



**WORSHIP—SUNDAY—6:00 PM**

Announcements.....Brian Smith  
Song Leader.....Gavin Spurlin  
Scripture Reading.....Austin Clay  
Opening Prayer.....Kaleb Bush  
Speaker.....Young Men  
Lord’s Supper.....Ethan & John W. Leonard  
Closing Prayer.....Justin Draper

**BIBLE STUDY WEDNESDAY—7:00 PM**

Announcements.....Brian Smith  
Song Leader .....Jacky Carver, Sr.  
First Prayer.....Justin Draper  
Opening Prayer..... George Clay  
Closing Prayer.....Glen Reece

Prepare Communion for **JANUARY 2019**  
Karen Halliburton & Diana Preston

**MONTROSE BULLETIN BOARD**

Opal Agee (Concordia Nursing and Rehabilitation of Smith County, Carthage), Joe Anderson (son of Sherry Jo Anderson who injured his eye), 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), Billy Halliburton (sick at home), Wade Kellam (brother-in-law of Vicki Russell at Vanderbilt Hospital), Wally Kirby (former preacher here at Montrose), Mary Massey (The Pavilion Senior Living at South Carthage), 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**

Wednesday (12/19).....60  
Worship Sunday AM.....92  
Bible Study Sunday AM.....88  
Daily Bible Readers.....42  
Worship Sunday PM (12/23).....63

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**December 31**—New Year’s Eve Get-together @The Barn  
**January 6**—Nursing Home Service @Concordia Nursing and Rehabilitation of Smith County  
**January 6**—Elders, Deacons & Preachers Meeting  
**February 2**—Young Men’s Seminar, East Main Church of Christ, Murfreesboro, TN, 8:00 AM—1:00 PM

**Pantry Item:** Canned Meat & Mayonnaise

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## Obedience

Some time ago, my father gave me a small book entitled, “A Message to Garcia.” He had indicated that was quite special to him, and he bought a copy for my brother and me. Elbert Hubbard wrote the short story as an article on February 28, 1899, for the March issue of a paper that he was publishing. As he details in the beginning explanation of this small booklet, little did he know that his article would receive such fanfare to the point of forty million copies published by 1913, even in many different languages. The short story simply revolves around Lieutenant Andrew Summers Roman who hazardously and heroically delivered a message to General Garcia on the island of Cuba during the Spanish-American War. Yet, the story is not as much historical as it is moral, for its purpose is to highlight the message—this soldier did what his superior told him to do without question! For example, Hubbard wrote, “*It is not book-learning young men need, nor instruction about this and that, but a stiffening of the vertebra [that] will cause them to be loyal to a trust, to act promptly, concentrate on their energies: do the thing—‘Carry a message to Garcia’*” (Peter Pauper Press, Inc., White Plains, NY, p. 19). He concludes, “...*the man who, when given a letter for Garcia, quietly takes the missive, without asking any idiotic questions, and with no lurking intention of chucking it into the nearest sewer, or of doing aught else but deliver it.... Civilization is one long, anxious search for just such individuals.... He is wanted in every city, town and village—in every office shop, store and factory. The world cries out for such; he is needed and needed badly—the man who can carry a message to Garcia*” (Ibid., pp. 31-32).

This short story is not alone in its cry for simple, prompt obedience. The Bible is replete with admonitions and examples of such. Who can forget the brave and heroic act that three mighty men of David performed when he simply longed to drink from the well in Bethlehem (2 Samuel 23:15-16)? Although David poured it out as a drink offering to the Lord, I am sure that he appreciated the nobility of these men who obeyed without question. In the New Testament, Jesus encountered a centurion who understood completely the nature of obedience. When humbly requesting Jesus simply to “*speak the word only,*” he offered the parallel to this explanation of obedience: “*For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this man, ‘Go,’ and he goeth; and to another, ‘Come,’ and he cometh; and to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he doeth it*” (Matthew 8:8-9). To this, Jesus marveled in response, “*Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel*” (Matthew 8:10). Oh, how we need more servants as these who willingly submit themselves in obedience without question, rather than those as Saul who never seem to learn this necessary lesson (cf. 1 Samuel 18:22). Who knows how many could obtain salvation from the grace of God if they only would not question baptism, but submit in obedience to this simple and plain command?

—Sam Willcut

## Season's Greetings!

*“We would like to express the gratitude to the Montrose congregation. It is truly hard to tell everyone just how thankful we feel about working and worshipping with such wonderful people of the Lord's church. We have been welcomed with open arms and open hearts. The elders and their families have shown that they do care about individuals. I am thankful for the stand for truth and the care for the souls here at Montrose. Jennifer is thankful that everyone has been so good to our children and that they have made us feel welcome. Lyza is thankful that everyone is nice. Ava is thankful for her teacher, Miss Kelly, and Isaiah is thankful that Montrose has a roof. Yes, even the small things as a roof are things for which we can be grateful. Montrose is a place that I would encourage all to take the time to get to know the members and fall in love with Jesus and His word.”*

—Travis, Jennifer, Isaiah, Lyza & Ava Thomas

*“After being with you for the past two months, we have so enjoyed this time with you, and we anxiously desire to continue to spend time with you rearing our families together and demonstrating our love for God and one another. As we approach a new year, may we never become satisfied with ourselves, but press forward and make 2019 an even better year than was 2018! We can do that by resolving to do better in our service to our Father, by resolving to grow closer to Jesus and by resolving to grow closer to one another. At this time, I would like to thank our elders (Jacky Carver, Sr., and Robert Hackett) for their leadership and their guidance. I would like to thank Travis Thomas and the occasions we have to work closely together for the good of this congregation and this community; we are so blessed to have him and Jennifer and their family with us! I would like to thank each and every one of you for the cards and acts of gracious kindness you have bestowed on our family. We trust that your holiday season may be joyous, and that your New Year may be prosperous. With the love of God,”*

—Sam, Melissa and Cameron Willcut