

Clinton church of Christ

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Elders:

Herman Herren	494-7330
Dale Mowery	927-5001
Mike Smith	457-7877

Deacons:

James McCrary	740-3066
Eric Mowery	748-7129
Dwight Nicholson	494-9425
Tim Nygard	482-4103
Hubert Sharp	494-8537
Joey Smith	773-8259

Evangelist:

Richard Bentley	264-0560
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WORSHIP TIMES

Sunday: Bible Class	10:00 AM
Worship	11:00 AM
Worship	6:00 PM

Wednesday:

Bible Class	7:00 PM
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FOR THE RECORD

Sunday AM

Bible Study	41
Worship	85
Contribution	\$2274

Sunday PM

Worship	75
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Wednesday

Bible Study	45
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GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION

1. Hearing the word of God (*Romans 10:17; Acts 16:32*)
2. Believing what is taught (*Mark 16:16; Hebrews 11:6*)
3. Repentance (*Acts 2:38; Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30*)
4. Confession (*Romans 10:9, 10; Acts 8:37*)
5. Baptism (*Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16; 1 Peter 3:21; Romans 6:3, 4*)
6. After the above five steps, faithful Christian living (*1 Peter 2:11, 12; Revelation 2:10*)

THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

1. Bible is its only guide (*Romans 1:16; 1 Thess. 2:13*)
2. Wears a Biblical name (*Romans 16:16*)
3. Established at the right place (*Isaiah 2:2, 3; Acts 2*)
4. Established at the right time (*Joel 2:28-32; Acts 2*)
5. Established on the right person (*Matthew 16:18; Acts 2:36*)
6. Saved are in it (*Ephesians 5:23; Acts 2:47*)
7. Its members are enrolled in heaven (*Hebrews 12:23*)
8. Membership in it is obtained by obedience to God's commands including baptism (*Acts 2:41-47, 1 Cor. 12:13*)

OUR MISSIONS

Garry Jones: **India**
Scott Shanahan: **Micronesia**
Jim Waldron: **India**
Our members: **Clinton & Anderson County, TN**

Please follow us on



Serving the Congregation July 19, 2015

	<u>AM</u>	<u>PM</u>
Song Leaders:	Ben Smith	Rick Caudle
Opening Prayer:	Herman Herren	Dale Mowery
Lord's Table:	Jim Ashworth, Daniel McInturff, Bob Hamby, Tim Nygard	
Closing Prayer:	Jacob Mowery	Ritch Traub
PM Table:	Ben Smith	
Announcements:	Stump Smith	
Usher:	James McCrary	

Wednesday evening: July 22, 2015

Song Leader: Joey Smith
Invitation: Richard Bentley
Announcements: Stump Smith

July 19, 2015

Clinton Chronicle ***

Clinton church of Christ

A friendly church with a saving message

Developing Spiritual Warriors

By now you've likely heard the stats, saying that anywhere from 50-80% of young people will leave the church after graduating high school. Truth be told, it's pretty hard to argue with the studies based off of the eye test alone. By that I mean, go to your local congregations and see how many 20-35-year-old people you see as compared with the other ages. In my experience, we are almost always outnumbered by the older generations.

Because of this, it's not uncommon for parents and ministers to think in terms of hoping young people will remain faithful. Sure, I hope they stay faithful too, but if all we're hoping for is that they're still attending by the time they reach their mid-20s, we're not aiming very high. Instead, Christian parents should be looking to develop warriors for the raging battle between sin and righteousness, relativism and truth, and the world and the church.

[Psalm 127:4](#) describes children in relationship to their parents as arrows in the hands of a mighty warrior. So much time and energy is put into making sure kids succeed in academics, sports, and whatever other extracurricular activities they might want to pursue, but their long-term faithfulness is looked at as something we "hope" or "assume" will happen. What if we changed the focus and put their spiritual development first? I suspect the church would have a whole new generation of spiritual warriors to lead the way into the next battle.

How do we produce spiritual warriors? While it's a process that takes years of parental focus and help from the church, we would do well to start with these three steps.

