

PREACHER-SHEPHERD  
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### COMMENTARY CORNER: GLORY IN THE CHURCH SERIES: "FOLLOWERS OF THE CHURCHES OF GOD"

"For ye, brethren, became followers of the churches of God which in Judaea are in Christ Jesus: for ye also have suffered like things of your own countrymen, even as they have of the Jews: Who both killed the Lord Jesus, and their own prophets, and have persecuted us; and they please not God and are contrary to all men" (1 Thessalonians 2:14-15).

Jesus invited men to follow him from the beginning of his ministry. Those encouraged included Peter, Andrew, James and John (Matthew 4:18-22) as well as Matthew (Matthew 9:9). In the case of the first four, they left their jobs as fishermen and followed Jesus. Matthew left the work of being a tax collector to follow Jesus. And Jesus informed these that they would follow him to become fishers of men (Matthew 4:19).

The decision to follow Jesus was the best decision anyone could make, though followers were warned that following Jesus could sometimes be perilous, even putting the follower in a position of being hated (Matthew 10:22). Indeed Jesus wanted the apostles to know that whatever they did to Jesus as leader, they would do to his disciples as followers: He informs: "If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you" (John 15:18).

It is true that following another can be both perilous and precarious. Precarious, that is, uncertain, because we do not always know how following another will end. This is what is behind the warning, "be careful who you follow."

When one follows another, or a company follows the path of another, or a group of people follow the practices of others, warnings are usually offered. There are times when following results in a good outcome. There are other times when following can destroy even religious people. Remember Peter wrote to the churches, "And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of" (2 Peter 2:2).

We agree that following can have good and bad consequences. And there are a number of sayings warning the same: "Be a leader and not a follower" is advice given. "Don't be a follower" is a warning offered. "Why follow another when you can chart

your own course?" the querists asks. There are plenty enough admonitions against being followers in our time.

The Apostle John offers an alternative view, assuming that following, really, is a part of life, it is inevitable. He writes, "Beloved, follow not that which is evil, but that which is good. He that doeth good is of God: but he that doeth evil hath not seen God" (3 John 11). We suggest to others that following is a part of life, even in the lives of people who insist that they follow none but themselves.

What happens in life then is not that we have a choice of whether we will follow or not. It involves, instead, questions over who and what we will follow. This is the reason we encourage our children not to be followers. We are talking about not following who and what is not good to follow. But follow we will. And Jesus admonished others to follow him.

We read in Scripture that Jesus encouraged people to follow him. But so too did Paul. Remember he wrote, "Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ" (1 Corinthians 11:1)? Paul did not encourage his readers to simply follow him, but to follow him as he was of Christ (1 Corinthians 11:1). Should we not also encourage that when following others takes place it should be because of the persons and principles they follow related to God.

Paul wrote of those principles: "Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another" (Romans 14:19). Paul wrote to his son in the gospel: "But thou, O man of God, flee these things, and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness" (1 Timothy 6:11). He demonstrates that others are involved in the same: "Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with

them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart" (2 Timothy 2:22). Timothy follows virtues with others who follow the same virtues.

In our studies on the church and the glory God gets in it by Christ Jesus, we discover that it is not only the Lord who should be followed, or apostles who can be followed (1 Thessalonians 1:6), but even churches can be followed (1 Thessalonians 2:14-15). And there will be something even more interesting about the word translated in the English as "follow" in this text.

The Greek word that describes the following the Apostles, Peter, Andrew, James, and John are encouraged to do is *hopisō*, as in to come behind. The word used for Matthew is *akoloutheō*, a word used to describe "to follow" or "to accompany." A compound of *akoloutheō* is used in 2 Peter 2:2 where Peter writes of many following pernicious ways. Another Greek word translated "follow" in the English text is *mimeomai*, having to do with imitating and following an example, as is used in 3 John 11, a text where the believers are not to "follow" evil, or "imitate" evil, but good. Paul uses this same verb in his writing to the Thessalonians.

He says that the Thessalonians "followed," "imitated," or "conducted themselves" like the apostles (1 Thessalonians 1:6). Then he writes that the believers became followers or imitators of the churches of God that are in Judea in Christ Jesus (1 Thessalonians 2:14). We have in this observation of the text, one group of believers following in the steps, or having similar behavior to, believers in another church. This observation establishes truths about the importance of the churches.

