



# WATER MILL CHURCH OF CHRIST

*Weekly Newsletter*

*March 25, 2012*

## ***Order of Worship***

***Welcome***

**Jerry Young**

***Song Leader***

**Jon Ewing**

**#419**

**#679**

***Opening Prayer***

**Jeff Fisher**

**#438**

**#742**

***The Lord's Supper***

**Clarence Feeney**

***Contribution***

**Clarence Feeney**

**#289**

**#623**

***Lesson***

**Dennis Smith**

**#207**

***Announcements***

**Jerry Young**

**#76**

***Closing Prayer***

**Paul Lines**

***Elder of the Month***

**Jerry Young**

## **Stories of the Gardening Season**

The evidence is that the Lord meant for us to identify with the gardening process. The church is like a field that God works (cf. 1 Cor. 3:6-9). Not only are our lives like soil being tended to produce a crop, but we are also his hands to help with the sowing, watering, and necessary garden chores. It's a picture with much to contribute to our understanding of ourselves.

This, then, is our time of the year. The garden section of every home store is stocked to overflowing. Neighbors all around are preparing the ground, marking off rows or beds, and choosing varieties of seeds (or plants started from them), all in anticipation of the harvest. We may well think on the spiritual truths being demonstrated as this happens.

Jesus did that very thing as he taught in the fourth chapter of Mark. He was sitting in a boat and the crowd was spread out on the land before him. Maybe they looked to him like a garden coming up. Whether that was the reason or not, he used stories of the garden to illustrate what occurs as persons hear the word of his kingdom (cf. v. 14).

Like a seed, the word has life in it (Mk. 4:26-29). Because it does, it can sprout and grow by itself, developing into a sprout, then becoming a mature plant, then bearing fruit. The gardener plants it, tends it, and goes about his business, but he knows the power is in the seed.

As a seed seems a small and insignificant beginning, so the life of the kingdom of God does not develop from humanly impressive events (Mk. 4:30-32). It has a far-reaching impact over time because of who rules it and because of what it is, not because of what people think of it.

Just as all seeds do, what the seed of the kingdom ultimately brings forth depends on the kind of soil upon which it falls (Mk. 4:13-20). A hearer may leave the word on the surface, allowing Satan to take it away before it has any impact. One may have an initial interest, but not enough depth to sustain life through the dry seasons. Another may take the word in only to allow the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches and the desire for other things to choke it out. But there will also be good hearts who hear the word, accept it, and bear fruit in keeping with their opportunity.

The stories of the garden allow us to be both realistic and hopeful, not only with regard to the word of the kingdom in our own lives but also with regard to our efforts to sow it in the lives of others. We are reminded that our first task is always to pay attention to what we hear (Mk. 4:24-25). That is where all growth starts.

–Bill McFarland

***Today's Lessons:***

***AM: An Ancient Model For Today's Church***

***PM: The Lord's Church***

# Prayer List

## Welcome Visitors

We are honored that you joined us. We hope you will be blessed by your time with us. We have an attended nursery, a cry/training room and a nursing mother's room for your convenience if you have small children. Please fill out an attendance card and pass it to the end of the pew so that we may thank you for your visit.

## For The Record

March 18

Bible Study: 237  
 Morning: 312  
 Evening: 191  
 Wednesday (3/21): 188  
 Contribution: \$8,722

- ◆ Continue to remember *Eula Compton, Ella Mae Findlay and Paul Bratcher*
- ◆ *Marilyn Lanpher will have surgery April 3 in Houston; remember her as she awaits this surgery*
- ◆ *Romeo Vega is at Mercy Hospital recovering from bypass surgery; cards can be sent to 5567 State Highway U, Rogersville, 65742*
- ◆ *Gene Creson is having some health problems*
- ◆ *Pat Harris is in CA for Herman's burial*
- ◆ *Ron Bower has not been feeling well*
- ◆ *George Downing's father is in the hospital in Joplin with health problems*
- ◆ *Jon Ewing's dad, Winston, is not doing well*
- ◆ *Jeremiah Hook's mother, Sandra Park, has cancer and is not doing well*
- ◆ Jo Baggett's mom, Ann Freeze; remains at Life Care Center, PO BOX 210, Sparta, TN 38583.
- ◆ Bill's sister-in-law, Joann McFarland, is now home after spending a few days in St. Louis this past week
- ◆ 17-year old Jonathan Saterfield, friend of the Norrells, as he completes chemo treatments at St. Jude
- ◆ Eddie & Donna's daughter, Teresa Connolly, is awaiting results of the needle biopsy
- ◆ Julie Alexander's dad, John Lopez in CA has several health issues

