

Last Sunday, Peggy Kemp humbly asked for prayers for forgiveness as she was concerned for her influence in past years. May God bless you, Peggy!

Our ladies are invited to an Ornament Exchange tomorrow night in the home of Pat Bush—see her for more information.

Congratulations to Ethan Leonard, who received the 2018 “West End Volunteer Fire Department Contribution & Dedication Award.” Of course, we are proud of you, Ethan!

The Lord is truly blessing us here at Montrose—you can see it in the uplifting atmosphere at each and every assembly! We are so very pleased to announce that Rachel (10/30/72) and Emily Gray (12/19/03) have placed membership with us. Rachel celebrates an anniversary with her husband, Stephen Gray (5/26/73), on February 20 (1993). Their address is as follows:

45 Agee Lane
Carthage, TN 37030

Thank you so much to the members who coordinated and implemented the holiday gift bags! It only goes to show not only how talented and compassionate we are, but also how well organized the membership has become!

This next Sunday will be our fifth and final Lord’s Day of the year, which means two things. First, our contribution will be a special contribution that will go to help our mission efforts—please contribute accordingly! Second, this evening, our young men will be leading the service! Personally, I think this is a wonderful practice, and I am pleased to be at a congregation that provides opportunities as this for our young men to grow spiritually.

Remember that I am planning my sermons for 2019 this month, so if you would like to suggest a topic for a sermon next year, please write it down on a piece of paper and place in the question box in the foyer.

I am pleased to announce that after past efforts and many years, we are going to be revising our pictorial directory at the first of the year (in fact, I have volunteered to lead the charge). Therefore, in the coming weeks, please be aware of any announcements pertaining to such, and your cooperation will be most appreciated.

Finally, if you would like to receive the bulletin via email, please give that to me. Have a great and godly week!
—Sam

THOSE PRIVILEGED TO SERVE

WORSHIP—SUNDAY AM

December 23, 2018

Coordinator.....George Clay
Announcements.....Dallas Eddie
Scripture Reading.....Austin Clay
Song Leader.....Steve Anderson
Opening Prayer.....Jacky Carver, Sr.
Lord’s Supper—Preside.....Robert Hackett
Serve.....Mitchell Brooks, Ethan Leonard
Justin Draper, Roger Draper
Closing Prayer.....Glen Reece
Greeters.....Dianna Dillehay & Susanne
Glen & Patsy Reece
Count Offering.....Kaleb Bush & Dallas Eddie
AM Sermon.....Sam Willcut
PM Sermon.....Fourth Sunday Singing

WORSHIP—SUNDAY—6:00 PM

Announcements.....Dallas Eddie
Song Leader.....Steve Anderson
Scripture Reading.....Austin Clay
Opening Prayer.....Mitchell Brooks
Lord’s Supper...Jacky Carver, Sr. & Gavin Spurlin
Closing Prayer.....Roger Draper

BIBLE STUDY WEDNESDAY — 7:00 PM

Announcement.....Dallas Eddie
Song Leader.....Brian Smith
First Prayer.....Jacky Carver, Sr.
Opening Prayer.....Roger Draper
Invitation (12/26).....Jacky Carver, Sr.
Closing Prayer.....Justin Draper

Prepare Communion for DECEMBER

Vicki Russell & Dianna Dillehay

MONTROSE BULLETIN BOARD

Opal Agee (Concordia Nursing and Rehabilitation of Smith County, Carthage), Clayton Anstis (friend of Jeff Crockett), Gladys Bowling (mother of Vickie Cole), Jimmie Faye Cole (mother of Larry Cole), Raymelle Cole (mother of Lesa Leonard), Sawyer Cole (grandson of Larry & Vickie Cole), Scott Cook (recovering from knee surgery), Eleanor Gibbs (knee surgery on January 3), Vicki Givens (recovering from surgery), Wade Kellam (brother-in-law of Vicki Russell at Vanderbilt Hospital), Wally Kirby (former preacher here at Montrose), Mary Massey, Linda Phillips (friend of Janice Pinckley), Bonnie Stafford (sister-in-law of Jackie Carver), Justin Starnes (friend of Glen Reece), Rhonda Whitaker (friend of Janice Pinckley), Joyce Williams (Athens, TN)