~CONTINUED



**2020 THEME: "To Him Be Glory In The Church, By Christ Jesus..." (Ephesians 3:21)**

## CHURCH LEADERS

**PREACHER-SHEPHERD**  
JEFFERSON R. CARUTHERS JR.

**ASSISTANT TO THE MINISTER**  
RICHARD JONES

**MINISTER EMERITUS**  
CLOYS R. CECIL SR.

**SHEPHERDS**  
JEFFERSON R. CARUTHERS JR.  
JOHN FOXWORTH  
ROY OLIPHANT  
WALTER WEATHERS, JR.

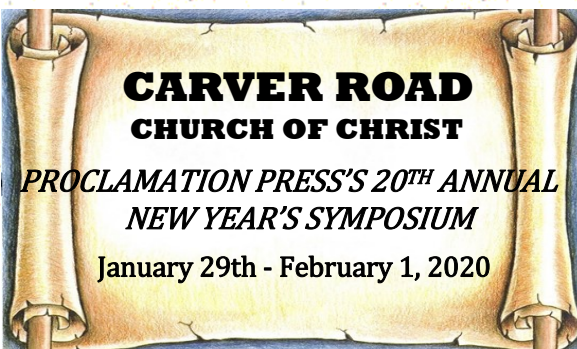
**ELDER EMERITUS**  
FRANK W. DULIN  
LEROY NELSON

**DEACONS**  
MICHAEL CURRY  
JAMES E. GADSON  
GEORGE MCNAIR  
BERNARD TERRY  
JOE WILSON

**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**  
MARCELLA KENDALL

*Welcome*  
WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS



This coming Wednesday, our Proclamation Press's 20th Annual New Year's Symposium will begin. This special event will start promptly at 6:30 p.m. each evening until Friday, January 31, 2020. There will be various speakers. Saturday's session will be from 9:30 a.m.-12 noon followed by Church Leaders' Luncheon. Sunday, February 2nd, Dr. Jefferson R. Caruthers Jr. will focus on "EXPECTATIONS FOR BAPTIZED BELIEVERS IN THE CHURCH" Galatians 6:8-10).

## CAPERNAUM CHURCH OF CHRIST FELLOWSHIP MEETING

**February 2, 2020**

Guest speaker brother Louis Wright of the Richland Church of Christ, Richland, NC. Services at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. Lunch will be served from 12:30 p.m.-2 p.m. (Location: Clemmons, NC)



## With Deepest Sympathy

We wish to express our deepest sympathy to the following members and their families in the passing of their loved ones: brother and sister Reginald Nichols in the passing of brother Nichols' brother; and to brother and sister William Scott in the passing of brother Scott's aunt.

May God continue to comfort them during their time of bereavement.

## Youth Sunday Today

## READING SAFARI



Reading Safari Recognition will take place today immediately following morning worship.



## MEN'S & LADIES' BIBLE CLASS

Our next Men's and Ladies' Bible class will take place this coming Sunday, February 9, 2020 at 5 p.m. We are encouraging all of our members to attend.

## Heritage Program

**15TH ANNUAL AFRICAN AMERICAN CHURCHES OF CHRIST HERITAGE PROGRAM**  
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2020



## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

3rd, Jason Adkins, Sherri Pilson; 4th, Kaycee Adkins, Theresa Rucker; 6th, Yolonda Crim, John Foxworth; 8th, Vanessa Cloud, Tamah Williams; 10th, Francina Thomas; 11th, Carmen Caruthers, Marion Gordon; 18th, Johnny Correll; 19th, Doug Crim, Frances Crosby; 20th, Antoinette Leak; 22nd, Draven Pilson; 24th, Hayley Caruthers, Shirley Correll; 28th, Alice Hawkins; 29th, Nikolas Nelson



(24 Years) Thomas & Talaya Loyd - 20th

*All Visitors!  
You Are Our  
Honored Guests!*



**ATTENDANCE DAY DRIVE:** Our goal is to reach **275** or more on Sunday, February 16, 2020. Remember as always we look forward to seeing you.

**CORNELIUS CORNER:** Despite the circumstances, some justice-involved Veterans may be eligible for VA benefits. [Disability compensation, pension, education and training, health care, home loans, insurance, vocational rehabilitation and employment, and burial.](#) Go to [www.benefits.va.gov](http://www.benefits.va.gov) and review Incarcerated benefits for details. Please be aware many VA benefits can be affected by incarceration.





