

# CENTERVILLE Church of Christ

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*Bryan McAlister*

"I Hope You Know"

When Jesus spoke to the people who thought they had no future, no worth, no rest from their sorrows, and no hope of ever being righteous, hearing these words from One not unlike them, began to change their outlook on life. Through all of His words, you then hear Him offer a solution to understanding a world which seems to be wholly against you... mercy. "Blessed are the merciful," those who are compassionate, benevolently merciful, understanding, they will find mercy. Jesus did not only say to have compassion on those who are hurt by sin, Jesus showed how to feel what others were feeling and understand where their life was struggling.

Mercy becomes the word for understanding and it reflects what the Lord did, when "The word became flesh and dwelt among men, and we beheld His glory, the glory of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth" (John 1:14). Jesus merged the world of awareness of hurt and action to help the hurting when He became flesh. When He put on flesh He literally put on mercy. "Therefore in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people" (Heb 2:17). "For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin" (Hebrews 4:15). Christ is the picture of mercy, for He Himself was not only able to look upon our condition, He lived our condition and now lives to aide us in our condition. Mercy is how God understands my need, grace is what God did to meet my need, and

When Jesus took on the form of flesh, He opened Himself to the world of our pain and our hurt, our humanity and our weakness. When He opened



Himself to what we feel, He took a risk in order that He might render to us redemption, understanding for our weakness, and ultimately salvation for our souls. Our biggest challenge in our relationships with one another and quite frankly with the Lord Jesus, is our need to open our lives, expose our emotions, and stop concealing what we feel. With one another, it hurts our relationships because we needlessly hold back what is needed to be known in order to help and heal. With our Savior, it hurts our relationship with Him because we hold back what is already known, fearing He'll never be able to understand, when that is the reason He came.

Mercy does not discriminate between enemies and friends. We cannot be convinced or persuaded that another soul, even a soul that has wronged us personally, is undeserving of mercy. If we do, then we prove also that we did not deserve mercy. Our offense against God remains condemned, for we prove the merciless deserve no mercy themselves (Ephesians 2:4-8). Mercy does not save us, grace saves us. Mercy understood our sin, grace was offered that our sins might have a way to be forgiven. Why should I show mercy? For it has been shown to me. I hope you know, the cross of Jesus Christ forever will confound and confuse the hearts and minds of skeptics, but to the saved He is our understanding.



## Moments with Matthew

In 2008 after I was hired as the "Preacher in Training," I was asked to write a monthly bulletin article. This article was titled "Moments with Matthew" and continued on for roughly a year. For all of you that have *anxiously* been awaiting it's return, here it is! My father often encouraged me to write more "Moments" and I know he would be happy to see them once again. It is both an honor and privilege to be able to share some thoughts with you from time-to-time. The Centerville Messenger has been a delight to so many people throughout these past decades, and I am certainly glad to have a small part in it.

We have hit the ground running here in 2016 with a new theme and a new focus. I hope and pray that all of us are remaining steadfast in our attempt to return to our "First Love" and remember that God should always be #1 in our life. Every day we are given is an opportunity to do things better than we did the day prior, and all-to-often we take these days for granted. Throughout this year may we not waste days, and may we each love the Lord with all of our heart, soul, strength and mind as Jesus commanded us to in Luke 10:27.

**GET INVOLVED!** There are countless opportunities to be involved in the work here at Centerville. Regardless of your age or abilities, this church family has a place for you and your family. Stay active, stay busy and look for chances to spend time in fellowship and service with your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. Alphonse Carr is credited with saying *"The more things change, the more they are the same."* As I reflect on the past 8 years working at Centerville, I notice just how much has changed in the life of this church (in a fairly short amount of time). We've seen the building change. We've seen the budget be altered. We've been introduced to new elders, deacons and employees. We've celebrated the arrival of new babies dozens of times and we've said heartbreaking goodbyes to long-time servants, friends and family members who have left this earth for their true home in Heaven. Through it all, the Centerville Church of Christ has remained a "light" in a world of darkness and a "city set on a hill that cannot be hidden" (Matt. 5:14). For nearly 150 years, this congregation has continued to serve God and not man. What a proud heritage we have! Though many things will change in our lifetime, the love of our God and His people will not. God bless,

Matthew



# YOUTH ON HIS PATH

*Praise Apply Teach Heighten*

Craig Shelton



FEBRUARY 19-20

**LAD & DAD  
RETREAT**

McDonald Farm  
Beaverdam

FEBRUARY 21

**L2L**

4:30 Lighthouse

FEBRUARY 21

**SR HIGH  
FIRESIDE**

7-9 Elkins & Jacobs

FEBRUARY 24

**LIGHTHOUSE**

5-7

FEBRUARY 26-28

**SENIOR**

**SPOTLIGHT /  
SR HIGH RETREAT**

Gatlinburg, TN

MARCH 3

**PRAYER**

**BREAKFAST**

7-7:30 Charles &

Linda Shelton

MARCH 8

**L2L @**

**TULIPWOOD**

6:30

MARCH 9

**LIGHTHOUSE**

5-7 Madison &

Lincoln Smith

MARCH 11-12

**JUNIOR HIGH**

**RETREAT**

Camp Meribah

**DESPITE THE BAD WEATHER,** we still had a large crowd for our Lighthouse last Wednesday night. We have been averaging around 70 and we were close to that to enjoy a meal in the Fellowship Hall by Bill McDonald's Class, some great fun together, and then the February Series. Our next Lighthouse is February 24, don't miss it!

**THE ABUNDANT LIFE** continues to be our discussion for our Junior High Firesides. As we focus on this passage from John 10:10, we look at the way Christ fulfills that in us. This past Sunday night was about the abundant life through good Christian friends. This with some beautiful singing and some beautiful prayers made for a wonderful evening. Thanks to Mike & Regina Elkins and Philip & Alice Anne Jacobs for hosting and providing some tasty food!

**MONDAY WAS MAROON & GOLD DAY** AT FHU. This is designed for Seniors & Juniors and we tossed in a few Sophomores to get a special glimpse of student life at Freed-Hardeman. Thanks to Austin Painter for his help and to the Admission Department for putting together this event.

**SENIOR HIGH, The Spotlight / Retreat** is just a week away. If you do not have your application in, I need it no later than Sunday! This helps in making final arrangements and orders. All the info is in the application and final notes will be in next weeks bulletin. It is going to be unforgettable, guaranteed!

**JUNIOR HIGH,** your applications for the Spring Retreat will be coming out this week. On it you will find out all the information for a fantastic weekend at Camp Meribah. We are at Meribah to help those in spring sports to be able to be there. Stop by the Youth News Board, pick up one and some for your friends!

**CALENDARS** for March & April will also be available this week. Find them at the Youth News Board, on our App, Twitter, Facebook, and at our Website.

**AS SPRING APPROACHES,** it gets even busier than ever. Be sure that your relationship with Christ comes first. Not necessarily youth activities, but your commitment to worship, spreading the

Gospel, and that you make your life a living sacrifice as you... follow His path, -Craig

**The February Series....**

**Can't Buy Me Love**

**February 17: *Saving***  
Speaker: Red McCaskill  
Dinner Hosted By:  
20/30's Class

**February 24: *Securing***  
Speaker: Kyle Lamb  
Dinner Hosted By :  
Wayne Qualls' Class

**Wednesdays at 7 P.M.**  
**\*Dinner Served Each  
Wednesday  
from 5:30-6:30 in the  
Fellowship Hall.**

***Special Sunday  
Night Series ...***

Join us Sunday nights in February  
for a special series:

***"A Focus On The Role  
Of Deacons"***

**Feb 21, 2016**  
**Involvement:**  
**What's Needed in Centerville**

**Feb 28, 2016**  
**Empowerment:**  
**"Allowing Shepherds to  
Shepherd and Deacons to  
Deac"  
Join Us At 6p !**

***Thank You !***

**Mark Chessor writes:** "Thank you  
for the calls, cards, concern and  
prayers while I've been dealing  
with my eye trouble. I appreciate  
and love you all." In Christian  
love..."

**COME  
WORSHIP WITH US**

**STEWARDSHIP REPORT**

**CONTRIBUTION**

**\$ 12,142.63**

**BUDGET**

**\$ 12,784.00**

**Camp Meribah**

**\$ 172.00**

**Widows/Widowers  
Dinner**



You are invited to a  
dinner at the Outreach  
Center in your honor  
on March 5, 2016 at  
4:30 P.M. Please sign the list in  
the lobby. We hope to see you  
there !

**Lad/Dad Retreat**



...Lad/Dad Retreat  
February 19 & 20, 2016  
at Beaverdam. Please  
sign the list in the  
lobby.

***Sympathy***

...We express our sympathy to the  
family of Ernest Whitcomb who  
passed away in Wilmington, MA.  
He was the grandfather of Renee  
(Michael, Bradley) Horner.

