



## ***The Joy of Christianity***

*By Rocky Whitely*

Are you happy? Do you know someone who is? Joy seems elusive for many. Smiles come easy. However, they may be like the clown's face, hiding the tears inside. Some seek cheer in "happy hour." But, what goes up will come down.

Death, divorce, job loss, and serious illness are major tragedies in life which can rob people of joy. Can these obstacles which cause great pain be turned into joy? Can they be converted into opportunities for good? Yes, they can, if we completely change our way of thinking, our way of looking at life.

"Blessed..." is the way Jesus began His Sermon on the Mount. It is a word that expresses the distinctive joy of Christianity. The Greek word "makarios" means "blessed, fortunate, happy," usually in the sense of a "privileged recipient of divine favor." In each of the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-12) Jesus gives the basis for true happiness, a happiness that is found in things which people with a worldly perspective do not understand. Eight qualities are noted by Jesus which make up the character of those who are truly fortunate and blessed by God. Those who receive God's favor will be happy people, in fact, the happiest of all people.

"Happy are the spiritually poor, because the Kingdom of the Heavens belongs to them" (Matthew 5:3). A broken spirit is the sacrifice acceptable to God. God will not despise a broken and contrite heart (Psalm 51:17). God has chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the promised kingdom (James 2:5).

"Happy are the mourners, because they will be comforted" (Matthew 5:4). The world gives

sorrows to all. Christians mourn for the sinful world and how sin in the world has affected their lives. Christians mourn for their own sins. That mourning results in a change of heart which brings salvation (2 Corinthians 7:10). The God who comforts totally (2 Corinthians 1:3) will surely wipe away every tear (Revelation 21:4).

"Happy are the meek, because they, yes, they will inherit the earth" (Matthew 5:5). Meekness is not weakness as many might think. Rather meekness is that quiet strength which manifests itself in humility, in gentleness, in courtesy and in consideration. The arrogant believe that they will conquer the world and beat it into submission. But God says that the earth will be given to those who humble themselves before Him.

"Happy are the hungry and thirsty for righteousness, because they, yes, they will be satisfied" (Matthew 5:6). "Man shall not live by bread alone," Jesus said, "but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4). Through the word, God satisfies man's need for righteousness. He learns what true righteousness is and how to be graced with it. That satisfaction comes through Jesus (see John 4:13-14).

"Happy are the mercy-givers, because they, yes, they will receive mercy" (Matthew 5:7). The heart that forgives is the heart that is forgiven. God freely forgives sins. But, if a person does not or cannot or will not forgive his fellow man, then God will not forgive him (Matthew 18:35). Mercy is more than forgiveness, but also kindness shown to those who do not deserve it. So "be merciful, even as your Father is merciful" (Luke 6:36).

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“Happy are the morally pure, because they, yes, they will see God” (Matthew 5:8). Those whose hearts are pure, that is, undefiled, can only live one kind of life, a life of godliness. Genuine love can only come from a pure heart (1 Timothy 1:5). Subsequently, law does not exist for them, but for the lawless (verse 9). Only the pure can see and understand the Pure God. Only the pure can stand in the presence of Him who is praised, “Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord of Hosts” (Isaiah 6:3).

“Happy are the peacemakers, because they, yes, they will be called sons of God” (Matthew 5:9). The Son of God is “Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6). Consequently, He is the church’s peace, the One who makes peace in the body (Ephesians 2:14-15). So we, too, like our brother Jesus (see Romans 8:29) are to be peacemakers. As children of God we follow the lead of our elder Brother. Also, the Lord is “the God of Peace” (Romans 15:33). For one to be like God, he or she, too, must be a peacemaker. God’s kingdom consists of peace (Romans 14:19). “Strive for peace with all men” (Hebrews 12:14) and “may the Lord of peace Himself give you peace at all times in all ways” (2 Thessalonians 3:16).

Happy are the persecuted, persecuted because of righteousness, because the Kingdom of the Heavens belongs to them! Happy are you whenever men heap insults on you, persecute you and, as liars, say every evil thing against you because of Me! Rejoice and be glad, because your reward is great in heaven! That is how they persecuted the prophets who came in days before you” (Matthew 5:10-12). Christians look to the example of the apostles who were “rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the Name” (Acts 5:41). Paul recognized the significance of persecution against Christians. Such persecution was a sign of the persecutor’s destruction and the persecuted’s salvation from God (Philippians 1:28).

