

### GOOD GIFTS

**James 1:17** says, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change." Even though we might sometimes misunderstand what is actually "good," there is no doubt that every good and perfect gift has come from God. But why is it that some of the good gifts that we receive from God do not seem so "good?" The answer to that lies in the second half of James 1:17. When it comes to God, there is no variation or shadow. Basically, God can see it all and there is no way for Him to be back and forth. Being human, this can be hard for us to understand. After all, beauty is in the eye of the beholder. It is easy for us to take positives and make them negatives and these shadows in our lives can sometimes mask the true beauty and splendor of God's good and perfect gifts. Fortunately, He has given us amazing examples of His gifts throughout scripture so that we can see how good they truly are.

Think of Joseph for example and how well God's gifts work in his life. Years before anyone even understood what was going on, God gave Joseph two dreams about the future. When Joseph had the first dream about the wheat bowing down to him, he told his brothers which only fueled their anger even more towards him. When he told the second dream, about the sun, moon, and stars all bowing down to him, Joseph was rebuked by his father saying, "What is this dream that you have dreamed? Shall I and your mother and your brothers indeed come to bow ourselves to the ground before you?" (**Genesis 37:10**)

There is no way that Jacob, his brothers, or even Joseph, for that matter, could have imagined how this would happen or if it would ever come true. However, to us, we can see how all this comes about and see the true beauty of this gift. This reveals to us how God uses events to accomplish His purpose. Soon after Joseph tells of his dreams, his brothers' jealousy drove them to eventually selling him as a slave. Later the lies of Potiphar's wife lead Joseph to prison. Even when he interprets the dream for the chief cupbearer of Pharaoh and tells him the good news of his release, the cupbearer forgets and Joseph spends two more years in prison. Throughout all of this Joseph, or anyone, could have asked "Where is God?"

Now, we know that God was with Joseph. When Joseph was sold to Potiphar's household, **Genesis 39:2** says, "The Lord was with Joseph, and he became a successful man, and he was in the house of his Egyptian master." Even after Potiphar believes the lie of his wife and throws Joseph in prison, **Genesis 39:21** says, "But the Lord was with Joseph and showed him steadfast love and gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison." God was obviously with him, but in reality, it is only afterwards that Joseph could look back on all that had happened and say to his brothers "As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today." (**Genesis 50:20**)

Someone might simply think that Jacob and his children were lucky that Joseph was the ruler in Egypt, but luck had nothing to do with it. This was God working and showing His good and perfect gifts upon Joseph. How do we know that? Because God foretold it in two dreams.

It is only upon looking back that the true gifts of God are made visible. But what can we do in the present to remember and recognize God's gifts? The best example of this can be found in the words Mordecai said to Esther in **Esther 4:14**, "For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" Although it may be hard to see God's plan at times, there are countless struggles and hardships that can cause us to wax and wane in light and shadows. We may never even realize how much God is working in a situation until years down the road, but we do not need to know. In the end, it is more than enough to know that every good gift comes from our Father. What we need to do is continue to ask, seek, and knock, knowing that God's plan will carry us through. "If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!" (**Matthew 7:11**) **Andrew Spivey**

### CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **Andrew and Taylor Spivey** on the birth of their daughter **Palmer Jane**, born on Wednesday September 22. Palmer entered the world weighing 7lbs & 8 oz and 20 3/4 " long. Everyone is doing wonderful.

### COORDINATED BIBLE CLASS STUDIES

Sunday Read – **John 20:24-31; John 21:1-25**  
Wednesday Read – **Matthew 28:16-20;**  
**Luke 24:44-49**

### BIBLE STUDY



Questions for last week's reading of **Matthew 28:1-15; Mark 16:1, 7; Luke 24:1-10; John 20:1-18; & Luke 24:13-43**

1. Who came to the tomb early on Sunday morning?
2. Who ran to the tomb and who went in first?
3. What did the chief priests give to the guards so the guards would lie about Jesus' body?
4. What scriptures did Jesus use to teach the two men who met him on the road to Emmaus?
5. How did the apostles know it was Jesus when he appeared to them?

### SYMPATHY

Our Love and Sympathy to **Paul & April Young** on the passing of Paul's father, **Jerry Young**, on September 10<sup>th</sup>. Funeral services were held Wednesday, September 15<sup>th</sup> in Portland, TN.

### FALL SERIES

**Nashville Road Church of Christ**  
**1883 Nashville Road**  
**Gallatin, TN**

**Sunday, October 17-Wednesday, October 20, 2021**

Theme: Step Out of the Crowd.  
Speakers: Mike Tidwell and Hugh Fulford.