**Keep Bill in your prayers as he is in a gospel meeting at Sparta today through Wednesday. More info is on the bulletin board.**

## Long Term/Shut-Ins

|                  |                |
|------------------|----------------|
| Kay Adams        | Irene Johnson  |
| Alice Allen      | Carol Law      |
| Shirley Bartlett | Carol Mahon    |
| Paul Bratcher    | Wilma Melton   |
| Doris Burch      | Jarita Nimmo   |
| Bonnie Cole      | Betty Shaw     |
| Fern Davis       | Wilma Spoor    |
| Thelma Fain      | Doris Thomason |
| Lucille Ford     | Doris Tobler   |
| Milton Ford      | Judy Todd      |
| Doris Iorg       | Pat Woods      |

*Thanks to all of you who pay special attention to our long-term sick and shut-ins.*

## Expectant Moms

*Kirsten McFarland/boy/April  
 Sarah Griffin/boy/May  
 Megan Jobes/boy*



*Congratulations to Tom Easterly who has a new grandson, Elisha Cole, born to Cole & Amber Estes on March 19th.*

## SAVING ONE'S SELF

By Dennis R. Smith



There is a widespread belief that being saved is something that an individual cannot do anything about and so he waits for some kind of "calling" from God before making a move to do anything about his eternal salvation. What a dangerous attitude and doctrine this is especially when the calling has been there all along. That calling comes from the writings of the Apostle Paul. Here it is: "*Whereunto **he called** you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ*" (2<sup>nd</sup> Thess. 2:13). In other words, the Bible message calls upon us to hear that calling and make our response according to the dictates of the gospel. Jesus put it this way: "*No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him; and I will raise him up in the last day. It is written in the prophets, And they shall all be taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me*" (John 6:44-45). Christianity is still a taught religion. When one hears the gospel and believes the gospel, it is then up to him to obey the gospel. Here's where one can "save himself" as was the case with many in Acts 2:40. This also gives meaning to Philippians 2:12 where the term "*work out your own salvation*" appears. Obeying the gospel is a scriptural term (2<sup>nd</sup> Thess. 1:8 - Heb. 5:9) and no one can force this upon anyone, but God still waits patiently for each person to step out on their own and save themselves through gospel obedience.

# WELCOME

# Ladies Day April 14

Please extend a warm welcome to **Suzanne Dabbs** who has made known her desire to work and worship with us at Water Mill. Suzanne's address is 925 South Avenue, Apt. 107-F, Springfield, 65806, phone 863-0174. Please make her feel welcome.

- ◆ **Secret Sisters will meet today after AM services in Room 130**
- ◆ **Happy Hollow Work Day is Saturday from 9—3. Bring a sack lunch (more info on bulletin board)**
- ◆ **Golden Agers meet next Sunday at 4 p.m.**



◆ **LTC presentation to the congregation next Sunday after PM service**

◆ **Puppet/Drama team will be here all day next Sunday. Lunch will be provided. Do not bring any electronic devices**

◆ **April 6-7/LTC Conference in Rogers, AR**

### April Anniversaries

- 2 David/Jarita Nimmo 41 yrs.
- 3 Travis/Jill Morrison 13 yrs.
- 4 Paul/Mary Bratcher 63 yrs.
- 6 John/Lisa Stayton 16 yrs.
- 7 Gaylen/Dedra Jones 22 yrs.
- Mark/Deniece Breckner 18 yrs.
- 18 Jeff/Elaina Treat 25 yrs.
- 26 Byrle/Virginia Hayter 49 yrs.
- 27 Tim/Chatty Timmons 49 yrs.

### Happy Anniversary!!

### Birthdays Next Week

- 1 Jack Lynch
- Jacob Thornton
- 2 Sara Keener
- 3 Christy Sherman
- 4 Kay Adams
- Brian Carroll
- Blanton Glenn
- 5 Colleen Mahon

**Time is running out!** We have extended the deadline for signing up for our annual ladies day. The sign-up sheets for attendance will be out **TODAY and NEXT SUNDAY (March 25<sup>th</sup> and April 1<sup>st</sup>)**. The sign-up sheets for food, prayers, centerpieces, door prizes, etc., are also on the Information Desk. We hope all ladies are able to come because it's been such a fun event the past two years! Any ladies interested are invited to decorate a purse for the spring purse contest we're having this year. The fancier and "spring-ier" the better! Also, we are needing empty soup cans for ladies day, so please bring any cans you have and place them under the giving tree. Thanks in advance.

**Youth Dinner** Adults, if you have not signed up to help with the youth dinner on May 4, please see Ruth Essex ASAP if you want to help make this a special night.

