

Clinton Church of Christ

500 N. Main Street
P.O. Box 298
Clinton, TN 37717
(865) 457-0803

www.clintonchurch.com
churchofchristclinton@gmail.com

Elders:

Herman Herren	803-6272
Dale Mowery	927-5001
Dwight Nicholson	494-9425
Mike Smith	803-3601

Deacons:

James McCrary	740-3066
Daniel McInturff	931-409-2781
Glen Morgan	274-3990
Tim Nygard	507-5191
Hubert Sharp	254-6357
Joey Smith	773-8259

Preacher:

Richard Bentley	264-0560
-----------------	----------

Associate:

Clint Patterson	256-616-8702
-----------------	--------------

FOR THE RECORD

Sunday AM

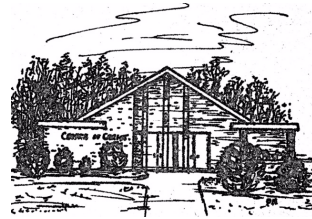
Bible Study	48
Worship	74
Contribution	\$5362

Sunday PM

Worship	35
---------	----

Wednesday

Bible Study	31
-------------	----



*A friendly church with
a saving message*

WORSHIP TIMES

Sunday

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

Wednesday

Bible Class	7:00 PM
-------------	---------

GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION

- **Hear** the Gospel (*Romans 10:17; Acts 16:32-34, 1 Cor. 15:1-2*)
- **Believe** Jesus is the Son of God (*John 8:24; Hebrews 11:6*)
- **Repent** of your sins (*Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30*)
- **Confess** faith in Jesus Christ (*Romans 10:9-10; Matt. 10:32*)
- **Be Baptized** (*immersed*) for forgiveness of your sins (*Acts 2:38; John 3:5; Rom 6:3, 4*)
- **Live Faithfully** (*2 Peter 1:10-11; Revelation 2:10*)

Our Mission Works

Garry Jones – India
The Mustard Seed: Rainbow Village
for Girls, Jacob's Village for Boys

Scott Shanahan – Italy

Andrew Young - SEIBS

Please follow us on



Serving the Congregation Dec 12, 2021

	AM	PM
Song Leaders:	Ben Smith	Rick Caudle
Opening Prayer:	Chuck Kilpatrick	Arthur Pigman
Lord's Table:	Kevin Lancaster	Daniel McInturff
	—	
Closing Prayer:	WT Crider	Dale Mowery
Announcements:	Stump Smith	
Usher:	James McCrary	

Wednesday evening: Dec 15, 2021

Song Leader:	Kevin Lancaster
Invitation:	Richard Bentley
Announcements:	Herb Byrd

Vol. 15

Dec 12, 2021

Number 50



Clinton Chronicle

Called to Extravagance

By Joe Chesser

This may shock you, but nowhere in Scripture are we called to be mediocre. In fact, Jesus condemned mediocrity (lukewarmness) in the church in Laodicea (Revelation 3.15-16). Nowhere in Scripture are we called to be drifters. Instead, we are warned of the danger of drifting spiritually (Hebrews 2.1). Nowhere in Scripture are we called to be ordinary, common, or average. In Jesus' Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7), Jesus gave example after example how his followers needed to exceed the lifestyle of the scribes and Pharisees (Matthew 5.20). Going the extra mile, turning the other cheek, loving our enemies and laying up treasures in heaven demonstrate but a few ways we are called to rise above the ordinary to live lives of extravagance.

And why not? Our God is an extravagant God, and we are called to be like Him! Think of the extent of God's creation from the galaxies in the universe to the creatures in the sea to the changing of seasons. Extravagance does not adequately describe creation. Yet creation is nothing compared to how He lavishes grace (Ephesians 1.7-8 NIV) and love (John 3.16; 1 John 3.1 NIV) on us. Plus there are His promises of forgiveness (1 John 1.9) and comfort (2 Corinthians 1.3-4) and power (Ephesians 3.20-21) that fills us with strength and hope. And words like gold and pearls and fine jewels can never describe the extravagance of an eternal heaven that awaits His people (1 Corinthians 2.9).

The most amazing thing of all is that this incredible, extravagant God has chosen to call us to become like Him and to be united with Him forever (Ephesians 1.3-14). This passage uses terms to get us excited about our calling to be in Christ, words like "every spiritual blessing ... chosen ... holy and blameless ... predestined ... redemption ... grace ... forgiveness" and many more. When we accept God's call for salvation in Christ we are given the opportunity to rise above the common, ordinary world around us. Extravagance for Christians is not defined by excessive wealth, fame, power or position. It's not about being flashy or noticed. It's about doing even ordinary things in extraordinary ways.

As the Apostle Paul urged, we are to "walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called" (Ephesians 4.1). A part of what that means is for us to be holy as God is holy (1 Peter 1.16); to forgive as God forgives (Ephesians 4.32); to walk by faith and not by sight (2 Corinthians 5.7); to be a cheerful and generous giver as God is (2 Corinthians 9.6-8); to seek the lost with the passion of God (Matthew 28.19-20); to value others as God does (Mark 12.30-31); to be faithful to God all our lives (Revelation 2.10); to use the gifts God has given us (1 Peter 4.10-11; Matthew 25.14-30); and to worship God regularly in spirit and in truth (John 4.23-24). Extravagance is learning from Jesus how to live above the world.

Since God is extravagant, and we are called to be like Him, why would we ever be content with being ordinary or lukewarm? God is challenging us to rise above human standards and accept His call to be extravagant! How are you answering that call?

To our members and visitors - Welcome to Clinton! We are glad you're here!