Sunday services: 10:00 AM –  
Mike Tidwell - Dare to Be Different

Sunday services: 5:00 PM –  
Mike Tidwell - Seize the Day

Monday night: 7:00 PM –  
Hugh Fulford - A Peculiar People

Tuesday night: 7:00 PM –  
Hugh Fulford - The Voices That Call

Wednesday night: 7:00 PM –  
Mike Tidwell - Let God Do A New Thing in  
Your Life

### ORDER OF SERVICES

#### SUNDAY

**September 26, 2021**

**9:00 AM**

#### BIBLE STUDY

(Classes for Nursery – High School upstairs)

Song.....Bob Brown  
Opening Prayer.....Carl Newby  
Auditorium Lesson.....Tim Strickland

#### 10:00 AM SERVICE

Welcome.....David Thompson  
Song Leader.....Bob Brown  
Opening Prayer.....Jim Cherry  
Sermon.....Tim Strickland  
Lord's Supper.....Tim Cummins  
Closing Prayer.....Lee Boone  
Ushers.....D. Fitts/C. Suddarth

#### 5:00 PM SERVICE

Welcome.....David Thompson  
Song Leader.....Bob Brown  
Opening Prayer.....Brent Smith  
Sermon.....Tim Strickland  
Lord's Supper.....Ken Veale  
Closing Prayer.....Fate Evans

#### WEDNESDAY

**September 29, 2021**

**7:00 PM**

Welcome.....David Thompson  
Song Leader.....Bob Brown  
Opening Prayer.....Jerry Watson  
Lesson.....Tim Strickland  
Closing Prayer.....Tony Butler  
Visitor's Desk Volunteer.....Linda Cherry

### IF YOU CANNOT SERVE, PLEASE CALL

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

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 E-mail: [nashvilleroadcoc@comcast.net](mailto:nashvilleroadcoc@comcast.net)

## 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

Tammy Johnson is home now and doing some better. Bob & Wanda Gregory are both having health issues. Vicky Puckett, daughter of Jack & Anita Cato is now in Centennial, has improved some. Art Vernon, nephew of JoAnn Williamson, is home but not doing well. Randy Hawkins, brother of Julie Cummins is on a ventilator. Laura Irwin sister of Julie Cummins is doing some better. Ben Mayberry, remains at NHC. Ann Beska, neighbor of Mattie Carter & Betty Buttrey, has been diagnosed with cancer. Ty Tyler, son of Ann Tyler, continues with serious health issues. Ron Kloes step son of Sue Kloes, stage 4 lung cancer. Allen Plunk, cousin of Donna Jennings, colon cancer that has spread to his liver. Ronnie Love, cousin of Pam Newby, bone cancer. Donny Pedigo, friend of Tim Cummins, stage 4 cancer. Jerry Ladd, Sr. CLL Leukemia. Craig Sweeney, son of James & Doris Sweeney, continues cancer treatments. John Arnold, father of Brenda Veale is homebound and dealing with serious health issues.



### PRAYER LIST

Demar Elam; Ricky Cantrell; Linda Wesbrooks; Maxine Cothron; Gerald Miles, The Waters of Gallatin, 555 E. Bledsoe Drive, Room 100; Jim Sweeney; J.H & Frances Catron; Melba Hill; William Dunn; Presley Fitts; Jean Deaton; Ben Mayberry, brother-in-law to Frances, Bernice, Jean, Kenneth & Mary Ann; Ricky Cross, friend of Betty Buttrey; Ida Lou Sherrill, mother of Alex Sherrill; Will Flowers, brother-in-law of Grace Bracey; Lawrence Redding, son-in-law of Betty Melcher; Taylor Lackford, niece of Brenda Veale; Dustin Lackford, nephew of Brenda Veale; Janice Haskins, sister of Jim Cherry; Larry Conley, friend of Wanda Proctor; Wayne Holt, nephew of Grace Bracey; John Gregory, brother of Bob Gregory; Pam Flory, friend of Sherry Sever; 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

Ilene Kinney; Marilee Frederick, Gallatin Rehab, Room 309A; Jane Hughes, 126 Seabury Dr., Greenville, SC 29615; Cathy Henderson; Penny Campbell, The Village of Bellevue, Room 417, 8118 B Sawyer Brown Road, Nashville, TN 37221; Dorothy Sullivan, Front Porch Senior Living 115 Sunset Pl. Portland TN, 37148.

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

### OUR RECORD THIS WEEK

Bible Study.....	69
Morning Worship.....	86
Sunday Evening.....	55
Wednesday Evening.....	47
Contributions.....	\$5,851.00
Youth Group Account.....	\$8,460.69

### 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
Jerry Watson.....	615-461-8137

### Deacons

Carl Newby Brent Smith  
 Ken Veale Adam Williamson



# Nashville Road CHURCH OF CHRIST

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ANDREW SPIVEY, Pulpit and Family Minister  
 TIM STRICKLAND, Associate Minister