

Those to Serve

Wednesday Evening, November 17, 2021

Announcements Gary Byers
 Lead Singing Gary Gill
 First Prayer Craig Harris
 Read Scripture..... Danny Lucas
 Dismissal Prayer Anthony Lucas

Sunday Morning, November 21, 2021

Announcements Gary Byers
 Lead Singing Gary Gill
 First Prayer..... Teddy Bodiford
 Read Scripture Craig Harris
 Preside at Table..... Jim Maxwell
 Serve Congregation.....
 Serve Congregation.....
 Serve Congregation.....
 Dismissal Prayer Phil Webster
 Greeters.....
 Nursery Attendant..... Patsy Bodiford

Sunday Morning, November 28, 2021

Announcements Rusty Hicks
 Lead Singing Gary Gill
 First Prayer..... Gary Byers
 Read Scripture William Durham
 Preside at Table..... Dick Shelton
 Dismissal Prayer Rickey Tigner

“Key Men” for November

Sunday AM (Open) Jeff Scott
 Sunday AM (Close)..... Rickey Tigner
 Sunday PM (Open)
 Sunday PM (Close).....
 Wednesday PM (Open) Don McAlpin
 Wednesday PM (Close)..... Gilbert Shelby
 Prepare Lord’s Supper

Coming Events

Family Matters

We extend our deepest sympathy to all the family of Larry Hughes, who died last week. He served as an elder here at Middleton several years ago.

George Doss is home and improving following his surgery. **Paul Thompson** is still dealing with several health issues and needs our prayers. Keep him and Chris in your prayers. **Savannah Hubbard** was able to be back with us Sunday! Please keep her and Jonathan in your prayers. **Sarge Cornelius** is still improving. Please keep her and **Ronny** in your prayers.

Community Matters

We extend our sympathy to the family of Anna Yopp Hart, who died this past Sunday. Also sympathy is extended to the Troy Dixon family in his recent death. Please keep Charles Wiggins, Rebekah Yopp Carter, Linsey Denton, Stephen Thompson, David & Laura Adkins, Carmen Stringfellow, Sandy Rodgers, JoAnn James & Lisa Dukes in your prayers.

Prayer List

Gerald Mills, Bill Craft, Benny Thornton, April McKelvey, Jerry Trainum, Timmy Moore, Bill Tubbs and Royce Jones. *Remember our service men & women in your prayers. Remember all our missionaries in your prayers.*

Daily Bible Reading Schedule

Sunday, Nov. 21.....Numbers 18-20
 Monday, Nov. 22.....2 Chron. 21-23
 Tuesday, Nov. 23.....Neh. 5-7
 Wednesday Nov. 24.....Isaiah 40-42
 Thursday, Nov. 25.....Zephaniah
 Friday, Nov. 26.....John 11-12
 Saturday, Nov. 27Revelation 4-7

Shut-ins

Mary Davis, Rm. C-16, Pine Meadows Healthcare, 700 Nuckolls Rd., Bolivar, TN. 38008.
 Lillian Eason, Providence Assisted Living, 700 Moore’s Crossing, Apt. 204, Senatobia, MS. 38668.

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

1. Hear the Word of God- Romans 10:17.
2. Believe the Word of God- Mark 16:16.
3. Repent of sins- Acts 17:30-31.
4. Confess Christ- Romans 10:9-10.
5. Be Baptized to wash away sins - Acts 22:16; 1 Peter 3:20-21; Mark 16:16.
6. Be Faithful unto death- Rev. 2:10.

JEFF’S JOTTINGS

The ladies meet at 10am on Tuesday’s in the annex for a short devotional and send out cards. All ladies are invited!

