

Happy Birthday!

Peggy Anderson 3-15
DeLenn Strong 3-17
Channing Collier 3-18
Blake Maberry 3-20

Sunshine Baskets

Pantry Items Needed:

Enroll now in the free Bible Correspondence Course lessons. You will find it refreshing to delve into God’s Word & you will find out some things that surprise you. Give Bill Coe your name & address to get started.

We have devices for those who are hard of hearing to help you during our worship services. If you are in need of one, please see Jeremy Broome.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS...

*All Bible Study & Worship Services Will Be Held At Normal Times.

March 20: Ladies Day at Crossville church of Christ with Laura Boyd beginning at 9am. Childcare will be available. Woman of the Word (Rise Up and Build)

March 21: The ladies who are or want to be involved with the funeral food program will meet after evening services for about 10 minutes.

March 27: 60th Anniversary Celebration for Roy & Essie Young from 2-4pm in the fellowship building.

April 10: Ladies Day at East Main church of Christ in Murfreesboro with Lori Boyd, 8:15-11:30 with lunch served. (Joy)

April 17: Young Men’s Seminar at East Main church of Christ with Josh Pierce speaking.(Break My Heart)

Area Hospitals & Rehabs:

Vanderbilt: Ruby Finnel
NHC: Connie Ballard

Sick at Home Asking for Prayers:

Bethal & Johnnie Ruth Pippin, Sherrie Merwine, Thomas Brown, Herbie Fox

Elders:

John Mabery 268.0651
Carl Call 268.2040
Sjon Gentry 268.3273

Deacons:

Rellon Burris 319.5197
Jerry Young 268.2215
Ronald Strong 267.5480
Chris Mabery 310.3612

Ministers:

John Mabery 268.0651
Cell: 265.3835
Ronald Strong 267.5480

Bible Study Curriculum:

Titus Anderson 704.5360

Bible Correspondence:

Bill Coe 268.1777
Cell: 397.2159

To Be Saved, JESUS Said We MUST...

Believe Him (Jn.8:24; Heb.11:6)

Repent of our sins (Lk.13:3, 5)

Confess Christ (Rom.10:9-10)

Be immersed in water for remission of sins
(Mk.16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16; Rom.6:3-4)

Center Grove church of Christ

3857 Grundy Quarles Hwy.
Gainesboro, TN. 38562
931.858.7460 or 931.268.0651

Schedule of Services

Sunday: Bible Classes @ 9:00 a.m.
Worship @ 10:00 a.m.
Worship @ 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday: Bible Classes @ 7:00 p.m.

Radio: “The Lord’s Word” on WLIV 920 AM
10:10 a.m. Monday - Saturday
(We broadcast Thursday, Friday, and Saturday)

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Volume 20

March 14, 2021

Number 11

“Jesus Didn’t Beg Anyone to Follow Him”

By: Focus Press, Jack Wilkie

The following is from Jack Wilkie’s new book, Church Reset: God’s Design for So Much More.

In John 6 we see the account of Jesus feeding the 5,000. The crowd’s instant reaction was to declare that He truly was the prophet they had been anticipating and was the one they wanted as their king. Even as He got away with His apostles and crossed the sea, they still pursued Him.

Isn’t that exactly what we’d want? Thousands of people who believe in Jesus and are ready to follow Him, even making Him their king? Even the greatest of our seeker-sensitive, producer/consumer churches couldn’t dream of starting with a dedicated following 5,000 strong. If Jesus believed in our business-like approach, He would have been well on His way. He would’ve kept the meals coming, even offering variety because, like Israel in the desert, people aren’t going to stay on board for a steady diet of the same meals that brought them in. He would have set the apostles about the business of making sure each demographic was being kept content and connected. In short, He would have done whatever it took to keep those numbers up and offered them whatever they needed to stay.

And yet, despite this situation that many church leaders would give their right arm to have, Jesus did the unthinkable. First, He ran away and left the crowd behind (6:15). Then, when they persisted in following Him, He told them straight to their faces that they only wanted Him for the free meal He provided (6:26).continued inside

Finally, when the people refused to pick up on the hint that He didn't want them following Him because they didn't accept Him as He was, He went for the one of the most strange-sounding teachings He could give. "Then Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you" (6:53).

The crowd struggled greatly with this teaching (6:52, 60). You can almost picture the perplexed looks on their faces – "He wants us to do what?"

The result? "From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more" (6:66).

All of those followers... gone. Even after His greatest miracle of rising from the tomb we see only 120 gathered in the upper room in Acts 1. He turned a following of 5,000 into a following of 120. At His ascension He left behind a group that was 1/40th the size it had once been. Not exactly a great church growth strategy, right?

Did He really have to send them away though? Sure, they were following Him for the wrong reasons, but maybe over time they would have come around if He could have just kept offering the right things to keep them coming. Likewise, people who come to our churches because we have advertising that speaks to them and their wants might not be coming for Jesus, but maybe if we keep them coming, we can turn them into real followers eventually. Thankfully, Jesus did not and does not think like us.

