*NORTH HAMILTON*

*CHURCH OF CHRIST*



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November 24, 2019

**Elders**

Willard Elsea

240-9539

Art Greer

902-6295

Joel Laney

322-7828

**Minister**

David Smith

667-1987

**Deacons**

Joe Anderson

Rick Essex

Keith Herron

Brad Jones

Chris Randolph

Curt Stewart

Tommy Qualls

Toby Ward

Minister’s Office Hours:

Monday through Thursday, 9:00a.m. – 3:00p.m.

Bible Classes 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M.

Sunday Evening 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 7:00 P.M

**“Encouraging Evil”**

**David B. Smith**

Our culture is not so dissimilar from the ones we read about in Scripture. Technology may change and habits may be different, but people are largely unchanged throughout time. The statement Jesus makes in Matthew 7:13-14, about few being saved and most being lost, could be applied to just about any period in history. The world loves darkness, Jesus said (Jn. 3:19). This means we can point to the past and make comparisons to the present, about how we

**Attendance Last Week**

Bible Class: 110 Sunday AM: 154

Sunday PM: 103 Wednesday: 103

**Men to Serve**

AM: Opening Prayer – Jack Smith Announcements – Joel Laney

PM: Opening Prayer – Chris Randolph Closing Prayer – Justin Tripp

Wed: Opening Prayer – Carroll Oxford

Closing Prayer – Freeman Cooper

All week: Lock Building – Curt Stewart Hall Monitor – Joe Anderson

(Men, please check the duty roster on bulletin board and let Curt Stewart or George Farmer know if you are unable to serve)

**If you have information or updates for the bulletin, please**

**e-mail them to our secretary at nhcocsec@gmail.com**

**Prayer List**

*Additional information is available on the bulletin board.*

James Anderson

Patricia Anthony

Jim Bethune

Nancy Birch

Jennifer Bradford

Marjorie Cagle

Isaac Cooper

Danny Curvin

Tommie Grandfield

Sarah Grasham

Bill Greer

Susie Hargis

Grayson Ledbetter

Loretta Leffew

Judy Lusk

Tony Miller

Lexi Owens

Carlos Shannon

Janice Smith

Bessie Smithson

Johnny Southerland

Diane Stacy

John Webster

**Tom Greer** was admitted to Memorial Hospital on Wednesday after suffering a heart attack. While no artery blockage was detected, physicians did implant a pacemaker and defibrillator on Thursday. He was dismissed from the hospital on Friday and is now recovering at home.

Terry Pursley’s niece, **Jennifer Stanton**, is scheduled for delicate surgery on December 5. Terry asks that we remember Jennifer in prayer that surgery may be successful.

**Glen Norwood** presently has blockage in arteries around his heart. He has follow-up meeting with physicians on December 11. Surgery remains a possibility.

**This Week’s Birthdays and Anniversaries**

*Next month’s calendar is on the table in the foyer. Please check that your family’s December birthdays and anniversaries are correct and included.*

Birthdays

25 – Jaxon Grant

26 – Clyde Harvey

Anniversaries

None this week

**Announcements**

* **Congratulations:** How many of us adults know what is contained in each chapter of the book of Genesis? John Jackson Herron, Hank Stewart, and Saralyn Elsea have recently received trophies for correctly stating what each chapter in Genesis contains. Way to go John Jackson, Hank, and Saralyn. We are proud of you!
* **Ladies Bible Class:** LBC will not meet this week, November 26th.
* **Martin-Boyd:** Remember that next Sunday we will meet at Martin-Boyd for a 3:00 p.m. worship service with the residents there. This service will also be in lieu of our evening service here during the month of December. North Hamilton is frequently mentioned for the support we give during these services, so plan on being with us next Sunday afternoon at Martin-Boyd.
* **Holiday Meal:** Saturday, December 14 at 6:00 p.m., is set as the time for our annual holiday meal. Once again, members will bring side dishes and desserts while turkey and ham will be prepared. If you wish to contribute to the cost of purchasing meat, you may give money to Curt Stewart.
* **Singing:** Song leaders, remember that this evening will be our monthly song service.
* **Christmas Gifts:** Once again this year, we will be helping to provide Christmas gifts for children of families in our community who are struggling. If you would like to help with this effort, please see Keith Herron or Erica Anderson.

continue to repeat history—even the tragic mistakes that lead to incredibly horrific consequences. And this is not just true of the world, where we almost expect to see a rejection of God. This is also true of His people, who at times fall prey to the traps and run contrary to the will of their Savior.

On one occasion, God lamented that His people had lost their ability to oppose sin. “They were not at all ashamed; nor did they know how to blush” (Jer. 6:15). For us, we might point a finger at Israel and say they should have known better. We can boast that we would never have done as they did. We can say we oppose sin, and know better about the difference between right and wrong. We can claim to be on God’s side. Sadly, sometimes, our actions say otherwise. It seems that even now we have lost our ability to blush. It seems that we no longer passionately hate every false way (Psa. 119:104), but have found a way to live peacefully with sin. The scary thing is that Israel also thought the same, that there was peace. In truth, God said, “there is no peace” (Jer. 6:14). There never is between right and wrong. There never can be (Amos 3:3). God hates sin.

So we must avoid the ever-growing trend of approving evil. It seems to be happening more and more, where God’s people give their thumbs-up to something He condemns. Sure, it’s popular. Absolutely, it’s the least controversial way to live in this world. We will definitely be applauded for not making waves in the pool of people’s choices. But Jesus didn’t call us to comprise. He did not come “to bring peace...but a sword...to set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law” (Matt. 10:34-39). Service to Jesus means we make a choice to stand up for everything He stands for and against everything He is against. If I am His disciple, then I cannot applaud the sinful choices people make—not for any reason.

Is that difficult? Yes, it is. But Jesus never said that serving Him would be easy. Doing the right thing means standing against what is wrong, even if people I love dearly are guilty. There is never a justification for endorsing sin. That is not love; it’s encouraging evil. Sadly, the end of that is our own destruction: “who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them” (Rom. 1:32).

When Moses came off the mount and saw God’s people engaging in idolatry, he wasn’t just mad at the people. He rebuked Aaron for allowing the people to be “unrestrained, for Aaron had not restrained them” (Exo. 32:22-25). He then drew the proverbial line in the sand and asked, “Who is on the Lord’s side?” Let’s be asking the same question today. Let’s unite in our stand against every false way. Let’s believe that the best way to help people is not through compromise, but with the conviction and compassion established by Jesus. Will you join? Who is on the Lord’s side?