

January 8, 2019

Welcome to the Montrose Church of Christ in the beautiful Defeated Creek area of Tennessee! We are delighted to announce that our very own Kimmy Bush has recently informed our elders that she would like to place her membership back with us again. Welcome back, Kimmy! We know you will be an active and productive member here at Montrose!

Remember, if the members of Montrose would like to have a detailed monthly Bible reading schedule, please pick one up from the table in the foyer.

Thank you to all who came to participate in our afternoon service at Concordia Nursing and Rehabilitation of Smith County in Carthage last Sunday—I know it was a blessing to the residents and staff, and an encouragement to me as well!

To facilitate our new pictorial directory, please fill out the necessary form (if you haven't already), and let Karen Halliburton know when you would like for her to take your family photo during the month of January. I have no doubt that we can complete this process and enjoy an updated resource of information about our spiritual family at Montrose by the end of the month.

Not only is there the opportunity presented to reorganize our Visitation Teams (see Mitchell Brooks), but if you would like to help with communion preparation this year, there are only 3 more slots available, and while you are there volunteering for that act of service, right beside it is the list of teachers for 2019—we could always use more teachers in our Bible school! Go by and check the sign-up sheets and sign up! Let us all determine to become active in the work of the Lord!

“Dear friends, thank you so much for the Christmas basket. We appreciate your kindness each year,” Haley, Dru & Lou House.

“Dear Christian friends, the bag you prepared and brought over was greatly appreciated. Knowing others care for you means more than I can say. God bless each of you. Sincerely,” Mettie Jane Dillehay.

We also received a thank-you card from Pauline Poynter concerning the holiday basket.

Finally, we are excited to inform the congregation that we are beginning both a Timothy class (boys) and a Dorcas class (girls), which will meet every month on the fourth Sundays. More information coming soon!

—Sam

THOSE PRIVILEGED TO SERVE

WORSHIP—SUNDAY—9:00 AM

January 13, 2019

Coordinator.....Robert Hackett
Announcements.....George Clay
Scripture Reading.....Austin Clay
Song Leader.....Adam Jolley
Opening Prayer.....Jacky Carver, Sr.
Lord's Supper—Preside.....Mitchell Brooks
Serve.....Steve Anderson, Brian Smith
Ethan Leonard, Justin Draper
Closing Prayer.....Ben Silcox
Greeters.....Dallas & Paige Eddie
Roger & Cynthia Draper
Count Offering.....Kaleb Bush & Dallas Eddie
AM Sermon.....Sam Willcut

WORSHIP—SUNDAY—6:00 PM

Announcements.....George Clay
Song Leader.....Adam Jolley
Scripture Reading.....Austin Clay
Opening Prayer.....Glen Reece
PM Sermon.....Sam Willcut
Lord's Supper..Roger Draper & Gavin Spurlin
Closing Prayer.....Steve Anderson

BIBLE STUDY WEDNESDAY—7:00 PM

Announcements.....George Clay
Song Leader.....Jacky Carver, Sr.
First Prayer.....Mitchell Brooks
Opening Prayer.....Dallas Eddie
Invitation.....Travis Thomas
Closing Prayer.....Justin Draper

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

Suggested Daily Bible Reading for January — **James 1-5**

PRAYER LIST

Opal Agee (Concordia Nursing and Rehabilitation of Smith County, Carthage, Room 705B), **Patti Birdwell** (sister-in-law of Mel Smith, upcoming surgery for brain aneurysm), **Raymelle Cole** (mother of Lesa Leonard), **Sawyer Cole** (grandson of Larry & Vickie Cole), **Eleanor Gibbs** (recovering from knee surgery), **Wade Kellam** (brother-in-law of Vicki Russell), **Grace McMahan** (grandmother of Melissa Willcut), **James Thornhill** (family friend of Sam Willcut who lives in Livingston—battling pneumonia), **Scotty Wilmore** (brother-in-law of George Clay, recovering from injuries)

OUR RECORD OF LOVE FOR CHRIST

The week of 1/6/19

Worship Sunday AM.....	82
Bible Study Sunday AM.....	77
Daily Bible Readers.....	45
Worship Sunday PM.....	62
Wednesday (1/2/19).....	67
Offering.....	\$3,536.00

