

THE PROCLAIMER



WILLOW AVENUE CHURCH OF CHRIST VOL. XXXVI ISSUE #49 DECEMBER 14, 2016

Dobermans for the Lord

Jesus once told a parable about wheat and tares (Matthew 13:24-30). In a certain field there were those who were sowing wheat while others sowed tares. Wheat is a desired crop and tares are basically just weeds. The kingdom of heaven is the field. The differing seeds represent good and bad doctrine. The harvest is judgment. The reapers are the angels of heaven who will be with Christ at His coming and will help to separate the saved and the lost.

The question of the parable is should the laborers (faithful Christians today who are sowing good seed) pull out the tares that have been sown among the wheat? Jesus said, "No." We are just supposed to sow the good seed. We are not to spend all of our time pulling up tares, for in so doing some of the wheat will be lost as well. We are to let the seeds come to maturity. At harvest time the wheat will be gathered and the tares will be gathered. The good crop will be saved and the bad crop will be burned.

Years ago my father-in-law coined a phrase to describe Christian people who tend to exert a lot of energy pulling up tares. He called them, "Dobermans for the Lord." These folks love to spend their time examining different seeds and those who sow them. They write the majority of the articles in their bulletins about tares. They preach sermon after sermon about tares. They even try to get involved in fields where they aren't working so as to remove the tares from such fields. In the meantime, they are not sowing any wheat. In the meantime, in the midst of their violent tare removal, way too much of the wheat is being destroyed.

While it is the duty of every Christian to discern between what is true and false and to even expose and reprove false teachings and those who teach them, it was never Christ's intention to turn seed sowing into weed pulling. The seed is the Word of God (Luke 8:11). The gospel is good news, and in this world of darkness it so desperately needs to be sown. You will always have those who want to and who most certainly will, sow tares. But God owns the field. He is going to take care of the tares in His own time. He is the Master Reaper and He alone weighs and judges the hearts.

The message of Christ and the power of the cross are too wonderful and exciting and life changing to be set aside even for a moment. I don't want to spend all my time judging and discerning and weed pulling. I know what the tares look like. I know about the people who sown them. I am determined not to be one of them. I am also determined not to worry so much about them that I forget what I came into the field to do in the first place.

I want to sow good seed. I want to celebrate the harvest. I want to bring that harvest to the Master. I have no desire to be a Doberman. I would much rather be a golden retriever.

"Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap." – Gal. 6:7.

Jeremiah Tatum

SERMON TOPICS DECEMBER 18, 2016

9:00 a.m. – Jeremiah Tatum
“Love One Another”
1 John 4:19-21
6:00 p.m. – Jeremiah Tatum
“Take Him Down From The Cross”
John 19:31-35

FOR THE RECORD – DECEMBER 11, 2016

9:00 a.m.	462
10:15 a.m.	365
6:00 p.m.	313
Wed 12/7	338

We extend our sympathy to Peggy Richardson in the death of her brother, Pat Richardson. His funeral services were Monday in Manchester, TN.

CENTURION OF SCRIPTURE December 14 - 21

Crucified With Christ

Galatians 2:20

“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”

*Happy
Anniversary*

*A Special Happy
Anniversary to:*

*James & Patsy Gentry celebrating 57 years
on December 19*

*Morgan & Evelyn Medlin celebrating 59
years on December 20*

OOPS!

*Please add Mal Stover to your December
calendar. His birthday was December 8.*

*We have received “Thank You” cards from:
The Family of Barbara Loftis
(Gurvis, Kathy Flowers & Family)
Phyllis Rogers & Family*



If you would like to help send Christmas gifts to our sponsored child in Mexico, please grab a card from the mission bulletin board, and all gifts need to be turned in to Chase by Monday, December 19.

Lads to Leaders

Centurion of Scripture

Congratulations to Cade Smith and Lyssa Tatum for memorizing 100 scriptures this year. GOOD JOB!! If anyone else (child or adult) has completed the Centurion of Scripture please let Donna Johnson know.



