



Hope In the Midst of Lament

The older I get, the more I see how fallen this world is and the more I encounter lament at a personal and corporate level. I see brokenness around me. I see it more clearly in my own life as a sinner that desperately needs God's grace. I see it in this city of Knoxville I call home. I see it in the people I am called to minister to. I see it in the news. This world is not "The Truman Show" where everything is controlled. This was a movie that came out in 1998 where Truman Burbank was the star of the show but doesn't know it. He lived in a protective bubble and everyone watched his life on a nonstop TV show while Truman was totally unaware. His quaint hometown was actually a giant studio set where the folks living there were actually actors, including his bubbly wife. They were all just playing a role. We do not live in a protective bubble like this. By the way, Truman finally catches on that the life he was living was not real.

The fact is, reality stinks. We live in a broken, fallen world. We need to stop pretending that if we just have more positive thinking or were to live a better life for God, everything in this life is going to be rosy. It is not. Many Christians have bought into a form of the gospel of health and wealth...that complete satisfaction can be yours this side of heaven. The fact is, this world is full of loss, grief, hunger, racism, illness, abandonment, financial ruin, and death. The sooner you come to terms with this, the better off you will be. You will not try to find something in this life that it can't deliver. We are not living in the Garden of Eden right now.

Larry Crabb wrote: "Beneath the surface of everyone's life, especially the more mature, is an ache that will not go away. It can be ignored, disguised, mislabeled, or submerged by a torrent of activity, but it will not disappear. And for good reason. We were designed to enjoy a better world than this. And until that better world comes along, we will groan for what we do not have. An aching soul is evidence not of neurosis or spiritual immaturity, but of realism."

Paul uses a great word picture to describe our current experience: groaning. "We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time" (Romans 8:22).

I have never met a mom that told me after child birth that the pains of the contractions and the birth were not worth it. In fact, you can't remove the joy of giving birth from the pain. Without the pain, you have no child. Without groaning you don't have life. So lament is not bad. It is good. It is necessary. It is critical in order to understand what hope is. Hope is not the absence of pain in our lives. Hope is not a question mark: "I sure do hope that what I believe is true." Hope is an exclamation point: "My hope is built on nothing less, than Jesus blood and righteousness." Hope is found in lament. So don't lose the value of lament in your life. Redemption is coming.

Mark

September 3, 2017
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Arlington Church of Christ



Our Mission: Connecting People to Jesus and one Another

2206 Tecoma Drive
Knoxville, TN 37917
865-523-1764

e-mail: office@acoc.comcastbiz.net

Website: www.arlingtonchurchofchrist.org



Find us on:
facebook.

Arlington Friends
Arlington Church of Christ Youth Group

Welcome

We pray you will be encouraged and uplifted
as we join together in worship.

Guest Information

- There is a **staffed nursery** available for children under age 2. There is also a **parent/child training room** at the rear of the auditorium.
- An optional **children's worship** is available for ages 3 to 8 during morning worship. Children will be dismissed before the sermon. Please pick up your child after worship
- If you are visiting, **please complete a visitor card** so we have a record of your attendance.

Weekly Meeting Times

Sundays:
Worship 10:30 a.m.
Bible Study 9:30 a.m.

Wednesdays:
Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

Weekly Statistics

	weekly budget	\$4,052
August 27	<u>attendance</u>	<u>contribution</u>
	171	\$3,068

Arlington Family Pages

Seeking to edify, educate and
inform the Family of God

Sunday, September 3, 2017

Elders: Mark Brackney Ph: 622-0376
Leland Price Ph: 925-4424
Danny Rider Ph: 705-9713
Wayne Shannon Ph: 742-0517
Gregg Summers Ph: 223-4515
David Tiller Ph: 607-1945

Deacons: Bud Norris - *Worship Participants*
Charles Owens - *Bldg & Grounds/Security/Treasurer*
Keith Tatum - *Education/Picture Board/Family Camp*
Ronnie Weldon - *Attendance/Communion Prep/Bldg*

Minister: Mark Brackney Ph: 523-1764

Secretaries: Becky Johnson Jennifer Tatum

Missionaries: Tom & Angie Langley - WEI
Tommy Drinnen - Hope Central

In Our Thoughts and Prayers: Jesse Rutherford; Terry Trent; Allison Thomas; Garry Loftis; Jerry Fittro; Becky Johnson; Roger Mink; Casey Owens; Shirley Waggoner and Billy; Tom Drinnen; Dan Trent; Karla Loftis and her dad; Lynda Elliott.