1. Raise our expectations

It should not be out of the question to expect teenage Christians to start stepping up and taking active roles in the church (not just in the youth group) as they progress following their baptism. But, for whatever reason, we seem to view strong spirituality in young people (and in adults, for that matter) as something of an anomaly. Don't believe me? Pay attention to how we treat those among our youth who show an interest in spiritual matters. We push those young people to go into ministry or mission work. We assume that their higher-than-normal interest in the Bible means they must have some kind of special propensity toward ministry. What we should take from that is that we think spirituality among young people is abnormal, that anyone who actually spends time studying the Word must be different than the rest of us. Instead, we should be teaching all youth to be that spiritual. We need Christian warriors not just as preachers, teachers, missionaries, and elders, but as teachers, janitors, doctors, salesmen, and in every other reputable occupation. Every Christian young man should be trained to try to live the qualifications for elders and deacons as listed in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1, and every young woman should be trained according to the lists found in Proverbs 31's description of the virtuous woman and 1 Timothy 3's attributes women should have. No, they're not all going to be elders, preachers, or teachers, but the more people we have trying to live out these principles, the stronger the church is as a whole. Paul knew Timothy's youth could be used as an excuse if Timothy allowed it, which is why Paul called him to overcome that problem by setting an example in speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity. We shouldn't expect anything less from young Christians in the church.

We can't make the mistake of bringing teenage Christians up in some kind of junior church, and we can't teach them that it's just fine to stand on the sidelines and do little more than show up on Sundays. The temptations, distractions, and challenges to their faith that they will receive won't be softened because of their age. For that same reason, we have to prepare them to study, pray, and live as fully functioning disciples of Christ.

(continued inside)

CLINTON CALENDAR

July 22	Ladies Day Meeting
July 26-30	VBS
Aug 2	Ashworth Baby Shower
Aug 30	Teacher Appreciation
Sept 19	Ladies Day
Nov 1	Scott Shanahan speaking
Nov 7	EDP Breakfast
Nov 14	UT Football outing
Oct 4	Clinton Homecoming

VBS FOOD

There are signup sheets in the foyer for VBS snacks. If you prefer to donate money, please see Ruth Ashworth.

VBS WORKDAY

On Saturday, July 25 beginning at 9:00am, we will have a workday to prepare our classrooms for VBS. Please come and help out if you can!

LADIES DAY MEETING

The next Ladies Day meeting has been moved to Wednesday, July 22 at 6:30.

BABY SHOWER

We will host a baby shower for Aaron and Kaydee Ashworth on Sunday, Aug. 2 following evening services. The Ashworths are expecting a boy!

UT FOOTBALL OUTING

We are planning to go again as a group to a UT football game on Saturday, Nov. 14. More information will be provided. See Daniel McInturff for more info.

CLOTHING GIVEAWAY

The Lake City church of Christ will host a Clothing Giveaway July 25, 9:00 to 1:00.



VBS IS ONLY 1 WEEK AWAY!!!

VBS flyers are available in the foyer. Take some and pass them out to friends and family. There is NOTHING as effective as a personal invite!!!



SCHOOL SUPPLY GIVEAWAY

As a community outreach project, we are collecting elementary school supplies to donate to local students. There will be boxes in the lobby to drop off items.

T-SHIRTS

We will be ordering more Clinton church shirts. If you want one, please see Joey ASAP!

AREA NEWS

LaFollette church of Christ VBS is July 19-23.

Tennessee Children's Home East will host an Open House on July 24 from 3:00 to 5:00pm to dedicate and tour their new facilities located near Hillbrook Christian Camp.

PRAYER REQUESTS



Garry Jones fell at home and injured his back.
Allie Jennings, Brenda Jennings' granddaughter, is undergoing medical tests.
Misty Smith, Jean Perkins' granddaughter, is going to Vanderbilt soon for surge
Michelle Rowland, a friend of Gail Sharp, continues to need our prayers.

