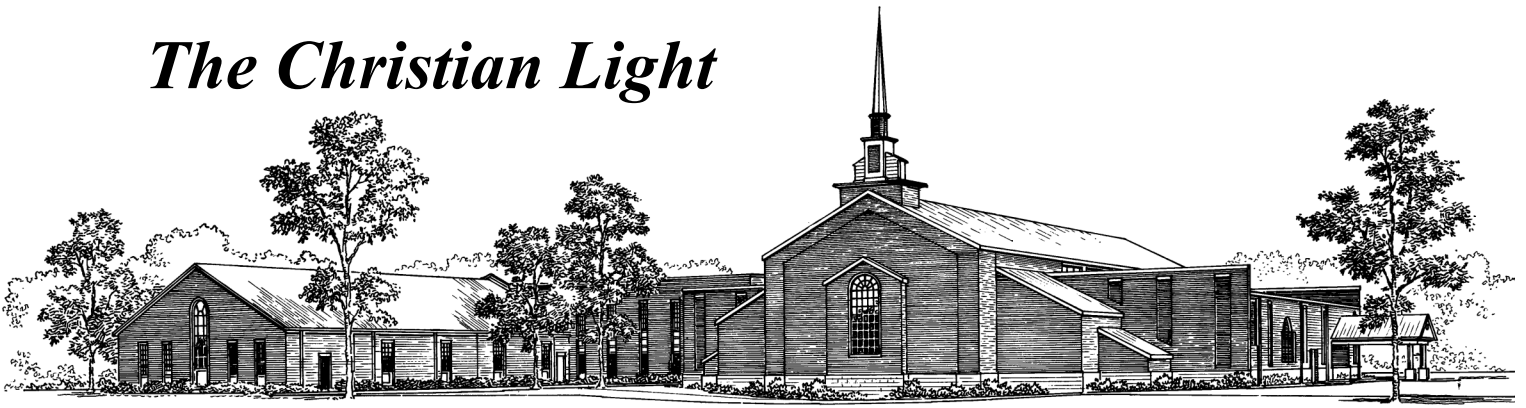


# The Christian Light



## North Jackson church of Christ, Jackson, Tennessee

### HOW IS ABRAHAM A CHRISTIAN'S "FATHER"?

Though not every nation can claim to be Abraham's descendants by blood, all Christians enjoy the promises made to Abraham's offspring because of the like faith they share with him (Romans 4:13-18). In the transition from the Law of Moses to the Law of Christ, a connection needed to be revealed to mankind: Abraham is the father of many nations, not just the Israelites.

What important lessons can we gain through Abraham's trust in God? What are the implications of my faith today because of it? And how can my faith grow to be more like his? The reason Abraham is regarded as a father over many nations is because Abraham did these things. Abraham is a father figure over all those today who truly trust and have faith in God's promises, God's plans, God's power, and God's providence. Still, how is it that Christians can yet enjoy the promises God made to Abraham's descendants?

**Principle number 1: Christians are offspring according to faith and not blood.** Father Abraham is a Christian's "father" when the Christian's faith is in likeness to Abraham's faith. The Bible relinquishes the notion that only blood-relatives will inherit the promises made to Abraham by God (Romans 9-11). In fact, the Bible strips this claim from the segment of Jewish people who would otherwise seek to promote themselves over the rest of mankind. Recall the work and preaching of John the Baptizer. In Matthew 3:7-10 the text says, "But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, 'Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance, and do not think to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our father." For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones. And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.'" This passage reveals that God places a premium on faith like Abraham's, not on blood like Abraham's. The notion of "God's people" by natural ancestry is stripped away by God's ability to take cold, lifeless stones and bring them into the bloodline of Abraham. He's not looking back to the roots to determine family relationship; He's looking to the fruits. As a gentile, I could never hope to be in the family of God if admission were determined by who my dad was (Ephesians 2:12). However, being a part of the family tree of God has its emphasis in Abraham's fruits of faith, not in Abraham's branches by birth.

