

# CENTERVILLE Church of Christ

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*Bryan McAlister*

"I Hope You Know"

In 2008, Julia Duin, The Washington Times religious writer, in her book, *"Quitting Church"* people are leaving because *"the church has stopped being the light, and has instead started blending into the world around it"* (10-06-08). Believe it or not, many in the world are looking for direction and something more than merely the trappings of the world around them. That one truth demands we make every effort to grow the church. Do you want the church to grow or swell? Of all the trends of the New Testament, (teaching, preaching, and fellowship together), the trend most notably absent from the trends of growth, is the trend of "swelling." Churches swell because of convenience and due to a lack of maturity in dealing with struggles. When disagreements come, when disappointments are present, when discouragement persists, we leave, we walk away, we choose to be elsewhere.

What if the Holy Spirit had written in the book of Acts about the members of the Jerusalem church in Acts 5, unsatisfied with what happened to Ananias and Sapphira, moved their membership to another town? What if the remedy for the problem in Acts 6 of the greek speaking widows overlooked in the daily distribution had been to move their membership outside of Jerusalem. What if in Acts 15, when one group wanted to preach salvation through water baptism and another group wanted to preach salvation through circumcision *then* water baptism, the solution was to agree to disagree - you do what you want and we'll do what we want? What if their final solution would be to start their own church?

None of these were even remotely acceptable. In fact, they would have been hindrances to the church growing, not helps. What they did do was work through their differences, with God's word at the center of their debate. Acts 5, they responded with godly fear to the holiness of God. Acts 6, they responded with cooperation, prayer, and attention to the problem. Acts 15, they allowed God's display of what He had done and what He had said to guide their decision. His plan of salvation was not to be changed for any reason. Do you know what happened? After every instance, the church grew! She not only grew, she multiplied (Acts 5:14, Acts 6:7, 15:35).



Unity, growth, is built on our commonality of salvation, not on our concept of salvation. Unity is to be built on our conformity to the Savior, not our comfortability with a lifestyle or practice. Unity is built on our dying to sin and self and not on deciding to agree to disagree on matters of God's revealed standard of truth. The pleas for unity throughout the ages should not be distorted through a modern day lens of postmodernism. We don't have to give up and look like the world in order to grow. To be honest, that's not what the world's looking for. They want something different. Why not give them the gospel? The numbers will come, and yes, God wants the church to grow (Acts 2:41, 47, 4:4, 5:14, 6:7, 8:6, 9:31, 11:24, 12:24), but Jesus must be the reason they see the need, and in order to see Jesus, He must be seen in us!

Why not "Endeavor" to keep the "unity of the spirit in the bond of peace" (Ephesians 4:3)? Why not keep the emphasis on the Lord and His desire for all to come to the knowledge of His peace and life? Join us and many, many more on September 27, 3pm, at the HCHS auditorium, for a day when we gather together to worship as one body, the one Lord, who has called us to be one. This is a time in our world and our nation to rise above the divisiveness and surrender to the divine God who loves us beyond measure. I hope you know, unity is not a bygone conclusion, it is by our God's design that it can be ours.

## I Surrender All... Weekly Challenge:

Sunday	Proverbs 1
Monday	Proverbs 2
Tuesday	Proverbs 3
Wednesday	Proverbs 4
Thursday	Proverbs 5
Friday	Proverbs 6
Saturday	Proverbs 1-6



# YOUTH ON HIS PATH

**PRAISE, APPLY, TEACH, HEIGHTEN**

CRAIG SHELTON

## The September Series

### "I Surrender All My Mistakes"

Sept. 16: *A Forgiven Church is Family*

Craig Evans Spring Hill, Tn.

Grilled Hamburgers & Hot Dogs

Hosted by 20/30's Class

Sept. 23: *A Forgiven Church is Focused*

David Morris Columbia, TN.

