

### CARRYING THE WEIGHT

An elephant never forgets. A phrase that many of us have probably heard, but has quite a unique beginning. The origin of the phrase seems to go back to observations that elephants follow the same paths and even hand down genetic memories of directions and places across generations. Each elephant herd has a certain burial place, like many human communities, and always help the dying ones get back there, so long as there is no traumatic injury.

The most famous example of the persistent, and dangerous, memory of elephants is illustrated in the story "Elephant Walk," which was actually made into a movie in 1954. It was a true story of a British colonial tea plantation, called Elephant Walk Bungalow, which was built across a traditional elephant path in India. The elephants were confused and enraged to find their way blocked, and every year at the same time, the plantation's staff would have to defend their property and deflect the herds around it so they could get from one side of the offending villa back to their traditional migration.

Finally the elephants could not be deterred, and one year in rage they finally stormed through the plantation, destroying it and killing many of the people, restoring the traditional road. So, elephants certainly have good memories, and know how to hold a grudge, but they are not the only ones. For those who have been supposedly wronged or mistreated by someone, especially a friend or family member, they can have some of the longest memories of any creature alive. Grudges are easy to pick up and carry, but they are very difficult to lay aside and forget.

I have heard grudges compared to that of militaries in history. Armies would often carry cannonballs with them, just in case they might come across their enemy. They were heavy and burdensome, cost a lot, and required much sacrifice to haul. But the armies considered it worth the risk, because what if they came across their enemy and had nothing to shoot at them? Although they may not weigh the same physically, emotionally and spiritually grudges weigh the same as cannonballs. But it doesn't make much sense to carry them along with us as soldiers did in history. Mostly because the "enemy" is completely unaware of your anger and enmity toward them, and they would certainly be surprised to learn that you have been following them with a cannonball in your pocket. So, it is important to examine your grudges and do what the armies did in the past when the hostile times had ended. Unload the cannonballs and stack them on a courthouse lawn, then marvel at how much easier it was to get around.

Not only will it be easier on you if you lay aside any grudges or resentment, but if we want any blessings from

God, then we better think twice about picking up a grudge and carrying it along. We see a great example of this in the book of Job. When Satan had caused Job to lose everything that he had, we find Job sitting in ashes and covered in burlap. If there was anything that Job could have used at that time, it was the love and support of his friends and family. But that was quite the opposite of what he received. As a matter of fact, when they first came to Job, **Job 2:13** says, "They sat with him on the ground seven days and seven nights, and no one spoke a word to him, for they saw that his suffering was very great." When they finally did speak, it was anything but comforting and reassuring. They began blaming and accusing Job of some egregious sins that he must have committed. At one point Job even says to his friends, "I have heard many such things; miserable comforters are you all." (**Job 16:2**) But that wasn't just Job's opinion about his friends. As a matter of fact, God became angry and rebuked Job's friends for how terrible they were.

**Job 42:7** says, "After the Lord had spoken these words to Job, the Lord said to Eliphaz the Temanite: "My anger burns against you and against your two friends, for you have not spoken of me what is right, as my servant Job has."

However, although Job might have had every right to hold a grudge against his friends, we learn that Job was never blessed by God, and he never received any of what was lost from him until he prayed for his friends.

**Job 42:10** tells us, "And the Lord restored the fortunes of Job, when he had prayed for his friends. And the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before. What a powerful example of humility and compassion that must have took! And it is a great lesson we must all take to heart. If we want the mercy of God, we must extend mercy. Jesus says in **Matthew 5:7**, "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy." Jesus also tells us in **Matthew 6:14-15**, "For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses." If we want the forgiveness of God, we must extend forgiveness. because if we don't, holding that grudge can cost us big time! Not only will it cause us to carry unnecessary weight here on earth, but that weight can keep us out of God's eternal kingdom. **Hebrews 12:1** tells us, "Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us." What unnecessary weight are you carrying? Lay it aside and walk with Christ.

Andrew Spivey

### COORDINATED BIBLE CLASS STUDIES Sunday Read – Genesis 35:23-26; 37:1-11 Wednesday Read – Genesis 27:11-36



Questions for last week's reading of;  
**1 Chronicles 1-9 & Nehemiah 1-8**

Questions:

1. Before the Israelites met to read the Law of God, how did they prepare for the day?
2. Why do you think the Levites told the history of the Israelites as they praised God?
3. Why do you think Nehemiah wanted to come back to Jerusalem?
4. How had the Israelites wronged God?
5. At the time of Malachi, what was the relationship of the Israelites to God?

