

### GOD'S LIVING WORD

Something that has always truly amazed me about the living word of God is that, even through the most severe persecution throughout history, it has remained indestructible. Even the very material the Bible was originally written on gives testimony to its indestructibility. The first writings were on papyrus, which was very fragile and didn't last long. Yet, there are some 25,000 early manuscripts that are still in existence today. Even hundreds of years before the printing press was invented, it was able to continue pushing on.

We also see how His word continued even in the face of direct persecution. As the first century church began, it was persecuted by the Jews. Many were stoned, imprisoned, beaten, beheaded, or crucified. But, even through the persecution and scattering of Christians from Jerusalem, **Acts 8:4** tells us, "Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word." Then, as persecution seems to be getting lighter from the Jews, the Jewish persecution was overshadowed with that of Rome. Roman emperors, like Nero in 64 A.D. came into power. He was known to have Christians sewn into skins of animals and torn to pieces by wild dogs as a spectacle for his guests and other onlookers. Other Christians were burned alive in the streets as human street lights. After Nero, Domitian came into power around 81 A.D. and began to demand that he be worshiped as a god.

For Christians who refused to engage in this kind of worship, they were tortured and killed during his reign. Later on in history, Diocletian came to power in 284 A.D. He made it illegal for Christians to assemble for worship. Churches and homes where churches were found to meet were destroyed. He burned as many copies of the Bible as he could find and would burn the owners in the process. When I read of such persecutions, I can't help but think of what the Hebrew writer said of those who were persecuted for their faith. In, truth "the world was not worthy" of such devout followers of Christ! **Hebrews 11:38.**

Even after the fall of Rome, persecution of God's word and its followers continued. Some even came at the hands of "religious" people. Pope Innocent III in 1199 had Bibles translated in French burned and presses destroyed to keep people from having their own Bibles. Pope Gregory IX, in 1234, did the same. John Wycliffe, in 1383 was considered a heretic and had his English translated Bibles burned. Yet, with all of these efforts and many more throughout history, God's word has continued to be spread. Even skeptics like Voltaire made claims like, "In less than a hundred years the Bible will be discarded and Christianity swept from the earth." However, only fifty years after his death, the Geneva Bible Society used his printing press and house to produce stacks of Bibles.

It seems that the more man has tried to fight against God's word, the more it has stood the test of time. After all, Jesus did say in **Matthew 24:35**, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away." So, why don't you take a moment today and read a portion of God's living word. Take time to truly appreciate God's message to man, and what all it has taken in history to get to you today. The only way for the influence of God's word to be diminished is for us to close our hearts to it, and leave it unread.

**Andrew Spivey**

### GIFTS

To our enemy, **FORGIVENESS.**

To an opponent, **TOLERANCE.**

To a friend, **YOUR HEART**

To a customer, **SERVICE.**

To all men, **CHARITY.**

To every child, **A GOOD EXAMPLE.**

To yourself, **RESPECT.**

### COORDINATED BIBLE CLASS STUDIES

Sunday Read – 1 Corinthians 7-8

Wednesday Read – 1 Corinthians 9-10



Questions for last week's reading of;

#### 1 Corinthians 3-6.

1. What was the one purpose of Paul and Apollos?
2. Why was Paul afraid he might have to come with a "whip"?
3. How can sin be like yeast in the church?
4. Why is it bad for Christians to argue with each other in front of unbelievers?
5. What is unique about the bodies of Christians?

### LADIES BIBLE CLASS

The next Ladies Bible class will be on **Tuesday December 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30-8 pm** at the home of **Valerie Senn.** Please bring an ornament to exchange and bring your favorite cookies to share.

### BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

**Saturday December 16<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.,** Santa will be here at Nashville Road to visit, take pictures and have milk and cookies. Make plans to bring your children to see Santa. **\*\*Please note time change\*\***

### CHALLENGE YOUTH CONFERENCE

CYC is just around the corner. CYC is set for **February 23-25, 2024.** If you would like to go please sign up by **December 24th, 2023.** There are signup sheets in foyer. If you have any questions please see **Ben Hutson or Garrett Rowlett.**

### YOUTH FUND CONTRIBUTIONS

The youth group will be having several activities coming up soon. Breakfast with Santa, CYC and Lads to Leaders. These activities are funded through the Youth Fund. If you would like to help the youth enjoy these activities, please consider making a donation to the Youth Fund. Envelopes are available on the back of the pews to place your donation in and then put in the collection baskets or boxes.