**Principle number 2: Christians are offspring according to faith and not works.** The Law of Moses is equivalent with the New Testament concept of meritorious works. To remain within the legal system of the Law of Moses is to earn the promises as a worker earns his wages. But the Bible shows that righteousness is counted differently. Between Romans 3:23 ("For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God") and Romans 6:23 ("For the wages of sin is death") you have Romans 4, an entire chapter devoted to explaining how faith supersedes works. Romans 4:10 asserts, "How then was it accounted? . . . *while uncircumcised*" (emphasis mine). Christians have righteousness apart from works as well. So, Christians are offspring of Abraham according to obedient faith, and not by blood or works.

--josh

#### Elders:

David Beach  
Doug Hays  
Randy Hysmith  
Dwight Jones

Gary Martin  
Paul Norris  
Allen Verrell

#### Deacons:

Paul Anderson  
Kevin Austin  
Chad Banks  
Scott Beard  
Jason Brashier  
Glynn Carden  
Mark Christensen  
Scott Dahlstrom  
Al Earls  
David Forbis  
Greg Henry  
Jared Jackson  
Sean Jones

Kevin Martin  
Adam Minton  
Chris Morris  
Chris Ramey  
Chad Scott  
Jason Smith  
John Taylor  
Chris White  
Randy White  
Michael Wilson  
Scott Wyatt  
Michael Young

#### Ministers:

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email-dpowell@northjacksonchurchofchrist.com  
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#### Missionaries

B. S. Brown-Jamaica  
Pedro Flores-Peru  
Fernando Estrada-Peru  
Cristian Cruz-Santiago, Dominican Republic  
Hermenegildo Mediana-Peru  
Patrick Welcome-Guyana

#### Schedule of Services

Sunday Bible Study.....9:00 A.M.  
Sunday Worship.....10:00 A.M./6:00 P.M.  
Sunday Hispanic Bible Study.....9:00 A.M.  
Sunday Hispanic Worship.....10:00 A.M.  
Wednesday Bible Study.....7:00 P.M.  
Wednesday Hispanic Bible Study.....7:00 P.M.  
Tuesday Ladies' & Men's Classes.....10:00 A.M.  
(September - May)

#### Church Office

731-664-7811

www.northjacksonchurchofchrist.com

E-mail: info@northjacksonchurchofchrist.com

Missions website: www.njcomissions.com

#### Information Line

731-660-9000

## YOUTH NEWS AND NOTES

*"That's not what the Son of God is supposed to look like!"*

In looking at the life of Christ, we would be missing a huge aspect by not talking about the prophesies of the coming Savior. Some Bible scholars suggest that there are more than 300 prophetic scriptures about the life of Jesus Christ. Our chapter focus this week has been Isaiah 53. Very few prophesies are so plainly and fully prophesied, and speak to the fact that Christ had to suffer, and would then enter into His glory. But here's the baffling thing to me; Isaiah was written somewhere between 701-681 BC, roughly 700 years before the birth of Christ. And yet, even though the prophecy was perfect and completed with a crazy 700-year gap, there are still those who doubt the authenticity or the perfection of the Bible! The lowly appearance of the Messiah and the simple station held by his family were not what the Jews expected of their Savior. There was no pomp, no worldly coronation, no overthrow of the reigning Roman government. Isaiah records how He would grow. He describes Him as a young plant, growing and maturing, which is later told that He grew in wisdom and stature. The expected kingly stature wasn't His; Isaiah tells us that there was no form or majesty to Him that we should look at Him. A king of that caliber would be feared and unapproachable, and Christ came for all men. Again, this prophecy is not only important to show that He fulfilled the prophesies, but to prove the very book that is from God is perfect and complete. The prophecy was also to give hope to those who truly listened and believed, because by Isaiah's account, He would be a lowly man (approachable) acquainted with grief (sympathetic to every man's struggles) and would bear our griefs and sorrows (our perfect sacrifice). He would show how to live life and forgive others (afflicted yet opened not His mouth) and God's love would be shown in the giving of His only Son for all of us who sin. And to what end: because God wants His children in heaven with Him. The completion of these prophesies goes to prove the divine nature of Christ and the scriptures while describing the earthly life He would live. In love, Adam

This Week's Chapters are Luke 1 and 2

### YOUTH ACTIVITIES

May 26-31: Mission St. Louis!!!

