

God is love and love lives here!



600 North Houston Lake Blvd., Centerville 31028
(478) 953-3090
www.thewellatcenterville.com
Office Hours: Mon-Thur 8:30a-12:30p
Rev. Tommy Odum
pastortommy@thewellatcenterville.com; 478/397-9491

Sunday, January 19, 2025

This is a little different, but things I wish I knew earlier and things I'm still learning.
Keep the Fath, Pastor Tommy

40 Things I've Learned in 40 Years of Ministry

by [Thom S. Rainer](#)

It was forty years ago that I began serving a small rural church in southern Indiana. I was so incredibly green then; I'm glad I didn't always realize it. I loved those people in that church, and for some reason, they loved me, too. I had to be one of the most inept pastors in history, but they just continued to show me grace and love me even more.

Now, four decades later, I reflect on what I've learned in ministry. Some lessons came rather naturally; others were very painful.

1. God is always faithful. Always. Always. Always.
2. My family is my greatest gift beyond my salvation. I wish I had always realized it.
3. I spent too much time worrying about things that I can't even remember today.
4. I took too many criticisms personally. Most critics weren't mad at me.
5. I always grow stronger when I spend time in the Word and prayer.
6. My wife endured a lot in our ministry. I needed to minister to her more.
7. When I can laugh at myself, I am more effective in ministry.
8. I learned to be more compassionate through the deaths of my parents and grandson. I can now understand the pain many experience.
9. I am always hurt when I hold grudges.
10. I need to ask for forgiveness more quickly.
11. I need friends to share both the joys and the challenges of ministry.
12. I wish my sons had not seen my frustrations when I was a pastor or a dad or a husband.
13. Life is short. Live it totally for Him every moment.
14. I should stand stronger for injustice.
15. Some of my most miserable days came when I grew jealous of others in ministry.
16. Some other miserable days came when I lived to please people rather than God.
17. When I don't take care of myself physically, ministry seems more of a burden than a joy.
18. Children are young but for a season. Some of my greatest joys have been with my three sons.
19. One of the greatest blessings of life is to have adult children who are my best friends.
20. I'm not nearly as smart as I sometimes think I am.
21. I've never seen an argument won on social media.
22. The local church is the best imperfect place on earth.
23. I am always wiser when I listen to the wisdom of others.
24. Too often, I list my problems rather than count my blessings.
25. The devil is always looking for a way to trap me (1 Timothy 3:7).
26. The internet never forgives or forgets.
27. My success is not measured by the size of my church or the prestige of my organization.
28. I've had a lot of grace shown to me. I need to pass that gift forward more.
29. Many people who disagree with me have proved right.
30. I am ashamed of how many times I have not shared the gospel.
31. The older I get, the more I anticipate heaven with excitement. I wish I had always had that perspective.
32. I've needed to demonstrate kindness more intentionally and more frequently.
33. Every church has some really mean people. God has called me to love and serve them, too.
34. I fight pride more often than I'd like to admit.
35. Some of my worst moments in ministry were when I lost my temper.
36. I've learned who my true friends are when I have little to offer them.
37. I need to practice the discipline of repentance more frequently.
38. Encouragement works better than harsh words.
39. I need to read more.
40. My grandchildren are almost perfect.

What have you learned in life and ministry? What can you add to this list

Scripture and Sermon:

Ephesians 4:1-6; 14-16
"What Can I Do For My Church"



New Concerns

Kathy Blanchard
Sue Matherly
Linda Trammel
Kizzy Cole
Jim & Linda Blanton
Bill & Suzanne
Chelle Brennan

Continue Prayers for:

Shannon Bake and Family
Scott Mitchell
Family of Ted Duncan
Victims of California fires

Lamar Outz
Paul Smith
Phil & Betty Bailey
Dianne Harrington
Mac McCullough
Kathy Blanchard
Betty Bowen
Michael & Jennie Walston
Betty Byrd
Mary Prater
Jim & Mary Leary
Virginia Eadie
Bill Reedy
Our Country, Leaders, Military and First Responders

Finance Report for

01-12-25

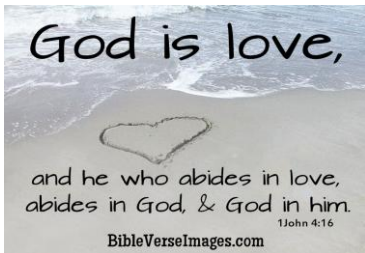
Operating Budget..... \$6,217.00
Food Pantry..... 125.00
Total..... \$6,342.00

Worship Attendance

141

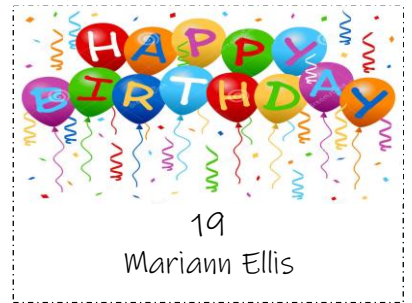
Sunday School

41





- ✓ 01-20-25 Office Closed- MLK, Jr birthday
- ✓ 01-26-25 Mr Harry's 100th Birthday Luncheon 1130a
- ✓ 02-02-25 Volunteer Appreciation Dinner 5p
- ✓ 02-10-25 Called Administrative Meeting 630p
- ✓ 02-17-25 Office Closed- President's Day
- ✓ 03-05-25 Ash Wednesday
- ✓ 03-10-25 Finance Committee Meeting 6p
- ✓ 03-10-25 Administrative Council Meeting 630p
- ✓ 03-30-25 5th Sunday Lunch 1130p



