

The Precious Gift of Church Family

Many of us remember the classic Christmas movie Home Alone. Young Kevin McAllister, frustrated by the chaos of his large extended family crowding into his house, blurts out in anger, “I wish I didn’t have a family!” The next morning, after a power outage and a frantic rush to the airport, his wish seemingly comes true—his entire family has left for Paris without him. At first, Kevin celebrates his independence: he jumps on beds, eats junk food, and experiences aftershaves (!). But soon, the emptiness sets in. The house feels too quiet and lonely. When real danger arrives in the form of burglars, Kevin desperately misses the protection, support, and love of his family. By the end, his Christmas wish is simply for them to come home.

This story mirrors a truth we sometimes overlook: church family is one of God’s greatest gifts, even when the people themselves can be difficult or challenging. In the New Testament, the early church understood this. When Jesus called His disciples, He didn’t invite individuals into a private faith; He formed a new family. In Mark 3:33–35, when told His mother and brothers were looking for Him, Jesus replied, “Who are my mother and my brothers?” Then, looking at those seated around Him, He declared, “Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does God’s will is my brother and sister and mother.” Through obedient faith in Christ, we are adopted into God’s household, becoming “members of God’s very own family” (Ephesians 2:19).

Like the family in Home Alone, our church family isn’t perfect. We bump into each other’s personalities. We have misunderstandings, crowded schedules, and occasional, unintentional hurts. Sometimes we may wish for a little more space, a quieter life without the demands of church family. But Scripture reminds us that isolation leaves us vulnerable. In Hebrews 10:24–25, we’re urged, “Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another.” When we drift from fellowship, we miss the encouragement that protects us from discouragement and sin.

The apostle Paul beautifully describes the church as a body in 1 Corinthians 12:12–27, where every part—hand, eye, foot—belongs to the others. “If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it” (v. 26). We need one another’s gifts, prayers, encouragement, and even correction.

Let’s thank God for the gift of our church family. The ones who sit beside us in worship, work with us, and weep when we weep. They are God’s provision for us. I hope we never take for granted the brothers and sisters Christ has given us. They are the family who will be with us forever in God’s eternal home.

On Our Prayer List... *May we always be using God’s blessing & power of prayer for one another: Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them they should always pray & not give up. Luke 18:1.

<u>[Recent Medical concerns/updates]</u>		<u>[Upcoming Surgeries-Recovery]</u>
*Retha Raye Mullinicks -keep in yr prayers-as she is continuing to endure health concerns.		*Gary Davis - having a laser procedure on 12/17 on his left eye in Smryna
*W. R. Long -home some-not feeling well / *Cora Birchett -been home sick		*Lacey Franklin -home recovering fr open heart surg-wk 2 of 6-8
*Larry Fuqua (Kathy Martin’s brother) additional heart issues		Janie Brown -in Vanderbilt burn unit with 2nd&3rd degree burns,fr house fire
*Betty James - home with Pneumonia		
<u>THOSE DEALING/BEING TREATED FOR CANCER:</u>		
*Jimmy Phy -continued endurance with cancer		*Joel Flowers -(Joey’s dad) CA-home on hospice
*Lillian Childress -(Sherry Harvey’s aunt)		*Mack Winstead -CA-continued prayers
*Dale Street -(N. Buttrey grandfather)CA		*Houston Howell
*Hudson Jones -(2yr old son of Dan & Catherine,Walnut St COC-Leukemia)		*David Nowlin -CA treatments-WcoC elder
*Robert Gardner (friend of Bill Williams) CA		*Jackie Borders -Lauren Stuart’s mom
*Debbie Gafford -friend of Diane Curtis		*Maggie Wright -(friend of N. Buttrey) CA

<u>Listed below are those that are continuing to have on-going medical issues that are in need of our prayers.</u>					
*Hattie Tate	*Betty Suddeath	*Al & Vicki Peek	*Marvin England	*Dennis Wright	*Margie Gunn -now hm
*Claude Hurt	*Carlene Davis	*Rhonda Canada	*Chase Lewis	*Doug Simpson	*Josh Barnett
*Marcia Simpson	*Sue Edmission	*Alyssa Gold	*Carolyn Wilson	*Mike Gunn	*Scotty Palk
*Whitney(Bullion)Sager	*Shane Cobb	*Warren (Johnny) Proctor		*Thelma Davidson -(Gwen’s sister)	
*Savannah Patrick -(Rhetts syndrome-Marsha Patrick’s granddaughter-she loves cards) c/o Jaimie Patrick—111 McJury Lane, Lafayette,TN					

<u>[Assisted Living/Nursing Home/Rehab]</u>	<u>At Home in McEwen</u>
AHC Decatur County -726 Kentucky Ave,Parsons,TN 38363 Wyle Marshall -(Rm 726) (Traci Adams dad)	Jim & Jane Ridings -172 Indian Ck Rd
NHC —812 N.Charlotte, Dickson,TN 37055- JoAnn Haley	Robert Bradford -347 Brown Mill Rd.
Humphreys County NH 104 Fort Hill Rd. Waverly,TN 37185- June Dreaden - Rm 204	Jimmy & Retha Raye Mullinicks -56 Mike St.
Magnolia Place - 811 W. Main St, Waverly, TN 37185- Jimmy Tyler -(room 106)	
Waverly Hills Post Acute -895 Powers Blvd, Waverly, TN 37185- Bertha Bradford -rm 102A / Gary Pace	

The church office will be closed next week for Christmas & then on New Year's Day. There will be no bulletin next week, so please hold on to this bulletin for the list of those to serve for Dec 28th.
(Phone #'s are listed on OV door if you need)



Merry

With December 24th being the 4th Wednesday night of the month, which is our singing night, there will be a meal prior to the service starting @ 5:15 for any who would like to attend.



YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTIES:{Bring a gift that will work for a boy or girl}

Bugs Group - \$10-\$12 range. Youth Group—is a \$10-\$15 range.
(Pre-k-2nd) Wed, Dec.17th @ (6th-12th grades) Sun, Dec 21st after 5:00 PM {Pancakes & PJ's} in evening worship @ Keith & Laurie's the fellowship room. house. Please bring finger-foods
Parents your welcome to join!

We rejoice with Evan & Thora Tomlinson, who were both baptized last Friday. Be sure to welcome & encourage them to their new family in Christ.

Ladies Tapestry Groups- will start back soon... forms are on the back table of the auditorium , please fill out & return to Erin asap so books can be ordered. The study will be on Colossians & Philemon & will hopefully be able to start in mid-January.

IN F.O.C.U.S.

Faith, Obedience, Character, Unity, Salvation

One party down and 2 to go! We had a great time with our FAST Group (3rd-5th graders) Sunday afternoon. We had 12 kids and 7 adults in attendance for our annual Christmas party. We began our time together with a craft followed by a couple of games. We paused the games to enjoy a meal of finger food and desserts together. After our meal we had our gift exchange game followed by one more game before our time was up. It was a great time with some great kids! I appreciate each one for coming and I appreciate the parents that helped bring food and helped with cleanup afterwards. We have two more parties this week, one for our BUGS group on Wednesday and the last one for our youth group on Sunday night. Please check out the youth group Facebook page for more information.

In Christian Love, Keith

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday: December 21st December 28th

WelcomeBruce Mayfield..... Thomas Cook

Lead Singing...Mark Forster.....Mark Forster

1st Prayer.....Jim Suddeath..... Drew Buttrey

Sermon.....John Jones.....John Jones

Lord's Table <u>John Hurt</u> <u>Jim Suddeath</u>	
	<u>W. R. Long</u>	Wayne Coates
	<u>Mike Tyler</u>	Glenn Ross
	<u>Noah Stuart</u>	Daniel Curtis
	<u>Wayne Vaughn</u>	Todd Mullinicks
	<u>Billy Buttrey</u>	John Hurt
	<u>Dwight Stuart</u>	Phillip Shanks

**Closing
Prayer... ..**Derek Berryman.....Calvin Buckner

**Collect
Cards... ..**Hudson ButtreyColt Stanfill
& Slate Berryman & Abel Tummins

Greeters.....Daniel & Rebecca.....Mark & Kim
Curtis Forster

Collect Cups..........Youth

Security.....Team #1.....Team #2

Sunday 6PM: December 21st December 28th

Lead Singing.....Mark Forster..... Mark Forster

Prayer.....Wayne Coates.....Gerald Curtis

Sermon..... John Jones.....John Jones

{Lord's... .. Thomas Cook.....Danny Dotson
Table:} Terry Parchman Jimmy Suddeath

**{Closing
Prayer}**.....Jack Grigsby.....Keith Grigsby

Wed 6:30 PM: December 24th December 31st

Lead Singing.....John Jones.....Bill Williams

Prayer.....Jimmy Suddeath.....John Jones

Adult Class.....Singing Night.....John Jones

**If you are unable to serve...please contact Wade Tummins in advance. (cell 931-209-6291)*

**If changes need to be made in scheduling please contact Jimmy Phy.*

Published weekly by the
McEwen church of Christ
P.O. Box 171
McEwen, TN. 37101

Non-profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
McEwen, TN. 37101
Permit No. 1

Return Service Requested



*If you are unable to attend any service please tune in to our Facebook page or our YouTube page to watch the services. This is NOT a replacement for the command to assemble together as Christ's Body, but a tool for those who may be homebound/shut-in or sick.

***The MESSENGER is online!
Visit the church website
to view!***



OUR RECORDS for 12/14/2025

Sunday Morning Bible School	— — — — —	107
Sunday Morning Worship	— — — — —	162
Sunday Evening Worship	— — — — —	90
Wed-Mid-Week Bible Study	— — — — —	101
Sunday Contribution	— — — — —	\$8,889



The MESSENGER

A weekly publication of the McEwen church of Christ

Week of December 14th 2025

A Caring Church Lifting Up The CROSS And CROWN of CHRIST

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Bible Study.....9:00am
Worship.....10:00am
Evening.....6:00pm

Wednesday

Bible Study.....6:30pm

Elders:

Calvin Buckner

Billy Buttrey	Bruce Mayfield
W.R. Long	Mike Robertson

Deacons:

Derek Berryman	Mike Burns
Wayne Coates	Mark Forster
John Hurt	Barry Phy
Robert Proctor	James Ridings
Joe Smith	Dwight Stuart
Ethan Tummins	Wade Tummins
Ronnie Tyler	

Staff:

Ministers	-----	Every Member
Pulpit	-----	John Jones
Youth	-----	Keith Grigsby
Secretaries	-----	Terri Tummins Teresa Fleming

EVANGELISM PROGRAM

Continue to be:

1. Praying for those we are studying with
2. To provide new {Contact's} cards for us to reach out to.

(Team - 3 there will be cards to work on this Wednesday night.)

Sunday Morning

"Upcoming Sermons"

Sunday Night

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