Friends and Loved ones: David Smith in Fort Sanders Hosp.; Zebede Votau is home from Children's Hosp.; Cathy Gilliam's brother, Steve Sparks, is recovering from open heart surgery; Jeff Hodges mother, Betty Hodges; Aiden Darnell; Sandy Toney's brother, Melvin; David Hunter; Deb Colones; Kay Perry; Bill Norris; Faith Tindell; Greg Dyer; Helen Monroe's god-son, Ian Whelahan; Allison Thomas' niece, Alley Gregory; those affected by the flooding in Texas and Louisiana.

Shut-ins: Betty Buckner; Jack & Rosaline Davis; Fred Galbreath; Edna Hullender; Peggy Mehlhorn; Kathryn Norman.

Missionaries: Tom & Angie Langley; Tommy Drinnen.

Coming Soon

- We will have a **special collection** today after our normal giving to aid the relief efforts in Texas. The money will be sent to Disaster Relief in Nashville.
- **NO Hope Central** tomorrow for Labor Day.
- **Arlington will host a tail gate party** at the UT Christian Student Ctr this Sat., Sept 9, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. If you can help with food, please see Keith Tatum (cole slaw, baked beans, gallons of tea, and desserts). Please have the food items to the church building by this Wed. night, Sept. 6.
- **Everyone is invited** to the Brackney's Sun. night, Sept. 10, 5 p.m. for food, games, and fellowship. Please bring food/drinks to share and a lawn chair. Get ready for our annual corn hole tournament!
- **Connection Sunday Night**, Sept. 17, 6 p.m. Please bring finger foods. We will meet in the fellowship hall for a devotional and a time of sharing.
- **Seniors Dixie Stampede Trip**, Tuesday, Sept. 19. See Edith Weldon for details.
- **Fourth Sunday Fellowship**, Sept 24
- **YPYF fall camping trip** at Frozen Head State Park, Oct. 6-8.
- **Bible Teachers Training** with Tommy Drinnen, Sat., Oct. 7, 9-12 at bldg.
- **Hillbrook Family Camp**, Oct. 27-28. Details to follow. Everyone is invited to attend.



Family News

Sermon Topics Today

Sunday Morning:

Romans 8:18-39

Hope in the Midst of Lament

Sunday Night:

No Hope Church

SERVING THE ASSEMBLY TODAY:

Serve @ Table:

Tyler Norris, Kevin Gillispie
Ronnie Weldon, John David Potter
Zach Shannon, Colby Coleman

Opening Prayer: W Holloway

Preside at Table: Leland Price

Greeters: John & Laura Burka

Nursery: R Brackney & L Cooke

Security: J McDougal & J Turnbull



BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Sept 4 Rosaline Davis

Sept 5 Lydia Yarborough

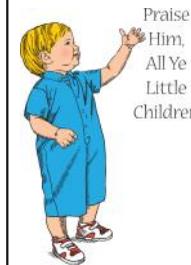
Sept 7 Gabriel Noe

Happy Birthday!!



Family Matters

Please welcome **Dann Chapman**
to our Arlington family.
2612 Hardin Hill Road Birthday 11/28
Knoxville, TN 37917 Ph 865-556-0556
Dann lives in our neighborhood and
had been worshipping at the
West End Church of Christ.



Praise
Him,
All Ye
Little
Children

**Optional children's
worship...** is available
for ages 3 to 8 during
morning worship.

Children will be
dismissed before the
sermon. Please pick up
your child after worship.

Caring Cards Ministry

The Caring Cards Ministry provides
cards for our sick and shut-ins, as well
as friends and family members.

Please see the information on the
table in the hallway leading to the
office for additional information. Your
participation is needed to send cards
as well as to provide

information regarding those
who would benefit from
receiving cards.

Please talk to John or
Barbara Hoff for more
details.



Caring Cards