

FORWARD LOOKING

Did you know that it wasn't until 45 B.C. that New Years day was moved to January 1st? Before that time, many celebrated New Years around the middle of March, when crops were planted, or followed a very inaccurate lunar calendar. However, when Julius Caesar became emperor of Rome, he knew that some calendar reforms needed to be made. He worked with astrologers and developed the Julian calendar, predecessor to our Gregorian calendar.

Julius Caesar named the first month January, after the Roman god Janus. January had a special significance for the Romans because of this. Why? Because Janus was a god who had two faces and was believed to be able to both look backwards and forwards in time. So on January 1st beginning in 46 B.C., the Romans began offering sacrifices to Janus and made promises of good conduct for the coming year. Because of this, Janus became the ancient symbol for resolutions. Thus, we find the unique origins of making the New Year's resolution.

It is common for us to look into our own past and see the things we have and haven't done, both good and bad. Sometimes this can be disheartening and can cause us to want to give up or not try and resolve anything to become better. But fortunately for us, I am grateful that we have a "one faced" God. In **Jeremiah 31**, God tells of a new covenant that will come, and in verse **34** it says, "And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."

It is such a great blessing to have a God who only remembers the time after forgiveness. **Romans 6:4** says, "We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life." Not only are we blessed with forgiveness, but with a new life! Just as God forgives us and no longer remembers our sins, He wants us to do the same. We tend to beat ourselves up over "forgiven sin," when in God's mind there is no such thing. How can God forgive something that no longer exists to Him?

This is what Paul is talking about in **Philippians 3:13-14**, "Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on

toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."

We truly have a forward looking God who looks forward to when we are in heaven with Him. Let us look forward to the life God has called us to live in Christ Jesus, leaving behind all that holds us back from this goal. As we begin this New Year, resolve to have a mind that is forward thinking. Focusing on the eternal prize of Heaven, and unity with our Heavenly Father. Let us also resolve to no longer waste our time, but instead keep our eyes set upon the wisdom and truth of the word of God. **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." Just as Christ redeemed us by His death on the cross (**Galatians 3:13**) let us make sure that we use our redeemed time to share the good news about Him. The good news that makes us new.

2 Corinthians 5:16-17 says, "From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come."

Andrew Spivey

THANK YOU NOTES

Thank you so much for the prayers, cards of encouragement and gift cards. Your thoughtfulness and love really helped me get through my surgery and ongoing recovery. I appreciate my church family so much.

Sara Hosman

Thank you for all the cards, prayers, texts and phone calls, and the beautiful wreath, during this time after losing my mom. You have given me the strength to get through this time of sorrow. Thank you so much. Love to all my church family.

Diana Stephenson

Make up your mind to be happy.

"Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say, Rejoice."

Philippians 4:4

Abraham Lincoln said a man is about as happy as he makes up his mind to be. There are heartaches we can not avoid, but there is great joy in the Lord if we will just choose it.

Bulletin digest

COORDINATED BIBLE CLASS STUDIES

Sunday Read – 2 Corinthians 5 & 6

Wednesday Read – 2 Corinthians 7-9

Questions for last week's reading of;

2 Corinthians chapters 1-4.

1. Why did God allow Paul to face hardships?
2. Why did Paul write a letter to the Corinthians that he knew would make them sad?
3. What does Jesus "smell" like to people who are being saved or lost and why?
4. How is the gospel of Jesus like treasure, and how are Christians like jars of clay?
5. How did Paul carry around Jesus' death, and how did he show Jesus' life?

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.

CAME FORWARDED

Olivia Ellis came forward on Sunday morning asking for the prayers of the church for her to look more to God for answers instead of herself.

Meredith Andrews came forward realizing she was not baptized in her younger days for the right reasons and asked to be baptized. Lets rejoice in these two ladies and their strength to come forward.

**HAPPY NEW YEAR
2024!**

ORDER OF SERVICES

SUNDAY

January 7, 2024

9:00 AM

BIBLE STUDY

(Classes for Nursery – High School upstairs)

Song.....Matt Ellis
Opening Prayer.....Brent Smith
Auditorium Lesson.....Andrew Spivey

10:00 AM SERVICE

Welcome.....David Thompson
Scripture Reading.....Corey Nelsen
Song Leader.....Matt Ellis
Opening Prayer.....Carl Newby
Lord's Supper.....Jim Cherry
Servers.....Z. Tooley, C. Suddarth, G. Rowlett
K. Veale, M. Coley, B. Sever

Sermon.....Andrew Spivey
Closing Prayer.....Josh Johnson

5:00 PM SERVICE

Welcome.....David Thompson
Song Leader.....Matt Ellis
Opening Prayer.....Don Wilson
Sermon.....Andrew Spivey
Lord's Supper.....Bob Brown
Closing Prayer.....Tony Butler

WEDNESDAY

January 10, 2024

7:00 PM

Welcome.....David Thompson
Song Leader.....Matt Ellis
Opening Prayer.....Jonathan Senn
Lesson.....Andrew Spivey
Closing Prayer.....Tim Strickland

Door Greeters – West Door.....B/T Brown
East Door.....B/M Smith
Visitor's Desk Volunteer.....Julie Cummins

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
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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

Peggy Buck with health issues. **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. **Larry Bailey**, son of Tina Bailey a former member, has been diagnosed with stage 4 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.....	91
Morning Worship.....	129
Sunday Evening.....	57
Wednesday Evening.....	44
Contribution.....	\$5,836.00
Youth Group Account.....	\$4,706.00

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



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