POWER OF EXAMPLE

In an article in Breakpoint, titled “Drawn to the Light—Why Muslims Convert to Christianity,” Dr. Dudley Woodberry, professor of Islamic Studies, aware that throughout the world Muslims have been turning to Christ, was curious about the reasons why—especially in countries where the cost of converting is so high. To find the answer, he created a detailed questionnaire. Over a 16-year period, some 750 Muslims from 30 countries filled it out—and the results are eye-opening. *The number one reason Muslim converts listed for their decision to follow Christ was the lifestyle of the Christians among them.*

Unknown **known**

GOD IS NUMBER CONSCIOUS

Occasionally the accusation “you are just number conscious” flies. If we emphasize the importance of attendance, we may justify mentioning it by saying that numbers represent souls. That is true, but there is no need to be ashamed of number consciousness.

The Holy Spirit chose the wording of the Bible (cf. 1 Corinthians 2:13). He chose the noun arithmos (from whence comes “arithmetic”) eighteen times in the New Testament, with five occurring in Acts. Each time the word is used, God is counting. In Acts, God is keeping track of the numbers being converted and the numbers making up the community of the converted—the church. Arithmos, in the literal sense, means to count, reckon, sum, or number (Kittel, Theological Dictionary of the NT, Vol. 1, 461). In these passages, arithmos is used literally and specifically—“the number of the men came to be about five thousand” (Acts 4:4), “a number of men, about four hundred, joined him [Theudas]” (5:36); “the number of the disciples multiplied greatly” (6:7); “a great number” believed (11:21); and the churches “increased in number daily” (16:5). Aside from Gamaliel’s Acts 5 speech, the Acts passages report numerical growth in the early church.

Gearing programs and preaching at all costs (compromise) to optimize attendance figures is not right. Truth offends and turns

away some. That primitive church had a large number of enemies and detractors. While many submitted to immersion, some resorted to throwing stones (Acts 7:58; 14:19).

Early Christians were tarred, run over, beaten, imprisoned, burned alive, fed to lions, exiled, and otherwise mistreated. While this was sporadic, it was often intense. They had a number of enemies, yet through living hope (1 Peter 1:3) they worked at their mission and God gave the increase (1 Corinthians 3:6). All the while, Heaven kept count.

Long before the cross, God said, “Behold, all souls are Mine” (Ezekiel 18:4). He is in every delivery room. He hears every baby’s cry, watches every skinned knee, is privy to every child’s fear, and sees every sinful word and action. He was there at the moment every individual crossed the line from “safe” to “separated” (cf. Isaiah 59:2). As Creator and Redeemer, God rightly marks down every instance where a person goes from “separated” to “saved.”

So let’s think like God, pursue evangelistic opportunities, teach the truth, and the number of disciples will increase. Be number conscious. —*Neal Pollard*

“True humility is not thinking less of yourself; it is thinking of yourself less.”
Henry Ford said, “If I had asked people what they wanted, they would have said faster horses.”

PUSHING PAST FAILURE

Sparky didn’t have much going for him. He failed every subject in the eighth grade, and in high school, he flunked Latin, algebra, English, and physics. He made the golf team but promptly lost the most important match of the season and then lost the consolation match. He was also awkward socially. While in high school, he never once asked a girl to go out on a date. Only one thing was important to Sparky—drawing. He was proud of his artwork even though no one else appreciated it. He submitted cartoons to the editors of his high school yearbook, but they were turned down. Still, Sparky aspired to be an artist. After high school, he sent samples of his artwork to Walt Disney. Again, he was turned down. He decided to write his own autobiography in cartoons. The character he created became famous worldwide—the subject, not only of cartoon strips, but countless books, television shows, and licensing opportunities. Sparky, was Charles Schulz, creator of the “Peanuts” comic strip. Like his main character, Charlie Brown, Schulz seemed unable to accomplish many things. But rather than letting rejection stop him, he made the most of what he could do!

Like Sparky, we can push past negativity and failure. A clean slate with God will enable us to create a success story that will be read in heaven! Try it. -*Glenn Hitchcock*

“My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness”
([2 Corinthians 12:9](#)).