

March 9, 2023

### GIVING GOD the CREDIT

An elephant was walking in the jungle when he suddenly came to a huge ravine. After walking back and forth, he finally notices a bridge that spanned across the great chasm and decided that it was the only way to get across. However, before he was able to begin his journey over the ravine, a mouse showed at the bridge with the same problem of needing to cross it. The elephant and mouse began talking and they decided since the bridge was so long and narrow, it would be best for them to cross together, with the mouse on the elephants back. That way the mouse wouldn't have to travel so far and wouldn't risk getting stepped on by the elephant. So the mouse climbed up onto the back of the elephant and they began their journey. As they were crossing the bridge though, the mouse soon began to notice that the bridge was shaking quite a bit. He could feel the swaying and hear the creaking as the bridge held on until they crossed over to the other side. Once they were safely on solid ground again, the mouse said to the elephant "Boy, WE really shook that bridge as we went over it, didn't WE! Now, it is obvious that the mouse had little to do with the shaking of the bridge. However, in the mouse's mind, he had a lot to do with that shaking. This story paints a pretty accurate picture though of how we tend to look at what all WE do in our lives, compared to what God actually does. I imagine God shaking His head when we take so much credit for all the small things we may do in comparison to Him. We tend to forget how God is the elephant doing most of the shaking and working in people's lives. Even when God uses us in a small way, we come to the conclusion that WE have done something so great and powerful.

A great example of how we should look at God and His work can be found in Paul and Barnabas in **Acts 13-14**. **Acts 13:2** reads, "While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." At this moment, God specifically called them out to go and preach to the Gentiles, and they waste no time. They travel to Cyprus and began teaching the gospel with some pretty powerful signs and miracles. After striking blindness on Elymas for opposing the gospel message, we read in **Acts 13:12** "Then the proconsul believed, when he saw what had occurred, for he was astonished at the teaching of the Lord." From there, they traveled to Antioch and continued proclaiming the gospel message. **Acts 13:48-49** says, "And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed. And the word of the Lord was spreading throughout the whole region." After the Jews in that area begin to stir up trouble against them, they shook

the dust off their feet and went on to Iconium. **Acts 14:3** says, "So they remained for a long time, speaking boldly for the Lord, who bore witness to the word of His grace, granting signs and wonders to be done by their hands." Eventually, they were ran out of that town because of the division between the believers of their teaching and the Jews. So, they went on to Lystra, and there, because of the miracles they produced, the city began calling them Zeus and Hermes and the priests of the temples began bringing them gifts.

Now, at this point, Paul and Barnabas could have easily looked back and said, "look at all that we have done, look at all the success we have." After all, they are being praised as gods who had come to earth. But look what they said in **Acts 14:15**, "Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men, of like nature with you, and we bring you good news, that you should turn from these vain things to a living God, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and all that is in them." Their example doesn't end there either. After they told the people of Lystra that they were not gods in flesh but came to proclaim the one true God, the Jews from Antioch and Iconium showed up and persuaded the crowds to stone Paul. He was stoned to the point where the crowd thought he was dead, but when the disciples gathered around him, he got up and went on with Barnabas to Derbe. There, they proclaimed the gospel and then they traveled back through all those previous cities to Antioch, strengthening the faith of believers. Then, in **Acts 14:27** we read, "And when they arrived and gathered the church together, they declared all that God had done with them, and how he had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles."

Paul and Barnabas knew that they were just a pair of mice compared to God and the work He was able to do. God was the One who opened the door of faith to the Gentiles. God was the One who performed the miracles that caused many to believe. God was the One who gave them the message of salvation to preach. Paul and Barnabas wanted the church in Antioch to be impressed with what God had done instead of being impressed with them. The question I find myself asking is, "am I as quick to do the same?" Are we quick to give God the glory and praise instead of ourselves or others?

It is easy to laugh at the mouse in the story with the elephant. However, it is also easy for us to have the very same attitude when we think too much of ourselves and our own abilities when God is truly the one at work. The fact is, God is at work and He is using us to accomplish His will. We must make sure to maintain the right perspective and be quick to give God thanks for all the work He is doing. After all, God provides the growth, in all things.

Andrew Spivey

## COORDINATED BIBLE CLASS STUDIES

Sunday Read – Acts 13  
Wednesday Read – Acts 14

### BIBLE STUDY

Questions for last week's reading of **Acts 11 & 12**

1. Why was it good for Peter to have six believers from Joppa with him at Cornelius' home?
2. What were the believers first called at Antioch?
3. Where did Barnabas travel from Jerusalem?
4. What happened to Peter while he was in jail?
5. Why was Herod struck down?

### LADS TO LEADERS

Lads to Leaders puppet team will meet every Sunday at 3:30 PM from now until convention time.

### SENIOR GROUP

The Senior Group will meet, **Thursday, March 16<sup>th</sup>** at 5:00 PM in the Fellowship Room for games and finger foods. Please bring finger foods, drinks and desserts.

### ANNUAL EGG HUNT

The Annual Egg Hunt here at Nashville Road is set for **Saturday, April 1<sup>st</sup>** beginning at 1:00 p.m.

