



God is love and love lives here!

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Sunday, August 13, 2023

Means of Grace: Works of Mercy

Hey Church,

We are coming to the conclusion of our Means of Grace series over the next couple of weeks. I've personally enjoyed this series and diving a little deeper into each means of Grace that we've covered. My prayer has been through the process that you have found a greater value in at least one Christian discipline and that your spiritual muscles have been stretched at least a little. As we near the end I would encourage you to pick up a book titled "The Means of Grace" by Andrew C Thompson. This book provided a loose framework for the series and some insight for myself through the process. I believe that if you are interested in a greater pursuit of the Means of Grace this book would be enriching to your faith.

This past week, our focus was on the prudential means of grace, those gained through practical wisdom. We spent a little more time specifically on 'Works of Mercy' — acts of compassion we extend towards others — and how they serve as a means of grace.

In his book, Thompson emphasizes that grace, God's unmerited love for us, isn't just something we receive passively. Instead, it's something we participate in through practices like the Works of Mercy. In the Wesleyan tradition, such practices are not just good deeds but ways we open ourselves to the transformative power of God's grace.

Works of Mercy, according to Thompson, include actions like feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, visiting the sick and imprisoned, and sheltering the homeless. They also encompass acts of kindness and compassion in our everyday lives, such as forgiving those who hurt us, comforting the grieving, or even just lending a listening ear to someone in distress.

These acts, as Thompson points out, do not 'earn' us God's love or grace. Rather, they are our response to the grace we have already received. When we extend mercy to others, we are, in a sense, channeling God's grace, allowing it to flow through us and into the world.

It's pretty amazing when you think about it, isn't it? Our small, humble acts of kindness can become a conduit for divine love, transforming not only the lives of those we help but also our own. As we open ourselves to God's grace through these acts of mercy, we become more attuned to God's presence in our lives, growing in love and compassion.

One of the key aspects of works of mercy becomes about our intentions. While Dr. Thompson doesn't discuss this point at length, it's been my experience that we need to consider the why we are doing something as much as the how. Meeting Jesus in the works of mercy is not about the intentions of those who receive as much as it is the intentions of those who are doing the work. If my intention is to draw attention to myself then I'll never truly experience God's grace through the works as he intends. If, however, my heart is to serve; then there He will meet me in every little act and interaction.

I'm truly proud of who we are and believe that out of all the means of grace this is what we do best. I would argue that we are one of the most gracious churches in town in witnessing and showing God's love through works of mercy. Thank you for all you do to love those who are in need and in doing so, Loving Jesus along the way.

Keep The Faith, Pastor Tommy

Scripture & Sermon:

Matthew 16:24-25

"General Means of Grace"



New Concerns

Jon & Elizabeth Love
Carla Johnsen
Family of Darla Scott
Linda McIntosh

Continue Prayers for:

Christa Bernard
Cheryl Bell
Betsy Phillips
Mariann Ellis
Beth Ann Grant
Virginia Baker
Betty Estep

Betty Byrd
Leon Hudson
Mary Prater
Jim & Mary Leary
Virginia Eadie
Bill Reedy
Sarah Mayer
Cary Martin
Mac McNeal
James McNeal
Our Country, Leaders, Military

Finance Report for

August 6

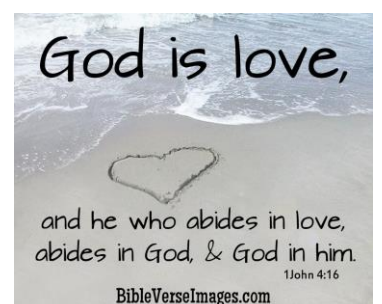
Operating Budget..... \$8,854
Apportionments..... 100
Local Mission..... 828
Total..... \$9,782

Worship Attendance:

153

Sunday School:

48



Mark Your Calendars...

- ◆ Administrative Council and Finance meeting August 14 at 6p.
- ◆ If you are interested in helping out with Family Promise on our next rotation, contact J.O. or Lynn, this is a very blessed ministry of our church. check out their website at <https://www.familypromisehoustonco.org/>

Thank you!

“Many thanks to Partners in Prayers, those who sent cards, tests and prayed for me during my recent surgery. It is truly a blessing to be part of a wonderful and caring church family. May God bless all of you as much as I have been blessed by Him! All glory be to God!” ~ Mel ~

Betty Byrd and family would like to thank Betty’s church family from The Well for all of the prayers, cards and well wishes over the past several weeks. Your love and support have been greatly appreciated.

