



## “The Nature of Work”

“So I saw that there is nothing better for a man than to enjoy his work.” (Ecclesiastes 3:22). Work: something we take pride in, something we love, something we hate, something that gives us our identity. When we meet a stranger, one of the first questions we ask is “So what do you do?” Work gives us status and self-worth. Depending on the day, work is something we take pride in or we hate. So is work a curse or a blessing? The answer of Ecclesiastes is both.

Remember that the writer of this book is wealthy. He has the luxury of picking any job he wants. He is able to experiment. In searching for the meaning of life, he examines work. As the king, he rebuilds the entire country with orchards and beautiful plants and flowers. His gardens are exquisite. He makes a lot of money through his labors but it seems to lead him nowhere. Work is a curse (Ecclesiastes 2:17-23).

The writer uses the word “toil” to describe work. This is not a pleasant description. Is all work really toil? I can understand ditch digging, coal mining, or tobacco picking – that is toil, but what about playing professional baseball, flying airplanes, being a movie star, or being a full-time preacher? Those jobs are nothing but fun. No, the writer calls all work toil. Remember that Solomon probably didn’t have to work a day of his life as far as manual labor goes. Others did it for him. But he still considers his work meaningless toil. Why? Because work produces nothing of lasting value. How long will our great accomplishments last? Not long – work long hours building the business, then you die and then what? All that you worked for may very well go down the drain, be sold off, and all forgotten.

So can there be joy in work? Yes there can, but we must have the right perspective about work. Work is toil if we are relying on it for our self-esteem and identity. Work is toil if we expect our accomplishments to last. While work is toil, it can also bring joy. “So I saw that there is nothing better for a man than to enjoy his work, because that is his lot. For who can bring him to see what will happen after him? (Ecclesiastes 3:22). If we work to accomplish something great, we will be disappointed at some point. But if we leave the future of our work to God, then we don’t have to worry about our work.

So what does work mean for us today? Perhaps we should work less if we take it too seriously. We need to let God, not our work, rule our lives. We are also reminded that our job should not be our life. Our value comes from God because he loves us, not because of what we accomplish at work. We also need to find joy in our work, in the task at hand which means doing something you like. If you hate your job, it might be time to look for another – don’t quit until you find something else. And lastly, the value of our work lies in God’s hands.

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving” (Colossians 3:23-24). What work could seem more like toil than that of a slave? As we slave away at our work, let’s do so with joy knowing that we work, not for a boss or for money, but ultimately for the Lord.

**Mark**

July 15, 2018  
Vol. 49 No. 28

# Arlington Church of Christ



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

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## 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
July 8	<u>attendance</u>	<u>contribution</u>
	141	\$3,198

## Arlington Family Pages

Seeking to edify, educate and  
inform the Family of God  
Sunday, July 15, 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; Andrea James; Ben Cavin; Danny Davis; Danny Rider; Frances Maples; John Burka; Roger Mink; Terry Trent; Casey Owens; Tom & Anita Drinnen; Susan Collins.

**Friends and Loved ones:** Sara Sykes' brother, Ted Fields; Mark's dad, Jerry Brackney; Laura Owens' dad; Gordon Norman; Michael Maddox; Shane Mink; Edith Weldon's friend, Linda Graybeal; Missy Essary; Deb & Rob Colones; Greg & Lisa Dyer; Faith Tindell; Heather Ream's mom, Linda; Janie Johnson's mom; David Hunter; Sheila Riggs co-worker, Amy Smith; Tracy Hart; Brad Owens; Ben Ream's friend, Alice Bowen, battling cancer; Teresa Combs friend, Susan Russell; Tina McDougal's dad.

**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.
- **Connection night**, tonight at 5 p.m. Please bring finger foods to share after our gathering in the auditorium. Tonight, we will interview Davis Rider, Marcia Thorton and her brother, Michael.
- **Men's breakfast at Shoney's**, this 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**. We will be having VBS at the nearby Kiwanis Fresh Air Camp just north of the Zoo Knoxville on Prosser Road that will facilitate outdoor activities. Please sign up on the board for a place to serve. You can also pick up a registration form and information flier in the lobby to register you child or take some to pass out to friends.
- **Fourth Sunday Fellowship**, July 22, after the morning assembly. Please bring food to share. All visitors are invited to join us for lunch.
- **"Navitat at Night"** High Ropes Course at Ijams. We will meet at 7:30 p.m., July 28 (*new date*), for the 8 to 10 p.m. time slot. Cost is \$44.95 per person. Please sign up or see Ben Ream for details.



## Family News

### Sermon Topics Today Sunday Morning:

*Study in Ecclesiastes continued -  
"The Nature of Work" Ecc. 3:22*

**Sunday Night:  
Connection Night @ 5 pm**

### SERVING THE ASSEMBLY TODAY:

#### Serve @ Table:

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

**Opening Prayer:** David Tiller

**Preside at Table:** Dann Chapman

**Greeters:** Tim & Paige Mallicoat

**Nursery:** Lori Tiller & Sara Sykes

**Security:** K Tatum & D Jones

HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY

BIRTHDAYS  
THIS WEEK

July 15 Ben Ream  
July 17 Christina Childress  
July 18 Conrad Newland  
July 21 Jeremy Snowden



Happy  
Birthday!!



## 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](http://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.