

MAY BIRTHDAYS

- (4) JANET LAND
- (5) WANDA HENNESSEE
- (7) DAWN GRAHAM
- (10) OLIVIA HICKS
- (14) LANDON DeBORD
- (15) ALEX KILGORE
- (16) WILMA MABRY
- (17) MADELINE CRABTREE
- (20) ROGER TATE
- (27) CHEROKEE WITT
- (31) CLAIRE ELIZABETH FARMER

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

- (14) JOEY AND KAREN HICKS (35 yrs.)
- (21) DANIEL AND LAURA BOYD (12 yrs.)
- (27) TIMOTHY AND DARLA WITT (31 yrs.)

God promises a safe landing, but not a calm passage.

A marriage is never happy and successful unless both parties get better mates than they deserve.

Actions speak louder than words but not nearly as often.

MAY

*Lock the Building.....C. J.
Prepare the Communion...Betty & Rachel
Pick-up Cups...Davis Family
Van Driver.....???*

Church of Christ
P. O. Box 206
Dunlap, Tn. 37327

*See You at The Worship Service
With Your Bible*

Sunday
9:30 A.M. Bible Study Morning
10:30 A.M. Morning
Service

6:00 P.M. Evening Service

Wednesday
6:30 P.M. Bible Study

Men Who Serve

Elders:

Tony Boston 949-5065
Freddie Clayton 718-5806
Jim Dearman 762-9526

Deacons:

Wiley Boston, Daniel Boyd
Cole Crabtree, C. J. Davis,
Robert Farmer, Wes Grace,
Tim Layman, Benny McCoy,
Lanny Smith, Bobby Von Rohr

Preacher:

Freddie Clayton
Office (423) 949-3286
Res. (423) 718-5806

Church of Christ

15964 Rankin Avenue Dunlap, Tennessee 37327



VOLUME XXXI MAY 21, 2023 NO. 21

Published weekly by the Dunlap Church of Christ

GATHER THE CHILDREN

**Some would gather money along the path of life;
Some would gather roses and rest from worldly strife.
But I would gather children from among the thorns of sin;
I would seek a golden curl and a freckled toothless grin.
For money cannot enter into that land of endless day,
And roses that are gathered soon will wilt along the way.
But, oh, the laughing children, as I cross the Sunset Sea;
As the gates swing wide to Heaven, I can take them in with me!**

(Anonymous)
Bulletin Digest

THE RECORD

Sunday School	102
Worship	119
Contribution	\$4,213
Sunday Night	90
Wednesday	105

Sick/Shut-In

Carolyn Hatfield – fluid issues,
Parkridge East Hospital
Warner Cagle – double pneumonia
Memorial Hospital, mother of
Linda Pickett
W.L. Douglas – NHC, recovering from
Hip Surgery
Vera Burdette – Pinched Nerve
Bill Dally – prostate cancer treatments
Andrew King – prostate cancer, friend
Of Benny McCoy
Leslie Long – broke her arm
Janice Rogers – health issues sister
of Trish Boston & Tammy Layman
Mrs. Roger Thompson – health issues
Wife of a Bible Corres. Student
Todd Layne – recovering from back
surgery, in rehab member at Bethel
Debbie Carr – Breast Cancer, tests
Judy Bunch – recovering from 4 .
By-pass surgery, doing well
sister of Robert Turner
Lee Greer – home, not well
Lois Webb's Brother-in-law
Diane Silvey – scheduled for kidney
Test, studying with Freddie & Jim
Brenda Turner – NHC, rehab mother
of Brenda VonRohr, some better
Jerry Anderson – recovering from
brain surgery, Neighbor of East
Valley members
Goldie Crabtree-will be having more
test

