

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
Chris Cox 865-771-8153
Billy Fields 865-257-2331
James McCrary 865-740-3066
Tim Nygard 865-507-5191
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

Associate:
Clint Patterson 256-616-8702

FOR THE RECORD

Sunday AM

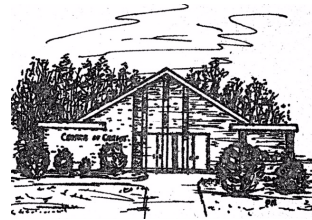
Bible Study —
Worship —
Contribution \$—

Sunday PM

Worship —

Wednesday

Bible Study 55



*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: Jan 28, 2024

	AM	PM
Song Leaders:	Clint Patterson	Singing
Opening Prayer:	Joshua Moorey	Dale Tanner
Lord's Table:	Chris Cox	Don Scott

Closing Prayer:	Earl Broadway	Dale Mowery
Announcements:	Herb Byrd	
Usher:	Tim Nygard	

Wednesday evening: Jan 31, 2024

Song Leader: Samuel Cox
Invitation: Richard Bentley
Announcements: Stump Smith

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the Clinton Chronicle

Clinton Church of Christ

Celebrating 80 Years in Clinton 1943 - 2023

Frustration and Faith

By Brian Mitchell

We can learn something about faith if we see the full dimensions of the emphasis on "things not seen." This is not a very popular part of Christianity because we would like to have assurances each day that faith "works." Some people seek these assurances in the form of economic benefits. Thus, we are told that faith produces dividends in the form of new jobs, great bargains, and improved social life. For others, the constant assurances come in the form of peace of mind and in the absence of frustration and suffering. While it is true that there is "joy in believing" there is something very faithless about building our faith on tangible assurances.

In Hebrews, faith can involve both frustration and suffering because it rests on "things not seen." The author indicates the frustration of faith twice in chapter 11. In verse 13, he summarizes the experience of all of the heroes of faith. "All these died in faith, without receiving the promises, but having seen them and having welcomed them from a distance, . ." In verse 39, after surveying history, the author says, "And all these, having gained approval through their faith, did not receive what was promised."

Faith, as these examples suggest, does not receive instantaneous reassurance. The believer has to endure frustration and agony all while wondering why God's promises do not seem fulfilled. Perhaps our struggles with faithfulness is, in part, the result of our being unprepared for frustration. We may be unprepared for the problems of the local church. The tragedy that strikes us or our closest friends may appear to make a mockery of God's promises.

If we believe that Christianity involves an endless succession of victories, frustration will result in our "shrinking back" from the demands of commitment. The promise of God may lead us to dream impossible dreams. But in reality, we may not "receive what is promised" in a whole lifetime on earth. What can the Christian do with frustration?

Hebrews says we must learn to live with it. The Christian does not give up at the first sign of despair. He must accept the frustration and keep the faith. George Buttrick said that "our lives will experience all of the tension of a cello string which sings only when it is taut. This string is stretched between the infinite hope and the finite limitations of our lives. Life can produce its best music only when it lives with this kind of tension. We purchase a false "peace of mind," which is eagerly sought, only at the price of giving up on these promises which sustain us."

(continued inside)

CLINTON CALENDAR

Jan 28	Song Service/Fingerfoods
Feb 7	Silver Saints
Feb 23-25	CYC trip
Feb 25	India Presentation & Dinner
Mar 29-31	Lads to Leaders Convention

SONG SERVICE + FINGERFOODS

Please make plans to be back tonight for our monthly song service and fellowship meal shared afterwards. You'll be glad you did!

NEW BABY GIRL

Congratulations to Resa Marie Gladney and Chris Gladney on the arrival of **Jewels Gladney**. Proud grandparents are Herb & Resa Byrd!

LADS TO LEADERS

Lads to Leaders will meet each Sunday at 4:30. Be sure to document all of your year-round events, back-tracking to February 2, 2023. Completion levels need to be communicated to Resa Byrd, in writing or text, by Jan 28.

