

**“Money Can’t Buy You Happiness, or Can It?”**

John Jones

Dear Church Family,

We missed you last week! Erin and I had the opportunity to go down to Orlando, Florida with my parents and brother’s family. We had a great time but after a few days we were ready to get back home. After a couple of days at Disney World, I realised something. “The Happiest Place on Earth” isn’t exactly the cheapest place on earth! Fortunately, we had planned ahead and had plenty of snacks in our bags and peanut butter sandwiches packed away for mealtimes. I don’t think I’ll be eating peanut butter for a while!

All of this got me thinking about the phrase, “Money can’t buy you happiness.” Well, I suppose that depends on how you define ‘happiness.’ If happiness is found in buying the ‘fast-pass’ so you don’t have to wait in long lines for rides, purchasing the most (or most expensive) souvenirs, or having any dessert that the park has to offer, maybe money CAN buy you happiness! That certainly seemed to be the case in Orlando. But, I imagine after the adrenaline of the rollercoasters and the sugar high from all the treats wears off, someone who sought happiness in those ways might be shocked back to reality when they find their wallet considerably lighter and their pants fitting a little tighter.

When someone in crowd called out to Jesus, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me,” Jesus gave an answer that calls us all back to reality. In Luke 12:15, Jesus responded, “Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.” I think the word ‘possessions’ could easily be substituted with ‘entertainment’ in our context. Jesus is warning us that simply acquiring this world’s souvenirs, treats, or experiences is not what ‘life’ is all about.

Luke 12 continues with a short parable about a man who had such an abundant harvest, he decided to tear down his barns to build bigger barns. He said to himself: “Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry!” But the reality of time and life hit him in verse 20 - “But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’” Let this be a wakeup call to us!

When happiness is defined in an abundance of possessions, experiences, or self-satisfaction, money CAN buy you happiness, but it’s not one that will last. Only in Christ can we find the eternal joy that doesn’t ever go away. Paul in Romans 14:17 explains it like this: “For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.” He also says in Philippians 4:11-13: “Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me.”

The joy that the Christian can know through Christ has nothing to do with money, exquisite food or drink, or enjoyable experiences. It doesn’t fade away when we’re facing hard times, financial difficulties, or persecution.

What will you choose to focus on: Happiness or Joy? I’d encourage you not to chase happiness. Though it might excite us for a while, happiness will fade with our circumstances. True joy can be found in contentment, sacrificial giving of our time and resources to God’s work, and an appreciation and contentment with the blessings that God has graciously given us.

Happiness is based on what ‘happens.’ Joy is never-ending! Choose Joy!

**On Our Prayer List...** *Martha Durham-been in St.Thomas for a wk fr fall-been in a lot of pain, waiting to have broken vertebrae repair*

**Kathy Martin** **Jim Tyler** **Betty Suddeath** **W. R. Long** **Marvin England** **Hattie Tate**  
**Herbert Capps-in Waverly hosp-rm 101** **Betty Rumsey- home with flu** **Kenny Fleming**

**SURGERIES-Recovering from:** **Kelly Berryman- foot surgery** **LeAnne Stuart-knee replacement** **Daniel Curtis**

- \***Mike Mathis**-(Keith & Linda Rodgers son) home doing better
- \***Ellie (Burns)Tearman**-will be having a procedure on Feb 5th.
- \***Mike Gunn**-had a procedure on Jan 21st.
- \***Suzanne Boyd**-(John&Erin’s friends) newborn-improving-now home@ feeding ube
- \***Thelma Davidson**-(Gwen Bullington’s sister) **Janet Hicks**—stroke
- \***Prim Sanders**-newborn-had heart surg-went well.
- \***Jeff Hyland** (N.Buttrey’s uncle)heart blockages, upcoming surg.
- \***Ralph Simpson**(Ruby England’s brother) currently in St Thomas hospital
- \***Chuck Bumpus**-(Emalee Buttrey’s brother) now home.
- \***Whitney(Bullion)Sager**-now @ St Thomas Rehab.
- \***Stephanie Greene**-(Mike’s sister)needs prayers
- \***Charles Miles** -recovering fr a fall + heart issues
- \***Scottie Lashlee**-had a fall-back/shoulder problems
- \***Marcia Simpson**-(Mike Burn’s aunt) now in St.Thomas Midtown hospital.
- \***Chase Lewis**-(Vicki Peek’s family) he has lupus, sick
- \***Alyssa Gold**-(Robert Proctor’s niece) in need of prayers\***Shane Cobb**
- \***Bubba Tummins**(Bo & Amy’s bro
- \***Faye Marshall**-Traci Adams mom **\*June Dreaden**-S. Rachford’s mom
- \***Doug Simpson**-(Ruby England’s brother) heart problems

**THOSE DEALING/BEING TREATED FOR CANCER**

- \***KENNY FLEMING**—cancer, pneumonia
- \***JIMMY PHY**-CA treatments
- \***DAVID NOWLIN**-CA treatments-WCOE Elder
- \***RONNIE ENGLAND**CA/AFIB-NOW HOME ON HOSPICE.
- \***DONNA BURNS**-WAYNE&ANN BERRYMAN’S NIECE)-CA
- \***WANDA DOBBINS**-(kin to Tyler’s) terminal CA
- \***JACKIE BORDERS**- Lauren Stuart’s mom
- \***ROBERT GARDNER**(Friend of Bill Williams) CA
- \***RANAE DUNCAN**-(Bo&Amy’s neighbor)CA treatments
- \***CASEY VAILES**-(Ranae Duncan’s son)also has cancer
- \***JOHN PIRTLE** –frd of Roy Deloach) Lung CA-age 53
- \***LARRY HAYES**-(fr Waverly COC) restarted chemo
- \***MAGGIE WRIGHT**-(friend of N. Buttrey) chemo
- \***BARBARA BUCCIARELLI**-CA-from Tennessee Ridge
- \***ALAN JONES**-Stage 4 Esophageal CA-taking treatments

