



“The Problem and Gift of Pleasure”

“And what does pleasure accomplish” (Ecc. 2:2). We all wonder from time to time, “Is this all there is to life? Is there more?” We think about starting over with nothing to hold us back. What if you could do anything in the world you wanted? If money, time, and responsibilities were not a factor, what would you do?

But after you have done what you wanted, those things would eventually become old. The truth is that most of us will never have the kind of money, time and freedom to do whatever we want to do. But there was someone who lived for pleasure and sought it in numerous ways. It was the writer of the book of Ecclesiastes. He was one of the wealthiest men living at that time so he could attempt to find pleasure in a wide variety of areas. Notice what he found in his life of pleasure (Ecclesiastes 2:1-11). What he had sounds pretty good to us: women, houses, servants, money, and singers. He experimented with every type of pleasure humanly possible. And notice his response at the end of experiment – “meaningless, a chasing after the wind”.

Pleasure doesn't equal happiness. All of our achievements in the end don't mean much. But we do believe that pleasure will bring us happiness. We think if we had the life of this or that person, we would be much happier than we are now. A life of pleasure sounds better than a life of struggle to make ends meet. But we still read the words: “everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind; nothing was gained under the sun.”

So we swing the pendulum the other direction from pleasure to misery? Is this journey just a trail of tears until we get to heaven? Are we to live a life of total self-denial, avoiding every form of pleasure like some monks or Puritans due to viewing pleasure as sin? I don't think so. Pleasure or misery is not the secret to the meaning of life. God is the one who creates feelings of pleasure. God wants his people to enjoy his creation. Pleasure is good if it leads to God, but pleasure as the goal in and of itself is a false road to emptiness and it will not deliver.

Ecclesiastes offers hope to both groups of people: those who suffer and those who have it pretty good. We know pleasure disappoints, but pleasures can be enjoyed (Ecclesiastes 5:18-20; 9:7-10). When pain and despair are all around us, it is time to stop, take a breather, and enjoy the things we can in life, for our time here is brief. When we find ourselves getting caught up with the routine, when we find ourselves getting angry or frustrated with our family, work, or church, we need to stop and look at the blessings God has given us. God gives us pleasures each day.

So for the dreamers out there, like me, who think about future pleasures, waiting to reach the top, to retire, or for your ship to come in, the message of Ecclesiastes is “Stop!” We need to enjoy the pleasure right now and stop dreaming our lives away. For those who are in pain right now, remember that there is such a thing as joy in the world. Food, drink, clothes, work, and family are God's gift to you. Let's stop thinking of ourselves and enjoy.

June 24, 2018
Vol. 49 No. 25

Mark

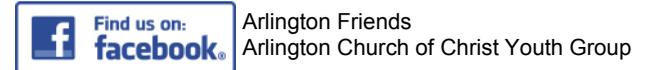
Arlington Church of Christ



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



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
June 17	<u>attendance</u>	<u>contribution</u>
	167	\$4,849

Arlington Family Pages

Seeking to edify, educate and
inform the Family of God
Sunday, June 24, 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: Ronnie Weldon diagnosed with bladder cancer will have surgery tomorrow; Andrea James; Ben Cavin recovering from surgery; Danny Davis; Danny Rider; Frances Maples with knee problems; John Burka; Roger Mink; Terry Trent; Casey Owens; Tom & Anita Drinnen.

Friends and Loved ones: Diana Yarborough's grandfather; Sara Sykes' brother, Ted Fields; David Giles' mother recovering from hip surgery; Mark's dad, Jerry Brackney; Laura Owens' dad; Carolyn Stark's brother-in-law, Gary McEwan; Gordon Norman; Michael Maddox; Shane Mink; Ronnie Weldon's brother-in-law; Edith Weldon's friend, Linda Graybeal; Missy Essary; Deb & Rob Colones; Greg & Lisa Dyer; Faith Tindell; Heather Ream's mother, Linda; Janie Johnson's mom; Olivia Britt; David Hunter; Sheila Riggs co-worker, Amy Smith; Betty Weaver's daughter, Tracy Hart; Brad Owens; Claudia Wilson; Ben Ream's friend, Alice Bowen, battling cancer; Anita Drinnen's brother-in-law, Chuck Floyd.

Shut-ins: Lynda Elliott; Edna Hullender; Peggy Mehlhorn; Kathryn Norman; Jessie Rutherford; Dan Trent.

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 following morning services. All visitors are invited to join us for lunch. There will be no services at the building tonight.
- **White water rafting trip** on the Nantahala River, this Friday, June 29. We will depart from Arlington at 8:30 a.m. And return at 5 p.m. Cost is \$33.85. Please sign up on the teen board or the board in the hallway. All are invited.
- **VBS planning meeting**, Sunday, July 1, at the front of the auditorium after morning worship.
- **YPYF small group**, Sunday, July 1, 5 p.m. We are studying I Corinthians.
- **Small groups**, Sunday, July 8, p.m.
- **Connection night**, Sunday, July 15, 5 p.m. Please bring finger foods to share after our gathering in the auditorium.
- **Men's breakfast at Shoney's**, Thurs., July 19, 8:30 a.m.
- **Vacation Bible School** will take place July 20th, 6 to 8 p.m. and July 21st, 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The theme is: **God Pitched His Tent With Us**. More details to come. Register now in the foyer.



Family News

Sermon Topics Today Sunday Morning:

*Study in Ecclesiastes continued -
"The Problem of Pleasure" Ecc. 2:1-11*

Sunday Night: Fourth Sunday
No Services

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: Jay Estes

Greeters: B Floyd & G Thompson
Nursery: A Riggs & M Shannon
Security: Bud & Tyler Norris

HAPPY
BIRTHDAY

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

June 25 Ada Shannon
June 28 Becky Johnson
June 29 Heather Ream
June 29 Will Simon
June 29 Colby Coleman
June 30 Danny Rider
June 30 Leland Price
July 1 Joddi Thomley
July 1 Clovis Taylor

Family Matters

*Mark
your
calendar*

- **Fifth Sunday Celebration of the Arts**, July 29, 6 p.m. Come for a night of singing your favorite song, reading spiritual poetry, or sharing a work of art or picture you took. God gave us the arts to glorify Him and encourage others.
- Dr. Joe Beam will be presenting a weekend seminar titled: **Love, Sex and Marriage** at the Hardin Valley Church of Christ on August 10 from 7 to 9:30 p.m. and August 11 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Early registration fee is \$20 per couple by July 18th. Late fee is \$30. Snacks and lunch will be provided. Register at: hvcocmarriage.eventbrite.com. Also, sign up on the board so we know who is going and can possibly carpool.
- **Prison Ministry Conference** at Hardin Valley Church of Christ on Saturday, September 15, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. This is a free conference to discuss methods of expanding/coordinating inmate/prison ministries. See board for more details.