

# THE PROCLAIMER



WILLOW AVENUE CHURCH OF CHRIST VOL. XXXVII ISSUE #10 MARCH 8, 2017

## *The Real Reason Your Child Might Leave the Church*

*Nobody knows what is going to happen to their kids. We don't know how they will perform in the world. We don't know who they will marry, what friends they will choose, or what kind of career they will have. We don't know if they will always be healthy and happy and safe like we want them to be. And so we raise them as best we can and give them to the Lord.*

*Christian parents who currently have children at home have one thing in particular that they are worried about. They are concerned that their children might leave the church. I have seen several studies over the years that have provided statistics concerning the faithfulness of children who leave home. They usually agree that half of the kids who are raised in the church leave the church after the age of 18. The studies also find that marrying a Christian is essential to their faithfulness to God and to the marriage – although every situation is individual, and there are no guarantees. Yes, you could literally do everything correctly and your child might still leave the church.*

*But I think there is a deeper reason why kids who are raised in the church tend to leave the faith. It is because we take them to worship without ever converting them to Christ – and that is because many of us have never been fully converted ourselves! I have been in the church all of my life and I have seen the culture change. I have seen the generational divide develop between baby-boomers, gen-X, and millennials. I have seen the fall-out that comes from “inherited faith.” I have seen the different paths young people have followed that have led them away from the Lord. But I believe the biggest problem is really a matter of the heart.*

*Why is it that our children grow up thinking worship is optional? Why is it that they bend to the beliefs of their denominational friends? Why is it that they are more self-aware and less others-aware when it comes to what they see as the purpose of their Christianity? Why is it that they are more involved in college and career and sports and entertainment and travel and everything else than they are the church?*

*The reason is that for too many Sundays we have merely brought them. We have falsely convinced ourselves that just by exposing them to Christ somehow all of the principals they need to know that will guide them to a life fully dedicated to the Lord will just happen to be there and they will magically latch on.*

*We volunteer to coach their ball teams, do scouts with them, and are more than willing to commit with them to every commercial and community activity that is available. But it was always someone else who taught their Bible class. It was always some other family that hosted the teen devotional. It was always the youth minister or the preacher that they talked to about spiritual matters. It was always the secular event that took precedence over the spiritual event and therefore they have learned what is really important to us. We did not teach them to love Jesus. We did not get Christ and the church so deeply into them that there was no possible way that those things would ever get out of them.*

*The real reason MANY, but not ALL of our children might leave the faith is because of US! You can't just bring them to church and hope for the best. God has held us accountable to so much more as parents! If God isn't in your home every single day, then eventually for your kids He is not going to be there at all.*

*“And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”*  
– Deuteronomy 6:6-9

*Jeremiah Tatum*

**Sermon Topics March 12, 2017**

9:00 a.m. – Jeremiah Tatum  
"He Has Done Marvelous Things"  
II Chronicles 16:8-12  
6:00 p.m. – Jeremiah Tatum  
"The Transfiguration"  
Mark 9:2-9



All ladies are invited to a Bridal Shower honoring Elissa Longfellow, bride-elect of Brandon Marks, on Sunday afternoon, March 26 from 1:00 - 2:30 in the multipurpose room. They are registered at Target, Kohls, and Amazon.

**FOR THE RECORD – MARCH 5, 2017**

9:00 a.m.	483
10:15 a.m.	407
6:00 p.m.	544
Wed 3/1	349

*We extend our sympathy to the family of Sue Parris. She was the sister-in-law of Anna Rose Vaughn and the aunt of Reed Wilson.*



*A Special Happy Anniversary to:  
Jimmy & Saundra Sitto  
Celebrating 56 years on Marcy 15*



**TEACHER APPRECIATION**

Our annual Teacher Appreciation Banquet will be held on Tuesday, March 21, at 6:00 p.m. All teachers and their spouses are invited to attend if you taught anytime in 2016 or will be teaching in 2017. Please sign up on the bulletin board so we can plan for the meal.



**PANTRY ITEMS**

**March 12 - 18**

**#14 - Dewight Stamps' Class**

Applesauce

**#15 - College Class**

Salmon

**#16 - Mike Dyer's Class**

Green Peas

**#17/18 - Jeremiah's Class**

Spaghetti Sauce

**Auditorium Class**

Fruit Cocktail

**CENTURION OF SCRIPTURE**

**March 5 - 12 Unity of Faith**  
Ephesians 4:13-15

13) "till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;"

14) "that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,"

15) "but, speaking of the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head-Christ."



Daylight Saving Time begins this Sunday, March 12. Be sure to turn your clocks forward 1 hour before going to bed Saturday night so you won't be late for worship Sunday morning.

