

**GROWING IN THE LORD**

**Acts 17:21** says, "Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new." One thing that Athens was known for in its day was being a place to find out something new. Athens was the central hub to many places throughout the Roman empire so there were always people coming and going with new news and new stories. When I think of the society we live in today, surprisingly I do not see much of a difference. After all, we sit listening to radio shows and podcasts to tell us of the next big obsession to follow or we sit in front of the TV to see what is happening in the world today. We search social media or news websites to find out what the big political debate of the day is or find out the latest sports scores. We even tell people when they say something that we already knew, "that is old news".

But then Sunday comes around, and it is time for us to do the "same old thing" and listen to the "same old stories" that we have heard all our lives. In a society that is constantly focused on being "up to date" and focusing on "what is new", why do we need to go and listen and do these same old things week after week? Well, there are a few very good reasons why.

First of all, the gospel message has never really been "new" news. Actually, when sin first entered the world, we already begin to see the first sign of the gospel message. When God speaks to the serpent in **Genesis 3:15** He says, "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel." Even when sin first entered into the world, God already began to point towards the gospel message of a savior. Paul also tells us that God was preaching the gospel message through Abraham. **Galatians 3:8-9** says, "And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, "In you shall all the nations be blessed." So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith." Throughout the Old Testament, we see examples, prophecies, types, and antitypes that point to Jesus and His gospel message. And even though the gospel message may be old news, it is still good news! After all, the word gospel itself means good news! That is sure to be something that you will not find often in the news of today. Although there may be a few positive stories added in at the end, most of our news today has to do with death, war, fighting, suffering, political disagreements, and social struggles. Even though this may be "new and fresh" news, it certainly isn't good. But the gospel message has nothing but good news for those who are willing to hear and obey. It is the basic message that God sent His Son, Jesus, to this world to live a perfect life and die on the cross for our sins so that man could have hope to be reunited with the Heavenly Father for all eternity, both here on earth and beyond. That may be old news, but that is always good news, and we should rejoice in the good news of the gospel.

The thing to point out is that even though we may have heard the message before, we need to hear it again. Although skipping a meal may not hurt us, it certainly does weaken us. The same is true when it comes to spiritual nourishment. Jesus said when tempted in the wilderness, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.' (**Matthew 4:4**) We need to be feed regularly from God's word so that we continue to grow stronger in the Lord. Peter said in **2 Peter 1:12-13** "Therefore I intend always to remind you of these qualities, though you know them and are established in the truth that you have. I think it right, as long as I am in this body, to stir you up by way of reminder," Peter understood the importance of reviewing the truths of the gospel, even if they already knew them and were established in them. Spiritual growth requires spiritual nourishment and if we are not growing, then we are dying. Think of how the Hebrew writer rebuked the readers for not staying spiritually fed in the gospel. In **Hebrews 5:11-13** we read, "About this we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food, for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child." Let us make sure that we are constantly feeding on the gospel and stay properly nourished .

Finally, even though we may have heard the gospel message since our youth, hopefully we have grown and matured over the years and that message has a deeper application for our lives. After all, all Christians are expected to grow in the Lord. Similar to what the Hebrew writer said, Peter tells us in **1 Peter 2:2** "Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation" As Christians, we are to constantly be growing through our life. In each phase, the message of the gospel should be applied so that even the oldest of truths can have a new significance for us and further growth. After all, there is no end to the things that we may learn from the Bible and no one can ever truly say that have mastered the depths of its pages. We each have the responsibility to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ ( **2 Peter 3:18**) Although we hear the same truths preached each and every week, let us rejoice in hearing that "old news!" because it is the only news that can bring forth a new life in Christ. Let us never develop the same attitude that Athens had when it comes to the gospel. Instead let us always remember that God's word is timeless and eternal.

**Andrew Spivey**

**FIRST SUNDAY SINGING**

Fountain Head church of Christ will be hosting the singing on Sunday March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 2:30 pm. Please make plans to come and enjoy the fellowship of singing.

**COORDINATED BIBLE CLASS STUDIES**  
**Sunday Read – Romans 15-16**  
**Wednesday Read – Acts 20:1-38**



Questions for last week's reading of; **Romans 11-14.**

- Questions:
1. Why were some of the Jewish branches broken off of the tree (God), and why were ne Gentile branches grafted in?
  2. Choose a gift that you believe God has given you and tell how you will use it to serve God and others.
  3. Give two reasons we must submit to authorities and the laws they make.
  4. Why is the debt to love one another a continuing debt?
  5. How do we clothe ourselves with Christ?

**LADIES BIBLE CLASS**

The next Ladies Bible class will be on **March 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm** at Nashville Road. **\*\*Notice time change for class.**

**SENIOR GROUP**

**The Senior Group** will be meeting again starting on **Thursday, March 21<sup>st</sup> at 5:00 pm.** Bring finger foods and ready to play games.