OUR RECORD OF LOVE FOR CHRIST

12/16/18
Wednesday (12/12).....64
Worship Sunday AM.....78
Bible Study Sunday AM.....67
Daily Bible Readers.....38
Worship Sunday PM.....63

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 19—Children’s Gift Exchange
December 30—Fifth Sunday

Pantry Item: Canned Beans

READING SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER

| | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| 01 Gal. 6; Eph. 1-2 | 11 Titus 1-3; Phil. 1 | 21 I John. 4-5; II John 1 |
| 02 Eph. 3-6 | 12 Heb. 1-3 | 22 III Jn. 1; Jude 1 |
| 03 Phil. 1-4 | 13 Heb. 4-6 | 23 Rev. 1-3 |
| 04 Col. 1-4 | 14 Heb. 7-9 | 24 Rev. 4-6 |
| 05 I Thess. 1-2 | 15 Heb. 10-13 | 25 Rev. 7-9 |
| 06 I Thess. 3-5 | 16 Jam. 1-5 | 26 Rev. 10-12 |
| 07 II Thess. 1-3 | 17 I Pet 1-2 | 27 Rev. 13-15 |
| 08 I Tim. 1-3 | 18 I Pet. 3-5 | 28 Rev. 16-18 |
| 09 I Tim. 4-6 | 19 II Pet. 1-3 | 29 Rev. 19-21 |
| 10 II Tim. 1-4 | 20 I John 1-3 | 30 Rev. 22 |
| | | 31 Pray |

Returning to Your “*First Love*” in Marital Distress

The statistics of divorce in our society express that the flames of love in many spouses begin to glimmer and fade. Unfortunately, many spouses do not solve any of their problems, perhaps never dealing with these problems whatsoever. Before one knows it, husbands and wives “fall out of love” just as sure as they “fell in love.” To see the warning signs and act properly can save entire families a great deal of pain.

The Bible compares the church as the family or “*house of God*” (1 Timothy 3:15). Paul describes the proper relationship of husbands and wives in Ephesians 5. Yet, the thrust of his article is to teach “*concerning Christ and the church*” (Ephesians 5:32). Therefore, one can apply principles of the physical family to the spiritual family, the church. If so, then the reverse can be just as true.

In Revelation 2:1-7, Christ deals with some problems in the family of God worshipping in Ephesus. Their major problem was that they “*left thy first love*” (Revelation 2:4). The three-fold answer from Jesus to return to their first love is in the next verse: remember, repent and repeat. If the church in Ephesus could return to their first love by following this pattern, then why could not husbands and wives in the physical family do the same? Notice each in a little more detail.

For husbands and wives to return to their first love, “[*r*]emember therefore from whence thou art fallen” (Revelation 2:5). When it seems as if husbands and wives are falling out of love, they need to go back and remember their first time together. They could reminisce about their first date. They should remember the times they shared together in trying to impress one another. All spouses need to make it a practice to watch their wedding video and/or look at their wedding pictures at least once a year, possibly on their anniversary. In addition, spouses ought to remember their vows they made on their wedding day, and remind each other of the commitment each made to the other spouse. Couples that continually remind themselves of the good old days will more than likely continue to live in those same days.

For husbands and wives to return to their first love, “...*repent*” (Revelation 2:5). Since repentance is an individual action, it does no good to squabble over the faults of others, including your spouse. Before you complain about the mote in your spouse’s life, make sure that you repent of the beam protruding from your own (cf. Matthew 7:1-5). Husbands and wives who each look at his or her own life and properly correct the flaws found therein will be able to fall back in love again.

For husbands and wives to return to their first love, “...*do the first works*.” Remember the things you did in the early moments of your marriage (i.e., holding hands when you walk together, opening doors for your wife). Why not wash the dishes together as you once did, instead of one doing the task alone while the other is occupied in another room? Go back and do the things you once did, and do not allow other things, even intricately good things as children and work, to get in the way from spending time together and constantly showing the other your love and care.

If you and your spouse are falling out of love, return to your first love by remembering, repenting and repeating the things you once did early in the marriage.

—*Sam Willcut*