

April 18, 2024

GROWING IN CHRIST

Over the past several weeks, with the various storms and changes between cold fronts and warm fronts, we have had several windy days. With all the wind and rain, I have noticed that many of my neighbors trees are starting to look a little bit different. Branches have been broken and fallen off and others have cut back the limbs of their trees in order to prevent them from breaking and causing more damage. Although it might be good for the trees, one place it isn't good for are the ditches. As people cut down branches from their trees, they drag them and place them into the ditch for the city to come by and pick up. I always find it interesting to see, because, for the first few days, some houses look as though they planted new bushes by the road. All of the tree limbs shine bright green and are full with their fresh grown leaves. However, as the days go by those leaves begin to wilt and fall off until the ditch is now full of dead branches.

It quickly goes from something that was beautiful to quite the eye sore as you drive by waiting for them to be picked up and hauled away. This brings up a very interesting observation. As branches are chopped off of the tree and fall to the ground, it can no longer live. Sure, it might look alive for a short time after, but it will quickly die and rot. You will never find a branch laying on the ground growing fresh apples. A branch can only thrive it is connected to the rest of the tree. It needs the nutrients and stability that the tree provides and without it, the branch loses its source of food from the roots that tree once provided.

Just like that tree branch, Jesus says in **John 15:5** "I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing." We are just like that branch. Without being connected to Christ, we cannot truly grow. We need Him, He is the one who helps us to bear fruit. When we separate ourselves from Him, we too begin to die. And just like those branches that are cut down in town and soon gathered up and taken away, Jesus says in **John 15:6**, "If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned."

Sure, you may be able to be away from Christ and still feel fine. Just like how when a branch is cut from a tree it may still look fresh and new, however the decay and death will come quickly. The same thing happens in our

spiritual lives when we are away from Christ and His word. Although we may not see the immediate effects, death is guaranteed to take place. That is why we must stay close. Jesus goes on to tell us how we can make sure to remain close as well. In **John 15:7** He says, "If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you." In order to remain close to Christ, we must center our lives around His word. Much like the psalmist wrote in **Psalms 119:9-11**, "How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word. With my whole heart I seek you; let me not wander from your commandments! I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you."

Not only do we need to realize that we need to be one with Christ in order to truly live, we must also realize that being united in Christ makes us one with each other. Paul says in **Romans 12:5** "so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another." That means that as we work in growing in Christ, we need to grow together as well in our study, prayer, fellowship, and in ministry. When Paul wrote to the church at Ephesus, he explained how just as God created one church, through Christ, He also established the way the truth would be spread and for what purpose. **Ephesians 4:11-13** says, "And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ."

With all of this in mind, think of what a blessing it is to find growth and salvation in Christ. Think of how wonderful it is that we have the privilege to go to God and rely on His strength instead of our own. Think of what a blessing it is to have His living word to teach us and guide us. And think of what a blessing it is to be able to rely on Him to sustain us for all that we need. Are you attached and growing in Christ today? Because without Him, we are dead.

Andrew Spivey

SYMPATHY

Our love and sympathy to **Syble Johnson** and **David Johnson** on the passing of Clay Tucker, brother of Syble and uncle of David. Funeral services were held on April 17th in Nashville TN.

COORDINATED BIBLE CLASS STUDIES

Sunday Read – **Philippians 1-2**
Wednesday Read – **Philippians 3-4**



Questions for last week's reading of;

Ephesians 3-6.

Questions:

1. Why must we forgive one another?
2. Name the 7 ones in Ephesians 4:1-6
3. What type of music should we use in worship and why?
4. How is the relationship of husband and wife like the relationship of Jesus and the church?
5. Why should children obey their parents?
6. Name the parts of the Christian armor and what they represent?

MEN'S BREAKFAST

There will be a Men's Breakfast for all men of the Nashville Road congregation on **Saturday April 27th at 8:00 am** in the fellowship room.

THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone from the Nashville Road church who sent cards, text messages, and phone calls. These words of encouragement were certainly helpful during the healing and rehabilitation after the surgery. Thanks again,

Allyn Hosman

GRADUATE BULLETIN

If you have a student or students that will be graduating from high school, college or technical school at **any time** during **2024** (January-December), please provide the office with a picture, their name, the school they attended, future plans to further their education or work. You may bring a picture with their information and give to the office or email the office at secnashroad@comcast.net with a picture and information. Please have these turned in by May 26th for this year's graduate bulletin.

ORDER OF SERVICES

SUNDAY

April 21, 2024

9:00 AM

BIBLE STUDY

(Classes for Nursery – High School upstairs)

Song.....Carl Newby
 Opening Prayer.....Don Wilson
 Auditorium Lesson.....Bob Brown

10:00 AM SERVICE

Welcome.....Bob Brown
 Scripture Reading.....Ben Hutson
 Song Leader.....Garrett Rowlett
 Opening Prayer.....Ken Veale
 Lord's Supper.....Charlie Seals
 Servers.....M. Coley, D. Johnson, B. Sever
 C. Nelsen, T. Cummins, J. Sever

Sermon.....Tim Strickland
 Closing Prayer.....Fate Evans

5:00 PM SERVICE

Welcome.....David Thompson
 Song Leader.....Garrett Rowlett
 Opening Prayer.....Bob Brown
 Sermon.....Tim Strickland
 Lord's Supper.....Matt Ellis
 Closing Prayer.....Jim Cherry

WEDNESDAY

April 24, 2024

7:00 PM

Welcome.....David Thompson
 Song Leader.....Garrett Rowlett
 Opening Prayer.....Tony Butler
 Lesson.....Tim Strickland
 Closing Prayer.....Brent Smith

Ushers for April.....Eric Stephenson & Zach Tooley
 Communion Care for April.....B/T Brown

Door Greeters – West Door.....E/D Stephenson
 East Door.....J/L Cherry
 Visitor's Desk Volunteer.....Pam Newby

IF YOU CANNOT SERVE, PLEASE CALL

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

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 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

Sara Hosman will have surgery on April 22nd. Ann Tyler is in SRM with an uti. David Williams is home and doing better. Myra Rasnick is home and doing well. Janice Johnson is at NHC Summer Place. Faye Hart had back surgery. Faye is now home. JoAnn Williamson is home and doing better. Ottis Cothron had abdominal surgery and the surgery went well. Pat Watson, former member, health issues. Virginia Long, sister of Gary Stallcup, has a parathyroid illness and is bedridden. Paul Gruber neighbor of Bob & Sherry Sever has been diagnosed with bladder cancer. He is now undergoing a new drug therapy for the next few months. Larry Bailey, son of Tina Bailey a former member, has been diagnosed with stage 4 liver cancer.



PRAYER LIST

James Spivey; Ottis Cothron; Sara Hosman; Anita Cato; Shauna Lockett; Tony Perry; Jean Knowles; Zach Tooley; Mary Ann Reinhart; Shelby Ross; Sandi Jones; Lena Baggett; Maxine Cothron; Frances Catron; Charlie Cliburn; Heather Lemley daughter of Michael & Cathy Lemley. Elaine Reynolds, friend of Christie Coleman; Alan Greene, nephew of Carl & Pam Newby; Bethany Shoulders, granddaughter of Evelyn Harris; Samantha Hager, friend of June Thompson; 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; 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.

SHUT-INS

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

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

OUR RECORD THIS WEEK

Bible Study.....	95
Morning Worship.....	156
Sunday Evening.....	64
Wednesday Evening.....	65
Contribution.....	\$7,945.00
Youth Group Account.....	\$2,996.00

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	Adam Williamson	

Nashville Road CHURCH OF CHRIST

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