



LET'S VISIT

A Publication of the Center Church of Christ
110 Hurst Street Center, Texas 75935

Volume 13

Number 9

March 15, 2026

GROWING UP IS HARD TO DO

Let's take a trip down memory lane. Do you remember what it felt like to be young? For some of us, that was a long time ago. For others, it was a really long time ago. Yet, I remember it seemed like it took forever to grow up. I remember wanting to be older and bigger than I was. Around age 9, I wanted so badly to be a teen-ager. That magical age seemed to be forever and a lifetime away. Then it came, and then I wanted so badly to be 16 and have a driver's license.

When young children play, their role is always that of a "grownup". Whether it's cowboys and Indians or sports or playing house with dolls, children want to be "grown-ups". Yet, as I have grown older, and the hair that hasn't turned loose has turned gray, I have made a discovery. Sometimes, being a "grown-up" just isn't very much fun. When I look at a baby, I sometimes think, "wouldn't it be nice to be a baby again, I wouldn't have to do anything but eat, play and sleep. No decisions."

But, a baby doesn't stay a baby for very long. They begin to feed themselves. They learn to walk. There's some pain in those things isn't there? That baby makes big messes learning how to feed himself or herself. That baby gets cuts and bruises from falling as they learn to walk. But they keep on trying until they figure it out. As life continues on, we continue to learn more and more and grow more and more.

Paul tells us in I Corinthians 3 that growing up spiritually is hard. Here is what he says in I Corinthians 3:1-4, "*And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. I have fed you with milk and not with meat; for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able. For ye are yet carnal;*

for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men? For while one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I am of Apollos, are ye not carnal.?"

Yet, even though it is hard, we must continue our growth. We must desire a deeper awareness of the truth of God's word. We must long for a stronger faith for living and a more meaningful maturity. You see, God wants us to grow. God wants us to move on from milk to meat.

Spiritual infancy is a real problem. The spiritual infant is concerned with self rather than with service. There is a time of great rejoicing at the spiritual birth of a new Christian. It's much like the rejoicing at a natural birth. All eyes are on the baby. The baby gets pampered and spoiled. You walk the floor night after night. An infant is upset over the smallest things, and they have a way of letting you know.

Sometimes, infant Christians are the same way. Some Christians have to be handled with kid gloves. They wear their feelings on their sleeves. They are like bombs, always ready to explode. Often they may be extra nice at church and explosive at home. At church they may be ideal, and yet at home or work they can be impossible.

At church they are always praising, anywhere else at home or work they are pouting and in a snit. The infant is a receiver and not a giver. The spiritually

(Continued on page 2)

In Search of the Lord's Way



Tune in to this Television Ministry
KSHV 45 - Shreveport - 7:30 a.m. Sunday
DISH channel 239 - 6:00 a.m. Sunday
DIRECT TV channel 307 - 6:00 a.m. Sunday

Gathered Here and There



Are We Growing Up ?

away in maturity. In the first Corinthian letter and chapter 13, Paul said that when he became a man he put away childish things. When we mature spiritually, we put away relics of spiritual infancy. We leave behind the relics of carnality. We are to feed ourselves on the word of God and look to Jesus as our example to do as Peter said, “walk in His steps.” We must follow Jesus and keep our eyes on him. Following Jesus, we will mature spiritually.

tp

On The Lighter Side . . .



For The Pantry. . .

March 15 – Dried Pasta



March 8, 2026
\$ 2,486.00

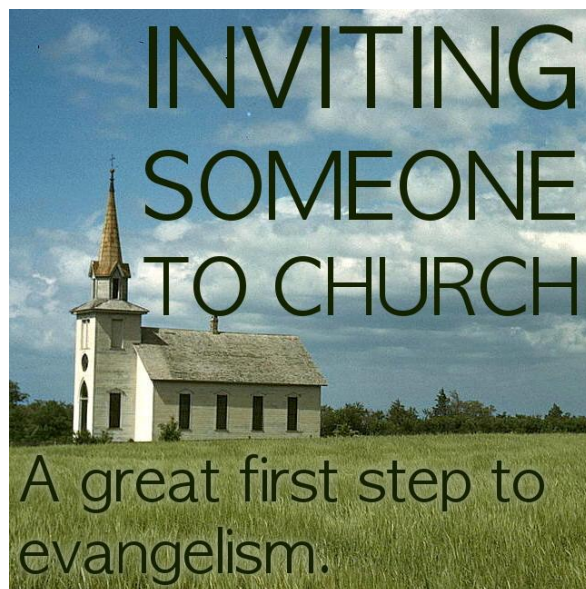
The Lord’s plan of giving ...”as ye have prospered”

“Growing Up Is Hard To Do” – Continued from page 1

mature person is quite different. The mature Christian is a believer with a mission. Mature Christians see their mission in life as ministering to the needs of others. It is a matter of serving rather than being served. Reaching out to others with the love and the gospel of Christ, mature Christians see themselves as a builder of others, and as such they take seriously the building up of the body, the church.

