

Serving This Week:

Sunday Morning

Announcements: Howell Todd
Song Leader: Ken Grandstaff
Opening Prayer: TBD
Lord's Supper
Presiding: Dan Smith
Serving: Eric Horne
Howell Todd
Preaching: Howell Todd
Closing Prayer: TBD

Sunday Evening

Opening Prayer: Brian Horner
Preaching: Howell Todd
Closing Prayer: Ken Grandstaff

Wednesday Evening

Opening Prayer: Kyle Richardson
Devotional: Howell Todd
Closing Prayer: Ken Grandstaff

Serving Next Sunday:

Lord's Supper: Ken Grandstaff
Preaching: Brian Horner
Opening Prayer: Howell Todd
Closing Prayer: Dan Smith

To all our visitors - Welcome!
We hope you will come back
and worship with us soon!

TEAM MEETINGS

Correspondence - Sunday evenings
after worship see Kyle Richardson.

Visitation/Bible Study - For
assignments see Brian Horner.

Member Care - Regarding Member
needs contact Kyle Richardson.

Flower Request - Please call Lynda
Ann Sparkman: 444.0938(h) 587.8187(c)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Holiday Dinner:

Dec 15 - 6 PM. Potluck meal and
Dirty Santa. Invite your friends!

Pantry:

Please let Howell know of
anyone in our community who
needs help!

*Make a joyful noise to the
LORD, all the earth! Serve the
LORD with gladness! Come
into his presence with singing!
Know that the LORD, he is God!
It is he who made us, and we
are his; we are his people, and
the sheep of his pasture.*

*Enter his gates with
thanksgiving, and his courts
with praise! Give thanks to
him; bless his name! For the
LORD is good; his steadfast
love endures forever, and his
faithfulness to all generations.*
Psalm 100

God's Plan of Salvation

Hear the Word
(Rom 10:17)

Believe in Jesus
(John 8:24)

Repent of your sins
(Luke 13:3)

Confess faith in Christ
(Rom 10:10)

Be Baptized for forgiveness of sins
(Acts 2:38)

Live Faithfully
(1 Cor. 15:58)

Bethel church of Christ

2427 Sparta Pike, Lebanon TN 37090

<http://www.bethelcoc.net>

November 25, 2012

Sunday Bible Study: 10 AM
Sunday Morning Worship: 11 AM

Sunday Evening Worship: 6 PM
Wed Bible Study: 7 PM

Give Thanks To The Lord

This is an exciting time of year as we anticipate the holiday season and the family functions, decorations, and the festivities that it brings. I am especially thankful for the Thanksgiving holiday that reminds us all to pause from our busy lives, and to give thanks to God for everything with which He has blessed us. I am reminded of a song that we often sing:

*I'm rich! I am saved! I am happy! I've health and prosperity!
I've friends! I have doors ever open! The Lord has been mindful of me!
The Lord has been mindful of me! He blesses and blesses again!
My God is the God of the living! How excellent is His name!
(L. O. Sanderson, Hymn: "The Lord Has Been Mindful of Me")*

Our heavenly Father blesses and blesses again! It is a beautiful thought. Consider, now, the words of Psalm 95:

(1) O come, let us sing unto the LORD: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation. (2) Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms. (3) For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods. (4) In his hand are the deep places of the earth: the strength of the hills is his also. (5) The sea is his, and he made it: and his hands formed the dry land. (6) O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our maker.

(7) For he is our God; and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. To day if ye will hear his voice, (8) Harden not your heart, as in the provocation, and as in the day of temptation in the wilderness: (9) When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my work. (10) Forty years long was I grieved with this generation, and said, It is a people that do err in their heart, and they have not known my ways: (11) Unto whom I swear in my wrath that they should not enter into my rest.

We are a blessed people, who should give thanks – this week and every week.

Robert Hatfield – robertbhatfield@gmail.com

Casting Pearls Before Swine

Sometimes preachers, elders and other concerned Christians spend too much time on those who do not appreciate the gospel. We are often hesitant to "give up" on someone whom we believe to be a good prospect for the gospel. However, when our Lord sent out the apostles on the limited commission He said, "*And whoever will not receive you nor hear you, when you depart from there, shake off the dust under your feet as a testimony against them*" (**Mark 6:11**).