**ASSISTED LIVING/ NURSING HOME/HOME**

**AHC Decatur County**-726 Kentucky Ave, Parsons,TN 38363-**Wyle Marshall** (Rm 726)-Traci Adams dad  
**NHC**-812 N.Charlotte, Dickson,TN 37055- **Earline Davis**-Rm 410/ **JoAnn Haley/Doris Stokes**-R127  
**Humphreys County NH** 104 Fort Hill Rd. **Mary Lana Adams**-Rm 706/**Herbert Capps**-Rm 704 (currently in Waverly hospital)  
 Waverly, TN 37185  
**AT HOME:****JIMMY MULLINICKS**-56 Mike Street/**JANE RIDINGS**-172 Indian Ck Rd/ **ELTON SMITH**-7731 Hwy 70E

**Address needs to have everything listed below for Eric to receive**  
 Dickson County Jail/James Eric Warden-ID102618/ P.O. Box 76550/Hghland Heights, KY 41076)


**MILITARY:** *Dustin, Proctor is now home for a little while.*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS**

“Valentine’s Dinner”

Thursday, Feb 13th @ 6:00 PM, for all members 50 years & up.

Sign-up list is on the Youth Bulletin Board. Wed, the 5th is the deadline to sign-up.



*Our sympathy & prayers for the following families*

- \*Our sister **Earline Davis**—whose service was held on Feb 2nd.
- \***Barbara Mayberry**(Aunt of Cindy Kilpatrick)her service was held on Feb 1
- \***Linda Burns**-(sister-in-law of Mike Burns). Passed on Feb 2nd, no arrangements at this time.
- Dorothy McMillian**-of this community
- \***Tresa Garber Stags**-Dalton Palk’s mother in law- service will be this wk.

**Super Bowl Watch Party**-this coming Sunday night after evening worship. Please bring finger foods.  
**CYC Meeting**- Wed, Feb 12th after bible class in Adult classroom I.

*\*A New Ladies Class*—will start this quarter on Wednesday nights beginning on Feb 5th.

**FYI: Members, if you need to use some of our tables/chairs for an event outside of the building the ones to use are labeled in the basement of the church house. These are the only ones needing to leave the building. We Thank You, Your Elders**

**IN.F.O.C.U.S.** Faith, Obedience, Character, Unity, Salvation

Things are really about to start getting busy for our youth. Next week is our big Valentine dinner that the youth host every year. We will begin preparing for that next Wednesday after school. We will decorate and prep the food as much as we can. On Thursday, we will meet again after school and will work up until the start of the dinner at 6:00. Then, the following Friday, we will load up and head to Challenge Youth Conference. We are taking 30 youth and adults on this great trip! Please be praying for our safety as we travel and for a successful weekend! Please be sure to check our youth group Facebook page for all updates on upcoming events. If anyone has any questions, please let me know.  
 Christian Love, Keith

## SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

### Sunday, February 9<sup>th</sup> 2025

**Welcome** .....Billy Buttrey  
**Lead Singing**.....Mark Forster  
**1<sup>st</sup> Prayer**.....Dwight Stuart  
**Sermon**.....John Jones  
**Lord's Table**.....Andrew Peyton  
 Drew Buttrey      Mike Burns  
 Chad Vaughn      Wade Tummins  
 Mike Tyler          Jimmy Sudeath

**Closing Prayer**.....W. R. Long  
**Collect Cards**.....Colt Stanfill  
   & Sterling Hurt  
**Greeters**..... Not at this time  
**Nursery**..... Not at this time  
**Collect Cups**.....Youth  
**Security**.....Team #1

### Sunday 6PM, February 9<sup>th</sup> 2025

**Lead Singing**..... Mark Forster  
**Prayer**.....Ethan Tummins  
**Sermon**.....John Jones  
**Lord's Table**.....Danny Dotson  
   Todd Mullinicks  
**Closing Prayer**.....Jesse Kilpatrick

### Wednesday 6:30 PM, February 12<sup>th</sup> 2025

**Lead Singing**.....John Hurt  
**Prayer**.....Wayne Coates  
**Adult Class**.....John Jones

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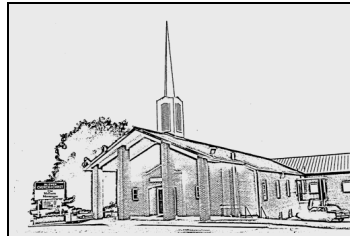
\*If you are unable to attend any service please tune in to our Facebook page or  
 our YouTube page to watch the services. This is NOT a replacement for the  
 command to assemble together as Christ's Body, but a tool for those who may be  
 homebound/shut-in or sick.

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



### OUR RECORDS for 2/2/2025

Sunday Morning Bible School	-----	116
Sunday Morning Worship	-----	215
Sunday Evening Worship	-----	99
Wed-Mid-Week Bible Study	-----	122
Sunday Contribution	-----	\$8,413
Number of Seeds Planted	-----	



# The MESSENGER

A weekly publication of the McEwen church of Christ

Week of February 2<sup>nd</sup> 2025

A Caring Church Lifting Up The CROSS And CROWN of CHRIST



### 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

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