



### “When Life Isn’t Fair”

What parent hasn't heard a child say the words, "That's not fair." We come to realize rather quickly that life is not fair. The writer of Ecclesiastes sums it up well with the words, "The race is not to the swift" (Ecc. 9:11). You may have been elected in high school as the "most likely to succeed," but the class nerd is on the cover of *Popular Mechanics* while you are still working harder hoping to make it big one day. But that day never comes. Failure is something that concerns us all. We have been taught all our lives that we are to try our best and not give up and we will eventually succeed. Then when we fail, we question our efforts and wonder if we really gave our best. We focus on the mistakes and blame ourselves for failures. Could I have done more? Was I to blame?

Sure, there are times when we might be to blame for events that happen, but this is not always the case. At times we do our absolute best as husbands, wives, parents, friends – but tragedy still strikes. So it's comforting to remember that events that happen are not always our fault. The best do not always win. The strong do not always survive. There are events beyond our control as the writer said, "...time and chance happen to them all" (Ecclesiastes 9:11). We need to learn the lesson that we are not fully in control of our lives.

One of the most difficult things we struggle with is why innocent children and righteous people suffer. Some of the strongest Christians we know die at an early age. Faithful men and women get cancer and die while thieves and criminals run free. The drug lord lives like a king while the customer lives a life of hell in addiction. "There is something else meaningless that occurs on earth: righteous men who get what the wicked deserve, and wicked men who get what the righteous deserve. This too, I say, is meaningless" (Ecclesiastes 8:14). It seems that we do not get what we deserve. The righteous are oppressed while the wicked prosper. So what do we do? Do we give up on life, or despite the unfairness, do we still have hope? Life is not fair but we still hope (Ecclesiastes 8:12-13).

It may be that right now the wicked prosper, but God will have the final word. We know that the fastest don't always win in this life, but the race is not over. Living the Christian life is often referred to as a marathon, not a sprint. We are not running alone (Hebrews 12:1-3). Recently, France won the world cup against Croatia. The teams played before a crowded stadium full of cheering fans. The picture the Hebrew writer gives us is of an arena with many faithful cheering us from the stands as we run the race of life. Hebrews 11 gave a roll call of some of the great heroes of the faith mentioned in the Bible. We can picture Jesus up ahead, at the finish line, cheering us on. He yells, "I finished the race, you can too!" Jesus knew personally that the innocent suffer. He knew the righteous were persecuted because he suffered himself. More than anyone, Jesus deserved to win in this life, but he didn't. Jesus didn't give up though. He didn't grow weary, for defeat in the world's eyes may actually be victory.

God is the one who judges fairly. Someone may get away with it in this life, but not in the next. We win not by finishing first, but by finishing. We may not be able to run across the finish line, only limping. But we must finish. **Mark**

July 22, 2018  
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# 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](mailto:office@acoc.comcastbiz.net)  
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
July 15	<u>attendance</u>	<u>contribution</u>
	151	\$4,502

## Arlington Family Pages

Seeking to edify, educate and  
inform the Family of God  
Sunday, July 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

**Our Sympathy is extended to...**the Giles family as they mourn the passing of David's mother.

**In Our Thoughts and Prayers:** Ronnie Weldon; 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; Tina McDougal's dad, Joyce Sanders' dad in Virginia struggling with dementia.

**Shut-ins:** Lynda Elliott; Edna Hullender, at Tennova NHC; 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**, today following the morning assembly. 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. If we get 10 or more to go, we will get 10% off. Please sign up or see Ben Ream for details.
- 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 so we know who is going and can possibly carpool.



## Family News

### Sermon Topics Today Sunday Morning:

*Study in Ecclesiastes continued -  
"When Life Isn't Fair" Ecc. 9:11*

**Sunday Night:**  
*No Services Tonight*

### SERVING THE ASSEMBLY TODAY:

#### Serve @ Table:

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

**Opening Prayer:** Carroll Coomer  
**Preside at Table:** Keith Tatum  
**Greeters:** Mark & Sammie French  
**Nursery:** A Riggs & M Shannon  
**Security:** B Gilliam & J Hoff

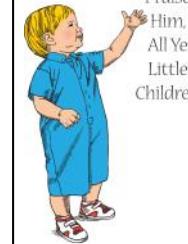
## HAPPY BIRTHDAY BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

July 25 Wesley Newland  
July 25 Jedidiah Cavin  
July 26 Harrison Summers  
July 27 Teresa Heinz  
July 27 Nicholas Noe  
July 28 Edna Hullender

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.

### 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