PANTRY ITEMS

December 11-17

#14 - Dewight Stamps' Class

Applesauce

#15 - College Class

Tuna

#16 - Mike Dyer's Class

Spaghetti Sauce

#17/18 - Jeremiah's Class

Jelly

#19 - Roy Johnson's Class

Peanut Butter

Auditorium Class

Black-Eyed Peas



GOLDENAIRES

Remember your trip this month “Free Christmas Lights Bus Tour” on December 15. You will need money to eat at Demos. See details and sign up on the GoldenAire bulletin board.



WILLOW MEALS

Make a difference in someone's life – sign up to prepare a dish to help with Willow Meals. The menus are posted on the bulletin board by the kitchen. **WE NEED COOKS!**



FRUIT BASKETS

The Benevolence Committee will assemble Fruit Baskets on Friday, December 16.

YOUTH



There will be a preteen adoption after school on Wednesday, December 14th for grades K-6th.

There is a signup sheet on the youth bulletin board.

COLLECTION FOR FIRE VICTIMS



The Benevolence Ministry will be accepting monetary donations through December 21 to send to the fire victims in Gatlinburg. The funds will be sent to the Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ to help the members of the Gatlinburg Church of Christ who lost their building and some of the members lost their homes. Please make checks to Willow Avenue Church of Christ and note in the memo line Gatlinburg Fire. You may give your donation to Denny Richardson, one of the elders, drop it in the purple box or bring it by the church office Monday – Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

Contact elder for December is Roy Johnson
931-252-0049
roydjohanson23@gmail.com

BUS DRIVER

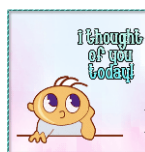


Bus driver for Sunday, December 18 and Wednesday, December 21 is: Todd Hudson (931-319-0359).

PRAYER LIST

It was good to see Mike Flatt and Ann Walker able to be back at worship.

- > *Dora Freed is in CRMC Room 440. She had a blood clot in her leg, had a reaction to the blood thinner, and has been diagnosed with stage 1 breast cancer. She will have surgery December 21 at Vanderbilt.*
- > *Wilma Lambert is now at Bethesda Healthcare.*
- > *Mary Brymer (sister of Jerry Williams) will have surgery Thursday, Dec. 15 at Centennial Hospital in Nashville.*
- > *Carson Vaughn (brother of Charlie Vaughn) is in the Livingston Hospital.*



Ricky & Tammy Sherrell should be home December 21. Ricky will still have to be in isolation for another 70 days. Let's flood them with cards during this time. Their address is: 3035 Fowler Montgomery Road, Cookeville, TN 38506

Sick or Recuperating at Home: Pam Miller

Those dealing with cancer: Rosemary Andrews, Harold Kinnaird, Bud Scott, Sandra Sitto, Brenda Carroll (taking treatments), Joy Carter (taking treatments), Janet Craighead, Larry Cyphers (taking treatments), Julie Denny, Darlana Robichaud, Alexis Szymczak (taking treatments)

Those dealing with ongoing health problems: Michael Allison, Carl & Aileen Alred, Susan Ashburn, Helen Burgess, Kelly Fletcher, Pat Goodpasture, Sherree Hawkins, Judy Hix, Rose Keith, Donna Kinnaird, George Reitenour, Billy Sliker, Owen & Maudean Sparks, Peggy Sparks, Amos Spurlock, Jimmy Sitto

Shut-Ins at Home: Dib Anderson, Bud Bartlett, Patti Boyd, Belle Butts, Robert Cowan, Florene Davis, Ruth Gentry, Ben Gore, Rick Grimes, Mamie Henry, Marie Jackson, Reda Judd, Doug & Pearlene McCulley, Virginia McGee, Ressie Pharris, Jean Pitts, Rachel Stafford, Betty Tinch

Bethesda: Nola Judd, Irene McBroom, Jimmy Sitto,
Cedar Hills Senior Living: Phyllis Julian, Sara Lewis, Zina Mitchell
Heritage Point Assisted Living: Bud Scott
Life Care Center Sparta: Leslie Cole, Eddie DeLoach, Billie Watson
Senior Lifestyles: Shelby & Bonnie Forkum
Signature Healthcare: Doris Haile, Juanita Nation,
Mabry Healthcare Gainesboro: Olga Szalay, Kathleen Ragland, Betty Richardson, Glenn Webb
Morningside: Pearl Cockrum, Mildred Palk, Edith Stewart
NHC: Ann McWaters, Rebecca Brown
Overton County Nursing Home: Carson Vaughn