Italian Meal

Hosted by Bill McDonald's Class

Sept. 30: *A Forgiven Church is Forgiving*

(Josh Manning, Clearview, Lyles, TN)

Potluck Dinner

September 18  
5TH QUARTER  
After Game-11:30  
Fellowship Hall

September 19  
RUSH AT FHU  
7:30am-12:30am

September 20  
SENIOR HIGH  
FIRESIDE  
7:00-9:00  
Madelyn True &  
Jake Martin

September 22  
VOLLEYBALL &  
SOCCER TAILGATER  
4:00-6:00  
@HCHS

September 23  
LIGHTHOUSE  
5:00-7:00  
Jr & Sr High

September 26  
BENEFIT FOR  
ALYSSA  
Fairfield C of C

September 27  
ENDEAVOR  
3:00 @ HCHS

**KEEP IT UP!** As school has started back, we continue to have a lot of good crowds and new faces at most everything we do. The LIGHTHOUSE last week found us wall to wall with Junior & Senior High to enjoy the time before Mid-Week Bible Study. Next, the JUNIOR HIGH FIRESIDE found us at Camp Meribah with over 30 present to kick off these monthly events. We enjoyed some good food and some fun games as we began the night. We ended with our devotional around a true "Fireside" bonfire! We looked at the life of Daniel and his decision to choose, act, and purpose in his heart to do right! Thanks to Derek & Rachel Newsom for hosting with Misty and me. Camp Meribah remains a blessing to our church family and we are so thankful to the Newsoms for all their hard work to maintain its beauty. Also, thanks to Griffin Elkins and Colby Shelton for helping with games.

THE MONTHLY BIBLE STUDIES... are times for our Junior & Senior High to dig deeper in scripture in a smaller group setting. I cannot thank Matthew & Cissy Dotson and Derek & Rachel Newsom enough for their continued leadership in these studies. Be sure you take advantage of these special times!

RUSH AT FHU is this Saturday. The buses will depart at 7:30am for a day to build one another up, worship with several other youth groups from around the state and get a glimpse of all Freed-Hardeman has to offer. I did say buses by the way. We have our largest number yet, as 50 of us plan to enjoy the day. I already have your \$20 for registration and t-shirts, all you have left is two fast food type meals on your own. We plan to return by 12:30 am Sunday morning.

"WE ARE NOT TRYING TO IMPRESS THE CRITICS. I'll take my chances with the public." -Walt Disney. Who are you trying to impress, to satisfy, to live your life to please? Is it those who are critical? Is it those who are demanding more of your time? Is it those who look for today's answers to life? Or is it the Creator and Sustainer of life? The One who is and always has been unchanged. Paul said in Colossians 1:10, "walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him..." God is the One that provides life with sustenance, sustainability, and salvation. He is the only One that can lead you beyond this life. God has shown the way through His word and His Son, all we must do now is... follow His path, -Craig



*Life-Line*  
Daily Updates & Devotional  
Message

931-729-5055,  
931-729-0022

## A Baby Boy !



Congratulations to Patrick & Allison Foree on the birth of a baby boy Griffin Thomas Foree. Griffin was born September 10, 2015 and weighed 9 lbs. 8 ozs. Proud grandparents are Dennis & Susan Griffin.

## Congratulations !



Congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. Hunter Lane (formerly Stephanie Qualls) on their wedding September 12, 2015.

## Baptism



...We rejoice with Hailey Powers who was baptized Wednesday, September 9, 2015 by Craig Shelton.

## Tennessee Children's Home



The Food Truck from the Tennessee Children's Home will be here on Thursday, September 17, 2015. Thanks in advance for your help ! Items Needed:  
Cake Mix and Frosting  
Jelly/Jam  
Canned Chicken  
Velveeta Cheese  
Pop Tarts  
Kool-Aid (Canisters)  
Toilet Paper  
Kitchen/Bathroom Spray Cleaner  
Men's Deodorant  
Laundry Detergent  
13 and 55 Gallon Garbage Bags

The following are recovering from surgery or dealing with an illness: Jerry Bates, Jerry Sharpe, Sarah Rogers, Mike Plunkett, Elaine Yates, Dalton Parks, Sue England, Dave Sanders, Megan Taylor, Chris Teet, Charlene Hunt, Farris Baker, Jr., De'Jay Sanders, Gabriel Roberson, Gerdi Beaman, Sheryl Elkins, Richard Tate, Henrietta Rochelle, Jeff Denton.