Community Missions

- The annual Food Pantry totals are: families served- 4,737; people served- 16,649; weight of food distributed- 189,782 lbs. Volunteers- priceless. Wow. Just wow. This is the hands and feet of Jesus at work.
- The next Food Pantry will be January 22, 10a-1p, it will be the only one this month. Please see Cheri to help with this ministry. You will be blessed. Our Food Pantry Team rocks!
- The Clothes Closet is open the second and fourth Wednesdays for shopping (9a-1p) and second and fourth Tuesdays for processing(9a-1p) anyone that would like to volunteer, see Brenda.
Donations can be dropped off in the white trailer beside the Yak Shack. The door may need a hard tug to open; it is unlocked.
- Finally, we are collecting donations for **our Indoor Yard Sale to be held January 31-February 1, 2025 beginning at 9am and ending 1pm on both days.** We need volunteers for setting up, working the Yard Sale and tearing down/cleaning up after the sale is over. We have a luncheon the next day so the Fellowship Hall is needed. Donations for the yard sale can be left in the white trailer.
Thank you to all our Clothes Closet Volunteers. You are the Best! Brenda
- January 22- 8:45-11:00... Elaine Hubbard, Barbara Brushke, Cynthia Boutwell
- January 22- 11:00-1:14... Nancy Brechin, Joyce Wyatt, Sherrill Pinckney

Bible Reading Plan

Week of January 19th:

Sunday.....	Nehemiah 9
Monday.....	Nehemiah 10
Tuesday....	Nehemiah 11
Wednesday....	Nehemiah 12
Thursday.....	Nehemiah 13
Friday.....	Esther 1
Saturday.....	Esther 2

Gifts Given to the Glory of God

- In memory of Leon Hudson by Keith & Susan Mobley
- In honor of Pam Spence by Nancy Hudson



Thank You

Thank you, thank you, thank you to all the helpers that worked like fast bees to get the greens packed away on January 6. It was great that our volunteers worked hard to pack up and put away the decor. We were completely done in 30 minutes! The worship team cannot thank you enough for the fantastic job completed. Love you all, cause love begins here! ~~ The Worship Team ~~

Partner in Prayers/Visitation Team

Partners in Prayer will be forming teams to visit our shut-ins on a regular basis. There will be training by Pastor Tommy this Tuesday at 10:30a during PnP. It will cover things like how to communicate, what to say, what not to say, how long to stay, etc. If you would like to participate in this ministry, please see Pam Spence or call/email the office or come to Partners in Prayer, they meet every Tuesday at 10a in the Christian Fellowship SS Classroom.

Friendship Circle

The Friendship Circle has resumed meeting after the holidays. We meet on the third Wednesday of the month at 11:30a in the Issues and Answers SS Classroom. Our schedule is January through May, taking off June, July, August and resuming in September. You are welcome to join us anytime!

Family Promise

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/>

Women at the Well

Ladies, circle meetings are coming up... so, don't forget to attend. If you have never been to a meeting, you are welcome to attend any of the circles. We'd be so happy to have you visit!

Men at the Well

The Men meet the second Thursday of the month at 6:30pm. All men are welcome and are encouraged to attend any meeting. The men also meet every Wednesday morning at 7:30am at Steak n Shake for Men's Fellowship Breakfast. All men are welcome.

Church Website

Please contact Sabrina Williams at sabrinamwilliams2@cox.net for any requests to have something added or deleted from our church website or Facebook. Also contact Sabrina if you have any pictures taken at any church function that you would like posted. And make sure you follow our Facebook page!

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

This Week's Schedule:

Sunday- January 19

Ushers

10:30a J.O. Miller, Tony Rozier
Mel Smeltz, Cheri' Cox, Lynn Mayfield
Keith Mobley, Stevie Bowen
Joy Fleming, Sherrie Shell, Roy Carter
9:15a Sunday School
10:30a Worship

Greeters

10:30a Cheri Cox, Marie Davis

Communion Servers

Susan Glidewell, Marie Davis
Thomas & Joy Fleming

Prayer Teams

Luis & Jan Morales-Hill
Don & Sharoon Schall

Finance Stewards

LaWanna Porter, Kathy Rutke, Hilda Rozier

Assisting with Children

Sunday- January 19

Nursery- Rosalyn, Lauren, Brittany
Children- Brenda Craw, Kelly Evans

Sunday- January 26

Nursery- Sarah Rosalyn, Lauren
Children- Nancy Hudson, Lynn Miller

Monday- January 20

Office Closed- MLK Day

10:00a Quilters
7:30p Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesday- January 21

9:15a Movin' n Groovin'
10:00a Partners in Prayer
10:30a PnP Visitation Training
10:00a Yoga
11:30a Life Group IV "J Walkers

Wednesday- January 22

8:00a Men's Fellowship Breakfast
8:45a-1:15p Clothes Closet
10a-1p Food Pantry
7:30p Narcotics Anonymous

Thursday- January 23

9:15a Movin' n Groovin'
10:00a Yoga
7:30p Narcotics Anonymous

Friday- January 24

12p-3p Young at Heart
7:30p Narcotics Anonymous

Saturday- January 25

7:30p Narcotics Anonymous



Sunday School at 9:15a

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

Studies

Women Who Trusted God
Luke
Questions Christians Ask
Matthew

Teacher

LaWanna Porter
Joy Fleming
Nancy Hudson
Don Schall/Luis Morales





Young at Heart is meeting on the second Friday of the month in addition to the fourth Friday. On the second Friday we will play a variety of games, so bring your favorite game or puzzle, set it up and players can group around the games they want to play. We will continue with Bingo on the fourth Friday. We are excited to bring our Y@H attendees another afternoon of food, fun and fellowship. Everyone is invited, come join us!