

“The End of the Story”

Let me share with you three true stories. The first is a mother’s story - Mary. Like most young girls, she had dreamed about her future. She and a young man loved each other and plans had been made to be married, but this all changed when an angel appeared to her and she was terrified. He was the angel Gabriel. The news he brought would change her life forever (Luke 1:26-37). “How can this pregnancy be?” Mary was confused. How would you react to such a word from an angel? How would others ever believe a story about a visit from an angel and that the Holy Spirit would be the dad and a child that was to be the Son of God? Probably more than a few of us would ask: “Are you sure about this? Do you really want me? How about finding someone else? I have other plans for my life.”

But here is what Mary simply says, “I am the Lord’s servant. May it be to me as you have said” (Luke 1:38). Mary didn’t understand, but she obeyed. She bends her will to that of the Father. Mary would live up to these words for the rest of her life. Mary didn’t understand everything, but she listened to Jesus and obeyed. And then came that fateful day when she had to watch her son go through a mock trial, severe beatings, and death by crucifixion. The words, “Lord, let it be as you will” must have been extremely difficult to utter.

The next story is that of a son – Jesus. We pick up the story with Jesus being in a garden, an olive grove of trees on a hill called the Mount of Olives that overlooks the Temple Mount. Jesus was not surprised by the events unfolding before him. He told his disciples about his impending arrest and death, but they didn’t understand. They were more concerned about positioning themselves for seats of honor in Jesus’ coming kingdom. Jesus was deep in prayer a stone’s throw away from his snoozing disciples. Jesus knew what lay ahead, what he must do, and the cost of obedience. Jesus knew the Father’s will, but he also knew God had the power to take the cup of suffering away if possible.

Jesus prayed fervently until his sweat became blood (Luke 22:41-44). The answer came back. Jesus must drink from the cup of suffering. The response of Jesus to God: “Not my will but yours be done.”

The last story involves a man – Saul. He was determined to wipe out the followers of a false messiah named Jesus. Something must be done to silence these so-called apostles who were spreading lies that their master had been raised from the dead. Saul set out for a city to persecute the followers of this new sect full of religious zeal. All of a sudden something happened that would change his life forever (Acts 9; 26:12-20). Fighting against God’s will is like running into a cattle prod. Saul went on to do God’s will for the rest of his life.

What do the stories of Mary, Jesus, and Saul have to do with us? Much since the chief purpose in life is to figure out our own story. The writer of Ecclesiastes has been asking the important questions: Why are we here? What is our purpose? What will make us happy? What makes our lives worthwhile? There is only one correct answer: “Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man” (Ecclesiastes 12:13). The meaning of our story is not found in the story itself; it is found in the author. We fear and obey God so that at the end of the story, we see him as he truly is.

Mark


Arlington Church of Christ



Our Mission: Connecting People to Jesus and one Another

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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 \$4,062
attendance contribution
July 29

Arlington Family Pages

Seeking to edify, educate and
inform the Family of God
Sunday, August 5, 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... Bud Norris and family as they mourn the death of Bud's dad and Diana Yarborough and family as they mourn the passing of her grandfather.

In Our Thoughts and Prayers: Rick Johnson recovering from surgery; Rick Case; Marge Percell; 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; Linda Graybeal; Missy Essary; Deb & Rob Colones; Greg & Lisa Dyer; Faith Tindell; Heather Ream's mom, Linda; Janie Johnson's mom; David Hunter; Amy Smith; Brad Owens; Ben Ream's friend, Alice Bowen; Joyce Sanders' dad struggling with dementia; Cheryl Cassidy having back issues.

Shut-ins: Rosaline Davis; 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.
- **New Wednesday night series** on the Holy Spirit began August 1, 7 p.m.
- After lunch today, Wayne Shannon will show the movie **"Chasing the Dragon"** and lead a discussion about the prevalence and danger of drugs in our culture. There is babysitting for younger children. There is sensitive material covered so a mature audience is requested. Older middle school and high school students and their parents are especially encouraged to attend.
- **YPYF small group**, today, at 5 p.m. We will meet at the church building.
- 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. Registration fee is \$30. Snacks and lunch will be provided. Register at:
hvcocmarriage.eventbrite.com. Sign up so we know who is going and can possibly carpool.
- **Small groups**, Sunday, August 12, 6 p.m.
- **Men's group at Shoney's**, Thursday, August 16, 8:30 a.m.
- **Connection Sunday**, August 19, 5 p.m.



Family News

Sermon Topics Today Sunday Morning:

*Study in Ecclesiastes continued -
"The End of the Story" Ecc. 12:13*

Sunday Night: No Services Tonight

SERVING THE ASSEMBLY TODAY:

Serve @ Table:

Danny Davis, Bob DeWitt
Bob Campbell, Caleb Brackney
Zach Shannon, Paul Cooke

Opening Prayer: John Potter
Preside at Table: Kelly Hunter
Greeters: John & Laura Burka
Nursery: R Brackney & L Cooke
Security: J McDougal & J Turnbull

HAPPY
BIRTHDAY

BIRTHDAYS
THIS WEEK

Aug 5 Angela Riggs
Aug 5 John Hoff
Aug 7 Steve Cooke
Aug 8 Jill Cooke
Aug 10 Jessica Toney
Aug 11 Gregg Summers



Happy Birthday!!



Family Matters

New Apartment Number:

Marge Percell
4301 Whittle Springs Rd,
Apt 308
Knoxville, TN 37917



New Addresses:

Zach and Ariana Shannon
4321 Walking Drive
Knoxville, TN 37912
Email: designbyariana@gmail.com

Larry and Diana Yarborough
300 Montview Road
Lenior City, TN 37771

Alan & Rebekah Groves
3000 Legacy Pointe Way, #526
Knoxville, TN 37921



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.