**EGG HUNT**

Our annual Egg Hunt is set for **Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 1:00pm.** If you would like to help out and donate candy for the hunt, that would be great. Please bring in the candy by March 17<sup>th</sup>. You can bring candy to the office or leave in the fellowship room. Thank you in advance.

**THANK YOU NOTE**

We would like to thank everyone for the prayers and encouragement while we were waiting on results from the biopsy. Thank you again,  
**Michael & Cathy Lemley**

*Thank you Lord, for loving me  
And thank you Lord for blessing me.  
Thank you Lord, for making me whole  
And saving my soul.*

**ORDER OF SERVICES**

**SUNDAY**

**February 25, 2024**

**9:00 AM**

**BIBLE STUDY**

**(Classes for Nursery – High School upstairs)**

- Song.....Carl Newby
- Opening Prayer.....Kevin Siler
- Auditorium Lesson.....Andrew Spivey

**10:00 AM SERVICE**

- Welcome.....David Johnson
- Scripture Reading.....Jason Sever
- Song Leader.....Carl Newby
- Opening Prayer.....Bob Brown
- Lord's Supper.....Eric Stephenson
- Servers.....T. Butler, C. Nelsen, B. Sever  
T. Cummins, D. Thompson, M. Lyle

- Sermon.....Andrew Spivey
- Closing Prayer.....Ken Veale

**5:00 PM SERVICE**

- Welcome.....David Johnson
- Song Leader.....Carl Newby
- Opening Prayer.....Jim Cherry
- Sermon.....Andrew Spivey
- Lord's Supper.....Matt Ellis
- Closing Prayer.....Brent Smith

**WEDNESDAY**

**February 28, 2024**

**7:00 PM**

- Welcome.....David Johnson
- Song Leader.....Carl Newby
- Opening Prayer.....Garrett Rowlett
- Lesson.....Andrew Spivey
- Closing Prayer.....Tim Strickland
- Door Greeters – West Door.....B/M Smith  
East Door.....Z/A Tooley
- Visitor's Desk Volunteer.....Diana Stephenson

**IF YOU CANNOT SERVE, PLEASE CALL**  
Alex Sherrill.....615-289-9935  
Church Office.....615-452-3431

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## SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday Bible Study 9:00 a.m. - Sunday Morning Worship 10:00 a.m.  
 Sunday Evening Worship 5:00 p.m. - Wednesday Evening Worship 7:00 p.m.

### SICK LIST

David Williams is home now and doing some better. Michael Lemley received good news from the biopsy on Feb 9<sup>th</sup>. No cancer was found. Tom & Faye Hart, both having health issues. Paul Gruber neighbor of Bob & Sherry Sever has been diagnosed with bladder cancer & will have surgery February 23. Larry Bailey, son of Tina Bailey a former member, has been diagnosed with stage 4 liver cancer. Heather Lemley, daughter of Michael & Cathy Lemley, is having tests done.

### SHUT-INS

Jane Hughes, 126 Seabury Dr., Greenville, SC 29615; Melba Hill.

*We depend on families and friends to help us update this list. Please notify us of any changes.*

### OUR RECORD THIS WEEK

Bible Study.....	99
Morning Worship.....	155
Sunday Evening.....	80
Wednesday Evening.....	84
Contribution.....	\$6,459.00
Youth Group Account.....	\$5,144.00

### PRAYER LIST

James Spivey; Ottis Cothron; Sara Hosman; JoAnn Williamson; Anita Cato; Shauna Lockett; Tony Perry; Jean Knowles; Zach Tooley; Mary Ann Reinhart; Vetrus Mee, Charter Senior Living of Gallatin; Shelby Ross; Sandi Jones; Lena Baggett; Maxine Cothron; Frances Catron; Jean Deaton; Charlie Cliburn; Bethany Shoulders, granddaughter of Evelyn Harris; Samantha Hager, friend of June Thompson; Bryan Grissom cousin to Joyce Clark & Robbie Glover; Vycki Puckett, daughter of Jack & Anita Cato; Ty Tyler son of Ann Tyler; Wade Kennedy father of Diana Stephenson; Ida Lou Sherrill, mother of Alex Sherrill; Taylor Lackford, niece of Brenda Veale; Dustin Lackford, nephew of Brenda Veale; Janice Haskins, sister of Jim Cherry; Larry Conley, friend of Wanda Proctor; Harold Cole, friend of Lena Baggett; Bobbie Carter, sister of Janice Johnson; Walter Wooten, brother of Wanda Sherrill; Aza Topik, grandson of Charlie & Wanda Seals; Betty Ann Muncie, sister of Stella Messer.

### Elders

Tony Butler.....	615-452-0560
Jim Cherry.....	615-479-2149
David Johnson.....	615-300-9084
Alex Sherrill.....	615-289-9935
David Thompson.....	615-598-6621

### Deacons

Carl Newby    Jonathan Senn    Brent Smith  
 Eric Stephenson    Adam Williamson

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ANDREW SPIVEY, Pulpit and Family Minister  
 TIM STRICKLAND, Associate Minister  
 GARRETT ROWLETT, Youth Minister