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

January 20—Annual Treasurer’s Report

January 27—Timothy & Dorcas Classes, 4:00 PM

January 27—Fourth Sunday Fellowship Supper, 5:00 PM

AREA EVENTS

January 20-23—Gospel Meeting with BJ Clarke, Willow Avenue, Cookeville, TN, 7:00 PM

January 25—Mid-TN Friday Night Singing, Corinth Church of Christ, Portland, TN, 7:00 PM

January 26—Gospel Meeting with Eric Lyons, Center Grove, Gainesboro, TN, 6:00 PM

February 2—Young Men’s Seminar, East Main, Murfreesboro, TN

February 22-24—CYC, Gatlinburg, TN

“Yet Now There Is Hope”

In Genesis 12, God commands Abram and his family to leave their country, promising to give him a land and blessing him and his generations. *“And he believed in the Lord; and he counted it to him for righteousness”* (Genesis 15:6). After Abraham died, Isaac, because of a famine, apparently heads for Egypt. However, God appears to him in Gerar, tells him not to enter Egypt but to sojourn in Canaan, and renews the promises to him that He made with his father, Abraham (Genesis 26:1-5). In Genesis 35, God appears to Jacob in Bethel and changes his name to Israel, renewing His promises He made with Jacob’s grandfather and father. In Genesis 48, Jacob repeats these promises on his deathbed in Egypt to Joseph, Ephraim and Manasseh. He also pleads with his sons for them to take and bury him in Canaan after he dies. Joseph died in Egypt as recorded in the closing verses of Genesis 50, also requesting his relatives to bury him in Canaan. *“These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth”* (Hebrews 11:13). They hoped for the Promised Land with its many blessings and acted in their obedience to that hope. Speaking of Abraham, Paul said in Romans 4:18, *“Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations....”* These steadfast patriarchs understood the power of hope, and give us lessons of hope by their example.

These steadfast patriarchs hoped in God. In each case, they put their faith, obedience and hope solely in the hands of God. We might hope for so many things, including better health, more money or a better job. However, our hope should be in God. David said in Psalm 33:22, *“Let thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us, according as we hope in thee.”* Paul said in First Timothy 1:1 that our Lord Jesus Christ is our hope. Paul tells the Corinthian brethren that our hope found in Christ has abolished the veil over the Law of Moses (2 Corinthians 3:12-16). How sad it is for those who are wicked or unbelieving to have no hope! *“But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope”* (1 Thessalonians 4:13). Those outside of Christ have no hope (Ephesians 2:12). Our hope must be in God.

These steadfast patriarchs hoped in the word of God. God only gave them promises from the word of God, yet they responded in obedience. We must hope in the word of God as well. David writes in Psalm 119:114, *“I hope in thy word.”* There is hope in the Old Testament: *“For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope”* (Romans 15:4). However, the Hebrews writer exclaims that we have a better hope in the New Testament (Hebrews 7:19). Let us hope in the word of God.

These steadfast patriarchs hoped in salvation from God. They knew as long as they obeyed God faithfully they would receive a better country (Hebrews 11:16). We are to hope in the salvation that we find only in Jesus. Paul wrote, *“In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began”* (Titus 1:2). Paul described this hope of salvation in First Thessalonians 5:8 as the helmet of our Christian armor, which each of us should strive to have. The Bible describes this powerful hope as *“an anchor of the soul”* (Hebrews 6:17-20). It is listed with the attributes of faith and love (1 Corinthians 13:13). Because of this, we should rejoice in hope (Romans 12:12). In a world crumbling around us with sin and despair, let us shine our lights of hope. *“Yet now there is hope...”* (Ezra 10:2).

—Sam Willcut

Ten Things for which a Parent Will Never Be Sorry

1. For doing your level best, even when discouraged
2. For hearing before judging in family quarrels
3. For thinking before speaking when emotionally upset
4. For not harboring unkind thoughts of a talebearer
5. For being generous to an enemy (perhaps the next-door neighbor)
6. For stopping your ears to gossip heard “over the fence”
7. For standing by your principles in dealing with your teenagers
8. For asking pardon when in error, even of your child
9. For always being honest in business dealings
10. For accepting the stewardship of another child

“And whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two...” (Matthew 5:41).

—Author Unknown