

DUTY ROSTER FOR NOVEMBER 25, 2018

Usher for This Week: Doug Thweatt

9:00 AM

Song Leader:

Chevis Webb

Scripture Reading:

Ron Hunt

Scripture:

John 19:38-42

Prayer:

Alex Bansemer

Lesson:

Stacey Durham

The Secret Disciples

Closing Prayer:

John Fix

11:00 AM

Song Leader:

Alex Bansemer

Scripture Reading:

Bill Duryea

Scripture:

Matthew 7:1-5

Prayer:

TBD

Lord's Supper:

Chris Huffines

Andrew Durham

Ron Dixon

Jim Barton

Lesson:

Stacey Durham

Righteous Judgment

Announcements:

Ron Dixon

Closing Prayer:

Kevin Hayes

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 28

Song Leader: John Fix

Invitation: Ron Hunt

Closing Prayer: Thom Steger

Creekview church of Christ
930 Long Hollow Pike
Gallatin, TN 37066
615-452-8212

Service Times:

Sundays 9:00 AM Worship
10:00 AM Bible Study
11:00 AM Worship

Wednesdays 7:00 PM Bible Study

creekviewchurchofchrist.com

LORD'S SUPPER PREPARATION

November: Hayes

December: Fix

SIGN MESSAGE CHANGING

November: Webb

December:

Elders: Ron Dixon, John Fix, Stacey Durham Deacons: David Bansemer, Kevin Hayes, Thom Steger, Doug Thweatt
Preacher and Editor: Stacey Durham

CREEKVIEW BULLETIN

NOVEMBER 25, 2018

Volume 33 Number 47

Rejoice in the Lord

We all have troubles and sorrows in this world. However, those who are in Christ have a joy that cannot be overcome by worldly things. This joy is found only in the Lord (Phil. 4:4), and no one can take it away because the Lord has already overcome the world. Let us express this joy together today as we praise our God and commune with our Lord.

To Our Visitors:

We are very thankful that you have come to be with us as we approach God in worship today. All true worshipers of God are always welcome here. We want you to know that our goals at Creekview are to learn, practice, and teach those things that are given to us through the word of God, the Bible. We hope that you find that we are accomplishing these goals and that you will want to join us again. If we can be of any assistance to you in your walk with God, please let us know.

news and notes:

- Next Sunday in the 11AM hour, we will devote most of our time to singing. Let us speak to one another in hymns and psalms and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in our hearts to the Lord (Eph. 5:19).
- Please keep the following members in your prayers: Kaye Barton, Jim & Kay Cook, Billy & Wilma Deering, Mary Ham, Donella Jones, Kay Lanius, Jim Stubblefield, and Bessie Short. Also remember Donella Jones' granddaughter Morgan (irregular heartbeat) and Peggy Bailey's daughter Sherry.

52 Week Reading Plan: Week 47

Sunday - 2Peter
Monday - Deuteronomy 16-19
Tuesday - Ezra 6-10
Wednesday - Psalms 134-136
Thursday - Ecclesiastes 9-10
Friday - Zechariah 8-14
Saturday - Acts 17-18

Gospel Meetings:

None to announce

Living in the World

All of us live in a world that is immersed in sin, and we all have contributed to its corruption. Those who believe in Jesus will follow Him to escape the sinful ways of the world and the guilt they incurred, but they still must remain in the world as long as they live. So then, how shall we who are Christians live alongside others who do not believe in Jesus as we do? Shall we just overlook their sins? Shall we avoid them so we don't have to deal with them? Shall we refuse to interact with them as if they are contagious? Shall we rail against them for their sin and unbelief? Shall we express our outrage over them to our fellow Christians?

None of the approaches suggested by these questions is the right approach. To overlook our neighbors' sins as if they are of no consequence would be unloving, for the guilt of their sins will bring them to eternal destruction unless they obtain forgiveness through Jesus. To intentionally avoid them would be unfaithful and lazy, for the Lord has given us a mission to go to sinners with the good news of salvation in Him (Matt. 28:18-20). To treat them as if they are unclean would be an act of unmerciful hypocrisy, for we were just as sinful as they are (Eph. 2:1-3) and would still be so if someone had not mercifully taught us the gospel. To rail against them would be nothing more than an ineffective outburst of anger, for Jesus Himself is patient, kind, and gentle, and He commands His bond-servants to be the same (2Tim. 2:24-26, quoted later). To discuss our outrage over sinners with fellow Christians would be cowardly, for if we are so outraged over the sins of others, then we should at least have the courage to face them (2Tim. 1:7).

So then, how shall Christians live in the world along with unbelieving sinners? First and foremost, we must be exemplary models of good behavior. This course of life is demanded by the conditions of repentance and sanctification in Jesus, but it is also a profound part of our relationships with others in the world. Consider a few instructions from Scripture concerning this:

- Matthew 5:16 - "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven."
- Romans 12:17 - Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Respect what is right in the sight of all men.
- 1Peter 2:12 - Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God in the day of visitation.

If we aren't good examples in both word and deed, then we will create a number of problems. We will be poor ambassadors for Christ among unbelievers because our influence will be damaged. We will squander opportunities to lead others to Christ because of our own failures to properly follow Him. We will give "occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme" (2Sam. 2:14; see also Tit. 2:8). For all of these reasons, Christians must be the best-behaved people in the world.

Furthermore, we must demonstrate the love of Christ toward unbelievers by our own love for them. Jesus showed this in the parable of the good Samaritan (Luke 10:29-37), which demonstrated the true meaning of the commandment, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." According to Romans 13:9 and Galatians 5:14, this commandment summarizes the whole law of God concerning our relationships with our fellow man. This principle governs all of our relationships, not just those we have with other Christians. Because of this, a genuine Christian is always a good neighbor.

Most importantly, we must share Christ with everyone. Our exemplary behavior and loving kindness will have no eternal benefit to our neighbors unless they are combined with the good news of Jesus Christ. When they are combined with His gospel, the message of salvation is delivered with faithful integrity and genuine compassion just as the Lord intended. In this way, our neighbors can see the profound effect of Jesus on us, which will help to open their hearts to His gospel. Consider 2Timothy 2:24-26:

²⁴The Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, ²⁵with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, ²⁶and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.

Therefore, those of us who are Christians should be "blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom [we] appear as lights in the world, holding fast the word of life" (Phil. 2:15-16). We should love our neighbors as much as we love ourselves, and we should share with them the same good news of Jesus by which we have obtained the hope of eternal life and every spiritual blessing. This is the simple and godly way we should live in the world. How are we doing?

Stacey E. Durham