

Clinton Church of Christ

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Elders:

Herman Herren	865-803-6272
Dale Mowery	865-927-5001
Mike Smith	865-803-3601

Deacons:

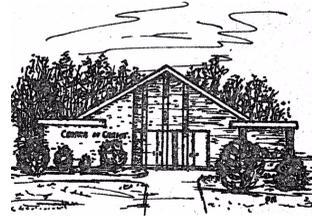
Herb Byrd	865-386-5656
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Clint Patterson	256-616-8702
Arthur Pigman	706-836-0644
Hubert Sharp	865-254-6357
Joey Smith	865-773-8259

Preacher:

Richard Bentley	865-264-0560
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Associate:

Clint Patterson	256-616-8702
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*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 - Australia

Please follow us on



Serving the Congregation: Dec 3, 2023

	AM	PM
Song Leaders:	Ben Smith	Samuel Cox
Opening Prayer:	Don Scott	Chuck Kilpatrick
Lord's Table:	Chris Cox	Dale Mowery

Closing Prayer: WT Crider Billy Humphrey

Announcements: Arthur Pigman

Usher: Hubert Sharp

Wednesday evening: Dec 6, 2023

Song Leader: Rick Caudle

Invitation: Richard Bentley

Announcements: Arthur Pigman

FOR THE RECORD

Sunday AM

Bible Study	80
Worship	110
Contribution	\$3652

Sunday PM

Worship	75
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Wednesday

Bible Study	77
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the Clinton Chronicle

Clinton Church of Christ

Celebrating 80 Years in Clinton 1943 - 2023

Giving Back to Jesus

By Edd Sterchi

The little book of Jude begins with some big reminders for Christians of all ages (both in time periods and in years). Let's examine three from the first three verses.

Always put Jesus first (v.1). The author of the epistle, Jude, was the half brother of Jesus Christ. And yet, rather than boasting about that, he referred to himself as, "a bondservant of Jesus Christ." First and foremost he considered himself a servant of Jesus. We would also do well to put Jesus first place in our lives. First consideration in everything we do should be Jesus and His will. He is our Master every moment of every day.

Always remember that Jesus has saved us (v.1). Jude reminded his readers that they had been "called, sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ." Christians need to constantly bring to mind that they were called out of the world by the gospel of Christ, sanctified by contacting the blood of Christ in baptism, and are preserved by the grace of God through faithfulness in Christ. It is vital to keep this on the forefront of our minds.

Always be living for Jesus (v.3). Jude's exhortation was to continue to "contend earnestly for the faith." As important as putting Jesus Christ first and remembering that He has saved us are, it is equally important to always live for Him in word and deed. Many false teachers and false notions abound, and we must be the ones to live and speak the truth concerning Jesus and His will. The Greek word translated "contend earnestly" was often used in reference to an athlete striving hard. Thus it is a reminder to us that living this way and speaking the truth is going to take a lot of concentrated, dedicated effort.

Another way of looking at these thoughts is that we need to be giving back to Jesus. He has given us so much (salvation, blessings, assistance, etc.). Let us in appreciation give Him first place in our lives, give remembrance to what He has done for us, and give Him a faithful life that honors and proclaims Him. Let's always give back to the One who has unselfishly given to us.

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

CLINTON CALENDAR

Dec 4	Ladies Bible Class
Dec 9	Youth Holiday Party
Dec 10	Special Contribution Day
Dec 10	Herman's 90th Birthday
Dec 10	Morning Pointe Singing
Dec 14	Ladies Cookie Swap
Dec 17	Special Contribution Day
Dec 11-14	Pew reupholstery
Jan 8	Ladies Bible Class
Feb 23-25	CYC trip
Mar 29-31	Lads to Leaders Convention

LADIES BIBLE CLASS

The Digging Deep Ladies Bible Study will be tomorrow at 6:30pm here at the building. Ladies are welcome to come at 6:00 and bring their own dinner for fellowship beforehand.

90th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Please join us In celebrating Herman Herren's 90th Birthday on Sunday Dec. 10 after morning worship. There is sign up sheet in the foyer for lunch: soups and chili. Please see Sheila Herren, Annette Smith, or Amy Scott with questions.

