigsby
Adult Class.....	Joe Wilkie

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 Phy.

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The MESSENGER

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Week of January 18th 2026

A Caring Church Lifting Up The CROSS And CROWN of CHRIST

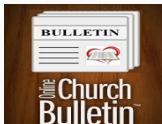
**GO
INTO THE
WORLD AND
PREACH
THE GOOD
NEWS TO ALL
(CREATION).**

MARK 16:15



*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 1/18/2026

Sunday Morning Bible School	-----	124
Sunday Morning Worship	-----	192
Sunday Evening Worship	-----	95
Wed-Mid-Week Bible Study	-----	118
Sunday Contribution	-----	\$9,482

Sunday Morning

"Upcoming Sermons"

Sunday Night

To Contact Us:

9704 Hwy 70 E

Mail us: P.O. Box 256

McEwen, TN 37101

Phone: 931-582-6130

E-mail: mcewencofc@gmail.com

Website: www.mcewenchurchofchrist.com

Schedule of Services

Sunday

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

Wednesday

Bible Study.....6:30pm

Elders:

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

Deacons:

Derek Berryman Mike Burns
Wayne Coates Mark Forster
John Hurt Barry Phy
Robert Proctor James Ridings
Joe Smith Dwight Stuart
Ethan Tummins Wade Tummins
Ronnie Tyler

Staff:

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

EVANGELISM PROGRAM Continue to be:

1. Praying for those we are studying with
2. To provide new {Contact's} cards for us to reach out to.

{Team - 3 there may be cards to work on this Wednesday night.}