Johannie Tittle – not doing well, friend
of the Dearman's

Judy Bunch – throat cancer, mother-
in-law of Megan Layman Bunch

Wes Webb – Stage 4 Kidney Failure
son of Faye Douglas

C. D. Pursley – having health issues
Wiley Boston – home, therapy but
doing better

Charline Johnson – home, breathing
issues

Freddie Layman – recovering from leg
Surgery, Tim Layman's brother

Cheryl Layman – health issues, Tim
Layman's sister-in-law

Channing Ashbaugh – Health Issues
Dan Ewton – Home, treatments

Sandy Haston – health issues, Trish &
Tammy's sister

Jarrot Flynn – cancer surgery, nephew
Of Donna Kustes, Tammy Layman's
Co-Worker

Mary Ann Boston –home, heart issues
Tony Boston's sister

David Cole – therapy, doing better NHC,
Rm 306, Wilma Mabry's son-in-law,
Cards only, No visits please

Clinton Miller- Home
Wanda Hennessee – Home

Mickey Holloway – health care center
Soddy Daisy

Minnie Lee Deakins – Home

Nursing Home –

W.L. Douglas – NHC, Rm 404

Dessie Green – Valley View Senior
Living, Whitwell, Rm 132

David Cole – NHC, Rm 306, no visits
Cards only, Wilma's Son-in-Law

Brenda Turner – NHC, Rm 106A,
Brenda VonRohr's mother

Your Empty Seat

"Thou shalt be missed, because thy seat will be empty" (1 Samuel 20:18). Jonathan told David his empty seat would be noticed. David's absence, at the meal on the new moon, would be observed, known, and would raise questions. So it is, today, with our empty seats! When our seats are empty – they are noticed. When they are empty because of sickness, or injury, or because of being out of town, or because of an obligation, or circumstances, beyond our control, brethren understand.

Sometimes, life does NOT go as planned. A child has a fever, and is infectious, and we simply are unable to attend – everyone understands. An emergency arises, that demands our immediate attention – and we are unable to attend – all understand. Even then, we are missed.

Sometimes, life goes exactly AS we planned. We did NOT PLAN to assemble – or, we PLANNED NOT to assemble – we made a choice – our seat is empty. Why (Hebrews 10:25)? The problem comes when that empty seat is the result of one's unfaithfulness, lukewarmness, or even apostasy. Ultimately, when this happens, the seat is empty because one chose something MORE IMPORTANT to him, than assembling with the saints to worship God (Joshua 24:15). This is the bottom line and after all is said and done, THIS is the problem. The seat is empty because something else, or somewhere else is MORE IMPORTANT than worshipping God!

Would this passage help – 1 John 2:15-17?

THE EMPTY SEAT DOES NOT FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT OF FAITH!

The "man of God" is to: "Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses" (1 Timothy 6:12). The empty seat does not fight AGAINST the evils of sin and Satan. It does not take a stand for what is right and good, but is an encouragement to the work of the Devil. What does our archenemy want? He wants us to be lost, now and forever!

One of the greatest helps to the Devil, in his wicked work, is to willfully absent ourselves from the assembly. "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour" (1 Peter 5:8). The empty seat is Satan's helper. If we imagined how Satan could weaken, and destroy, a congregation, surely the empty seat is a powerful tool. He wants to keep us from scriptural worship that strengthens, encourages, and fortifies the Christian.

He uses his "wiles" to deceive us (Ephesians 6:11). He is skillful in the use of his "devices" (11 Cor. 2:11). The Devil would "beguile" (deceive) us (11 Cor. 11:3). "He is a liar, and the father of it" (John 8:44). Paul warned of Satan's transforming himself "into an angel of light" (11 Cor. 11:14). The Devil uses "fiery darts" to fight against the faithful (Ephesians 6:16).

The empty seat is a visible sign of Satan's victory! He has won, in deceiving that soul, and separating it from its Savior. He has won, in discouraging the faithful, and in weakening the church. The empty seat speaks loudly to all: "The one who should be sitting here has fallen to Satan's temptation."

