

people I banked on to lead their peers to a stronger faith. And now here we are. We are now faced with the reality of two lost souls, spiraling out of control. In both cases, I never saw it coming.

This has been a wake up call, that the devil is waging a fierce battle to disrupt the faith of our young people. Sure, he is trying to do that to all of us. He is, after all, a ravenous wolf (Acts 20:29-30) and a roaring lion (1 Pet. 5:8). His thirst for blood, so to speak, is never satisfied. Until the Lord comes again, Satan will stop at nothing to see us all ruined. But he is so cunning. His plans may be deceitfully delivered, but the goals are evident (2 Cor. 2:11). He is clearly aiming to stop the church, by cutting off our future. He may not have success at destroying the faith of seasoned and grounded members, but he is clearly aware of the potential for success in those where faith is fragile. Make no mistake, he is laughing at us. He takes pride in our pain and tears. And he isn't finished.

As a dad, seeing the brightest of our young people fall scares me to death. Their destruction presents a reality that my own children could face one day. It is a possibility for all of our kids in the future. I am angry and scared, all at the same time. I understand that every person makes his or her own choices. And sometimes, kids grow up and decide to follow the devil even after everything has been done to prevent that choice (Prov. 22:6). It happens.

I also know that we can prevent Satan from taking too many if we put up a fight. As parents and as a congregation, we had better come to the wall with bowstrings pulled. Shoot now and aim true. There is no time for hesitancy. We had better run, not walk, into the battlefield with our swords drawn and swinging. The very hearts of our children are the prize at stake in this battle. There are only winners and losers, nothing in between. Teach your kids (Deut. 6:1-7). Fill their hearts with Bible. Challenge their growth in Christ. Make them strong. Prepare them for the way ahead. Keep them involved. Pray for them. Set an example. Talk to them and with them. Discipline them. Show them the joys of salvation and the terrors of sin. Do everything you can, because in the end the only thing that matters is making it to heaven (Matt. 16:26; Heb. 11:7). Let's be willing to sacrifice everything to prevent the loss of another soul. I'm not sure my heart can take another.

North Hamilton Church of Christ

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Schedule of Services:

Sunday: 9:30am (Bible Classes), 10:30am & 5pm (worship); Wednesday: 7pm (Bible classes)
Minister's Office Hours: Monday through Thursday, 9:00 - Noon



March 1, 2020

Elders:

Willard Elsea
240-9539
Art Greer
902-6295
Joel Laney
322-7828

Deacons:

Joe Anderson
Rick Essex
Keith Herron
Brad Jones
Tommy Qualls
Chris Randolph
Curt Stewart
Toby Ward

Preacher:

David B. Smith
667-1987

“The Devil Is Picking on Our Kids David B. Smith

If I told you that I haven't slept well lately, that wouldn't tell you the whole story or the reasons why my sleep has been so interrupted. The truth is, it's more than just sleep. I feel like my entire head is clouded with concern. So even during the day, I feel foggy. Have you ever felt like that before, for one reason or another? Like you can't get something off your mind, no matter how hard you try? Here's what's been on my mind. In the past year, we've lost two young superstars in the church to the devil. When I say superstars, I mean these are people I looked at and imagined the incredible things they would do for the church when the torch gets passed. These are

The Past Week

Bible Class: 125 10:30 Worship: 180
PM Worship: 209 Wednesday: 95
Contribution: \$5,494

Sunday's Sermons

AM: Some Things Never Change
PM: Questions & Answers

Men to Serve

AM: Opening Prayer – Freeman Cooper Announcements – Art Greer
PM: Opening Prayer – Joel Laney Closing Prayer – Joe Anderson
Wednesday: Opening – Justin Tripp Closing – Curt Stewart
All Week: Lock Building – Rick Essex Hall Monitor – Keith Herron

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

Prayer List

James Anderson	Danny Curvin	Loretta Leffew
Patricia Anthony	Judy Germ	Judy Lusk
Jim Bethune	Tommie Grandfield	Tony Miller
Nancy Birch	Sarah Grasham	Lexi Owens
Mike Bouldin	Bill Greer	Carlos Shannon
Jennifer Bradford	Fred Hafley	Janice Smith
Marjorie Cagle	Kathy Hamilton	Bessie Smithson
Jeff Cobb	Susie Hargis	Diane Stacy
Isaac Cooper	Grayson Ledbetter	John Webster

Our Sick and Recovering

- **Judy Germ** fell last weekend resulting in a cracked C-1 vertebra, a broken wrist, and a lower back injury. She was admitted to Erlanger Hospital to be followed by physical therapy at Siskin Hospital. John expects recovery to be a lengthy process and asks that we keep Judy in our prayers.
- **James Actkinson** is scheduled for spinal surgery this coming Thursday. This is intended to relieve the extreme pain he has been suffering.
- **Jeff Cobb**, Doris Perry's son-in-law, received word this week that a liver transplant may be possible after all. He will enter Vanderbilt Hospital early in the week to begin the process preparing him for the likely transplant.
- **John Blanks** is recovering after successful hernia repair surgery on Thursday.
- **Clint Hopkins** had been admitted to Memorial Hospital, but his health continued to deteriorate. As of Friday he was moved to another facility and is under Hospice care. Please keep him and Kaye in your prayers.

This Week's Birthdays and Anniversaries

Copies of the complete March calendar are available on the table in the foyer.

Birthdays

3 – Tom Haithcock
7 – Gloria Greer, Terry Pursley
Anniversaries – None this week

Announcements

- **Sunday Evening Services:** Following input from the congregation, the elders have moved the Sunday evening service time from 6:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. starting today, March 1. The elders recognize that this may inconvenience some while making it easier for others to attend. Again, this was in response to numerous requests to consider such a change.
- **News from Panama:** On the bulletin board in the north hallway, there is an article about the death of Jorge Palacio, a minister of the church in Panama and a congregation where our people visit when conducting VBS in Panama. East Ridge is raising funds to support his wife and children at least through the end of this year. The mailing address is on the bottom of the article should you wish to donate.
- **Chattanooga Tumor Clinic:** We have received a very nice thank you letter from the managing director of CTC. It is available for you to read on the bulletin board at the North side entrance.
- **Thank You:** Eddie and Becky Tumblin want to thank all of you for all your cards and letters of encouragement while Eddie has been away at basic training. He will be home in about two weeks, so they ask that you not send any more to the base, as he will not receive them before he has returned home.
- **Men's Breakfast:** The monthly Men's Breakfast for March will be this Saturday, the 7th at Scottie's at 8:30 AM.
- **Men's Devotional:** Our monthly Men's Devotional will be this Wednesday evening, March 4th. Men, take time now to prepare a scripture reading, devotional, or song to lead.

Upcoming Events

Additional information for these events is available on the bulletin board.

- March 21** – Ladies Day at East Ridge with Speaker Sheila Butt
- March 27** – 7:00 PM, Gospel Singing at the Middle Valley congregation
- March 29-31** – Gospel Meeting at Hall Church of Christ in Dunlap with Ron Gilbert on Monday and Billy Watkins on Tuesday.
- April 17-19** – East Ridge Lectureship with speakers Cliff Goodwin, Eric Garner, and Kyle Butt
- April 18** – Ladies Day at East Main in Murfreesboro with speaker, Jania Otey.