

My Crown!

Can you remember when certain fast-food places would give out crowns to the kids? I remember those paper crowns that we would get, putting them on, and thinking how fun it would be to be a King. Or maybe you or your daughter had a prince costume with a crown that you remember dressing up in and playing the part of a Queen or Princess. Crowns have been around for a very long time. It didn't take long for Kings to want to have the best clothes and fanciest hats. As a Christian we can look forward to a crown of our own. I think the crown talked about is figurative but what it represents is very real and important. The Bible describes this crown in two ways.

Crown of Life: *“Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love Him” (James 1:12). “Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life” (Revelation 2:10).*

Crown of Righteousness: *“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved His appearing” (2 Timothy 4:7-8).*

Our crown is something we need to keep and hold onto tightly. *“I am coming soon. Hold fast what you have, so that no one may seize your crown” (Revelation 3:11).* Our crown will last forever. *“Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever” (1 Corinthians 9:25).* Are you looking forward to your crown? ~Brad Tolbert

MINISTERS

Pulpit Minister
Paul Mowrer

Campus Minister
Brad Tolbert

Youth Minister
Jason Meier

Secretary
Cathy Mowrer

ELDERS

Mike Beard
Larry Fisackerly
Joe Moore

Deacons

Marty Baker
Chris Bryant
Ray Linder
Jason Meier
Jeff Newton
Josh Pettigrew
Kerry Rice
Jeremy Wilson

Assemblies

SUNDAY
Bible Study 9:30 AM
Assembly 10:30 AM
Assembly 5:00 PM

WEDNESDAY
Bible Study 6:30 PM



“...speaking the truth in love...” Eph. 4:15

November 15, 2020

THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS NEAR

We have been studying the Gospel of Matthew in our Wednesday evening adult Bible study. As we look at the ministry of John the Baptist, we hear his proclamation, *“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand” (Matt. 3:2).* Jesus repeats the same proclamation as He begins His ministry (*Matt. 4:17*).

This is not a new proclamation. Isaiah proclaimed, *“The Lord of hosts will have a day of reckoning” (Isa. 2:12).* The day of the Lord is a prominent theme in the prophets (*Isa. 13:6; Amos 5:18, 20; Joel 1:15; 2:1, 11, 31; Zeph. 1:7, 14; Zech. 14:1; Mal. 3:23*). It was a phrase used to denote a time when God would vindicate His people and bless their endeavors. It would be a time of destruction and terror (*Truth for Today Commentary, Isaiah, pg. 57*). But it also pointed to the coming of the Messiah, as John reminded the Jews of the words of Isaiah, *“Make ready the way of the Lord, make His paths straight” (Isa. 40:3; Mt. 3:3).*

In Matthew's gospel account, John was bringing to attention the coming of the Lord's kingdom which had been prophesied for years. And indeed, the kingdom of the Lord did come in the form of the church (*Matt. 16:18-19*) on the day of Pentecost (*Acts 2*). Those who accepted the message of the rule and reign of Christ over God's kingdom were baptized and were added to the kingdom (*Acts 2:38, 47*).

Today, the message is the same, *“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”* But the message today is pointing to the return of our Lord. We know that He is coming again, but this time will be for judgment and eternal separation of the righteous and the wicked (*Mt. 3:12*).

Some years ago I was introduced to a hymn that reminds us that we are nearer today the coming of the Lord, than we were a day ago. Each day draws us nearer. Are we ready for the coming of the Lord? Many in our world today live lives based on the here and now with little concern for tomorrow. Have we as Christians adopted the same thinking? ~P. Mowrer

One sweetly solemn tho't comes to me o'er and o'er:

Today I'm nearer to my home than e'er I've been before.

Feel as if now my feet were slipping o'er the brink;

For I may now be nearer home, much nearer than I think.

~Phoebe Cary, 1852

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GIVE YOURSELF

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us.

- 2 CORINTHIANS 8:5 NIV



Congratulations may be sent to **Max Carter Dyson** at the following address:

**Mr. & Mrs. Jay Dyson
19503 Ruggles Ct. West
Flint, TX 75762**

Christy Rice has been moved to St. Vincent's Hospital in Little Rock for rehab.

Joshua Pettigrew's brother, **Ronald Pettigrew**, was injured at work and is dealing with a compression fracture and bulging disc in his back.

Candice Carter is scheduled for outpatient surgery Wednesday, November 25.

We are sponsoring a cottage from the **Paragould Children's Home** for Christmas. Money may be given to either **Stacy Usry**, **Shirley Fisackerly**, or the **Mowrers**.

