



“A Friend of Sinners”

It is important to look at the types of friends Jesus had because it tells much about him and what it means to be a follower of Jesus. When looking at who he spent time with, you will notice quickly that he did not discriminate based on ethnic background or social standing. Jesus ate with both the poor and the rich. From a religious standpoint, he ate with both the “righteous” and the “sinners.” These two groups of people had two different reactions after spending time with Jesus. Often, the “righteous” were offended by Jesus, while the “sinners” were drawn to him. Jesus gave a quote of what was said about him by the religious leaders: “The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners’” (Matthew 11:19).

Soon after Jesus calls Peter, Andrew, James, and John from their fishing boats to follow him, Jesus calls another unlikely disciple. As Jesus made his way into the town of Capernaum, he meets a man named Levi or Matthew who is collecting levies on goods such as fish and olives that are being transported for sale (Luke 5:27-32). Matthew worked for the Romans who occupied the Jewish homeland. Tax collectors were considered traitors because they worked for the enemy. They would pay Rome what was due them, and would pocket the extra money they collected. They were hated and not welcome to worship in the synagogues. “Righteous” Jews would not associate with them.

Instead of avoiding or ignoring Matthew, Jesus walks up and invites him to be his disciple. Typical rabbis only chose twelve disciples, so you would think Jesus would be a bit picky. Matthew accepts the invitation. This is a big decision for both Matthew and Jesus. For Matthew, he is giving up a lucrative business. For Jesus, he is opening up the opportunity for character assassination and turning some people away. But Jesus didn’t care what others thought. He only cared what God thought. Jesus didn’t see Matthew as a “sinner.” He saw something in Matthew that no one else was able to see.

That night Matthew throws a large banquet at his home and invites Jesus to come. Matthew also invited a number of guests, including other tax collectors (sinners). In the Middle East, both back then and today, to invite someone in your home for a meal was a big deal. It is a public declaration that you are choosing to spend time with someone. The religious people never would have eaten with Matthew. He would have been considered unclean. Even eating the food prepared would have been unclean. But Jesus ate with Matthew and his friends. Those present must have been shocked. Here was a Jewish rabbi eating dinner with them. The “religious” pious crowd was also shocked. After the meal they asked Jesus, “Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and ‘sinners’?” Jesus answered them, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance” (Luke 5:30-32).

Jesus offers a beautiful picture of what God is like. He cares about the lost and has compassion on sinners because he wants them to follow him. Just like Jesus went to outsiders and befriended them in order to draw them to God, let us do the same.

Mark

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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



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
Feb. 4	<u>attendance</u>	<u>contribution</u>
	120	\$3,544

Arlington Family Pages

Seeking to edify, educate and
inform the Family of God

Sunday, February 11, 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: The Davis family as they mourn the passing of Jack Davis; Ben Cavin in Willow Ridge in Maynardville; John Burka; Roger Mink; Terry Trent; Becky Johnson; Casey Owens; Tom & Anita Drinnen.

Friends and Loved ones: Kathryn Norman's son, Gordon Norman; Bobby Cole's nephew, Michael Maddox; Shane Mink; Kelly Hunter's dad, Buddy, in hospice; Laura Owens' uncle, Hoyt; Patricia Ramsey's father; Ronnie Weldon's brother-in-law; Edith Weldon's cousin; Missy Essary; Deb & Rob Colones; Greg Dyer; Heather Ream's mother; Janie Johnson's mom; Jason McDougal's mother & Tina's brother; Olivia Britt; Angie Langley's brother; David Hunter.

Shut-ins: 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. 
- **Winterfest meeting** for attendees and their parents today after morning services.
- **Home church**, tonight at 6 pm. See an elder for a location near you. 
- **Kingdom Kids** tomorrow, Feb. 12, from 4 to 6 p.m. at the ACOC building.
- **Family basketball** this Wed., Feb. 14, 8 to 9:30 p.m. 
- **Men's Breakfast** at Shoney's, this Thurs., Feb. 15, 8:30 a.m.
- **Winterfest is this weekend, February 16-18, 2018.** 
- **Gathering to remember Kathy Campbell's brother** and to share "Buddy Stories", on Sat., Feb 17, 2 p.m., in the fellowship hall. Bring a finger food dessert or chips or dip to share. See Edith Weldon for details.
- **Connection Night**, Sun., Feb. 18, 5 p.m. Please bring finger foods to share after we get to know three more of our Arlington family members.
- **Marriage Class** begins, Feb. 25, at 4 p.m. Register on the Arlington website. See Summers for details. Cost is \$100 but scholarships are available. 

Family News

Sermon Topics Today
Sunday Morning:
Life of Jesus Series
Jesus' Ministry to Sinners

Sunday Night:
Home Church

SERVING THE ASSEMBLY TODAY:

Serve @ Table:

Bill Langley, Colby Coleman
Jacob Shannon, Larry Yarborough
Zach Shannon, Bob Campbell

Opening Prayer:

Eli Griffin
Preside at Table: Steve Cooke
Greeters: B Pruet & D Chapman
Nursery: Cathy & Meredith Norris
Security: T Mallicoat & C Coomer



BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

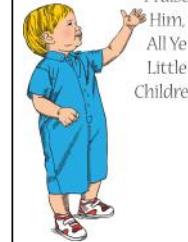
Feb 12 Bailey Giles
Feb 15 Barbara Hoff
Feb 17 Dorothy Langley
Feb 18 Sharon Galbreath



Happy
Birthday!!



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