

ARE YOU WASTING TIME?

As the New Year is approaching, it is the time to talk about everything being new. You get a new blank calendar and it seems like it is a whole new shot at life. People make New Year's resolutions, and work to keep up with those resolutions, at least for the first few months. But, how excited would you look at the new year if you got your new calendar and simply began writing in all the things that can waste your time this coming year?

Better yet, how would you feel if you received a 2024 and 2025 calendar and each day said that you would be making phone calls all day to people who aren't even home. Does that sound a little absurd? Well, according to one time management study, they discovered that was about how much time the average person spends trying to return calls to people who never seem to be in or don't answer. Not only that, they also discover that we spend an average of 6 months waiting for the traffic light to turn green, and another 8 months reading junk mail.

With these unusual statistics, it should cause us to do some time-use evaluation for this upcoming year. Once we recognize that simple "life maintenance" can chip away at our time in such huge blocks, we will see how vital it is that we don't busy ourselves "in vain." **Psalm 39** gives us some perspective. In David's call out to God, he says in **Psalm 39:5**, "Behold, you have made my days a few handbreadths, and my lifetime is as nothing before you." Our time on earth is brief and God does not want us to waste it. When we do, we throw away one of the most precious commodities that He gives us. Each minute is an irretrievable gift.

Someone once observed that a wasted life is really nothing more than a collection of wasted days. As God gives us life, each one of us starts each year with the same number of opportunities that we can choose to either use and invest in eternal things or allow to drift by without taking advantage of the gift we have been given. The difference between those who succeed and those who fail is not found primarily in talent but in diligence and effort."

What do we do with all of our time? We are born thinking that we have so much of it and by the end of our days, we begin thinking quite the opposite. The average life expectancy of the average US citizen is 78 years old. That comes out to 937 months, 4,080 weeks, 28,564 days, 685,525 hours and 41,131,506 minutes. On average, we spend 26.9 years of our 78 sleeping. If you

work 40 hours a week from age 20 to 65, not accounting for vacation or holidays, you work 10.7 years of your life. If you spend 1.5 hours a day eating then you spend 4.9 years of your life eating. 78 years is whittled down to 35.5 years if you take out sleeping, working, and eating. So what are you going to do with what you have left of it?

In **Job 14:1**, Job says, "Man who is born of a woman is few of days and full of trouble." James also says in **James 4:14**, "What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes." When you begin to put these together, you begin to see a new perspective on how short it is and how to spend it. David said in **Psalms 39:4** "O Lord, make me know my end and what is the measure of my days; let me know how fleeting I am!" He also said in **Psalms 90:12**, "So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom."

It is so easy for us to simply coast in life, or to simply waste time and go through the motions. When we live that way though, we are not thinking about where we are going or what we are doing with the time that is given to us. We are like jellyfish and we are letting the tides of time carry us this way and that. We end up wasting our time away and spending that time with things that won't even matter. **Ecclesiastes 2:11** says, "Then I considered all that my hands had done and the toil I had expended in doing it, and behold, all was vanity and a striving after wind, and there was nothing to be gained under the sun." Solomon realized something. Even though he had done many marvelous things, it was nothing in comparison to his relationship and obedience to God.

Take a moment and think about your last words, what would you want them to be? Full of regret at time that has been wasted or full of hope and joy as you prepare to enter a place of timelessness. **Ephesians 5:15-16** says, "Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil." Make sure to fill your time with doing good for others and seeking to be in and enjoy the presence of God and you will find rest. **Andrew Spivey**

Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!
Psalm 107:31

COORDINATED BIBLE CLASS STUDIES

Sunday Read – 2 Corinthians 1 & 2

Wednesday Read – 2 Corinthians 3 & 4

Questions for last week's reading of;

1 Corinthians 15 – 16 & Acts 19:21 – 20:2

1. What kind of body will Christians have when they are raised from the dead?
2. How does I Corinthians 15: 1-4 explain the gospel?
3. Who wrote I Corinthians and from what city?
4. Why was Demetrius upset about Paul's message?
5. What did Paul do for the Christians before he left Ephesus and as he traveled through Macedonia?

SYMPATHY

Our Love and Sympathy to **Diana Stephenson** on the passing of her mother, **Wanda Kennedy**, on December 19th. Funeral services were held Friday, December 22nd in Waco, TX.

Our Love and Sympathy to **Ottis Cothron** on the passing of his brother, **Donnie**, on December 21st. Services were held Friday, December 29th in Nashville.

LADIES BIBLE CLASS

The next Ladies Bible class will be on **January 9th at 6:00 PM** at Nashville Road.

YOUTH FUND CONTRIBUTIONS

The youth group will be having several activities coming up soon. Challenge Youth Conference, at the end of February and Lads to Leaders Convention at the end of March. 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.

THANK YOU NOTE

Always thanking each and all of you for your prayers and love to all of our Sweeney family during the long illness of Jim and of our son, Craig, and their passing just 8 months apart. Our family is blessed by Nashville Road every day. Love, **Doris Sweeney**

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

ORDER OF SERVICES

SUNDAY

December 31, 2023

9:00 AM

BIBLE STUDY

(Classes for Nursery – High School upstairs)

Song.....Jonathan Senn
Opening Prayer.....Fate Evans
Auditorium Lesson.....Andrew Spivey

10:00 AM SERVICE

Welcome.....Rick Gallagher
Scripture Reading.....Corey Nelsen
Song Leader.....Jonathan Senn
Opening Prayer.....Garrett Rowlett
Lord's Supper.....Bob Sever
Servers.....T. Cummins, C. Seals, A. Williamson
D. Thompson, E. Stephenson, B. Brown

Sermon.....Andrew Spivey
Closing Prayer.....Tim Strickland

5:00 PM SERVICE

Welcome.....Rick Gallagher
Song Leader.....Jonathan Senn
Opening Prayer.....Jim Cherry
Sermon.....Andrew Spivey
Lord's Supper.....Tony Butler
Closing Prayer.....Brent Smith

WEDNESDAY

January 3, 2024

7:00 PM

Welcome.....Rick Gallagher
Song Leader.....Jonathan Senn
Opening Prayer.....David Johnson
Lesson.....Andrew Spivey
Closing Prayer.....Kevin Siler

Door Greeters – West Door.....C/P Newby
East Door.....T/J Cummins
Visitor's Desk Volunteer.....Sherry Perry

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
 E-mail: nashvilleroadcoc@comcast.net



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

Jerry Watson is now back at home in Cookeville. **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 finished his radiation treatments for lung cancer. **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.



PRAYER LIST

Sara Hosman; JoAnn Williamson; 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 Kennedy** father 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.....	98
Morning Worship.....	160
Sunday Evening.....	54
Wednesday Evening.....	60
Contribution.....	\$7,718.00
Youth Group Account.....	\$4,314.00

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
 Email: nashvilleroadcoc@comcast.net

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