PEW REUPHOLSTERY

Reupholstering of our pews will begin on Monday, Dec. 11 and finished on Thursday, Dec. 14. Please be aware that the entire auditorium will be closed off for this time period.

LADIES COOKIE SWAP

All ladies are invited to a cookie swap at the Bentley home on Thursday, Dec. 14 at 6:30. Please bring 3 dozen of your cookies to swap and a container to take your cookies home.

Please silence your cell phones during worship & Bible class. Thanks!

SPECIAL CONTRIBUTION DAYS

The elders have decided to set aside two Sundays, Dec. 10 and Dec. 17, as special contribution days for our building expansion project. The entire contributions on both days will go towards the building fund. Please be prayerful and thoughtful about giving to this project above and beyond our usual.

YOUTH HOLIDAY PARTY

All youth and families are invited to a Christmas gathering here at the building on Saturday, Dec. 9 starting at 4:30. We will work on our annual Cookie Project. Everyone is asked to bring one batch of cookies and one pair of silly socks for a Secret Santa exchange.

HANDS & FEET MINISTRY

The outreach program Hands & Feet is currently in need of tuna packets, fruit cups, pudding cups, and beanie weenies. A box for items is in the foyer.

CHALLENGE YOUTH CONFERENCE

CYC 2024 will be Feb. 23-25. The cost to attend will be \$95 per person and payment will need to be made before we can order your ticket. We will need to order tickets prior to Dec. 31. Please see Joey Smith with any questions.

BUILDING PROGRAM

Drawings are posted on the back wall of the auditorium for a much-needed addition to our facility and parking lot. The elders ask for your prayers and input as we embark upon this expansion to aid in our work here.

MORNING POINTE SINGING

Our next singing with the residents of Morning Pointe Assisted Living is next Sunday at 3:00.

AREA EVENTS

GREAT SMOKY MTN MARRIAGE RETREAT

Gatlinburg & Sevierville Churches: Feb 14-18

PRAYER REQUESTS

This Week:

- **Kayla Harwell** will have a CT scan on Thursday, Dec. 7 for an abnormality on her pancreas.
- **Garry Jones** is safely home from India and is resting and recovering.
- **Mark Yarber** had a checkup appointment to monitor a nodule found on his lung.
- **Casey Richardson** is doing well with her treatment battling cancer.

Last Week:

- **Blu Knight** had a camera endoscopy last week.
- **Stacey Schulz** is in need of our prayers as she has a custody court date on Dec. 5.
- **Rachel Broadway, Millard Adkins, and Derek Payne** have been ill and are in need of our prayers.

Shut-In:

- At home - **Betty Weaver**
- Norris Health & Rehab - **Polly Keck**
- The Waters of Clinton - **Dacey Humphrey**

Please send prayer requests and updates to churchofchristclinton@gmail.com or give to Joey Smith in writing.

Examining Ourselves

By Jared Green

No matter the stage of life, nobody likes tests. Be it a final test in a class in which you have struggled, a driver's test, or a test the doctor ordered, tests often bring up bad images in our minds. Tests, however, are important in many instances because of their ability to expose the truth. Even in our Christian lives, we need to be ready and willing to test ourselves. Lamentations 3:39-40 explains the reason: "Why should a living man complain, a man, about the punishment of his sins? Let us test and examine our ways, and return to the LORD!" In math class, a student may be able to fake success by copying another student's homework, but when test day comes, the truth is exposed. The same is true spiritually.

In 1 John 1-2, John teaches that there is a clear distinction between those who say they are following Christ and those who are genuinely following Christ. For John, those who are genuine are "walking in the light," and those who fake it are "walking in darkness." As we understand the importance of examining ourselves, let us look at John's three-part test of genuine discipleship.

First, a genuine disciple confesses his or her sins to God. John says, "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1:8-9). While it may be tempting to deny, rationalize, or justify sin, a genuine disciple confesses sin and seeks God.

Second, a genuine disciple practices obedience to God's commands. In 2:4-5 we read, "Whoever says 'I know him' but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected." A genuine disciple seeks genuine obedience.

Third, a genuine disciple loves like Jesus. In a command that both came from and is shown in Jesus (2:7-8), John says, "Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness. Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling" (2:9-10). Throughout our lives, may we examine ourselves in order that we may live as men and women who "walk in the light, as he is in the light" (1:7). God loves you, and so do I.