Jesus knew that if they didn't accept Him as Lord it didn't matter how dedicated they were; they were unfit to carry out His purpose. It's the same reason why He turned away the would-be followers who wanted to say farewell or bury their dead in Luke 9:57-62. It's the same reason why He turned away the rich young ruler despite the man's supposedly impeccable dedication to law-keeping. If people didn't value Him above all else, He knew they weren't fit for discipleship.

That's why the people He ended up making His followers were those who dropped their nets and left their boats or hopped up and left the tax booth behind. He meant what He said when He told the disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me" (Luke 9:23). Jesus didn't want customers who liked Him for what He had to offer them. He wanted disciples who were ready to take up their crosses for Him.

Why did Jesus demand so much more commitment than we do? Because He wasn't here to amass a crowd. He was here to train people to be like Him in order to launch the kingdom, a worldwide project predicated on preparing people and sending them rather than attracting people and keeping them. He knew that unless people were following Him as both their Savior and Lord of their entire lives, they weren't fit for carrying out the goals of the kingdom. With such a lofty, worldwide purpose in mind, His method was to establish a church to carry it out. Why would He want a church system that turned around and viewed crowds and success exactly the opposite of the way He did?

<https://www.focuspress.org/2020/07/07/jesus-didnt-beg-anyone-to-follow-him/>

Our Condolences to the Families of:

Hope Threadgill, Betty (Sad) Ransom Pries,
Jacky Fox, Sibbie Smith, Betty J. Flatt,
Wanda Chaffin

Area Rest Homes & Rehab. Centers:

Bethesada: Grace Sloan

Cedar Hill Senior Living: Jean Haney

Mabry: Lovena (Cricket) Wilson, Fred Heady,
Ray Pippin

NHC: Paul Pippin, Connie Ballard, Nell Thomas,
Sherry Arms

Hillsboro Rehab: Lovia Cowgill

Georgia Rehab: Buddy Flatt

Those Battling Ongoing Health Issues- Prayer List:

Adele Birdwell, Anna Bell Stafford, Barbara Walker,
Doris Martin, Earl Carr dad of Marcia, Earl Crabtree,
Emily Jones, Fred Garrison, Geneva Brown, Glen
Thomas, Hillary Broome, Jeanie Thomas, Crystal
Scott, Marcia Mitchell, Jo Helen Brown, Johnny
Stafford, Joyce Pippin, Larry Smith, Lela Durham,
Lewis Fox, Lori Cravens, Louise Richardson, Margie
Dyer, Margie Goodwin, Mary Pearl Judd, Melissa
Young, Moydene Robinson, Olivia Deason, Pam
Crespo, Paulette Rainey, Raymond Haney, Roberta
Hunter, Sandy Haney, Sherrie Merwine, Steve
Hensley, Shirley Smith, Tim & Judy Chambers, Toni
Johnson daughter of Roger, Velma Hix, Zander
Dixon, Wilean Heady her son Terry-, Doris
Mayberry, Austin Eagle, Faye Winstead sister of
W.C. Howell

BATTLING CANCER

Anna Lee Burchett, Ben Young, Bill Pries,
Frances Luck, Kinner Hawkins, Lori Davenport,
Maibelle Dyer, Mike Hamlet, Nancy Blankenship,
Rex Berry, Ruby Anderson, Roslyn Stout sister of
Ruby, Ricky Strong, Steve Higginbotham, Tammy
Crockett, Winnie Craighead, Villary Campbell

Privileged to Serve March 21, 2021

Ushers	Steve Hensley
.....	Jacob Martin
Announcements	Caden Fox
Song Leader	Titus Anderson
Scripture Reading	Chris Martin
Speaker	John Mabery
Opening Prayer	Ronald Strong
Closing Prayer	Bill Coe
Oversee Lord's Supper..	Andrew Burris
Prepare Trays	
Scripture Reading.....	Kevin Moss
Serve	Greg Scott
.....	Jeremy Broome
.....	Jim Young
.....	Ben Gentry
.....	Blake Maberry
.....	Jackson Conner
Alternate to Serve	Jeremy Kirby
.....	Roger Anderson
Dismiss Classes	Roy Smallwood
Count Contribution	Jimmy Strong
.....	Roy Flatt
.....	Ronnie Martin
.....	Mark Collins
Response Card	Mike Martin
PowerPoint.....	Jonathan Conner
Live Stream.....	Brian Trisdale
Adult Bible Class.....	John Mabery

Sunday Evening March 21, 2021

Song Leader	Mike Birdwell
Speaker	Randy Duke
Reading.....	Bill Coe
Opening Prayer	Roy Young
Closing Prayer	Andrew Burris
PowerPoint.....	Blake Maberry

Wednesday Evening March 24, 2021

Song Leader	Jonathan Conner
Adult Bible Study	Ronald Strong
Opening Prayer	Mike Martin
Closing Prayer	Kevin Moss
Devotional.....	Sjon Gentry
Powerpoint.....	Ben Gentry

Let Rellon Burris know if you can't serve.
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