

February 1, 2024

CALLED OUT OF DARKNESS

Something that I have always been eerily fascinated with are caves. It is so amazing to be able to go underground and see all the complex formations and caverns that have been formed and carved out by water. As fascinating as I find caves though, I certainly wouldn't want to be one of the first pioneers to discover or explore any of them. I remember going on a tour to Cumberland Caverns once, and the tour guide explained how the early founders and explorers of the caves went down with nothing more than a candle or lantern and maybe a ball of string to find their way out. The guide then told us to imagine what it would be like if we were down there and our candle went out. They turned off all the lights and the darkness suddenly surrounds us. Even though we were in a large group, you suddenly feel all alone. As much as your eyes try to adjust, they simply can't in the blackness of the cave. And soon, you begin to realize that if you were down here and your candle went out, it would be impossible to find your way out.

I remember the tour guide actually telling a story of an event that took place when the Cumberland Caverns were being discovered. A man by the name of Aaron Higgenbotham discovered an opening to the cave system in 1810. As he went down and began to explore the cave alone, his torch went out and he was trapped on a ledge. Higgenbotham was trapped on that ledge for three days before a rescue party could locate him. According to legend, when they found him, his dark hair had already turned white. It is hard to imagine the fear of being trapped in a cave like that, in total darkness and complete isolation. But, our spiritual lives can be similar to that cave experience.

1 Peter 2:9 tells us, "But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light." We can also read a warning from John in **1 John 1:6** which says, "If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth." However, unlike in the cave, our eyes seem to adjust to the spiritual darkness the longer we are in it. If we look back to **1 John 1:5**, we learn "that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all." and without Him, the darkness can easily overtake us. That is why Paul warned the church in Rome in **Romans 13:12**, "So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light." But we must lay aside the deeds of darkness

and seek the light of God's word in our lives. We must let God light our way. See, faith isn't simply acknowledging that God exists or even that He is light. Faith is having complete trust in His guidance and direction for our lives.

Faith means that we use His light to guide our steps, to help us make decisions, and to help us find our direction in life. It doesn't matter how dark our lives become, God's word is always ready to light our path. Therefore, we need to hold His light tightly and never let it go. If we do, it will remove all darkness and light our way safely home to Him. Let us also be ever thankful that God has provided us with a candle that will never go out. God's word is always there to light our path. "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." (**Psalms 119:105**) Where do we find this light? Only in God's word. (**Psalms 119:130**)

Andrew Spivey

NEW ADDRESS

Sue Kloes has a new address. She has moved to 2778 Rideout Lane Apt L-1201, Murfreesboro TN 37128.

SYMPATHY

Our Love and Sympathy to the family of **Jim Huffman** who passed away on Tuesday, January 30th. There will be a graveside service for family only, on Saturday, February 3rd in Paris TN. A memorial will be held on **Monday, February 5th at 1:00 pm at Nashville Road.** Please keep Jim's wife, Jackie in your prayers.

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.

1 Corinthians 13:1-2

COORDINATED BIBLE CLASS STUDIES
Sunday Read – Romans 3-4
Wednesday Read– Romans 5-6



- Questions for last week's reading of;
Galatians ch. 5-6 & Romans 1-2
1. Name the works of the flesh and the fruit of the Spirit.
 2. What should we never get tired of doing?
 3. What is the law of sowing and reaping?
 4. What is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes?
 5. How will God judge both Jews and Gentiles?

LADIES BIBLE CLASS

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

DORCAS CLASS

Dorcas Class, taught by Pam Newby, will meet each Saturday in February from 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM in the Fellowship Room. Dorcas Class is for the young ladies of the congregation. Each class will have a Bible lesson and an activity.

VISITORS DESK

We are needing several ladies to work at the Visitors Desk on Sunday morning, Sunday evening & Wednesday evening. A great way to get to meet more members from our church and meet our visitors. If you would be interested please let the office know. Thank you.

EXCELS'

Excels will meet on **Saturday February 10th at 5:00 pm.** for game night in the fellowship room. Please bring your favorite game and finger foods.

THANK YOU

I want to thank the Nashville Rd congregation for all the cards and prayers during my recent illness. I love and miss you all. In Christian Love,
Jerry Watson

ORDER OF SERVICES

SUNDAY
February 4, 2024
9:00 AM

BIBLE STUDY

(Classes for Nursery – High School upstairs)

- Song.....Ben Hutson
Opening Prayer.....Brent Smith
Auditorium Lesson.....Andrew Spivey

10:00 AM SERVICE

- Welcome.....Charlie Seals
Scripture Reading.....Tim Cummins
Song Leader.....Ben Hutson
Opening Prayer.....Tony Butler
Lord's Supper.....Rick Gallagher
Servers.....M. Coley, M. Lyle, J. Sever
Z. Tooley, K. Veale, A. Williamson

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

5:00 PM SERVICE

- Welcome.....Charlie Seals
Song Leader.....Matt Ellis
Opening Prayer.....Bob Brown
Sermon.....Andrew Spivey
Lord's Supper.....Garrett Rowlett
Closing Prayer.....Jonathan Senn

WEDNESDAY

February 7, 2024
7:00 PM

- Welcome.....Charlie Seals
Song Leader.....Ben Hutson
Opening Prayer.....Carl Newby
Lesson.....Andrew Spivey
Closing Prayer.....Tim Strickland
Door Greeters – West Door.....C/P Newby
East Door.....J/L Cherry
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
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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

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. **Jerry Watson**, former member, continues with health problems after having covid. **Larry Bailey**, son of Tina Bailey a former member, has been diagnosed with stage 4 liver cancer. **Heather Lemley**, daughter of Michael & Cathy Lemley, had surgery for breast cancer.

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.....	117
Morning Worship.....	160
Sunday Evening.....	84
Wednesday Evening.....	95
Contribution.....	\$8,982.00
Youth Group Account.....	\$5,485.00

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

PRAYER LIST

Ottis Cothron; 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; Bethany Shoulders**, granddaughter of Evelyn Harris; **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.

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