Continue to remember: Chloe Bass, Mason Battistelli, Donna Benjamin, Willard Beshires, Ella Mae Burchfield, Kim Burt, Steve Burt, Tammy Burt, Charles Butler, Lisa Carr, Melissa Caylor, Lakhilata Chakma, Greg Cline, John Crawhorn, Mary Cressy, Mary Jo Dailey, Fred Davis, Fran Denton, Joseph Dillman, Joyce Evans, Nasha Foster, Gail Foust, Helen Gilbreath, Mary Gilley, Riley Hackworth, Sue Hale, Tim Hutson, Beulah Jackson, Greg Kell, Lee LaMay, Linda Laughter, Phyllis Leslie, Connor Livingston, Sharon Martin, Norma Jean McGhee, Sarah Mefford, Carolyn Mitchell, Ronda Moss, Ann Nygard, Joel Peters, Bobbie Sue Phillips, Cordia Reagan, Ron & Susan Reagan, Jimmy Redden, Kenneth Schultz, Nathan Shaw, Sarah Shaw, Helen Shepherd, Sharon Shoopman, Ken Smith, Flossie Spradling, Elaine Stevenson, Rosemary Summers, Jack Taylor, Denzil Thompson, Elmira Trentham, Andrew Verble, John Verble, Franklin Wharton, Trisha Woosley, Steve Yearwood in your prayers.

2. Disciple them

The Christian life can be very difficult. The Bible is a really big book with a lot of things that can be difficult to understand. A strong prayer life can take a long time to develop. Raising our expectations is important, but expecting someone to do something they've never done before isn't fair. What they need is to be disciplined, first by their parents ([Deuteronomy 6:7](#)), who have been given that responsibility from God, and then from older Christians and spiritual mentors as they grow.

What does it mean to disciple them? It means to show them how to be Christians in daily life. Classes, camps, devotionals, rallies, and other events can be great spiritual boosts, but they aren't focused on teaching how to live the day to day life of a Christian. What do you do when temptation arises? How do you answer when your atheist friend starts questioning your faith? How do you talk to your friend who goes to another church and wants to know why your church is different? We can't just assume that someone suddenly knows the answers to these things as soon as they emerge from the waters of baptism. That's exactly why [Matthew 28:19-20](#) includes "making disciples" and "teaching them to observe all that I commanded you" along with the command to baptize.

Show them how to do in-depth personal Bible study. Just picking up bits and pieces from Bible classes and sermons isn't enough to develop a thriving relationship with God or an all-encompassing understanding of His word and how to apply it. Pray with them, and pray for them. The best way to learn how to pray is to hear the prayers of those who have spent their lives dedicated to laying everything at God's feet. Show them how to study with others, to teach, to preach, to pray, to serve, and to find whatever way they can use their talents to God's glory.

3. Help them make an informed decision

[Proverbs 22:6](#) says, "Train up a child in the way he should go, Even when he is old he will not depart from it." Many will be quick to point out that many of the proverbs are hyperbolic and can't be applied completely literally. In a sense that's true, as ultimately every individual has to make up his or her own mind as to which path they will choose. However, it is the job of the Christian parent, teacher, minister, and mentor to make the choice as clear as possible. There is no comparison between a life lived for self and the pleasures of sin and a life lived to the glory of God and in service of those around you. A young person who is trained to see the paths clearly from his or her earliest days should have no trouble seeing that they have everything to gain by serving God and everything to lose by serving self.

As they grow older and the world attempts to overwhelm them with a seemingly endless stream of temptations and distractions, trying to pull them away from God, there will be many opportunities to make decisions. Those who have been disciplined and given expectations as young Christians will know which choice to make.

When we consider the numbers of young people walking away from the church, we should feel horrified and called to action. That action has to start with Christian parents, but it shouldn't stop there. We all should be doing whatever possible to keep the Christian young people around us faithful, and not just faithful but active and thriving in Christ. As we start to do this, not only will we keep more young people in the church, we'll have much stronger congregations, better homes, and a greatly improved influence over the world around us. Winning the next generation is the key to winning countless souls for God, so let's raise the bar, disciple them, and help them make the decision to take up their crosses daily.