## OUR SICK AND SHUT-IN

Our Shut-ins  
 sis. Immogene Bray, sis. Gloria Brown, bro. Harold Brown, bro. Alvin Eaton, sis. Magdalene Fleming, sis. Jessie Hall, bro. Barry Harper, sis. Dorris Jones, bro. Amos Lewis, sis. Lillie Nelson, bro. Leroy Nelson, sis. Martha Reynolds, sis. Mattie Richardson, sis. Bobby Robinson, sis. Rosa Thompson

## RESPONSIVE READING

### 2 Peter 2:13-18

**READER:** And shall receive the reward of unrighteousness, *as* they that count it pleasure to riot in the day time. Spots *they are* and blemishes, sporting themselves with their own deceivings while they feast with you;

**CHURCH:** Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls: an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children:

**READER:** Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam *the son of Bosor*, who loved the wages of unrighteousness;

**CHURCH:** But was rebuked for his iniquity: the dumb ass speaking with man's voice forbad the madness of the prophet.

**READER:** These are wells without water, clouds that are carried with a tempest; to whom the mist of darkness is reserved for ever.

**UNISON:** For when they speak great swelling *words* of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, *through much* wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error.

### PRAYER

Father in heaven, through Jesus we have escaped the corruption of sin. Teach us ever to live according to this blessing. In the name of Jesus, we pray, Amen.

## PRAYER REQUEST

Bro. Juan Williams, sis. Cynthia Judge, sis. Rashunda Richardson, sis. Marleshia Young, sis. Wendy Thomas, sis. Diane Foxworth, sis. Annette Nichols, bro. Reginald Nichols, bro. Robert Fowler, bro. Curtis Conner, sis. Yolonda Crim, bro. Sean Penn, sis. Regina Scott, bro. William Scott, bro. Stanley King, bro. Jasper Horton



## SHEPHERD ON CALL FOR JANUARY

BROTHER WALTER WEATHERS JR.  
 (336) 785-2520

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

### 8:00 A.M.

SONG LEADER  
 SERMON

Roy Izzard  
*Jefferson R. Caruthers Jr.*

### 10:00 A.M.

ANNOUNCEMENTS  
 INVOCATION  
 SONG DIRECTOR  
 SCRIPTURE  
 RESPONSIVE READING  
 PRAYER  
**SERMON**  
 OFFERING  
 LORD'S SUPPER  
 READER  
 CLOSING PRAYER  
 GUESTS PRESENTATION

Joseph Wilson  
 Kobe Williams  
 Christian Alexander  
 Sean Penn  
 Tahjmel Brim  
 Javar Jones  
*Jefferson R. Caruthers Jr.*  
 A. J. Crim  
 Isiah Black  
 Javar Jones  
 Braxton King

### 6:30 P.M.

ANNOUNCEMENTS  
 INVOCATION  
 SONG DIRECTOR  
 SCRIPTURE  
 RESPONSIVE READING  
 PRAYER  
**SERMON**  
 OFFERING  
 LORD'S SUPPER  
 CLOSING PRAYER  
 GUESTS PRESENTATION

Joseph Wilson  
 Walter Weathers Jr.  
 Adolphus Copli  
 John Foxworth  
 Ron Jessup  
 A. J. Crim  
*Jefferson R. Caruthers Jr.*  
 George McNair  
 Roy Oliphant  
 Ollie Carpenter

## COMMUNION REFLECTION

(JOHN 10:1)

Verily, verily I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber.



## USHERS

Christian Alexander	Javar Jones
A. J. Crim	Tahjmel Brim
Todd Woods	Kobe Williams
Curtis Conner	Sean Penn

## EVENING USHERS

Tahjmel Brim A. J. Crim  
 Braxton King Kobe Williams

## COMMENTARY CORNER

In the communication to the Thessalonians, we come to understand that churches are entities in and of themselves. Each church has an individual existence. It is a real organism, functioning for the benefit of those who make up its membership. The church has an identity, with the most important characteristic of its identity being its existence in Christ.

We learn further that churches can conduct themselves in ways that are either beneficial, or not, for other churches. The Thessalonians were told that they followed or mirrored the behavior of the churches of God in Judea that were in Christ (1 Thessalonians 2:14).

Churches can set examples, and churches can follow the example of churches around them. We must not forget that churches that are in Christ have a connection with one another,

although separated by certain boundaries, geography, and topography. What they have in common is Christ Jesus. Churches, then, should not think of themselves as churches that have no affiliation with other churches of Christ.

Church members should appreciate that there is affiliation as they live for Christ and move from one city to the next. They can associate with churches that have similar beliefs, practices, and experiences they are accustomed to. This is especially important for the man and woman, husband and wife, mother and father who live their lives in the context of church life. It is important for those who understand that faith life in the church is a way of life that involves the whole family.