...We express our sympathy to the  
family of Hollis Blackwell of the  
Coble community who passed  
away. He and his wife, Donna,  
have been faithful servants at the  
Coble Church of Christ.

***Scholarship  
Information***

We are now taking scholarship  
applications for the Summer  
Semester (if any are attending)  
and for the 2016-2017 academic  
year. Craig is our Point of Contact  
(POC). Applications may be turned  
in to the office or any committee  
member: Craig Shelton, Joey Hunt,  
Don Luther, Phillip Allen, Melody  
Skelton, Mark Chessor, Eric  
Coleman. **Deadline to turn in  
applications is: April 10, 2016.**



*Please Pray For:*

...Jamie Stoltz is recovering from brain  
surgery at home.

...Ray Roder is in ICU at St. Thomas Mid-  
Town following open heart surgery. He is  
improving.

...Donna Martin is recovering from knee  
replacement surgery.

...Martha Minick will have throat surgery  
February 19th at Vanderbilt .

...Jane Berryman is in Horizon Medical  
Center dealing with an infection.

...Jackie Deitmen is recovering from knee  
replacement surgery.

...Jack Lowery is taking chemotherapy  
treatments for cancer.

...Amy Hill Bethea, family friend of Don  
Luther, will have surgery for cancer on  
February 17th at Vanderbilt.

...Jace Conley, infant son of Donnie &  
Marianne Conley, has returned home.

...Donna Lawhon has been diagnosed  
with thyroid cancer. Her address is: 7715  
County Lane 168 Carthage, Missouri  
64836

**The following are recovering from surgery  
or dealing with an illness:** Calvin Cuthbert,  
Christian Schmid, Terry Johnston, Nathan  
Hubbard, Mary Helen Barber, Jack Lowery,  
Jace Conley, Richard Canady, Jack  
Cunningham, Amy Allen, Martha Minick,  
Carolyn Tidwell Jones, Gary Stone, De'Jay  
Sanders, Gabriel Roberson, Gerdi Beaman,  
Sheryl Elkins, Richard Tate, Henrietta  
Rochelle, Jeff Denton.

**Nursing Home Residents:**

**Life Care Center:** Helen Hudgins, Stephen  
Church, Christine Sawyer, Norma Nicks,  
Larry Talley, Nellie Kalosis, Lucy Noles,  
Stella Greer, Elsie Mathis, Thelma Chessor  
**Hickman County Nursing Home:**  
Eltie Davis, Lula Mae Gilliam  
**NHC Dickson:**Harold Choate

**Home:** Jane Berryman, Fronia Nash,  
Georgia Moss, Alvitea Sunder, Martha Jo  
Wallace, Willie B. Coates, Sammye Elrod,  
Charles Minick, Dorothy Easley, J.W. &  
Sue Roder, Troy Parks.

## Our Elders



Mike Elkins



Gary Gatewood



Lonnie Gilliam



Bill McDonald



Mike Goodpasture



Shane Willis



Wayne Qualls

Place  
Stamp  
Here



The Food Truck from the Tennessee Children's Home will be here on Thursday, March 17, 2016. Items needed:

- Cake mix & frosting
- jelly/jam
- canned chicken
- Velveeta cheese
- Pop tarts
- Kool-aid (canisters)
- Paper towels
- Kitchen/bathroom spray cleaner
- Men's deodorant
- Laundry detergent
- 13 and 55 gallon garbage bags
- Twin bed sheets

Thank you for your continued support !

### NEW FEATURES AT OUR WEBSITE...

We have some added features at [www.centervillechurchofchrist.org](http://www.centervillechurchofchrist.org) that have been requested by some of you! Several PayPal links have been installed to help with contributions and donations. On our worship streaming page, which is visited by over 2000 per month, you can now find a link to make your contribution. This will be most helpful to our shut-ins or if you should happen to be out of town and forgot to make your contribution before leaving. A link has also been added to the main page titled "Donations." On this page you will find several special projects we have going on within our facilities. There you will find General Projects, Dayschool Projects, Camp Meribah Projects, and Summer Camp. Each has a description included to inform you of where each donation will go. We hope this will help in convenience as well as needs we have within our church facilities.

### Prayer Week of February 21

S.M.W.  
James Aydelott  
S.E.W.  
Mark Chessor  
W.E.B.S.  
Patrick Allen

S.M.D  
Calvin Hoover  
S.E.D.  
Robert Bowman  
W.E.D.  
Griffin Elkins

Elders' Prayer  
February 21  
Mike Goodpasture

To Read Scripture  
Feb. 21: Dr. Jerry Nash  
Feb. 29: Chris Teet