## STEWARDSHIP REPORT

### CONTRIBUTION

\$ 12,770.00

### BUDGET

\$ 12,651.00

### Camp Meribah

\$ 127.30

## New Address



Brandon, Charity, Liberty, Joseph, and Marshall McCauley have moved to their new home. Their address is: 1471 Hwy. 100 Centerville, Tennessee 37033

## Area Events

...*Gospel Meeting at the Shipp's Bend Church of Christ* September 20-23, 2015. Speaker: Paul Vaughn Sunday A.M. Worship: 9 A.M. Bible Study: 10 A.M. Followed by lunch. Afternoon service 1:30 P.M. Monday—Wednesday : 7 P.M.

...*Fall Gospel Meeting at the Liberty Hill Church of Christ*, 7272 Old Cox Pike Bon Aqua, Tennessee 37025 9 A.M. Bible Class 10 A.M. Worship Followed by potluck lunch 1 P.M. Sunday afternoon worship Monday-Wednesday 7 P.M. Speakers: *Willie Franklin Aubrey, Texas, Bryan McAlister Centerville Church of Christ, David Shannon Mt. Juliet Church of Christ and James Watkins "Preaching The Gospel" GBN TV.*

## Congratulations !



...Congratulations to the *HCMS Girls Golf Team* on winning the District Tournament ! Team members are: Bailey Gilbert, Adley Elkins, Ava LaRue, and Harper Shelton. Low medalist was Bailey Gilbert. The girls are coached by Tabitha Cude. Congratulations !

...Congratulations to the *HCMS Boys Golf Team* on a great golf season ! Team members are: Connor McAlister, Lake Bates, John Jacobs, and Canyon Pruitt. The boys are coached by Bill Cude.



Please Remember in Your Prayers....

...Bessie Shephard has been diagnosed with an autoimmune disease that has caused cirrhosis of the liver.

...15 year old Avery Shipman, son of David & Michelle Shipman and grandson of Clyde & Minnie Barber of the Clearview congregation, is in critical care in Vanderbilt Children's Hospital due to an accident.

...Percy & Polly Lancaster had some health problems over the weekend but were able to be at worship on Sunday.

...Gabriel Roberson is recovering from a liver transplant.

...Alyssa Aydelott is doing well following her surgery last week.

...Floy Gatewood, mother of Gary, is recovering at home .

...Yvonna Caillouet had surgery on her arm Tuesday, September 15th.

...Charlene Hunt is having radiation treatments.

...Greg Hudgins is recovering from surgery for the removal of blood clots in his leg.

...Gary Stone, of Centerville, is having serious health problems and in a lot of pain. He would appreciate your prayers.

...Fronia Nash, mother of Dr. Jerry Nash, will return home from the nursing home on September 21, 2015.

...Helen Hicks, niece of Guy & Janet Barber, has been diagnosed with cancer.

### Nursing Home Residents:

Life Care Center: Loraine Loveless, Stephen Church, Fronia Nash, Christine Sawyer, Norma Nicks, Larry Talley, Nellie Kalosis, Lucy Noles, Stella Greer, Paul Litton, Elsie Mathis, Thelma Chessor

Dickson Nursing Home: James Clifton Thornton

Hickman County Nursing Home:

Eltie Davis, Lula Mae Gilliam

Dickson Health and Rehab.:

Ewen Sullivan

Perry County Nursing Home:

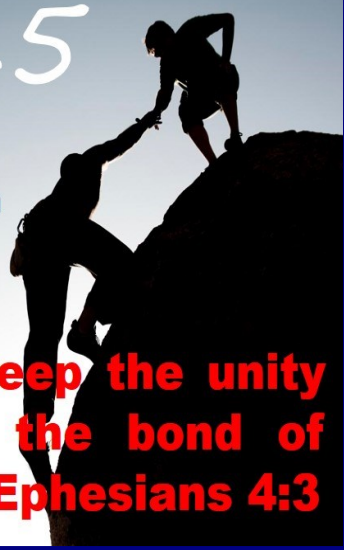
Lucille Talley



If you will help out in the *nursery during worship services* please contact the church office at 931-729-4201.