The seat is not empty because Satan is too powerful to resist, that we cannot be victorious. (James 4:7). We have armor, and weapons, to fight against Satan, and win (Ephesians 6:10-18). The seat is empty because a church member has laid aside his rusty armor, and put down his dull sword. He quit fighting, maybe a long time ago, and now has surrendered. How sad! Every empty seat, that should be filled, stands as a testimonial of a fallen saint – and a victory for Satan.

THE EMPTY SEAT DOES NOT WORSHIP

God has COMMANDED our worship. "Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve" (Matt. 4:10. John 4:24). We worship, in the assembly, on the first day of the week, by giving (1 Cor. 16:1-2). The empty seat does NOT give. We worship by communing (Acts 20:7). The empty seat does NOT commune. We worship by singing (Eph. 5:19). The empty seat does NOT sing. We worship by prayer (Eph. 5:20. Acts 12:5; 2:42). The empty seat does NOT pray. In worship, we study God's Word (Acts 20:7). The empty seat does NOT open a Bible, read it, study it, learn from it, or follow it. In worship, we teach and admonish one another with instructive words and encouraging sentiments (Col. 3:19). The empty seat does NOT teach and admonish. In worship, the empty seat is silent as the tomb.

-Bobby Liddell-

Our VBS is just around the corner! This year's theme is Operation Creation.

Interested in teaching or helping, please see Robert Farmer.

Next meeting will be today, May 21* after the morning service

CCM Team 3 will meet today.

Please submit names to the CCM program. Forms are located downstairs in the CCM area.

Funeral Home Teams – Team #4 (Team Leader, Dana Lowdermilk). Ladies on the teams will be notified by the team leader when and where to provide food

May Pantry Items – Adult & Baby Shampoo & Conditioner

Send A Card

Jan Rogers, 130 Bellewood Dr., McMinnville, TN 37110

Judy Bunch, 11902 Thatch Rd., Harrison, TN 37341

Mrs. Roger Thompson, 1201 Cadron Creek Rd., Quitman, AR 72131

Debbie Carr, P.O. Box 2352, Dunlap, TN 37327

Jarrett Flynn, 716 Nighthawk Drive, Plain City. OH 43064 (Cancer)

Mickey Holloway, Soddy Daisy Health Care Center, 701 Sequoyah Rd, Rm. 120, Soddy Daisy, TN 37379

Phone #; 423-332-0060 (Please add this facility address to your directory)

Clinton Miller – 1225 Coke Bowman Rd, Soddy Daisy, TN 37379

Pew Packers Tonight at 5:20, 1st Pew

WATCH IT!

Sunday morning broadcasts available.

6 AM – International Gospel Hour, Channel 53 WFLI; **6 AM** – The Gospel of Christ with Ben Bailey Channel 61 FOX

6:30 AM – Good News Today, Channel 53 WFLI; **7 AM** – In Search of the Lord's Way, Channel 12

Other opportunities. WSDQ 1190, local radio station, Sound Words broadcasts will be 15 times a week,

1 segment will be after the Swap & Shop broadcast.

Opportunities to “Hear the Gospel” (See the Bulletin Board for more information)

Area-Wide Gospel Meeting, May 21-26, 7 PM EST, Chattanooga Convention Center, Various Speakers

Friday Night Singing, May 26, 7-9 PM CST, Mt Della

Summer Series, June 1st, 7 PM EST, Trenton CofC, Ronald D. Gilbert (Acts 2)

Gospel Meeting, June 4-6, 7 PM CST, College Grove CofC, Jason Barger

Summer Series, June 7th, 7 PM EST, Dayton CofC, Joel Danley

OUR SCHEDULED EVENTS.

Mark your Calendars

Family Vacation Bible School – June 18-22, 2023, with Cody Boston (Adult Class)

Summer Family Picnic – August 12, 2023, Fall Creek Falls

Polishing the Pulpit – August 16 – 24, 2023

Fall Gospel Meeting – October 1-5, 2023, with Gary Hampton

Thank You so much for the food that Freddie brought. We really enjoyed it.

Quay & Melba Johnson