

THE RIPLEY BEACON

FROM

THE RIPLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

November 13, 2016



"Where the Gospel is Preached and People are Loved!"

Has the Fire Gone Out?

History records for us an interesting footnote. It was during the dark winter of 1864. At Petersburg, Virginia, the Confederate army of Robert E. Lee faced the Union divisions of General Ulysses S. Grant. The war was now three and a half years old and the glorious charge had long since given way to the muck and mud of trench warfare. Late one evening one of Lee's generals, Major General George Pickett, received word that his wife had given birth to a beautiful baby boy. Up and down the line the Southerners began building huge bonfires in celebration of the event. These fires did not go unnoticed in the Northern camps and soon a nervous Grant sent out a reconnaissance patrol to see what was going on. The scouts returned with the message that Pickett had had a son and these were celebratory fires. It so happened that Grant and Pickett had been contemporaries at West Point and knew one another well, so to honor the occasion Grant, too, ordered that bonfires should be built.

What a peculiar night it was. For miles on both sides of the lines fires burned. No shots fired. No yelling back and forth. No war fought. Only light, celebrating the birth of a child. But it didn't last forever. Soon the fires burned down and once again the darkness took over. The darkness of the night and the darkness of war¹.

As New Testament Christians, we have been born again through baptism (John 3:5, Romans 6:3-8). For many Christians there was a time when the fire within us burned brightly. But overtime there is a danger of those fires going out. The darkness of a sinful world and the war that rages between light and darkness can snuff out those flames if we are not careful.

Let's be on guard, and let's continually fan our flames through righteous living. So that we can be the lights that God would have us to be. "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:14-16).

Let's keep our fires burning and our lights shining!

~Justin

¹ Illustration taken from www.sermons.com.

The Ripley church of Christ
P.O. Box 464
1499 Highway 51 North
Ripley, TN 38063

What Must I Do to Be Saved?

- Hear the Word of God – Rom. 10:17
- Believe that Jesus is the Son of God – Heb. 11:6; John 8:24
- Repent of your sins – Acts 17:30
- Confess Christ before men – Rom. 10:10; Matt. 10:32-33
- Be baptized for the remission of your sins – Acts 2:38; 1 Pet. 3:21
- Remain Faithful – Rev. 2:10

By The Numbers for November 13th

Attendance:

Sun. Bible Study – 91
Sun. AM Worship – 112
Sun. PM Worship – 74
Wed. Night (11/16) – 60

To Our Visitors:

We are so glad and honored that you chose to be with us today. If you have any questions please feel free to ask the elders or one of the members. If we can be of any assistance, please let us know. Thanks for being with us, and we hope to see you again real soon!

Listen to WTRB, 1570 AM Radio

Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday

8:15 AM

Check us out on the web:

www.ripleychurchofchrist.org

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Those Privileged to Serve:

AM Bible Study:

Song Leader – David Snell
Audio/Visual – David Bridges
Devotional – Darrell Smothers

AM Service:

Usher – Barry Bates/Darrell Smothers
Announcements – Larry Carden
Song Leader – David Snell
Audio/Visual – David Bridges
Opening Prayer – Tommy Climer
Lord's Supper – (S) Steve Carmack
(S) Kenny Kennedy
(N) Rusty Kennedy
(N) Bryan Hartman
(N) JB Tharpe

Closing Prayer – Kenneth Roark
Security – Frank Carmack

PM Service:

Announcements – Larry Carden
Song Leader – David Snell
Audio/Visual – David Bridges
Opening Prayer – Joe Hunt
Lord's Supper – Steve Carmack
Closing Prayer – Raymond Neal
Security – Frank Carmack

Wednesday Night:

Song Leader – MacArthur Watkins
Audio/Visual – David Bridges
Opening Prayer – Joe Hunt
& Devotional
Closing Prayer – Mel Gibson
Security – Barry Bates

Door Greeters for November

South – Steve Carmack
Center – Robert Taylor
North – Joe Hunt

Communion for November

Rusty and Vickie Kennedy

November Birthdays

- Mammie Watkins – 2
- David Bridges – 7
- Sydney Carmack – 9
- W.L. Sandlin – 12
- Johanna Carmack – 13
- Gunnar Carmack – 16
- Kailyn Carmack – 16
- Dana Carmack – 20