“My heartfelt thanks to Debbie Gray’s loving church family at The Well at Centerville. Pastor Tommy Odum and those in Partners in Prayer, Christian Fellowship Sunday School class and Movin’ n Groovin’ not only prayer for us during Robby’s illness, but also were there for me during the funeral. God bless the hearts that prayed for my husband, Billie (Robby) Robinson and bless the hands that prepared and served the meal at the The Farmhouse on August 4th after his funeral service. Thank you all so very much.” ~ Mary Robinson ~

Labor Day Ribs!!

The Men at the Well are grilling ribs for your Labor Day weekend enjoyment! Cost is \$25 per rack, pick up is Saturday, September 2 8a-12p. So see a Man for your ticket(s) or come by/call the office. Remember, these too freeze well!

Community Missions

- The next Food Pantry August 23, 11a... come on out and volunteer! You will be blessed. Our Food Pantry Team rocks!
- Clothes Closet Volunteers for August 15- Cheri Cox, Nancy Brechin
- Our Clothes Closet is open every Tuesday, 9a-noon.
- *Clothes Closet needs: clothes and shoes for all, purses, costume jewelry, household goods, towel and wash cloths, lines and toys.*
- Workers are needed in the Clothes Closet on Mondays and Tuesdays from 9a-12noon!

Member/Visitor Orientation

New Here? Curious about our ministries or maybe even where things are located around the facility? Join us on the 1st Sunday of each month for our visitor and new member orientation immediately following 10:30 worship. There will be a Q & A session with Pastor Tommy and tour of our facility. All are welcome and everyone is invited; just come to the front of the sanctuary following worship. See you at The Well!

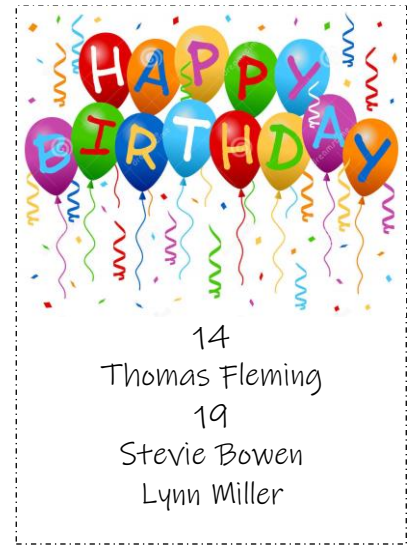
Picture of the Original Church

We still have some of the framed prints of the church ... if you’d like one just call or email the office, they are \$20 for the picture only and \$40 framed.

Old Time Capsule...

At the end of August we will be packing up the things that were in the CUMC time capsule. So if you haven’t stopped by the table in the breezeway and checked it out, please do so.