## ORDER OF SERVICES

SUNDAY

December 10, 2023

9:00 AM

BIBLE STUDY

(Classes for Nursery – High School upstairs)

Song.....Ben Hutson  
 Opening Prayer.....Ken Veale  
 Auditorium Lesson.....Andrew Spivey

### 10:00 AM SERVICE

Welcome.....David Thompson  
 Scripture Reading.....Mike Lyle  
 Song Leader.....Garrett Rowlett  
 Opening Prayer.....Rick Gallagher  
 Lord's Supper.....Tim Strickland  
 Servers.....M. Coley, J. Johnson, T. Cummins  
 C. Newby, C. Nelsen, C. Suddarth

Sermon.....Andrew Spivey  
 Closing Prayer.....Bob Brown

### 5:00 PM SERVICE

Welcome.....David Thompson  
 Song Leader.....Garrett Rowlett  
 Opening Prayer.....Brent Smith  
 Sermon.....Andrew Spivey  
 Lord's Supper.....Jonathan Senn  
 Closing Prayer.....David Johnson

## WEDNESDAY

December 13, 2023

7:00 PM

Welcome.....David Thompson  
 Song Leader.....Garrett Rowlett  
 Opening Prayer.....Tony Butler  
 Lesson.....Andrew Spivey  
 Closing Prayer.....Adam Williamson  
 Door Greeters – West Door.....J/L Cherry  
 East Door.....B/M Smith  
 Visitor's Desk Volunteer.....Diana Stephenson

### IF YOU CANNOT SERVE, PLEASE CALL

Alex Sherrill.....615-289-9935  
 Church Office.....615-452-3431

Nashville Road Church of Christ  
 1883 Nashville Pike  
 Gallatin, TN 37066  
 Web Site: [nashvilleroadcoc.org](http://nashvilleroadcoc.org)  
 E-mail: [nashvilleroadcoc@comcast.net](mailto:nashvilleroadcoc@comcast.net)

With the Holiday season here,  
 please remember our  
 shut-in's, widows & widowers and  
 our elderly, and those who do not  
 have family close by.  
 Remember them with a card,  
 phone call or even a visit.



## SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday Bible Study 9:00 a.m. - Sunday Morning Worship 10:00 a.m.  
 Sunday Evening Worship 5:00 p.m. - Wednesday Evening Worship 7:00 p.m.

### SICK LIST

**Pat Crump** will have a biopsy. **Evelyn Harris** is back home. **Maxine Cothron** has been diagnosed with vitreous hemorrhage. She has been referred to an eye surgeon. **Tom & Faye Hart**, both having health issues. **James Spivey** has been diagnosed with lung cancer and has begun his radiation treatments. **Tony Perry**, husband of Sherry Perry & son of Betty Buttrey, has been diagnosed with liver cancer. **Dixie Elam**, wife of Demar Elam, is home recovering from back surgery. Please keep them in your prayers. **Heather Lemley** daughter of Michael & Cathy Lemley, had surgery for breast cancer. **Bethany Shoulders**, granddaughter of Evelyn Harris has been diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia. She is home now and will continue with treatments. **Mike Martin**, friend of the Jennings & Cato families, continues to not do well.



### PRAYER LIST

**Sara Hosman; Anita Cato; Shauna Lockett; Jean Knowles; Zach Tooley; Mary Ann Reinhart; Vetrus Mee**, Charter Senior Living of Gallatin; **Shelby Ross; Sandi Jones; Lena Baggett; Maxine Cothron; Frances Catron; Jean Deaton; Charlie Cliburn; Alexa Miller** sister of Olivia Ellis **Bryan Grissom** cousin to Joyce Clark & Robbie Glover; **Vycki Puckett**, daughter of Jack & Anita Cato; **Ty Tyler** son of Ann Tyler; **Wade & Wanda Kennedy** parents of Diana Stephenson; **Ida Lou Sherrill**, mother of Alex Sherrill; **Taylor Lackford**, niece of Brenda Veale; **Dustin Lackford**, nephew of Brenda Veale; **Janice Haskins**, sister of Jim Cherry; **Larry Conley**, friend of Wanda Proctor; **Harold Cole**, friend of Lena Baggett; **Bobbie Carter**, sister of Janice Johnson; **Walter Wooten**, brother of Wanda Sherrill; **Aza Topik**, grandson of Charlie & Wanda Seals; **Betty Ann Muncie**, sister of Stella Messer.

### SHUT-INS

**Jane Hughes**, 126 Seabury Dr., Greenville, SC 29615; **Melba Hill**.

*We depend on families and friends to help us update this list. Please notify us of any changes.*

### OUR RECORD THIS WEEK

Bible Study.....	102
Morning Worship.....	144
Sunday Evening.....	72
Wednesday Evening.....	80
Contribution.....	\$7,947.00
Youth Group Account.....	\$3,901.00

### Elders

Tony Butler.....	615-452-0560
Jim Cherry.....	615-479-2149
David Johnson.....	615-300-9084
Alex Sherrill.....	615-289-9935
David Thompson.....	615-598-6621

### Deacons

Carl Newby	Jonathan Senn	Brent Smith
Eric Stephenson	Ken Veale	Adam Williamson

# Nashville Road CHURCH OF CHRIST

1883 Nashville Pike  
 Gallatin, TN 37066

Phone (615) 452-3431  
 Office Hours: Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. to 2:30. p.m.  
 Web Site: [www.nashvilleroad.org](http://www.nashvilleroad.org)  
 Email: [nashvilleroadcoc@comcast.net](mailto:nashvilleroadcoc@comcast.net)

**ANDREW SPIVEY**, Pulpit and Family Minister  
**TIM STRICKLAND**, Associate Minister  
**GARRETT ROWLETT**, Youth Minister