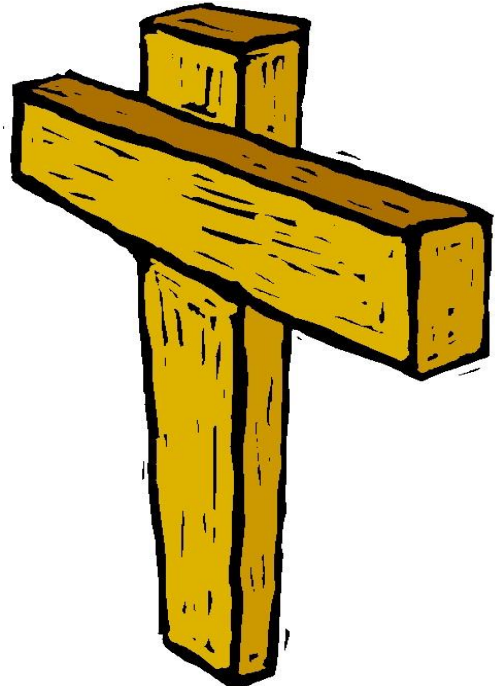


Mark Your Calendars!

- **Dec. 30th-Jan. 1st** – Light the Fire Youth Retreat for ages 13-23. Applications are on the table in the foyer. Please see Justin with any questions.

What Are My Children Studying?

- **Nov. 13th** – Mordecai Honored; Esther Received by King Ahasuerus – *Esther 4-6*
- **Nov. 16th** – Esther Revealed Haman's Plan; The Jews Were Saved – *Esther 7-10*
- **Nov. 20th** – Ezra Led a Group from Captivity and Initiated Reforms in Judah – *Ezra 7-10*



Those in Need of Our Prayers and Encouragement:

Our Regulars/Friends/Relatives:

- At any given time there are members going through different difficulties that they would rather keep private. Please say a prayer for them; God knows who they are.
- WL Sandlin got a cancer free report from the doctors. Make sure to thank God for the positive news.
- Ted Sutton had tests done recently, and they came back showing no cancer. We are thankful to God for these results. Unfortunately he does have 4 broken ribs from a recent fall. Please keep him in your prayers.
- Darrin Hamlin suffered a very serious injury to his thumb. Please keep him in your prayers.
- Johnnie Matthews is still dealing with serious health problems. Please keep her in your prayers.
- Kenneth Roark had a nerve block done on Tuesday (10/25). Please keep him in your prayers.
- Adam Bridges is dealing with a very serious, debilitating lung condition. Please keep him and his family in your prayers.
- Amy Bridges is dealing with some health problems. Please keep her in your prayers.
- Betty Binkley has been moved to the nursing home. Please keep her in your prayers.
- Melanie Ballard (Mel and Synthia's daughter) is home from the hospital and has been diagnosed with hemiplegic migraines. Please keep her and the family in your prayers.
- Laura Bivens (June Roark's brother's step daughter) is battling cancer. Please keep her and the family in your prayers.
- Alan Sheckell's (Synthia Gibson's nephew) continues to battle cancer. His address is 803 S. 4th St., Hayti, MO 63851. Please keep him and his family in your prayers.
- Betty Brogdon: Please keep her in your prayers as she recovers. She is doing better but still has a lot of restrictions placed on her movement.
- Frank Bales has been diagnosed with cancer. He has a mass between his left lung and heart. He is scheduled to have surgery at Vanderbilt. Please keep him in your prayers.
- Mike White had some test done recently. Please keep him in your prayers.
- Joyce Dunaway (Mike White's mom) is having back problems. Please keep her in your prayers.
- Kathy Petrowski (friend of Beth Carmack May) has been diagnosed with cancer. Please keep her in your prayers.
- W.L. Sandlin, Gwinn Matthews, Eunice Dobbs, Marion Morris, Ronnie Tillman, Sara Smith, Georgia Campbell, Tim Carmack, Lille Dennison, Ted Sutton, Joyce Blakemore, Seth May, Paula Tillman, Brenda Belton, Drexel Reed, Dot Mullins, Etta Hunt, Brenda Sutton, Don Sutton, Betty Binkley, and Everett & Mary Presson: Please keep these individuals in your prayers.