



“Preparing the Way of the Lord”

We know very little about the growing-up-years of Jesus. One brief story is of a family trip they took to Jerusalem to celebrate Passover, as they did each year. Joseph and Mary were traveling with a large caravan of people, likely friends. They assumed, wrongly, that Jesus was with them on the return trip. They journeyed back and found their twelve-year-old boy in the temple. Keep in mind that Jerusalem is packed with people during the week-long celebration. It would be easy to get lost among the thousands of worshippers. As a practical matter, where would Joseph and Mary have stayed during their days in Judea? Talk about a “no room at the inn” situation. They likely would have stayed with family or kinfolk. Some of Jesus’ family lived in Ein Karem, a town close to Jerusalem. This was the hometown of Elizabeth, Zechariah, and their son John (the Baptist). Remember that as soon as Mary discovered she was pregnant, she left Nazareth to journey to Ein Karem to tell Elizabeth the news. Mary ended up staying there for the next three months, assisting Elizabeth in her pregnancy until she gave birth. John and Jesus were six months apart, age wise.

Luke goes on to tell us that when John was older, he went to live in the wilderness or desert of Judea. Here we find John, around the age of thirty, going to the common people and calling them to repentance (Mark 1:1-7). He was preparing the way for the Messiah who would usher in God’s kingdom on earth. John believed the Messiah to be his relative, Jesus. The place where John taught and baptized was at the Jordan River, likely close to the city of Jericho. This was the very place Israel crossed the Jordan as they entered into the Promised Land. Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John all begin Jesus’ public ministry at the Jordan with John, an important figure in preparing the way for Jesus.

Why did John encourage his hearers to wade into the Jordan to be immersed? The idea of baptism being used for cleansing and of God’s work in forgiveness was nothing new to John’s hearers. The Law of Moses encouraged the regular use of water for cleansing: after childbirth, after the monthly menstrual cycle, after sexual intimacy, and cleansing before entering the Temple courts. The washing was not just to clean the body, but it was also a means of expressing a desire to be clean before God. For John and his followers, baptism was an expression of repentance and God’s forgiveness.

John’s message was urgent. They must turn from sin and to God. The Greek word for repentance is *metanoia*. In the gospels, it means to have a change of mind that leads to a change of heart and a change of values that leads to a changed life. John wanted people to repent from sin. The Greek word for sin is *hamartia*. It means to stray from the path or miss the mark. The Bible shows how all have missed the mark and how to get back on the right path to God.

How do we know what the right path looks like? John said, “The man with two tunics should share with him who has none, and the one who has food should do the same” (Luke 3:11). The evidence God was looking for of true repentance was found in being generous toward the poor and showing a concern for others. John’s message continues to serve as a reminder for us today of what God desires from our lives as we live out His kingdom.

Mark

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Arlington Church of Christ



Our Mission: Connecting People to Jesus and one Another

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 865-523-1764

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 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	\$4,064
Jan.	<u>attendance</u>	<u>contribution</u>

Arlington Family Pages

Seeking to edify, educate and
inform the Family of God
Sunday, January 7, 2018

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: Ben Cavin is in Children's Hospital fighting a serious infection; Janie Johnson; John Burka recovering at home; Roger Mink; Terry Trent; Jerry Fittro; Jean McQuaig; Becky Johnson; Casey Owens; Tom Drinnen; Karla Loftis and her dad.

Friends and Loved ones: Kelly Hunter's dad, Buddy; Patricia Ramsey's father; Ronnie Weldon's brother-in-law; Zack & Karen Johnson; Missy Essary; Betty Hodges; Aiden Darnell; David Hunter; Deb & Rob Colones; Bill Norris; Faith Tindell; Greg Dyer; Helen Monroe's god-son; Ian Whelahan; Heather Ream's mother; Janie Johnson's mom; Jason McDougal's mother.

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.
- **Hope church**, today at 3:30 p.m. at the Hope House. No assembly at the building tonight.
- **YPYF small group** today at 5 pm. We will meet in the mis-fits room. Donuts and coffee will be provided.
- **Optional Bible class** on "Uprooting Anger" starts this Wed., Jan. 10, 7 p.m. The class series on the Sermon on the Mount continues as well.
- There will be a **wedding shower for Mikayla Parsley and Jacob Shannon** Sun., Jan. 14, 2 to 4 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Guys are welcome to attend! They are registered at Target and Amazon.com
- **Small groups**, Sun., Jan. 14, 6 p.m.
- **Guys meet at Shoney's**, Thurs., Jan. 18, 8:30 a.m.
- **Connection Night**, Sun., Jan. 21, 5 p.m. Please bring finger foods to share.
- **Winterfest is February 16-18, 2018** Information is on the teen board.



Family News

Sermon Topics Today
Sunday Morning:
Life of Jesus Series
"John the Baptist and Jesus"

Sunday Night:
No Assembly

SERVING THE ASSEMBLY TODAY:

Serve @ Table:

Joshua Brackney, Jedidiah Cavin
Tyler Norris, Kevin Gillispie
Bruce McQuaig, John David Potter

Opening Prayer: Dann Chapman

Preside at Table: Kelly Hunter

Greeters: Mark & Sammie French

Nursery: Bernice Borg & Sue Bivens

Security: R Weldon & P Ramsey

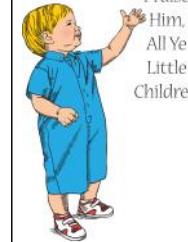


BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Jan 7 Davis Rider
Jan 7 Pierce Owens
Jan 8 George Sanders
Jan 10 Rebecca Riggs
Jan 10 Tim Borg
Jan 10 Chris Collins
Jan 11 Frank Combs
Jan 12 Ashley Gillispie
Jan 13 Marge Percell



Family Matters



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.

See Derrick or Amy Mallicoat for more details.

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