

"Love the Sinner, Hate the Sin"

You have likely heard the cliché, "Love the sinner, hate the sin." It appears that this phrase originated with St. Augustine, a bishop from North Africa who lived in the late fourth and early fifth centuries. In a letter to nuns, he called them to have a "love for mankind and hatred of sins." We are to love sinners, for this is what Jesus does. Jesus was called a friend of sinners (Mt. 11:19) and came to save sinners (I Tim. 1:15). While Jesus loved sinners, he never actually said, "Love the sinner." What Jesus did say is "Love your neighbor." Your neighbor is anyone you meet, and even those you have never met. Jesus goes one step further to show us who are neighbors are. Jesus tells us to love our enemies, because when we do, the world will change. When we return blessings for evil, we can see relationships being transformed. We also need to always remember that we all miss the mark at times. No one is able to live a perfect life. We say, think, and do things we should not (Romans 3:23). Since I am a sinner saved by God's grace, I need to extend that grace to others.

Perhaps the reason Jesus said "love your neighbor" instead of "love the sinner" is that we would begin looking at people more as sinners than neighbors. This would lead to judgment. We can start to think, "You are a sinner, but I am choosing to love you anyway." That sounds a bit puffed up and arrogant. Jesus focused on loving others instead of judging others.

This reminds me of the story Jesus told of the tax collector and the Pharisee. The Pharisees thought they needed to separate themselves from sinners in order to remain pure and holy to God. Tax collectors at this time period were thought to be the worst kind of sinners because they worked for Rome and cheated people (Luke 18:10-14). Notice that Jesus begins this parable by saying, "Jesus told this parable to certain people who had convinced themselves that they were righteous and who looked on everyone else with disgust" (Luke 18:9). Have you ever been like that?

Keep in mind that there are times we do judge, but you had better examine yourself first before you start pointing the finger (Matthew 7:1-5). And when you do judge, you need to do so with the right heart and intent. Paul says you have no right to judge anyone not in the kingdom of God (I Cor. 5:9-13). We do, however, judge those in the body of Christ (James 5:19-20). We want to warn and encourage people because we love them. We love because God loves us. Love is the way we are meant to live. Love does not turn a blind eye to sin, but it does change the way we view and treat others.

The Gospels make it a point to emphasize that Jesus spent time with sinners. I think what turns most people off to religion today is not that people in churches don't live perfect lives, but that they point out the sins of others and then act as though they have no sins of their own. To support the idea of loving the sinner and hating the sin, some people turn to Romans 12:9: "Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good." But Paul is not telling the people to hate the sin in someone else's life; he is telling them to hate the evil they

might be tempted to pursue in their own lives. There are many things to hate in this fallen world, but the rule that guides our lives should not be hate, but love. **Mark**

Arlington Church of Christ



Our Mission: Connecting People to Jesus and one Another

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Knoxville, TN 37917
865-523-1764

e-mail: office@acoc.comcastbiz.net
Website: www.arlingtonchurchofchrist.org



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
attendance	contribution
Nov. 12	\$3,081

Arlington Family Pages

Seeking to edify, educate and
inform the Family of God

Sunday, November 19, 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: 233-4515
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: Roger Mink recovering from surgery; Betty Weaver recovering from pneumonia; Rebecca Riggs; Terry Trent; Jerry Fittro; Becky Johnson; Casey Owens; Tom Drinnen; Karla Loftis and her dad.

Friends and Loved ones: Terri Trent's friend, Missy Essary; Jeff Hodges mother, Betty Hodges; Aiden Darnell; David Hunter; Deb & Rob Colones; Bill Norris; Faith Tindell; Greg Dyer; Helen Monroe's god-son, Ian Whelahan.

Shut-ins: Betty Buckner; Jack & Rosaline Davis; Lynda Elliott; Fred Galbreath; Edna Hullender; Peggy Mehlhorn; Kathryn Norman; Jessie Rutherford; Dan Trent.

Missionaries: Tom & Angie Langley; Tommy Drinnen.

Coming Soon

- Please take a moment to **pick up a card or two** to mail this week from the Card Ministry table.
- Connection Night**, tonight at 5 p.m. Please bring finger foods to share.
- Hope Central Kingdom Kids** tomorrow from 4 to 6 p.m. at Arlington. See Sue Mink if you can help with food.
- Thanksgiving Devotional**, this Wed., Nov. 22, 7 p.m. All classes will meet in the auditorium.
- No fourth Sunday fellowship** in Nov. or Dec. We will have our Christmas banquet on Saturday, Dec. 9, 6 p.m.
- Teen/College & Families Christmas Party** at the Summers' home, Sun., Dec. 17, at 4 p.m. Bring a pair of Christmas socks for a gift exchange and also sign up for a food item. See Gregg or Delinda for details.
- Winterfest 2018 is February 16-18, 2018** Information is on the teen board. Registration deadline is Sun., Dec. 10. See Gregg or Delinda Summers for additional information.



Please add **Kelly and Liliana Hunter and Gabriela** to your directory:

3810 Fairmont Blvd,
Knox., TN 37917 Ph 865-599-9531

Birthday

Kelly Dec 22
Liliana June 21
Gabriela Nov 27

The Hunters enjoy biking, reading, cooking and eating! Welcome to our family!

Family News

Sermon Topics Today
Sunday Morning:
Does the Bible Say That?
"Love the Sinner, Hate the Sin"
Sunday Night:
Connection Night, 5 p.m.
Fellowship Hall

SERVING THE ASSEMBLY TODAY:

Serve @ Table:

Tyler Norris, Kevin Gillispie
Bruce McQuaig, John David Potter
Zach Shannon, Colby Coleman

Opening Prayer: Randy Riggs

Preside at Table: Wayne Shannon

Greeters: B Pruitt & D Chapman

Nursery: Lori Tiller & Sara Sykes

Security: K Tatum & D Jones

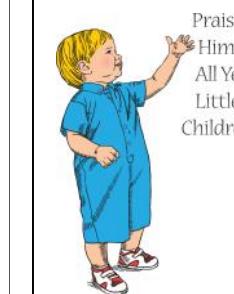


BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Nov 19 Woody Holloway
Nov 20 Hoyt Box
Nov 22 Susan Holloway
Nov 26 Mark French



Family Matters



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.