CARE LINE: 931-432-6333

Willow Avenue Church of Christ
1150 South Willow Avenue
Cookeville, TN 38506

ELDERS

Jeff Gaw - Larry Harp
Dan Huffines - John Hudson
Roy Johnson - Gary Risley
Reed Wilson

DEACONS

Barry Allison - Ralph Bryant
Tom Bumbalough - Mark Caldwell
Charles Cobb - Tyler Gaw - Dennis Hood
Todd Hudson - Buddy King
David Lancaster - Phil Phillips - Paul Pippin
Steve Qualls - Rick Ramsey
Denny Richardson - Tim Richardson
David Ray Smith - Ryan Smith
Tom Stafford - Glenn Stockton
Don West - Richard Wood

MINISTERS

Jeremiah Tatum - Preacher
Mike Dyer - Involvement Minister
Chase Fletcher - Youth Minister

SECRETARIES

Vickie Stockton & Cathy Whiteaker

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday Morning Worship 9:00
Sunday Morning Bible Study 10:15
Sunday Evening Worship 6:00
Wednesday Evening Bible Study 7:00

RADIO BROADCASTS

Sunday Morning Worship 10:15 AM
WHUB - AM1400
"Minutes of Meditation"
Three Times Daily Monday - Friday
WLQK 95.9 FM and WLIV 104.7 FM

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. till 3:00 p.m.
Office Phone 931-432-2333
Fax Line 931-432-2338
Care Line 931-432-6333
Website www.willowcofc.net
Email willowcofc@twlakes.net

PRIVILEGED TO SERVE

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP – DECEMBER 18

Lead Singing – Jacob Howard
Read Scripture – Robert Oakes
First Prayer – Dan Miller
Last Prayer – Jim Loftis
Announcements – Toby Russell
Give Thanks – Tim Woodward

Serve the Congregation –

<u>South Side</u>	<u>North Side</u>
Denny Richardson	Cole Walker
Jimmy Mackie	Dewight Stamps
Ron Johnson	Mark Caldwell
Ethan Hammond	Mike Briggs

Take Communion to the Shut-ins – Neil Ashburn
James Tiensvold

Usher in the Auditorium – Ronnie Brown & Carver Moore

Usher in the Vestibule and Assist with Outside Doors
(Please be here by 8:30 am)

North Door – Jim Briggs
South Door – Tim Richardson

Sound Booth: Sunday & Wednesday
Songs – Glenn Stockton
Sound – Brian Dudley

Parking Lot Patrol – Barry Chaffin

Keep Nursery – Letha Gaw & Marr Temples
(If you cannot serve call Lisa Bumbalough at 931-260-8817)

Greet at Doors before Service & Hand Out Flyers
(Please be here by 8:30 am)

Door #1 – Wilma Wheeler
Door #2 – Amber & Luke Tatum
Door #3 – Karl & Hannah Nye
Door #4 – Rick & Brenda Ramsey
Door #5 – Lisa West

SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP – DECEMBER 18

Lead Singing – Lindon Carwile
Read Scripture – Hunter Harp
First Prayer – Tom Spohnholtz
Last Prayer – Chase Fletcher
Announcements – Toby Russell

Serve At The Lord's Table – Kasey Mann & Bradley Challenger

Keep Nursery – Gina Shockey & Brenda Ramsey
(If you cannot serve call Lisa Bumbalough at 931-260-8817)

Parking Lot Patrol – Barry Chaffin

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY – DECEMBER 21

Lead Singing – Reed Wilson
Invitation – Dennis Hood
Announcements – Toby Russell
Prayer – Patrick Kent
Parking Lot Patrol – Barry Chaffin

Pens-Pencils-Pews – Week of December 18-24
Garland & Wilma Wheeler

**IF YOU CANNOT SERVE CALL:
Charles Cobb 526-4337 or Lewis Coomer 252-2051**