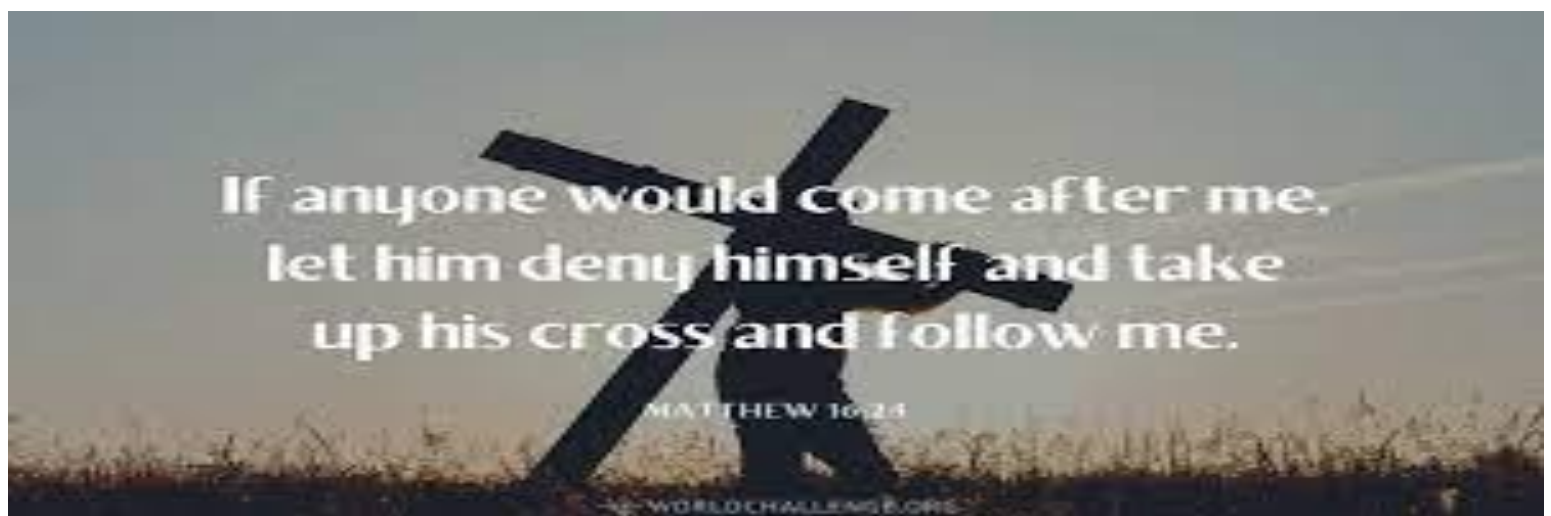
New Time Capsule... alright, yall! Are you getting your pictures and items together for the new time capsule as The Well at Centerville?? Sunday School classes, Life Groups, Partners in Prayer, Movin’ n Groovin’, Yoga, Quilters, church historian, Library... anyone and everyone that would like to put something in the time capsule get it together and we’ll do it at our October 5th Sunday lunch after worship. It’s going to be fun and exciting!



Bible Reading Plan

Week of August 13th:

Sunday.....	Luke 22
Monday.....	Luke 23
Tuesday.....	Luke 24
Wednesday.....	Acts 1
Thursday.....	Acts 2
Friday.....	Acts 3
Saturday.....	Acts 4



Are you Looking for a place to serve? To get involved? We have it!

This Week's Schedule:

Sunday- August 13

Ushers

10:30a J.O. Miller, Tony Rozier
Mel Smeltz, Cheri' Cox, Roy Carter
Keith Mobley, Stevie Bowen
W.C. Hester, Michael Walston
8:30a **Staff Meeting**
9:15a Sunday School
10:30a Worship



Greeters

10:30a Sherrie Shell, Sharon Morrison

Communion Servers

Lamar & Marilyn Outz
Patsy Spinks and Sherrill Pinckney



Finance Stewards

Paula Williams, Sherrie Shell, Kelly Evans

Assisting with Children

Sunday- August 13

Nursery- Marie Davis, Laura McKenzie
Children- Sherry Armour, Amber Gamble

Sunday- August 20

Nursery- Sherrie Shell, Laura McKenzie
Children- Kelly Evans, Katie Odum



Monday- August 14

6:00p **Finance Meeting**
6:30p **Administrative Council Meeting**
7:30p Narcotics Anonymous



Tuesday- August 15

9a-12n Open Door Mission Closet
9:15a Movin' n Groovin'
10:00a Partners in Prayer
10:00a Yoga
7:30 p Narcotics Anonymous



Wednesday- August 16

8:00a Men's Fellowship Breakfast
11:30a **Friendship Circle**
6:30p Choir Practice
7:30p Narcotics Anonymous



Thursday- August 17

9:00a **Life Group II "Work of Art"**
9:15a Movin' n Groovin'
10:00a Yoga
5:30p Dulcimers
6:30p Handbells
7:30p Narcotics Anonymous



Friday- August 18

7:30p Narcotics Anonymous



Saturday- August 19

7:30p . Narcotics Anonymous

Sunday School

Are you looking to get involved in Sunday School? We have a great line up of classes to explore! Maybe you've been attending Sunday School regularly but see a topic you're interested in – it's okay to move around and try different classes – let's learn and grow together!

Sunday School Class

Seekers
Issues & Answers
New Beginnings
Christian Fellowship
Youth
Pilgrims

Studies

The Jesus You May Not Know
Matthew
Psalm 91
Romans
Bible Chronology
Angels

Teacher

Kathy Rutke
Katie Odum
Nancy Hudson
Don Schall
Eric & Gloria Nelson
Kathy Blanchard

Men at the Well

Cooking Baby Back ribs



for your

Labor Day

\$25 each, pick up Saturday, September 2, 8a-12p
See any "Man" or come by/call the office to get yours!