Paul himself said, “Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God” (Acts 14:22).

The world says, “That’s crazy. Is that any way to get happy? Poverty, mourning, humility, and hunger hold people back.” So they ridicule those who try to show mercy, live right, and make peace. It seems to me that their view is distorted, in fact, the opposite of what Jesus says is important. This is the happiest way to live. This is the happiest way to die. We do not live “la vida loca.” We live the happy life.

These Beatitudes of Jesus are truly the “Be-happy-attitudes.” Try God’s way. See for yourself.

(Rocky Whitely preaches for the Cavitt Street church of Christ in Bryan, Texas. This article was originally published on February 6, 2000)

## Is Anybody Out There?

*By Warren Wilcox, Bear Valley Bible Institute of Denver*

We can’t see or touch God. No - observing the beauty of nature or handling a new born baby is not seeing or touching God. But in nature He has left evidences of His existence. Just as one would conclude a human being had walked along a shore if he saw dozens of human footprints, when we observe the “footprints” in nature God has left for us, we can only conclude that there must be One “out there” capable of making such a fantastic universe. These evidences will be explored in our seminar.

Prophecies, Prophecies, Prophecies - Grocery store tabloids are filled with supposed prophecies. Some of the prophets claim to be special agents of God. We know what success rate they have.

But the Bible has prophecies that are genuine -- not fake and not vague. They have been given so accurately and fulfilled so exactly we can read about them in history or actually take pictures of the results. Who can accurately foretell the future -- every time - but God? And He recorded them for us in the Bible.

# Family Matters

**Ruby Fowler** – Is home with a broken leg.

**Harry Johnson** – Brother-in-law of Wayne & David Nash broke his hip.

**JoAnne Daugherty** – Sister of Wayne and David Nash has cancer.

**Kimber Beckwith**—Judy's granddaughter will have an MRI April 13.

**Bill Croiz**—Mattie's husband has been moved to Doctor's Hospice.

## Deepest Sympathy

To the family of **Sister Lillie Bell Sharpe**, who passed away last week. Her funeral will be Friday, April 6th in Baltimore, Maryland. Keep Rick and his family in your prayers at this time.

**Members With Health Problems:** Bob Howell, Bill Benton, Shirley Jones, Lucille Amon, Becky Higginbotham, Marlene Etheridge, RuPearl Sharpe, Mattie Williams, Sally Wallace, Brenda Mitchell, Equillar Butler, Bernice Gillespie, Maylon Swann, Hick & Estell Higginbotham, Una Fortson, David & Shirley Lee, Butch & Joann Trawick, Forrest & Burma Chapman

**Shut-ins:** Valorye Whittaker, Annette Benefield, Lillian Gray, David

Nash, Audrey Shaw, Jane Lankford, Joe Clark & Frances Elder

**Others With Health Problems:** Terry Crump, Carol Bomas (Charity Nash's aunt), Cathy Cavenden (Tiffany Durden's M-i-L), Suzanne Odery (friend of Gayle Pelfrey), Dylan Carter (11 month-old daughter of the Hagins' friends), Loretta Russell (Ray's mother), Walter Campbell (Sylvester's brother), Joyce Greene (Denise's mother), Pamela Morris (Mitchell's friend), Nelda Hayes (Jack Sorrell's aunt), Tom Holcomb and Jean Benefield (Annette Benefield's Son-i-L and D-i-L), Nancy Ford (Joann Crook's sister), Virginia Poskevich (David's mother), Xermonia Fortson (Una's daughter), Eddie & Lil Cauthen (Joan Poskevich's B-i-L/Sis-i-L), Joe Hand (Jim Scoma's B-i-L) and Marvin Cook (Jean Johnson's brother)

**Prayer Requested** – Jason Campbell (Sylvester & Missy's son).

**Military Members Deployed:** SFC Chineka McKenzie (Kuwait), 335th Signal Command (T) (P), APO AE.

Rosa Bell, ECC—A, New Kabul Compound (NKC), APO AE 09354 AM3 Candace Butts (Connie Elder's daughter), US Navy