### SYMPATHY

Our Love and Sympathy to the family of **Aleya Brooks**, friend of Presley Fitts, who passed away from injuries sustained from a tree falling during the March 3<sup>rd</sup> storm. Please keep her family, friends and classmates at Liberty Creek High School in your prayers.

### PRAYER REQUEST

Please keep Abbie Marshall and her medical mission team in your prayers. They leave March 11<sup>th</sup> and return on March 18<sup>th</sup>. She will be in Chichicastenango, in the highlands of Guatemala. Their primary mission is mobile medical clinics but they will also be conducting some VBS type activities for the children and work on education projects.

### TNT (TUESDAY NIGHT TOGETHER)

The next TNT meeting will be on **Tuesday March 21st** in the fellowship room at **6:00 pm**. TNT is for all youth from 6<sup>th</sup> grade & up. *\*Notice the new time to begin.\**

## ORDER OF SERVICES

### SUNDAY

March 12, 2023

9:00 AM

### BIBLE STUDY

(Classes for Nursery – High School upstairs)

Song.....Ben Hutson  
Opening Prayer.....Fate Evans  
Auditorium Lesson.....Andrew Spivey

### 10:00 AM SERVICE

Welcome.....David Thompson  
Scripture Reading.....Brent Smith  
Song Leader.....Ben Hutson  
Opening Prayer.....Adam Williamson  
Sermon.....Andrew Spivey  
Lord's Supper.....Bob Brown  
Closing Prayer.....Eric Stephenson

### 5:00 PM SERVICE

Welcome.....David Thompson  
Song Leader.....Carl Newby  
Opening Prayer.....Jonathan Senn  
Sermon.....Andrew Spivey  
Lord's Supper.....Jim Cherry  
Closing Prayer.....Tim Strickland

## WEDNESDAY

March 15, 2023

7:00 PM

Welcome.....David Thompson  
Song Leader.....Ben Hutson  
Opening Prayer.....Rick Gallagher  
Lesson.....Andrew Spivey  
Closing Prayer.....Matt Ellis

Door Greeters – West Door.....L/J Clark  
East Door.....B/M Smith  
Visitor's Desk Volunteer.....Sue Kloes

### IF YOU CANNOT SERVE, PLEASE CALL

Alex Sherrill.....615-289-9935  
Church Office.....615-452-3431

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## SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday Bible Study 9:00 a.m. - Sunday Morning Worship 10:00 a.m.  
 Sunday Evening Worship 5:00 p.m. - Wednesday Evening Worship 7:00 p.m.

### SICK LIST

Mary Ann Reinhart has been diagnosed with cancer. Aza Topik, grandson of Charlie & Wanda Seals, is home now but continues with rehab. Allison Hogan, daughter of Demar Elam has sepsis after having back surgery James McCloskey a former member has stopped chemo treatments. Radiation treatments will begin March 6. Mike Martin, friend of the Jennings & Cato families, is in ICU at Skyline. Paul Norman, nephew of Carolyn Vester and cousin to Valarie Senn & Wanda Sherrill, has been diagnosed with stage 4 colon cancer. April Cothran, a good friend of Celena Marshall has now been placed on Hospice



### PRAYER LIST

Vetrus Mee, Charter Senior Living of Gallatin; Shelby Ross; Sandi Jones; Maxine Cothron; Gerald Miles, The Waters of Gallatin, 555 E. Bledsoe Drive, Room 305; Frances Catron; Jean Deaton; Charlie Cliburn; Bryan Grissom cousin to Joyce Clark & Robbie Glover; Vycki Puckett, daughter of Jack & Anita Cato; Larry Bailey son of Tina Bailey; Ty Tyler son of Ann Tyler; Ricky Cantrell; Wade & Wanda Kennedy parents of Diana Stephenson; Ida Lou Sherrill, mother of Alex Sherrill; Taylor Lackford, niece of Brenda Veale; Dustin Lackford, nephew of Brenda Veale; Janice Haskins, sister of Jim Cherry; Larry Conley, friend of Wanda Proctor; John Gregory, brother of Bob Gregory; Harold Cole, friend of Lena Baggett; Bobbie Carter, sister of Janice Johnson; Betty Billingsley, sister of Wanda Proctor; Walter Wooten, brother of Wanda Sherrill.

### SHUT-INS

Marilee Frederick, Gallatin Rehab, Room 220; Joyce Savage, NHC Place Sumner, room 322; Jane Hughes, 126 Seabury Dr., Greenville, SC 29615; Melba Hill.

We depend on families and friends to help us update this list. Please notify us of any changes.

### OUR RECORD THIS WEEK

Bible Study.....	119
Morning Worship.....	156
Sunday Evening.....	77
Wednesday Evening.....	63
Contribution.....	\$9,581.00
Youth Group Account.....	\$5,677.00

### Elders

Tony Butler.....	615-452-0560
Jim Cherry.....	615-479-2149
David Johnson.....	615-300-9084
Alex Sherrill.....	615-289-9935
David Thompson.....	615-598-6621

### Deacons

Carl Newby	Jonathan Senn	Brent Smith
Eric Stephenson	Ken Veale	Adam Williamson

# Nashville Road CHURCH OF CHRIST

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ANDREW SPIVEY, Pulpit and Family Minister  
 TIM STRICKLAND, Associate Minister  
 GARRETT ROWLETT, Youth Minister