### DEVOTIONAL

Sunday, May 28

Regency Retirement Village @ 1:00 p.m.

### PRIMETIMERS

Primetimers are asked to mark your calendars. **Tony & Ann Woods** will host a Hobo Party at their home at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, May 26. Those planning to attend are asked to sign the list on the foyer bulletin board by Wednesday, May 24.

### WEDDING INVITATION



You are invited to the wedding of Jasmine Hockett and Alex Sweet at 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 27, at North Jackson church of Christ. (Jasmine is the daughter of **Kaye** and the late **Emerson Hockett**.)

### BIBLE CLASS PROMOTION DATES

Sunday Bible Classes: Promote Sunday, June 4

Wednesday Bible Classes: Promote Wednesday, June 7

(Children will go directly to their new classes.)

## SYMPATHY

Our love and sincere sympathy are expressed to **Tom & Mary Ann Phillips** in the death of Mary Ann's uncle, James Bailey, on Wednesday, May 17. The funeral was held in Dyersburg, Tennessee on Friday, May 19.

We are saddened at the recent death of our brother, **Max Harville**. We continue to remember his son, Anthony Harville, his daughter, Nona Adams, and all the family. The funeral was held Sunday, May 14, in Jackson.

## RESPONSE

On Wednesday, May 17, **Alice Dahlstrom** requested prayers for forgiveness of anything that might be amiss in her life and for strength to be the positive example for others she desires to be. We appreciate Alice's tender heart, and it was our privilege to pray for her.

## NEW MEMBER

We welcome **Andy Harwood** to the family of God that meets at North Jackson. Andy and his wife, Patricia, live at 2715 Vine Street, Humboldt, Tennessee (38343). His cell number is (731) 225-6429, and his email address is pah38343@gmail.com. He will be in Group 2. If you have not already done so, please give Andy a warm North Jackson welcome at your earliest convenience. A picture will be in a later publication.

## REGENCY DEVOTIONALS

Devotionals are held at Regency Retirement Village every Sunday at 1:00 p.m. Please sign the list that is posted on the foyer bulletin board if you would be willing to serve in any area of this work. Areas of service include leading singing, leading prayer, speaking, and serving communion.

## VBS ASSISTANCE IS NEEDED

North Jackson's VBS will be held June 14-16. Lists have been posted on the foyer bulletin board for areas in which help is needed. Please sign the lists for those areas in which you wish to be of assistance.

## CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

The church office will be closed Monday, May 29, in observance of the Memorial Day holiday. Bulletins will be emailed Wednesday, May 31.

## GOLF TOURNAMENT - TN CHILDREN'S HOME

Tennessee Children's Home Golf Tournament is scheduled for Friday, June 2, at Woodland Hills Golf Club. Registration will be held from 7:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m., with Shotgun Start at 9:00 a.m. Please see **Paul Norris** or **Michael Wilson** for more information.

## DIRECTORY UPDATES

**Laura Jones**

Now in room 101-B at Maplewood Health Care

**Gean Seward**

Now in Apartment A-13 at Brookdale Jackson Oaks

## OUR SICK

**CENTENNIAL MEDICAL CENTER:** Alan Highers (following knee replacement surgery Monday, 5/22), room 6153

**CONTINUE TO REMEMBER:** Virginia Agnew; Mary Frances Christie; Susan Clayton; Rickey Cupples; Vivian Dickerson; Steve Greenway (now @ home of his daughter in Nashville); Ron Hickman; Peggy Minyard, mother of Melanie Brown; Harry Summer, brother of Mary Frances Christie; Lesley Dickerson, mother of Darren Dickerson; Terry Harris, brother of James Harris; Rodney Mullins, brother of Carol Holland; Betty Frost, mother of Pam Holmes; Jim McClain (@ McKenzie Healthcare & Rehab Center), brother of Janelle Waddell; Bill Mitchusson, father of Heather Young; Bobby Mullins, friend of Kellie Jones; our shut-ins; those dealing with cancer & other serious illnesses