2024 SISTER FRIENDS

Please check the list in the lobby (or on Facebook) to sign up to "host" one of our 2024 monthly Sister Friends events. If you haven't hosted before -- most events are held at the church building. You are more than welcome to find a co-host to help you too.

LIBRARY MATERIALS

Billy Fields will be inventorying and cataloging ALL of our materials in the church library in the coming weeks. If you have materials checked out, please return them OR, if you are actively using them, let Billy know what you have by the end of January.

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

FOOD FOR COLWELLS

Wade & Carolyn Colwell are in need of meals a few times a week as Carolyn continues to take care of Wade at home. Casseroles and other warm meals will be much appreciated.

COMMUNION PREPARATION 2024

A signup list for communion preparation in the new year is on the table in the foyer. We will still have a few months that need to be taken.

HANDS & FEET MINISTRY

This week's items for Hands & Feet are: tuna packets, oatmeal, and bottled water. A box for items is in the foyer.

PARKING NEEDS

Our parking lot has been filling up to capacity on most Sunday mornings. We are delighted to have this problem. If you are able to park in our grassy lot on Sunday mornings and leave the spaces closest to the building for our visitors and members with mobility needs or small children, that would be helpful.

CHALLENGE YOUTH CONFERENCE

CYC 2024 will be Feb. 23-25. The cost to attend is \$95 per person; tickets have been ordered! See Joey Smith to make payment.

AREA EVENTS

YOUTH DAY

Jefferson City Church of Christ: Feb 3

AREA-WIDE YOUTH DEVO

West End Church of Christ: Feb 11

GREAT SMOKY MTN MARRIAGE RETREAT

Gatlinburg & Sevierville Churches: Feb 14-18

EAST TENNESSEE FAMILY CONFERENCE

West End Church of Christ: Feb 16-18

SOUTHEAST LECTURES

Karns Church of Christ: Apr 21-24

PRAYER REQUESTS

This Week:

- **Millard Adkins** was taken to the ER last week but is now home.
- **Lesley Mowery** will have her pacemaker/defibrillator procedure on Feb. 28.
- **Derek Payne** has been sick at home.
- **Paul Adkins** has been sick at home.
- **Jeff Jackson** has been sick with the flu.
- **Stacey Schulz** has been sick at home.
- **Abby Fields** has been sick but is much better.
- **Ellis Jackson**, Jeff Jackson's father, has been in ICU with congestive heart failure but is doing better.
- **Michael Simon**, Ouita Northcutt's nephew, is suffering with terminal cancer. He live in Phoenix, AZ.
- **Rileyann Bailey**, a friend of Caroline Smith, had surgery on her hand to remove an abscess.

Last Week:

- **Jason Patton** is home after being in the hospital with diabetic ketoacidosis.
- **Declan McElroy** is recovering from an ear infection.
- **Reba Miller**, Gail Sharp's aunt, is sick with the flu and a cold.
- **Hubert Sharp** received good news from his PET scan. He will likely still have radiation to kill any cancer cells that might have been missed by the scan.
- **Mark Yarber** had surgery to remove his trachea.
- **Jackie Ball**, a member at the Rocky Top congregation, had surgery for a broken hip.

Shut-In:

- At home - **Wade Colwell, Betty Weaver**
- Norris Health & Rehab - **Polly Keck**

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

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Jesus taught us to believe in the promises, but He also prepared us for frustration. He tells the parable of the sower, whose work consisted mainly in sowing seed which did not produce (Mark 4:3-9). He knew that His disciples would sometimes be like a helpless widow making her appeal before an unjust judge (Luke 18: 1ff.) Such stories indicate that Jesus anticipated the frustration of the Christian life.

As we follow the biblical record, we observe that the men of faith experienced deep frustration and despair. Job struggled with the questions of faith. Jeremiah lived in anguish over his calling. These people believed in "things not seen." What does the church do with its frustration? We surrender to our own temporary values when we "shrink back." Faith involves holding on when our only source of security is found in "things not seen."

The faith that began many centuries ago has survived, not because all of the faithful lived with constant victory, but because they held on in the presence of adversity. The church of today faces the same task and our heroes from the past can help us to do so.