In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus said, "*Do not give what is holy to the dogs; nor cast your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you in pieces*" (**Matt. 7:6**).

"The Christian must not be censoriously judicial, but he should be discriminatingly judicious. He must know dogs and swine when he sees them, and must not treat them as priests and kings, the fit objects for the bestowal of holy food and goodly ornaments. Dogs and swine were unclean animals. The former were usually undomesticated and were often fierce. In the East they are still the self-appointed scavengers of the street. The latter were undomesticated among the Jews, and hence are spoken of as wild and liable to attack man. Meats connected with the sacrificial service of the altar were holy. Even unclean men were not permitted to eat of them, much less unclean brutes. What was left after the priests and clean persons had eaten was to be burned with fire (Lev. vi. 24-30; vii. 15-21). To give holy things to dogs was to profane them. We are here forbidden, then, to use any religious office, work or ordinance, in such a manner as to degrade or profane it. Saloons ought not to be opened with prayer, nor ought adulterous marriages to be performed by a man of God. To give pearls to swine is to press the claims of the gospel upon those who despise it until they persecute you for annoying them with it. When such men are known they are to be avoided. Jesus acted on this principle in refusing to answer the Pharisees, and the apostles did the same thing in turning to the Gentiles when their Jewish hearers would begin to contradict and blaspheme." (J. W. McGarvey, *The Fourfold Gospel*, pp. 263, 264).

How can we tell when it is time to "give up" on someone and turn to other fields? It should be after we have taught, prayed and exercised all longsuffering -- but remember that even the longsuffering of God has limits (cf. **1 Pet. 3:20**).

We need to realize that, despite our best efforts, many people will perish "*because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved*" (**2 Thes. 2:10**). Some people simply prefer their own way to

the Lord's (**Matt. 15:8-15**). Other people will simply close their eyes to the truth (**Matt. 13:15**). Some Christians will fall away and it will be impossible for us to "*renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame*" (**Heb. 6:6**).

The kingdom of God is precious indeed -- our Lord compared it to a treasure hidden in a field and a pearl of great price (**Matt. 13:44-46**). The Jews in Antioch of Pisidia rejected the gospel and judged themselves "unworthy of everlasting life" -- so Paul turned to the Gentiles (**Acts 13:47**). When people ask for us to leave them alone we need to respect their wishes and move on. I believe that we degrade the gospel when we take the very best that we have and lay it at the feet of swine!

by David Padfield

When problems come, the question is asked, "Why did God allow that?" But why do people not suspect the real culprit - SATAN - who is the underlying cause of all that is bad and wrong in this world? Built into obedience to Satan are automatic consequences, not as a direct punishment brought by God, but as the inherent result of sin.

Copied - Bulletin Digest

Remember in Prayer

Shut Ins:

Vallie Andrews
Fannie Bell Warren
Janelle Arrington
William Wells

Others:

Hollis Cluck
Muril Todd
Karen Hudson - cancer
Christy Garrett
The Bryan Family
Annie and JW Smith
Margie Taylor
Priscilla and Patrick Graves
Jessica Richardson
Dan Smith
Diane Grandstaff and family
Joe Allen
Linda Kay Edwards - *surgery recovery*
Dylan Speck - *kidney problems*
Haily Speck - *melanoma*
Edna Forbes
Janice Garrett
Carol Goins - *Mary L.'s sister*
Lila Kirk
Wanda Gates - *cancer*

Please call to inform us of News items or Prayer Requests: Kyle Richardson (495-7106) Dorothy Jean Smith (444-5437)

Daily Bible Reading

Day	Scripture
Sunday (<i>Epistles</i>)	2 Peter
Monday (<i>The Law</i>)	Deuteronomy 16-19
Tuesday (<i>History</i>)	Ezra 6-10
Wednesday (<i>Psalms</i>)	Psalms 134-136
Thursday (<i>Poetry</i>)	Ecclesiastes 9-10
Friday (<i>Prophecy</i>)	Zechariah 8-14
Saturday (<i>Gospels</i>)	Acts 17-18

November Birthdays:

20 - Lynda Ann Sparkman
22 - Brian Horner