*We have received "Thank You" cards from:  
Pat Coomer & Family*



**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 next to the shelf with the returned dishes in the hallway.

**WE NEED PEOPLE TO SIGN UP TO COOK FOR THE MEALS!**

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**6/17/17 – VBS – ONE DAY ONLY**

### LADS TO LEADERS

Practice for Sunday March 12 will be: 4:30 Speech; 5:15 Song of Praise (girls only); 5:30 Bible reading.

### SINGING

The first Sunday night of each month, we will sing from 5:15 until 5:45 while people are coming in for worship.

### Just a Reminder

If you are concerned about where you can place your memorial – how about the Clarence DeLoach Scholarship Foundation at Freed-Hardeman University to benefit future gospel preachers.

### BUS DRIVER



Bus driver for Sunday, March 12 and Wednesday, March 15 is: Mark Caldwell (931-510-3904).



If you have requested a CD of a sermon in the past several weeks, please check the table in the foyer. We are getting quite a collection.



*Churches of Christ Disaster Relief is an opportunity for service and involvement. We are planning to spend a day at Disaster Relief helping pack boxes. There is a signup sheet on the fellowship bulletin board if you would be interested in going. More details to come. If you have any questions, contact Phil Philips.*



**GoldenAires** - Remember your trip on Thursday, March 16 to Cumberland Mountain State Park for lunch then to the Playhouse to see "The Odd Couple".

## **BIBLE BOWL 2017 BOOKS MARK – PHILIPPIANS - COLOSSIANS**

Happy Haven Home will have their 52<sup>nd</sup> anniversary banquet on Thursday, March 30 at 6:30 at the Leslie Town Centre. See the bulletin board at church for more details or call Happy Haven at 931-526-2052.

### PRAYER LIST

*It was good to see Helen Burgess and Brenda Williams able to be at worship Sunday.*

> *Robert Cowan will have surgery March 13 at Vanderbilt.*

> *Linda Phillips got a good report from her tests. They will continue to monitor her blood pressure.*

> *Adam Witt (son-in-law of Sara Blaylock) is in a hospital in Knoxville with bleeding on the brain.*

**Sick or Recuperating at Home:** Melba Bryant, Margaret Chaffin, Bettie DeLuca, Katherine Gaw, Vonda Graham, Rose Keith, Estelle Pippin, Ricky Sherrell, Cynthia Tate, Margaret Way

**Our Members dealing with cancer:** Rosemary Andrews, Harold Kinnaird, Bud Scott

**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 Sliger, Owen & Maudean Sparks, Peggy Sparks, Amos Spurlock

**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:** 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:** Bud Bartlett, 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

**Contact elder for March is  
Jeff Gaw 931-260-2397**

**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 10:00 AM  
WHUB - AM 1400  
WHUB - FM 107.7  
WHUB.com

**"Minutes of Meditation"**

Three Times Daily Monday - Friday  
WLKQ 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](http://www.willowcofc.net)  
Email [willowcofc@twlakes.net](mailto:willowcofc@twlakes.net)

**PRIVILEGED TO SERVE**

**SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP - MARCH 12**

Lead Singing - Jacob Howard  
Read Scripture - Bo Briggs  
First Prayer - Jeff Gaw  
Last Prayer - Ryan Smith  
Announcements - Dennis Hood  
Give Thanks - Jim Loftis

**Serve the Congregation -**

<u>South Side</u>	<u>North Side</u>
Paul Pippin	James Tiensvold
Robert Oakes	Dewight Stamps
Ron Johnson	Mark Caldwell
Ethan Hammond	Ralph Bryant

Take Communion to the Shut-ins - George Dudney  
Rick Ramsey

Usher in the Auditorium - Justin Asbury & Mark Thomason

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

North Door - Tom Bumbalough  
South Door - Phil Phillips

Sound Booth: Sunday & Wednesday  
Songs - Glenn Stockton  
Sound - Russell Moss

Parking Lot Patrol - Barry Chaffin

Keep Nursery - Peggy King & LeAnn Delk  
(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 - David Hix  
Door #2 - Buddy & Peggy King  
Door #3 - Alex & Wes Delk  
Door #4 - Karen DeLoach & Marion Dudney  
Door #5 - Dan Huffines

**SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP - MARCH 12**

Lead Singing - Lindon Carwile  
Read Scripture - David Ray Smith  
First Prayer - Brian Challenger  
Last Prayer - Jake Harrington  
Announcements - Dennis Hood

Serve The Lord's Table - Tim Richardson & Tyler Gaw

Keep Nursery - Martha Dyer & Susan Moores  
(If you cannot serve call Lisa Bumbalough at 931-260-8817.

Parking Lot Patrol - Barry Chaffin

**WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY - MARCH 15**

Lead Singing - Luke Tatum  
Invitation - Tyler Carr  
Announcements - Dennis Hood  
Prayer - Carver Moore  
Parking Lot Patrol - Barry Chaffin

Pens-Pencils-Pews - Week of March 12 - 18  
Youth Group

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