



### “The Purpose of Life”

I remember thirty years ago sitting in a college dorm room with some of my buddies contemplating the issues of life: how we will survive Chemistry, who is taking who on a date that weekend, what kind of job do you want to have one day, who will you marry, what will you do with life, what is God’s plan for my life? We all grew up, took jobs, got married, had kids. But deep down in our hearts, the questions relating to the meaning of life still popped up from time to time. When the day is long and the sleep can’t be found, we ponder. When you face tough times, you begin to ask questions.

Each person copes with the questions and doubts in their own way. Some make radical changes, often called a mid-life crisis. Others force their way through the motions of life. Some ease pain through alcohol or pills. Still others take up hobbies or escape through Netflix. There are those who cope better than others, but the questions still nag: Is my marriage all it should be? As a widow, will I be able to handle all the demands of life? As a single, how can I please God? Why is my job so unfulfilling? Why at the end of the day do I feel like it was all a waste of time? Why? Why? Why?

Over the next few months, I want to dive into the book of Ecclesiastes and the questions it asks and answers. The writer of this book has everything going his way. He was rich, powerful, successful – but not satisfied. Unlike Job, who lost everything and asked, “Why?,” the writer of Ecclesiastes still has everything but also asks “Why?” He looked for answers in marriage, work, pleasure, fame, accomplishment, and many other ways. He writes: “I devoted myself to study and to explore by wisdom all that is done under heaven” (Ecclesiastes 1:13). The writer was curious. He wanted to know why he was alive and what his purpose in life was.

The writer calls himself “the teacher.” All of life is the lab that the writer uses to find his answer. But who is this teacher? It appears to be Solomon: “The words of the Teacher, son of David, king in Jerusalem” (Ecclesiastes 1:1). Solomon has the background, the education, the money, and the position to take a close look at life. Some believe the writer to be a later king in Jerusalem, who was in the lineage of David, thus a son. While we may not know for certain who wrote the book, the important thing is that the writer asks all the right questions and we need to listen to the answers.

The writer attempts to find life’s purpose and meaning in a variety of ways: wisdom, new things, the afterlife, money, pleasure, timing, friendship, work, religion, winning, and youth. Which of these is most important to you? Ecclesiastes tells us that these life pursuits will not bring contentment or satisfaction when all is said and done. The favorite word of the teacher is “vanity.” The Hebrew word for “meaningless and futility” is *hebel*. *Hebel* means “fog” or “mist.” Ecclesiastes repeatedly states that life can’t be grasped, just like you can’t grasp mist or fog. It is like “chasing after the wind” (1:11).

Life is depressing when you try to find happiness and meaning apart from God. If we think we can find life apart from God, we will be disappointed at the end of our earthly journey. True meaning is found in God alone.

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Mark

# Arlington Church of Christ



## Our Mission: Connecting People to Jesus and one Another

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Website: [www.arlingtonchurchofchrist.org](http://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	\$4,062
Apr. 15	<u>attendance</u>	<u>contribution</u>
	151	\$3,889

## Arlington Family Pages

Seeking to edify, educate and  
inform the Family of God  
Sunday, April 22, 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:** Betty Weaver with an infected toe; Sharon Galbreath and family; Danny Rider; Ben Cavin in Willow Ridge; John Burka; Roger Mink; Terry Trent; Casey Owens; Tom & Anita Drinnen; Ben and Heather Ream; Garry & Karla Loftis.

**Friends and Loved ones:** Hoyt Box's friend, Bill Hadder, diagnosed with cancer; Laura Owens' dad; Carolyn Stark's brother-in-law, Gary McEwan, in kidney failure; Gordon Norman; Michael Maddox; Shane Mink; Ronnie Weldon's brother-in-law; Edith Weldon's cousin; Missy Essary; Deb & Rob Colones; Greg & Lisa Dyer; Heather Ream's mother, Linda; Janie Johnson's mom; Jason McDougal's mother & Tina's brother; Olivia Britt; Angie Langley's brother; David Hunter; Sheila Riggs co-worker, Amy Smith; Tracey Hart, Betty Weaver's daughter; Brad Owens undergoing tests.

**Shut-ins:** Lynda Elliott; 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. 
- **Fourth Sunday fellowship**, is today. All our visitors are invited to join us for lunch.
- **Kingdom Kids** tomorrow, April 23, from 4 to 6 p.m. at Arlington.
- **Family volleyball**, this Wed., April 25, 8 to 9:30 p.m. 
- We will be **honoring our high school graduates** at a dinner this Sat. night, April 28, 6 p.m. Please sign up by TODAY if you plan to attend. There is also a sign up sheet if you would be willing to help with food. Donations will be accepted. 
- **Teachers Training**, Sunday, April 29, 2 to 5 p.m. Tommy Drinnen will lead us in another session to help us as we teach and study the Bible. The focus will be: *"The Story of the World."* All are invited to attend. We will meet in the auditorium.
- **Knoxville Christian School Fund-raiser**, Friday, May 4th, 7:45 p.m. Speaker: ESPN and NASCAR Great, Dr. Jerry Punch. Tickets are \$15 at the door or online at Knoxvillechristianschool.org.

## Family News

**Sermon Topics Today**  
**Sunday Morning:**  
*The Purpose of Life*

**Sunday Night:**  
**NO SERVICES**  
**TONIGHT**

### SERVING THE ASSEMBLY TODAY:

#### Serve @ Table:

Colby Coleman, Jacob Shannon  
Ronnie Weldon, David Giles  
Larry Yarborough, Bill Langley

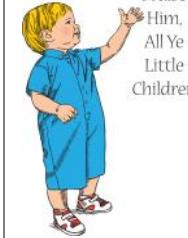
**Opening Prayer:** Randy Riggs  
**Preside at Table:** Gregg Summers  
**Greeters:** Mark & Sammie French  
**Nursery:** A Riggs & M Shannon  
**Security:** Bud & Tyler Norris

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY** **BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK**

April 22 Kay Cavin  
April 22 Wayne Shannon  
April 24 Lynda Elliott  
April 27 Mark Brackney

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.

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**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