\* \* \*

Youth, 5th grade thru college, if you have not signed up to attend, please do so ASAP. Girls, if you need a formal dress, please check with Thrift Haven as they might have one you can borrow.

## Bible Camps

Applications for **Happy Hollow Bible Camp** are available at the Information Desk.

\* \* \*

You will need to register for **Green Valley Bible Camp** online this year (no mail-ins) at [www.greenvalleybiblecamp.com](http://www.greenvalleybiblecamp.com). Bill's session will be July 15-21. Flyer is posted on the bulletin board.

### FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION:

The Elders would like to present **Fred Lorenz** to the congregation to be considered as an additional Elder. He has previously served this congregation as an Elder. We ask if anyone has scriptural reasons why Fred should not be installed, please submit the objection in writing, sign and give to one of the Elders before Sunday, April 1. We thank Fred for his desire to serve Water Mill in this important capacity and we thank Norma for her support in his decision.

The Elders



If you are graduating this spring (high school, college, trade school, etc.) please turn your name into the office as soon as possible. Junior parents, we need your help with the **Graduates' Reception**.



Thank you wonderful people for coming and taking care of me and for the calls and visits.

Thanks to Clay for

bringing food and for my neighbors helping also; for the wonderful thing the Elders did and to Eddie and Linda for their wonderful care. Thanks also to the Glenss for helping. In Christian love, **Doris Thomason**

I want to thank the Watermill congregation and ladies bible class for all your prayers. I credit your prayers for the for the good reports I received from my doctors that my chemo treatments are working. In Christian love, **Patsy Hocker**

Thanks to all who gave me so many birthday cards. What a wonderful group of fine Christians. You really touched my heart. May God bless everyone. **Allen Harmon**

## SERVICE ROSTERS

### THIS MORNING

Nursery: *Linda Currier/Leona Snider*  
 Greeters: *Eddie & Donna Sanders*  
 Van Driver: *Kirk Tracy/576-4591*  
 KYB Phone: *Ann Thiesen/Mary Jo Rookstool*  
 Serve: *Tom Meeks/James Simons*  
 Communion: *Aaron Morrison/John Stayton*  
                   *Scott Nichols/Luis Tovar*  
                   *Tom Norrell/Tyler Thornton*  
                   *Steve Prewitt/Adam Stipp*

### THIS EVENING

Song Leader: *Larry Baggett*  
 Opening Prayer: *Adam Barton*  
 Lesson: *Elders*  
 Closing Prayer: *Tim Timmons*  
 Communion: *Tucker Jobs/Justin Reaves*  
 Nursery: *Glenda/Mike Thurlkill*

### NEXT WEEK (April 1)

|                 | AM                                       | PM                                   |
|-----------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| Song Leader:    | <i>Kerry Cole</i>                        | <i>Eddie Sanders</i>                 |
| Opening Prayer: | <i>Brendan Carroll</i>                   | <i>LTC</i>                           |
| Communion:      | <i>Jackie Freeze</i>                     | <i>S. Prewitt/A. Stipp</i>           |
| Closing Prayer: | <i>Dale Gregory</i>                      | <i>LTC</i>                           |
| Nursery:        | <i>Donna Jordan/<br/>Michelle Hulett</i> | <i>Lisa Stayton<br/>Emily Simons</i> |
| Greeters:       | <i>John &amp; Lisa Stayton</i>           |                                      |
| Van Driver:     | <i>Jackie Freeze/616-9789</i>            |                                      |

### Wednesday, March 28:

Devotional: *Adam Barton*  
 Song Leader: *Tom Easterly*  
 Opening Prayer: *Jason Luna*  
 Closing Prayer: *Mike Thurlkill*  
 Van Driver: *Jason Luna/838-7152*

### MONTH OF MARCH:

AV Room: *Scott Barton/Ron Stokes*  
 Secure Building: *Paul Lines/Tim Buckner*

*Please see Mike Thurlkill if you are unable to serve.*

#### Schedule of Services

Sunday Morning Bible Study ....9:00 AM  
 Sunday Morning Worship.....10:00 AM  
 Sunday Evening Worship... .....5:00 PM  
 Wednesday Night Bible Class....7:00 PM

#### WORKS WE SUPPORT

CHINESE AGAPE Foundation  
 Joey & Tammy Treat, Northern  
 Mariana Islands  
 Voice of Truth International  
 Charles Renfro, Latin American  
 Missions  
 World Christian Broadcasting  
 Churches of Christ Disaster Relief  
 Fair Haven Children's Home

"In Search of the Lord's Way"  
 7 AM Sundays KOLR TV 10

"KNOW YOUR BIBLE"  
 10:30 AM Sundays/Springfield 33/KSPR



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Office Hours:  
 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday - Friday