CLINTON CALENDAR

Dec 14 **Sister Friends**
Dec 26 **Song Service/Fingerfoods**
Dec 31 **New Years Eve Game Night**

RESPONSE

Sister **Sarah Mefford** responded to the Lord's invitation last Sunday morning asking for prayers and forgiveness. Please remember Sarah in your prayers for encouragement as well as her recovery from her medical procedures last week.

YOUTH PROJECT

All youth, please see Joey Smith in between Bible class and worship this morning and again after worship to help hand out the cookie containers we put together on Friday. We need all of your help!

SISTER FRIENDS

The next monthly restaurant meet-up for the ladies will be at Lulu's Tea Room in Powell on Tuesday, Dec. 14 at 11:00am. Please see Susan Smith with any questions.

NEW YEARS EVE GAME NIGHT

Our annual game-playing and fellowship night to ring in the new year will be Friday, Dec. 31 here at the building starting at 7:00pm. Please bring your favorite games to play and some food to share!

Please silence your cell phones during worship and Bible study.

Thanks!

The Bible's Very Words Are Inspired

By Joe Slater

We communicate with words. They may be written or spoken. Yes, you might communicate with a look; but that look means something that can be expressed in words.

God also communicates with words; He always has. Creation occurred when God spoke words such as "Let there be light" (Genesis 1:3). "He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast" (Psalm 33:9).

Today God speaks with us through the Bible, the written word which He inspired. Paul wrote, "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God" (2 Timothy 3:16), "breathed out by God" (ESV). Jesus quoted Deuteronomy 8:3, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4).

Since the very words of Scripture proceeded from God's mouth, we ought to treat every word reverently with careful effort to understand. For example, Jesus proved an important point based on the tense of a verb. He quoted God's words to Moses in Exodus 3:6, "I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob" (Matthew 22:32). Not "I WAS" their God back when they were alive, but "I AM" their God. Jesus then said, "God is not the God of the dead, but of the living," showing that though they were physically dead, their souls were indeed alive, proving that the Sadducees erred in denying the doctrine of resurrection.

Likewise, Paul used the number of a noun (singular as opposed to plural) to prove that only those in Christ were heirs of the promises God made to Abraham. "Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He does not say, 'And to seeds,' as of many, but as of one, 'And to your seed,' who is Christ" (Galatians 3:16).

Every word of Scripture is inspired. Let us strive for accuracy in our understanding and our teaching!

PRAYER REQUESTS

- **Bunny Nash** is recovering from extensive surgery on her jaw. She is doing as well as could be expected and does not need any visitors at this time. She hopes to come home some time this week.
- **Henry Mason Bentley**, Richard and Laura's new grandson, is in the NICU in Texas.
- **Sarah Mefford** is had knee replacement surgery. She had to have a follow up cardioversion procedure on Saturday.
- **Nicole Lancaster**, Kevin and Cheri's daughter-in-law, has been diagnosed with MS.
- **Karen Yarber** has been diagnosed with kidney cancer. She will have surgery on Dec. 30.
- **Doris Nicholson** has been diagnosed with degenerative disc disease. She will be traveling back to Florida for treatment.
- **Cliff McWhorter**, a neighbor of Stump and Annette Smith, broke his hip.
- **Linda Foy**, Anthony Foy's grandmother, is now at home with Anthony and Rachel under hospice care.
- **Wade Colwell**, Karen Yarber's father, is in stage 3 kidney failure and heart failure.
- **Sherry Bushey** is in her final round of chemo treatments. These are much stronger than her initial treatments.
- **David Byrd**, Herb Byrd's brother, continues to need our prayers.
- **Cornell Coats** has been moved to a rehab facility.
- **Jean Huges**, friend of a coworker of Ben Smith, is being tested for breast cancer.
- **Jackson Igou**, a teen at the Kingston congregation, is having a very hard struggle with ulcerative colitis.
- A former coworker of Annette Smith, has been diagnosed with lung cancer.
- **E.T. Stamey**, a Clinton city councilman and friend of Joey Smith, had a stroke.
- **Dean Buchanon**, a former preacher of the Eastside congregation in Maryville, passed away last week.
- Several members have been sick over the past week and are now on the mend: **Janelle Melton, Clint Patterson, Brenda Patterson, Jason Caudle, Cole Patterson, Bennett Smith,** and **Joe Patton.**

Continue to remember: Dudley Brewer, Harriette Brown, Zach Bullock, Carol Burt, Elijah Burt, Resa Marie Byrd, Lisa Carr, Mike Chester, Ron Churchwell, Wade Colwell, Madison Gadd, John Gayne, Bonnie Henderson, Gary Henderson, Charles McGhee, Norma Jean McGhee, Nancy Mitchell, Garrett Moore, Katie Moore, Ouita Northcutt, Michael Olsen, Britni Pflieger and family, Linda Roberson, Debbie Simon, Andrew Verble, Harrison Waldron

Cancer Treatment: Bonnie Adkins, Taylor Adkins, Judy Bentley, Dudley Brewer, Sherry Bushey, Bill Campbell, Sawyer Cole, Jerry Cross, Michael Ford, Gail Foust, Steve Higginbotham, Gladys Moore, Glen Morgan, David Pippen, Jack Price, Kevin Shanahan, Wayne Simon, Melea Smith, Vernie Vignolo, Gail Wilkinson, Buddy Wilson

Shut-In: *Norris Health & Rehab* - Polly Keck; *The Waters of Clinton* - Dicey Humphrey

Updates to the Prayer List may be sent to churchofchristclinton@gmail.com or given to Joey Smith.