Spring Meadows Church of Christ
PO Box 1852, Spring Hill, TN 37179

VISION

Merry Christmas!

Volume 17, Number 50 SMCOC.NET December 25, 2022

Spring Meadows
Church of Christ

From the Morris family-
Good morning and welcome to worship! We are away with our family in Alabama this morning, but we are certainly missing worshiping with our family at Spring Meadows. We love the Church in Winfield where Natalie grew up, but as 'Dorothy' said, "there is no place like home." Thank you for being here for worship this morning! May God be glorified and may each of us be edified.

- Chuck

THE SHEPHERD'S SURPRISE

In Luke 2, a key part of the account of Christ's birth centers on the shepherds in the nearby fields being visited by an "angel of the Lord" proclaiming this birth, along with the heavenly host praising God. It is a wonderful part of the story, but have you ever thought much about those shepherds? They were just hanging out with their sheep doing a typical night's work when the angel surprised them. Initially Luke records that they were "terrified," and that is easy to understand. But to be a part of the birth story of the Messiah —incredible!

We do serve a God of surprises. Throughout the Bible HE has always been full of surprises—choosing the least likely; the fringe-folks to accomplish his will; and these shepherds would seem to fit that, considered unclean by upstanding Jewish rabbis. Most think of their work as undertaken by relatively unskilled labor. Yet they were the very first to spread the Good News about Jesus. So here again God used the least likely, or did he? Perhaps there is more to this story than that.

Ever heard of Temple shepherds? This is where it really gets interesting. Yes, shepherds were considered unclean by Rabbi tradition, but one flock of sheep that pastured near Bethlehem was unique and the shepherds were different—likely from priestly families and having been ritually cleansed to watch over the temple flock. This was the flock that was used to provide the Passover sacrifice. It was centered around a "tower of the flock" known as Migdal Eder (likely the burial sight of Rachel—Genesis 35:19-21) and alluded to in Micah 4:8 & 5:2 in a Messianic prophesy.

According to research done by Alfred Edersheim (1825-1889) and shared in his book, The Life and Times of Jesus, the Messiah, these shepherds would take care of these sheep from birth--culling out the ones that were not suitable for a Passover sacrifice and keeping those that were. There is some evidence that suggest they would—and get this —even wrap them in swaddling clothes to protect and separate them when they were born in—you guessed it—a manger. So, could the shepherds visited by the angels have been the temple shepherds? If so, what fitting symbolism that those responsible for welcoming the Passover lambs into the world would also welcome THE Passover Lamb into the world. It would not have been difficult for them to process the Savior's birth and be excited to spread this word.

The surprise of that Holy Night remains, in that, God would visit us as he did and provide such a lamb to take away all of our sins. Couple that with the surprise of the resurrection and we find all reason--like the shepherds—to believe, to hope and to share. Just stop and consider the words of the heavenly host:

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests." All who heard this story from the shepherds were amazed. I hope we still are about a God who offers peace and whose favor rests upon us. I also hope that motivates us to go and tell it just as those shepherds did.

- D. Dodd

SUNDAY BIBLE HOUR

Nursery - up to 24 months
Donna Bunty and Carolyn Smith
Room 2 - 2 & 3 year olds
Tabitha and Alaina Murray
Room 3 - 4's - PreK
Lindsey and Mallory Ward
Room 6 - Kindergarten
Kelly Ruiz
Room 7 - 1st grade
Sharon Kinnard and Sydney Walker

SUNDAY CLASSES

Classes begin at 5:00pm.
Up to 24 months - Nursery
2's & 3's - Rm 2
4's - Rm 3, **K & 1st** - Rm 6
2nd & 3rd - Rm 4, **4th & 5th** - Rm 8
6th -12th - Teen Rooms
The Book of Acts
Dan Winkler - (Auditorium)
Chuck Morris - (Kitchen)
Josh Pierce - (Hallway)
College/20's - (Office)

WEDNESDAY CLASSES

Classes begin at 6:30pm.
Please go directly to class.

Up to 24 months - Nursery
2's & 3's - Room 2
4's - K - Room 3
1st - 2nd - Room 7
3rd - 5th - Room 8
6th -12th - Teen Rooms

Ladies' Class - (Kitchen)
Men's Class - (Hallway)
College/20's - (Office)
Various Teachers - (Auditorium)

Remember in Prayer

Continue to Remember: Nancy Heffington, Adkins Family, Caroline Thurman, Bill Price, and Margaret Curtis.

Garth Pinkston and **Caroline Sparrow** are both recovering from outpatient surgery. Please keep them in your prayers.

We extend our sympathy to **Danny Pugh** and his family on the passing of his aunt, Deborah Sue Miller. Funeral services will be conducted Tuesday at 3 p.m. from the chapel of London Funeral Home in Lewisburg, TN.

Announcements

SMA Family In Need

Please pray for Meghan McGuire and her family as she battles stage 4 cancer. They have 3 young children. If you would be willing to help this family in any way, please contact Kelly Estabrooks: kellydirectorsma@gmail.com for more information.

Kid's Corner

If you can teach or help during Bible hour, please let Angie know or sign up on the kid's bulletin board.

By the Numbers

Attendance Last Week:

Sunday Worship Service....462
Sunday Evening Classes....312
Wednesday Night Classes...255
Contribution: $63,538.00

Spring Meadows Youth Group

Merry Christmas!
I hope that there has been a lot of joy in your home today!
We are glad that you are here to worship God.
We had a great time caroling and shopping together last week!
Thanks to all who participated!

Monday - No Garage Bible Study this week!

New Year's Eve Lock-in - Friday from 8pm-6pm. More details to come!

Don't forget to sign up for CYC!

Going to CYC?

- Pick up a packet from the youth board.
- Sign up and pay $50 deposit to reserve a spot by 12/31.
- Turn in liability and consent forms.

Contact Jerry or Tonya with questions.

Jerry Elder - Youth and Family Minister
JERRY@SMCOC.NET / 931-626-6434

Elders:

ELDERS@SMCOC.NET
Chester Darden, Scott Ford, Garth Pinkston, Brent Spicer, Chuck Terry, Bryan Basham

Preaching Minister:
Chuck Morris 731-607-4559
Chuck@SMCOC.NET

Associate Minister:
Dan Winkler 731-535-1065

Worship Minister:
Larry Arnold 615-708-8624
LARRY@SMCOC.NET

Children's Director:
Angie Basham 931-446-3699
AngieSMCOC@gmail.com

Treasurer:
Billy Martin 615-232-4689
bkm339@gmail.com

Secretary:
Tonya Spicer 615-390-8044
TonyaSMCOC@gmail.com

Preschool Director:
Kelly Estabrooks 615-261-8663
kellydirectorsma@gmail.com

College and Twenties:
Braden Parsons 931-374-7572