# Endeavor 2015



September 27<sup>th</sup> 3:00pm

HCHS Auditorium

**Endeavoring to keep the unity  
of the Spirit in the bond of  
peace. Ephesians 4:3**

Place  
Stamp  
Here

The Churches of Christ in Hickman County will celebrate a day of "Endeavor" through a joint gathering for worship. Beginning at 3 P.M., we will assemble in the Hickman County High School auditorium and blend our voices in praise to God through the music of the church; we will bow our heads in prayer, and we will break the bread of life, the word of God, to our hearts. "Endeavor" will be for us in our area, a chance to enrich the lives of our brethren, to build connections to one another through fellowship and worship, and above all to glorify our God.

### Prayer Week of September 20

S.M.W. Daniel Dresser	S.M.D Shaun Lawson
S.E.W. Eric Nash	S.E.D. Jake Martin
W.E.B.S. Eric Coleman	W.E.D. Luke Worsham

## Child Safety 2015...and beyond...

FREE Public Education Event

Presented by: The Davis House Child Advocacy Center

[www.davishousecac.org](http://www.davishousecac.org)

Hosted By: Centerville Church of Christ, Community Outreach Ministry

Session topics will include:

Child Abuse and Child Sexual Abuse ~ Conflict Resolution ~  
Suicide and Bullying ~ Grief ~ Drug, Alcohol and Gang Awareness

Child Safety 2015...and beyond... sessions will be available through an application process only. All applicants will be considered and screened prior to notification of acceptance. No more than 25 persons will be accepted. Selected candidates will be notified of acceptance by email or phone. Classes will occur weekly on Wednesday evenings from October 7<sup>th</sup>, through November 11<sup>th</sup>, from 6:00 PM until 9:00 PM at the Centerville CoC Outreach Center. Applicants will be asked to attend all sessions if possible. A brief devotional and a light meal will be provided at the beginning of each class. On Wednesday November 18<sup>th</sup>, a class completion dinner will be hosted with available presenters attending for feedback, questions and further guidance.

Class Presenters will be from the Child Advocacy Center, Health Care Programs, Law Enforcement Agencies, Child Protection Programs, District Attorney's Office and other programs.

Class 1	October	7 <sup>th</sup>	:	Child Abuse and Conflict Resolution/Parenting
Class 2	October	14 <sup>th</sup>	:	Stewards of Children (child sexual abuse prevention)
Class 3	October	21 <sup>st</sup>	:	Suicide and Bullying
Class 4	October	28 <sup>th</sup>	:	Internet and Cell Phone Safety
Class 5	November	4 <sup>th</sup>	:	Dealing with Grief
Class 6	November	11 <sup>th</sup>	:	Drug, Alcohol and Gang Awareness
Class 7	November	18 <sup>th</sup>	:	Conclusion and Class Dinner

Please note that sessions are subject to change.

### To Read Scripture

9/20 :  
Derek Newsom  
9/27 :  
Mike Brown

### Elders' Prayer

9/20  
Wayne Qualls

### Wait on Table

3rd Sunday  
John Bradley

### 4th Sunday

Dr. Jerry Nash

### Right Side

Mark Chessor  
Riley Qualls  
Colby Shelton  
Leon Gilbert

### Left Side

Robert Bowman  
Marshall Spencer  
Phillip Allen  
Danny Skelton

### Alternates

Daniel Dressler  
Randy James