**Deployed for FEMA** – Missy Campbell is in Columbia, South Carolina.

## 2016 Spring Adult Classes

Sunday

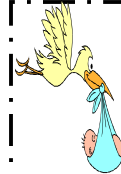
Wednesday

Adult Classes	Auditorium	Genesis Dave Rogers	Matthew-Mark Dave Rogers
Ladies Class	Room 121	Proverbs Frances Kelly	Matthew – Mark Kenneth Fincher
	Room 122	Genesis Thomas Quinn	
	Room 201	1 <sup>st</sup> Principles Paul Lyons	

**Donna Hagin will start taking family pictures  
April 17 & 24 and May 15 & 22**

**Register on:**

[www.SignUpGenius.com/go/20F044AA4A72AA5F49-fayetteville1](http://www.SignUpGenius.com/go/20F044AA4A72AA5F49-fayetteville1)



Congratulations to Jim & Susan Pelfrey at the birth of their new granddaughter, Lydia Johana Jimenez last week. Lydia weighs 8lbs 3oz and is 21 inches long.

## Calendar

**Apr 1** – Fellowship Game Night at 6pm

**April 3** – Lads to Leaders/Leaderettes Potluck Luncheon. Please join us.

**April 12** – Tuesday Ladies' Night Out hosted by Luann Rogers.

April 24—Donna Hagin's Baby Shower at 2:30pm. She is registered at Target.

**May 2** – Raintree Village Children's Home Food Truck. Please have your donations at the church building by Sunday May 1st.

**May 10** – Tuesday Ladies' Night Out hosted by Sally Wallace

**May 14-15** – Rose Show

**May 22** – Lauren Sorrell's Bridal Shower at 2:30pm

## Area Events:

**April 8** – Central Church of Christ Area Wide Singing, 7-11pm

**Apr 9 & 23** – McDonough Church of Christ, 9am-12:30pm, "How to Become an Effective Speaker in 10 Hours" – J.J. Turner, instructor

**April 22-23** – Peachtree City COC, Reconnect Men's Conference, Lonnie Jones & Ben Hayes. Cost \$30 Adults & 15 Students.



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2016 VBS  
July 10th-13  
The  
VOYAGE

## Youth Events

**April 3** – LTL Potluck Luncheon

**April 17** – Area Wide Youth Devo-Conyers COC at 6pm

**May 1** – Senior Recognition Dinner after the PM Service. We would like your Senior pictures and Bio by April 17th.

**June 12-17** – Camp Inagehi Week

**July 10-13** – VBS "The Voyage"

## WORSHIP ASSIGNMENTS

### Call To Worship

	4/3	4/10	4/17	4/24
Scripture Reading	Brad Hopkins	Brad Hopkins	Morris Jones	Morris Jones
Prayer	Coney Johnson, Jr.	Tom Durden	Rick Sharpe	Ray Cozart
Song Leader				
Preside Lord's Supper	Paul Lyons	Paul Lyons	Jim Pelfrey	Jim Pelfrey
Server	Mike Madison	Mike Madison	Mike Madison	Mike Madison
Server	Charles Nash	Charles Nash	Charles Nash	Charles Nash
Server	Anthony Stinson	Anthony Stinson	Anthony Stinson	Anthony Stinson
Server	Shirley Allender	Shirley Allender	Shirley Allender	Shirley Allender
Server	Andy Johnson	Andy Johnson	Andy Johnson	Andy Johnson
Server	Tommy Chapman	Tommy Chapman	Tommy Chapman	Tommy Chapman
Server	Larry Rose	Larry Rose	Larry Rose	Larry Rose
Sermon	Dave Rogers	Dave Rogers	Dave Rogers	Dave Rogers
Response Elder	Tom Durden	Tom Durden	Tom Durden	Tom Durden
Announcements	Greg Nash	Greg Nash	Greg Nash	Greg Nash
Song				
Closing Prayer	Wayne Nash	Hugh Kelly	David Hopkins	K Killingsworth

### Evening Service

Prayer	David Riley	Ray Cozart	Lewis Armstrong	Anthony Stinson
Sermon	Dave Rogers	Bible Q/A	Dave Rogers	Song Service
Server	Brad Hopkins	Bill Ruffer	Ron Biles	Hugh Kelly
Server	Erick Hagin	Curtis Hurt	Bob Howell	Jim Garner
Closing Prayer	Jim Garner	Tom Durden	Jim Pelfrey	Greg Nash