Mature Christians care for the spiritual needs of the body of Christ. They view themselves as peacemakers. They live and teach the scriptures. They help to make others stronger. Mature Christians have a biblical basis for every belief. It is not a matter of “I think” or “this feels right”. It is a matter of “thus saith the Lord”. Mature Christians are not children tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine, but they know what they believe and they know why they believe it.

Our goal should be to mature as Christians, just as we mature physically. As we grow physically, we leave behind the relics of childhood. A little girl may have her favorite doll and a boy may have his favorite blanket or bear. Yet, these things are put





Annual Area Wide Singing



Friday – April 24, 2026

7:00 p.m. to 8:30p.m.

Refreshments served following the singing

Communion Preparation - March
Manny & Brittany Ortiz



Wednesday
FELLOWSHIP MEAL

Mark your calendar and make your plans to join us for our next Wednesday night meal
March 25, 2026

Sunday June 7, 2026

Make your plans to be here and invite your friends and family to come and join us!



Martha Jean Golden is scheduled for a procedure March 25th to improve the circulation in her leg.

Jerry Pate did not need a pacemaker at this time but he is wearing a heart monitor.

Norman Turner (Norma Perkins' father) is recovering from surgery to install a pacemaker.

OUR "CHURCH FAMILY"

Cissy Amos, Stanley Amos, LaJuan Baugh, Gene Bradshaw, Martha Bradshaw, Martha Jean Golden, Alice Hall, Thelma Hinton, LaResa Livingston, Mike Lout, Debra Pate, Jerry Pate, Betty Willis

"EXTENDED FAMILY" AND FRIENDS

Tami Abernathy (friend of Isaiah & Amanda Molloy hospitalized) **Leslie Adams** (friend of Diedra Hughes) being treated for brain cancer; **Krista Andrus** (Tim and Norma Perkins niece) **Peggy Baylor** (Tim Bradshaw's mother) **Dwayne Brister** (Cissy Amos' cousin) **Debra Clifton** (friend of LaResa Livingston) **Coleen Dickerson** (friend of Cissy Amos with leukemia) **Hugh and Pat Fletcher** (Sarah Fletcher's brother and sister-in-law dealing with multiple health issues) **Joyce Fontenot** (Debra Pate's mother) **Dot Grant** (Friend of Debra Pate) **Suzi Hogan** (Mike Bostick's sister-in-law) **Debbie Lynn** (Abbey Perkins' mother dealing with memory issues) **Albert Magby** (Melonie Bradshaw's father) **Karen McCormick** (friend of Sarah Fletcher) **Gene Perkins** (Tim Perkins aunt) **Calvin Smith** (Debra Pate's uncle); **Heather Simmons Stewart** (Friend of Cissy Amos) cancer; **Stephen Wiggins** (preacher at San Augustine) **Max Windham** (Friend of LaResa Livingston) additional cancer treatments.

THOSE IN THE MILITARY AND FOREIGN SERVICE

Cole Barbee, Adam Bradshaw, Michele Bradshaw, Rosie Tate and Lucas Tate

IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2026

Reserve these dates for important events in the life of our Church for 2026

April 24, 2026 – Area Wide Singing & Fellowship
June 7, 2026 – "Friends and Family Day"
September 13, 2026 – "Back To Church Sunday"
December 6, 2026 – "No Excuse Sunday"
December 20, 2026 – Annual Christmas Party



Across The Preacher's Desk

The habit of faultfinding is a bad habit that many people fall in to. The tragedy is that it is easily acquired and not readily broken. In case you haven't noticed, we live in an imperfect world. Everything is flawed and defective. Institutions all blunder and fall short of the ideal. People are all erring creatures and sometimes we are offended by their faults. However, we should not pay so much attention to the faults and failures of others. Neither should we dwell on the defects of the world we live in.

If we are not careful, we can become chronic, carping, fault-finders. When that happens, we take the next step and become grumblers. Then, if we are not careful we will become a growler. Folks who growl long enough end up being cynics. When that happens, we are no good to ourselves or anyone else.

To my knowledge, no one ever wakes up one day and says, "I think I will become a cynic". It happens when we begin to find fault and the habit takes root in our hearts. It then grows until our mind becomes twisted and our heart becomes sour.

It is no wonder the wise man said, "A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones". (Proverbs 17:22)

it's something to think about.....tlp

**The Lord's Plan
For Evangelism –
Each one Bring one!
Will you?**