### UPCOMING EVENTS

September 2<sup>nd</sup> **Labor Day church office closed**

Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup> Ladies Bible class @6:30pm

Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup> TNT @ 6:00pm

Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> Widows/Widowers Luncheon

Sept. 17<sup>th</sup> Ladies Bible Class @ 6:30pm

Sept 17<sup>th</sup> TNT @6:00

Sept 19<sup>th</sup> Senior Group @5:00pm

Sept. 29<sup>th</sup> **5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Singing/PM services**

All events will be held in the fellowship room here at Nashville Road. Ladies Bible Study will be in the high school classroom.

*\*Every Sunday @ 4:15 Singing class.*

### WIDOWS/WIDOWERS LUNCHEON

The next Widows/Widowers Luncheon will be held on **Sunday, September 15, 2024**. It will be held in the Fellowship Room. A sign-up sheet is in the foyer.

### THANK YOU NOTE

I would like to thank Nashville Rd congregation for all of the cards & prayers and for making us part of the church family. One Love,

Penny & Charlie Cliburn

### ORDER OF SERVICES SUNDAY September 1, 2024 9:00 AM

#### BIBLE STUDY

(Classes for Nursery – High School upstairs)

Song Leader.....Bob Brown  
 Opening Prayer.....Brent Smith  
 Auditorium Lesson.....Andrew Spivey

#### 10:00 AM SERVICE

Welcome.....Jim Cherry  
 Scripture Reading.....Kevin Siler  
 Song Leader.....Bob Brown  
 Opening Prayer.....Bob Sever  
 Lord's Supper.....Charlie Seals  
 Servers.....M. Ellis, C. Newby, C. Suddarth  
 J. Sever, K. Veale, R. Buck  
 Sermon.....Andrew Spivey  
 Closing Prayer.....Josh Johnson

#### 5:00 PM SERVICE

Welcome.....Jim Cherry  
 Song Leader.....Bob Brown  
 Opening Prayer.....Tim Strickland  
 Sermon.....Andrew Spivey  
 Lord's Supper.....Jonathan Senn  
 Closing Prayer.....David Thompson

### WEDNESDAY September 4, 2024 7:00 PM

Welcome.....Jim Cherry  
 Song Leader.....Bob Brown  
 Opening Prayer.....Garrett Rowlett  
 Lesson.....Andrew Spivey  
 Closing Prayer.....David Johnson

Ushers for September.....T. Cummins, A. Williamson  
 Communion Care for September.....B/T Brown

Door Greeters – West Door.....T/J Cummins  
 East Door.....L/J Clark  
 Visitor's Desk Volunteer.....Syble Johnson

**IF YOU CANNOT SERVE, PLEASE CALL**  
 Alex Sherrill.....615-289-9935  
 Church Office.....615-452-3431

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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

Charlie & Penny Cliburn are requesting the prayers of the congregation. Charlie has made the decision to no longer receive treatments for his cancer. Lisha Spivey is home. Janice Johnson is at NHC after having back surgery. Ethan Huffard son-in-law of Carl & Pam Newby is home now and doing well. Charles & Jackie Williams, Charles is improving, and Jackie is better. 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 through the end of August. Larry Bailey, son of Tina Bailey a former member, has been diagnosed with liver cancer.



### PRAYER LIST

Maddie Andrews; James & Mary Spivey; Charlie Cliburn; Ottis Cothron; Sara Hosman; Anita Cato; Shauna Lockett; Tony Perry; Jean Knowles; Zach Tooley; Mary Ann Reinhart; Faye Hart; Shelby Ross; Sandi Jones; Lena Baggett; Maxine Cothron; Pat Watson; Frances Catron; Pat Crump; 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

Jean Deaton; James Spivey;  
 Melba Hill; NHC 140 Throne Blvd. Gallatin, rm 2010  
 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.....	112
Morning Worship.....	177
Sunday Evening.....	72
Wednesday Evening.....	78
Contribution.....	\$10,569.00
Youth Group Account.....	\$3,685.00

### 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