There is something more that should not be missed. When Paul writes that the Thessalonian church was following the churches of God in Judea in Christ, he does so as part of his

teaching about certain persecutions and problems believers can face (1 Thessalonians 2:14–15). We certainly need in our time examples of people who understand that life includes facing difficult times. And that difficult times are to be met with understanding that through Christ, all who follow him, will be victorious, they will overcome, they will win. We learn a lot from churches that maintain faith in Jesus Christ.

We learn much too from churches that follow Christ, that follow the apostles, and that follow churches that are faithful to Christ Jesus. All churches then should celebrate their existence, their fellowship, the churches they follow, and the examples they set for others.

Finally, we have acknowledged that following does not have to be a bad behavior. Let us follow that understanding with a willingness to encourage ourselves to be people who can follow and who can be followed.

## SCHEDULE OF ASSEMBLIES

### SUNDAY

Early Morning Worship.....	8 A.M.
Bible School.....	9 A.M.
Morning Worship.....	10 A.M.
Evening Worship.....	6:30 P.M.

### WEDNESDAY-MID-WEEK BIBLE STUDY

11 A.M. & 7 P.M.

### MENS' & LADIES' BIBLE CLASS

5 P.M. (2nd & 4th Sunday)  
(September-May)

### MEETINGS & MINISTRIES

Teachers' Meeting.....	9 A.M.
(1st Saturday)	
Clothing Bank.....	10 A.M.-12 P.M.
(1st Saturday)	
Youth Fellowship Meeting.....	10 A.M.
(2nd Saturday)	
Husbands & Fathers' Support Group... ..	10 A.M.
(3rd Saturday)	
Young Adult Ministry.....	6:30 P.M.
(3rd Friday)	

## WORSHIP TO THE SICK & SHUT-IN

FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY  
MICHEAL CURRY



### BAPTISMAL TEAM

Bro. Anthony Clinton  
Bro. Thomas Loyd, Sr.  
Bro. George McNair  
Bro. Walter Weathers, Jr.

## Radio Broadcast Stations



Sundays @ 7:30 A.M.

Thursdays @ 3 P.M.

1340 AM

1400 AM

103.5 FM

## YOU CAN BE SAVED TODAY!

To be saved today, you must hear the gospel (Romans 10:17; Acts 15:7). You must believe the gospel that assures us salvation through Jesus who is the risen Lord (Romans 10:9, 10). You must be willing to turn your life over to God through repentance (Acts 17:30; Romans 2:4). Those willing to live for God through repentance are ready for confession (Romans 10:9, 10).

The person who confesses is baptized into Christ (Romans 6:3, 4; Galatians 3:27). In baptism, the believer is washed, sanctified, and justified (1 Corinthians 6:11). Christ saves the baptized person in baptism (1 Peter 3:21).

If you believe that Jesus died for you and was resurrected, if you will repent and confess, then you can be baptized into Christ and be saved. Come to Jesus today!



## CHILDREN'S WORSHIP

26th Leah Adkins/Chanel Foxworth

### FEBRUARY SCHEDULE

2nd Diane Foxworth/Michelle Conner  
9th Regina Scott

16th Tamah Williams/D'Asia Williams  
23rd Leah Adkins/Chanel Foxworth

## NURSERY DUTY

26th Edelina Oliphant/Sherri Pilson

### FEBRUARY SCHEDULE

2nd Sandra Jones/Tamika Nelson  
9th Sherry Woods/Tabbatha Burgess  
16th Yolonda Crim/Brianna Crim  
23rd Tamah Williams/D'Asia Williams

## GREETERS

26th Diane Foxworth/Dollean Johnson

### FEBRUARY SCHEDULE

2nd Diane Foxworth/Shirley Correll  
9th Edelina Oliphant/Meredith Boyd  
16th Geraldine Jackson/Rosalyn Evans  
23rd Theresa Rucker/Kim McNair

## COMMUNION PREPARERS

Shanita Green/Valarie Coplin

### FEBRUARY SCHEDULE

Geraldine Jackson/Lillie Holmes

## BAPTISMAL COMMITTEE

Rosalyn Evans/Shirlene Murray  
Sherri Pilson

### FEBRUARY SCHEDULE

Lillie Holmes/Wanda Jones  
Shanita Green/Regina Scott

## ZONES

ZONE #1 Capt. Bro. J. Wilson (661-1312)  
ZONE #4 Co-Capt. Bro. B. Terry (720-9694)  
ZONE #5 Capt. Bro. J. Gadson (650-9693)  
Co-Capt. Bro. A. Rucker (924-5696)  
ZONE #7 Capt. Bro. J. Foxworth (924-5029)  
Co-Capt. Bro. R. Oliphant (765-3105)  
ZONE #8 Capt. Bro. R. March (727-0052)