## G. S. O. P. Spring Classes At Fayetteville April 4 – June 30 1-2 Hr Credit (or Audit)

### 13-week successive courses:

- Monday April 4th 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm  
1st & 2nd Timothy (**Instructor Steve Vice**)
- Monday April 4th 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm  
Genesis (**Instructor Rush Wyatt**)
- Thursday April 7th 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm  
Intro to Old Testament (**Instructor Randy Kea**)
- Thursday April 7th 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm  
Intro Research and Composition (**Instructor David Rogers**)

## Fayetteville Church of Christ 2016 Goal - Evangelism

### Address:

870 Redwine Road  
Fayetteville, Georgia  
30215

Monday –Friday , 9-4  
Office Telephone  
(770) 461-3617,  
(770) 461-8231 Fax

Email: mail@fcoc.com

Web Page: <http://www.fcoc.com>



[www.Facebook.com/Fayettevillecoc](http://www.Facebook.com/Fayettevillecoc)

### Ministers:

Dave Rogers  
(361) 649-6638  
Dave.rogers@fcoc.com

Greg Nash,  
(404) 455-1546 (cell)  
gnash999@gmail.com

### Office Secretary:

Susie Graham  
celiagraham@bellsouth.net

### Elders:

Tom Durden  
(770) 652-7389  
Jim Garner  
(770) 461-3197  
Greg Nash  
(404) 455-1546  
Jim Pelfrey  
(770) 629-2061

### Deacons:

Dennis Graham  
David Hopkins  
Hugh Kelly  
Jerry Kendrix  
Andy Johnson  
Paul Lyons  
Stan Mitchell  
David Poskevich  
Anthony Ravenell  
Jack Sorrell

### Assembly Schedule:

Sunday  
9:00 am Bible Classes  
10:00 am Worship Service  
6:00 pm Worship Service  
  
10:00 am Tuesday Morning  
Bible Class  
(September 11—May 14)  
  
7:00 pm Wednesday Night  
Bible Study  
  
7:00 pm Thursday Night  
Ladies Class  
(September-May)

### Communion Preparation

Brenda Mitchell

### Nursery

3 Stacy Nash  
10 Sally Wallace/Morgan Boelsterli  
17 RuPearl Sharpe  
24 Tara Johnson

### Care of Building

1-15 Anthony Ravenell/Eric Hagin

16-31 Jack Sorrell/Larry Rose

### Ushers

3 Michael Boesterli/Sammy Hugh

10 Andy Johnson/Jim Lindsey

17 Keith Killingsworth/Michael Madison

24 Gayle Pelfrey/Rory Bell, Sr.

### Media Center Helpers

April 3 & 10 Morris Jones

April 17-24 Ben Rogers

### Open Arms

4/3 Sally Wallace, Laura Gibson,  
Connie Kelly,  
Martha Vickery , Theresa Green,  
Hugh Kelly & Ron Biles

### Wednesday Evening Devotional

6 Larry Rose

13 Dave Rogers

20 Morris Jones

27 Anthony Ravenell

## Our Missionaries



Graham, Elizabeth, Joshua, Megan,  
Bethany & Elijah McDonald  
Scotland, 11 Woodhead Ct,  
Westfield, Cumberland,  
North Lanarkshire, G68 9DB  
Email: [graham@gmcd.net](mailto:graham@gmcd.net)  
Skype: gmcd105 or [www.gmcd.net](http://www.gmcd.net)



Scott, Rebecca & Violet Shanahan  
Pohnpel  
[scottshanahan@hotmail.com](mailto:scottshanahan@hotmail.com)



Kenloy & Ivell Walker  
Mandeville, Jamaica  
Old Harbour Church of Christ,  
876-569-2039



Forrest & Burma Chapman,  
State of Georgia  
email: [ftc1952@alltel.com](mailto:ftc1952@alltel.com)

# April 2016

## Evangelism

Response Elder: Tom Durden

"His work is honorable and glorious, And His righteousness endures forever." Psalm 111: 4

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <table border="1" style="font-size: small;"> <caption>Mar 2016</caption> <thead> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td></tr> <tr><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td></tr> <tr><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" style="font-size: small;"> <caption>May 2016</caption> <thead> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td></tr> <tr><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td></tr> <tr><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> </div>					S	M	T	W	T	F	S			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31			S	M	T	W	T	F	S	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31					<p><i>1</i></p> <p>Game Night at 6pm</p>	<p><i>2</i></p>
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