### ICU SNACKS

**peanut butter crackers/cheese crackers**  
(snack-sized & individually wrapped packages)

### PANTRY NEEDS chili/corn

*Thanks*

North Jackson church of Christ,

*Thank you for your prayers, kind words, cards, and letters for our time of sadness with the death of my brother, Archie Wilson.*

*It's such a blessing to be a member of a great church family!*

*Sincerely,*

*James & Barbara Andrews  
& Family*

Dear church Family,

*Thanks for all the prayers, cards, calls, and beautiful flowers to help us get through this difficult time.*

*In Christian love,*

*Brooxie Carnal & Family*

*We are so grateful that your congregation continues to minister to our Shirley, especially in her grief over losing her son, Richard. The many calls, visits, wonderful food, and love you have shown her is priceless. May God bless each of you.*

*Family of Shirley Cordle  
& Richard Cordle*

To our North Jackson Family,

*Thank you all so much for all the kind words, calls, visits, food, and most of all your prayers in the loss of my precious daddy. It truly was a comfort to all of us.*

*We love you, and may God continue to bless you all.*

*In Him,*

*Angie and Randy Hysmith*

## MEMORIAL GIFTS

Group 3 has made a memorial gift to North Jackson church of Christ in memory of Leroy Carnal, father of Sandy Merritt.

## RECORD OF ATTENDANCE, May 21, 2017

Bible Study.....	451
A.M. Worship.....	560
P.M. Worship.....	422
Wednesday P.M., May 17.....	465

*Birthdays  
of the Month*

**June 1-** Gordon Essary, Wes Forsythe, Kristina Laux, Mason Vaughn **2-** Jago Cook, Jodie Durbin, Maxine Plunk, Vivian Reeves **3-** Ashley Austin, Gail Forbis, Ellen Furlong, Elise Humphrey, Campbell Scott **4-** Miranda Adair, Robert Brooks **5-** McKinley Arnold, Paulette Pippin, Mary Whitt **6-** Paulette Cox, Kevin Martin **7-** Lauren Johnson, Virginia Rice **8-** Jerry Duncan **9-** Paula Johnston, Katy Mullins, Eric Russell **10-** Dustin Brown, Jared Jackson, Maggie Matthews **12-** Leonard Brown, Janice Cary, Joe Pickler **13-** Nick Earls, Brad Winsett **14-** Jim Roberts **15-** Becky Mullins **16-** Charles Colley **17-** Fletcher Beam, Reilly Browning **19-** Graham Scott **20-** Virginia Agnew, Claire Christensen, Phyllis Sappington, Janelle Waddell **21-** Joy Chaffin, Phillip Mullins, Amy Tackett **23-** David Beach, Susan Henry, Lila Reeves **24-** Megan Jackson, David Johnson, Frances Jones, Michael Young **25-** Preston Anderson, Jana Bramlett, Sandy Jackson **26-** Josey Bradley, David Griffin, Randy White **27-** Julie Adams, Vicki Jones **28-** Loren Carroll, Larry Curlin, Ronnie Haley **30-** Isaac Beard, Scott Chandler, Brian Forbis, Dana Proctor, John David Young

## JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

*forever & always*

**1-** Al & Tamsie Earls, Perry & Tammy Talbott **3-** Steve & Melanie Brown, Greg & Susan Henry **4-** Tom & Twila DeBerry, Jessee & Renee Gilley, Tommy & Frances Maupin, John & Andrea McCadams **8-** Loren & Grace Carroll, Josh Jeanette Tinsley **9-** Chuck & Dawn Cooper, Steve & Liz Greenway **10-** Jon & Tisha Ewing, Gary & Aneita Lentz, Joe & Sandra Witherspoon **11-** Paul & Mikall Norris, Randall & Mindy Renfroe **12-** Paul & Valarie Anderson, Adam & Kayce Beam, Scott & Beth Beard, Jim & Shirley Roberts **13-** Sean & Vicki Jones, Connie & Clarita McKee **15-** Harvey & Susie Boyette, Mark & Alice Moore, Larry & Gina Petty **16-** Ron & Beth Lents, Jimmy & Peggy Tippet, Chris & Diana White, Michael & Kimberly Winters **17-** Steve & Donna Favre **18-** Albert & Anita Green **19-** Brian & Julie Adams, Lee & Heather McCollum, Joe & Karen Pickler **21-** Doug & Betty Hays, Larry & Michelle Jones **23-** Tommy & Lu Ann Dinwiddie, Matt & Kayla Williams **24-** Kenny & Sandy Merritt **25-** Robert & Brenda Brooks **26-** Gary & Susan Grisham **27-** Lucas & Hayley Brown, Will & Mary Flor Malone, Brad & Nancy Winsett

*Happy Anniversary*

**Tommy & Frances Maupin** will celebrate their 51st wedding anniversary on Sunday, June 4. We wish them the happiest of anniversaries, and we appreciate their example.

## AREA GOSPEL ACTIVITY

**May 28-June 4:** Branson (Missouri) church of Christ  
1st Annual Show Me State Bible Lectures  
"Show Me What The Bible Says About..."

## Those Privileged To Serve

*The elders request that those leading in worship and those ushering, please wear a coat and tie. Your understanding and cooperation are deeply appreciated.*

**Sunday, May 28, 2017      10:00 A.M.**

Greeting & Announcements ..... **John McCadams**  
Song Leader ..... **Randy White**  
Scripture Reading/First Prayer ..... **Paul Anderson**  
Lord's Table ..... **(H) James Biggs, Howell Ferguson**  
**(S) Gary Lentz, Tommy Maupin, Mark Moore**  
**Justin Morris, John Myers, Chris Ramey**

*Men serving the Lord's Supper are asked to meet outside the training room immediately following the auditorium Bible class.*

Closing Prayer ..... **Todd Jones**  
(If unable to serve in worship, call **Al Earls (731) 343-5848.**)  
Alternates: **Jon Ewing, Todd Jones, Ron Lents, Jason Smith**

Nursery Attendants ..... **Sue Poston, Dana Proctor**  
**Mary Ramey, Kristi Riddle**  
(If unable to serve in the nursery, call **Tavia Carlucci, (615) 491-4211.**)

**Sunday, May 28, 2017      6:00 P.M.**

Greeting & Announcements ..... **John McCadams**  
Song Leader ..... **Randy White**  
Scripture Reading/First Prayer ..... **Jared Jackson**  
Lord's Table ..... **(H) Steve Brown, Scott Chandler**

*Please use one of the following translations: King James, New King James, American Standard, or New American Standard.*

Closing Prayer ..... **Lee Johnson**  
(If unable to serve in worship, call **Al Earls (731) 343-5848.**)  
Nursery Attendants ..... **Cathy Powell, Mindy Renfroe**  
(If unable to serve in the nursery, call **Tavia Carlucci, (615) 491-4211.**)

**Wednesday, May 31, 2017      7:00 P.M.**

Greeting & Announcements ..... **Josh Cook**  
Song Leader ..... **Brian Forbis**  
Closing Prayer ..... **Carrol Gilliland**  
Collect Cards ..... **John Brown, Jerry Yarbrough**  
(If unable to serve, call **Al Earls (731) 343-5848.**)

### Ushers For May

**John Borner, Steve Crabtree, Lance Norris, Terry Robinson**  
**Balcony Communion: Mike Welch, Tim York**

(If unable to serve, call **John Brown, 803-2823** or **Jerry Yarbrough, 422-5388.**)

**Bus Driver for May: Chris White (731) 437-9090**  
**Communion Preparation/Open & Close Building For May: Group 3**

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