Reminder to the **Deacons** that *budget requests* are due Sunday, November 29.

All **Men** are invited to the **Men's Breakfast** Saturday morning, November 21 at 6:00 in the Fellowship Hall.

Sunday, November 29, is our **Fifth Sunday Building Fund** contribution.

Everyone is invited to an **Outside Christmas Movie Night** Friday evening, December 4, at 6:00 at the church parking lot. Bring your own chairs and blankets. Hot chocolate will be served. Please see **Mike or Pam Beard** if you have questions.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Nov. 15 - *Worship live streamed at 9:30*
Deacon's Meeting at 2:30
- Nov. 18 - Wed. evening Bible Class @ 6:30
- Nov. 21 - Men's Breakfast @ 6:00
- Nov. 29 - Fifth Sunday Building Fund**
- Dec. 4 - Outside Christmas Movie @ 6:00

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members:

Lyndell Baker..Tony & Judy Beard..Kay Crook
Barbara Durham...Jean Enlow.. Margaret Harris...
Ray Leonard..Rita Stiles...Donnie & Janice Wright

Shut-ins:

Clara Cooper...Betty Henry...Betty McGuire...
Linda Rabb...Bob & Pat Turner...Marie Wooten

Serving in the Military:

Corey Bryant... Donnie Collins...Braydn Curtis...
Noah Draper...Tucker Koonce...Matthew May...
Neil Rampy...Christian Stepanovich...Mathew Tannehill... Curtis Walker

SPECIAL PRAYER LIST

Butch Baker..Valerie Bryant (due in Dec.)...Candice Carter...Dr. Jay Connelley...Lydia Cowgill...Hazel Duggar..Alpheia Evans..Mike Frost..Terry Gibson...
Eloise Harris...Lavon & Betty Light..Ronnie Light..
Shirley Majors..Rita McBroom..Stephen McKinney.
Percy & Dana Morris...George Nickolson..Ronald Pettigrew..Janetta Pugh...Howie, Christy, & Anna Rice..David & Loyce Ray..John & Christine Riddle.
Kelsy Robinson (due in Apr.)..Joe Rogers...Eddie Don Russell..Homer Shirey..Tess Smith...Mary Jane Speer... Marvin Spencer... Harold Stuart...Sharon Sullivan...Joe Thompson...Joel Thompson...Cherise Webb...Sue Woodward

Birthdays & Anniversaries



- Today!** Pam Beard
Ryan & Stacy Usry
- Nov. 16** Leah Bryant
- 19** Dillon & Sarah Rabb
- 20** Shirley Fisackerly
- 23** Judy Beard
Monty Meier
Corey & Holly Dial
- 28** Jeremy Wilson
- Dec. 3** Mckenzie Light
Dillon Rabb
- 4** Bob & Pat Turner

November Daily Bible Reading Schedule

- 16 Acts 13-16**
- 17 Acts 17-20**
- 18 Acts 21-24**
- 19 Acts 25-28**
- 20 Romans 1-4**
- 21 Romans 5-8**
- 22 Romans 9-12**

Card of Thanks

Dear Church Family,
Roger and I would like to say thanks so much for all the kindness sent our way during my recent surgery and recovery. You people are simply amazing!

In Christian love,
Roger and Margaret

The Alabaster Box

Do not keep the alabaster box of your love and friendship sealed up until your friends are dead. Fill their lives with sweetness. Speak approving, cheering words while their ears can hear them and while their hearts can be thrilled and made happier. The kind things you mean to say when they are gone, say before they go.

~ George W. Childs, *Leaves of Gold*

"Let no corrupt speech proceed out of your mouth, but such as is good for edifying as the need may be, that it may give grace to them that hear" **Ephesians 4:29.**

Card of Thanks

To the Monticello church of Christ,

I would like to thank each and everyone who brought food to my home at the time of my grandson's death. It was very much appreciated.

Thank you,
Eloise Harris

Attendance

Bible Class
Sunday AM Worship 92
Sunday PM Worship
Wed. Evening 80
Contribution (11-1) \$6,510

Schedule of Volunteers for Communion to Shut-in

MISSIONS

Truth for Today
In Search of the Lords' Way
Ghana Radio

NURSERY

Communion Preparation

Nov 15 Leah Bryant
Nov 22 Leah Bryant
Nov 29 Fran Calvert
Dec 6 Fran Calvert

Ladies November Duties

Cards: Angela Naron
Food: Pam Beard
Pens & Cards: