

P.O. Box 216  
Troy, TN 38260  
Church: 536-4611  
Ron (cell): 731-796-5752



### SUNDAY SERVICES

9:30 am — Bible Study  
10:30 am — Worship  
5:00 pm — Small Group Discussions

### WEDNESDAY SERVICES

6:30 pm — Bible Study

### WORSHIP SERVICE Dec. 31, 2017

#### Welcome

538 "My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less"

535 "The Glory-Land Way"

528 "I Know That My Redeemer Lives"

#### Shepherd's Prayer

484 "You Are My All in All"

51 "Above All"

#### Communion

#### Contribution

446 "Hear O Israel"

238 "You Are the Song That I Sing"

#### Scripture Reading

#### Sermon

555 "Seek Ye First"

#### Family News

38 "Our God Is an Awesome God"

#### Closing Prayer



### THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK

Sunday morning, December 31, 2017

Worship Leader: Tim Spain  
Lord's Supper: Jeff Nicks  
Scripture Reading: Brian Clark  
Sermon: Ron Newberry  
Closing Prayer: Jerry Ross  
Elder Available After Worship: Greg Ferguson  
Children's Church: Landon & Maggie McCage  
Attended Nursery: Renee Ferguson  
Nursery Next Week: Rachel Clark  
Greeters (side): Aaron Tittle Family



### PRAYER LIST

**OUR CHURCH FAMILY:** Mary Johnson, Kenneth Scott, Sue Wilkerson, Vernelle Sellers, Vallie Burden, Faye Tittle, Dawn Guy, Phil Green, Chris Gooch

**OUR COMMUNITY:** Yates Graham, Scott Albright, Hudson Hayes, Debbie Jordan, Mary Hepler, Phyllis Weatherly, Debbie Bowling, Evelyn Williams, Carl Ivey, Michelle Cook (Brian Clark's boss), Shawn Weaks

**OUR RELATIVES & FRIENDS:** Erica Albritton, Alan Jones, William Gardner, Hazel Williams, Terry Grady, Louis Woods (cousin of Aaron Tittle), Adam & Jennifer Cooley, Katie Harris, Clinton Battles, Jason Elliott, Glen Rippee (Evan's grandfather), Velynda Cameron (Evan's aunt), Lohnya Rippee, Ruby Rogers, Kimberly & Giovanni Rodriguez, Tresa Mudd (Autumn Garrigus's mom), Dwight Baggett, Philis Wilkinson (Amy Hawkins' mom), Pam Hughes

**THOSE SERVING OUR COUNTRY:** Jay Thomas, Thomas Booker, Chriss Mays, Rebecca Gooch, Claire Lloyd, Dakota McCord, Matt Hester, Clayton Fowler (student of Nancy's, deployed to Korea).

#### MISSIONS WE SUPPORT:

Baja California, City of Children, China, Guyana, Zambia.

TROY Church of CHRIST

FAMILY  NEWS



December 31, 2017

Another Christmas has come and gone. We all know what that means: it's resolution time! Have you made New Year's resolutions already? Do you plan to make any?

Studies have indicated that when it comes to the types of resolutions we make, Americans (not surprisingly) focus on changes relating to themselves: linked to weight, diet and health (30%); money, debt and finances (15%); personal improvement (13%); breaking addictions (12%); job and career (5%); and educational (4%).

One interesting finding that has repeatedly emerged is that while we focus on ourselves when setting priorities for the New Year, few of us indicate we want to improve relationships with others. Virtually absent from our resolutions is any mention of volunteering or serving others and only a fraction of comments are about marriage or parenting. Almost no responses focus on being a better friend. Only a small fraction of people—sad to say—mention improving their relationship with God.

The research team known as the Barna Group explains these findings noting that less than one percent of survey respondents mentioned that one of their objectives for next year was getting closer to God in some way. Even when they did mention spiritual goals, it was often about some activity or action engaged in for God, rather than a personal pursuit of God, an experience with God, holiness, etc.

The Barna Group put the findings in context by concluding that we have a love-hate relationship with New Year's resolutions: millions of people make them, but they rarely report success as a result. (Can you remember any resolutions you made last year—or any other year—and how you succeeded in keeping them?) This research points out that most of us recognize the need for improvement and have a desire to experience some sort of personal change in our lives. But achieving such objectives is rare and personally difficult.

Maybe the problem is we focus too much on ourselves and some personal change we want to make. Could it be that the way to affect real change, long-lasting change is to realize that permanent change most often comes by serving and sacrificing for others?

At Troy we have a significant opportunity to help you identify what makes for transformational change and how to best achieve those objectives by focusing on serving others rather than being inwardly focused primarily on self. The self-actualization goals, the ones that begin with, "I want to..." and end with something that is personal, or spotlights self improvement, can best be achieved (maybe only achieved) by setting goals and investing resources in things beyond ourselves.

The ultimate self improvement comes from a resolute commitment to change the course of mediocre apathetic Christianity in the church and it starts with us—you and me—right here, right now this morning. If any of us want to legitimately claim that we want to change our lives for the better, to receive a fresh wind of the Spirit from God, then stop primarily pursuing self-help goals and start pursuing a right relationship with God. It is, after all, the most important relationship we have as Christians. Self improvement is like joy: you can't find it by searching for it; you only have it as a byproduct of doing the right thing—especially for others.

Everything in life rises and falls on this crucial, fundamental, imperative, intimate relationship with the Lord. Pursue that, cultivate that, concentrate on that and you will see that the changes you seek will be the serendipity of your quest for holiness.

Now, go make some worthy, other-focused, God centered resolutions. Then commit yourself to them with a whole heart.

- Ron

**THOSE TO SERVE January 7, 2018**

Worship Leader: Tim Spain  
 Lord's Supper: Greg Ferguson, Keith Connor,  
 Kevin Dobbins, Brian Clark, Wade Hen-  
 son, Rick Yates, Tyler Kendall  
 Scripture Reading: Landon McCage  
 Closing Prayer: Jimmy Smith  
 Power Point: Tim Spain  
 Greeters (side): Tim & Nancy Spain

**THANK YOU**

Here's a thank you from David French, a missionary to Zambia that the church supports:



"Lorie and I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and to THANK you for your partnership with us in Zambia. It would be impossible for us to do this work in Zambia if it were not for churches like Troy supporting this effort. We are MOST grateful for you and your continued support of this ministry. Our prayers are with you as we conclude another year and begin a new one. May the Lord continue to bless you all." *David*



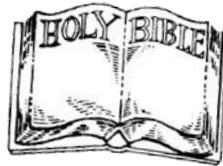
Learn more about Zambia Missions at <http://www.zambiamissions.org>

◆ **DAILY BIBLE READING SCHEDULE**

December 31	Revelations 19-22
January 1	Genesis 1-2; Matthew 1
January 2	Genesis 3-5; Matthew 2
January 3	Genesis 6-8; Matthew 3
January 4	Genesis 9-11; Matthew 4
January 5	Genesis 12-14; Matthew 5:1-26
January 6	Genesis 15-17; Matthew 5:27-48

◆ **DAILY BIBLE READING TIPS**

Each January we provide a different reading schedule to help you read through the Bible in one year. This year's schedule has a daily reading from both the Old and New Testaments. Here are a couple of tips on reading the Bible daily.



1. **Start reading the Bible on January 1** – there is no better time to start and there's no reason to wait.
2. **Set aside a specific time each day.** Set your schedule and then stick to it. Mornings are great to get your day off to a good start, but feel free to use any time that works consistently for you.
3. **Read the Bible for the sake of learning,** not simply to accomplish your next reading. Say a short prayer to God before you begin, asking the Holy Spirit to give you wisdom and understanding, then be refreshed by the words you read!
4. **Reflect on something you read** during the rest of the day.

**LOOKING FORWARD**

Much like I wrote about looking back at the past year last week, I encourage you all to look forward this week in to this new year, see where you may need to make changes in your life, and be confident in what God will have in store for you. As for me, I have been trying to pray in the way Jesus taught us to pray in Matthew chapter 6. That we should hold the Lord's name as something sacred, and we should pray for the things he wants, not what we want. We don't need to use prayer as a way to advance ourselves, we only need to ask for what we need each day. But that's just what I have been trying to do! I encourage you to find something you may not have tried before, you something you feel is lacking in your spiritual life and see if that's something God wants you to improve or pursue! I hope that all of you had a wonderful holiday season, and I wish you all a Happy New Year! And Thank you all for everything you've done for me this past year! - *Zach*

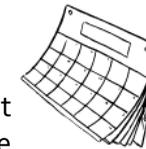
**DID YOU KNOW?**

According to a 2009 British study published in the European *Journal of Social Psychology*, it can take **up to 254** daily repetitions to form a new habit, so keep at it, even when it still feels too "new". And remember, Bible study can be powerful "medicine" for the reader that you won't find anywhere else..



**STAY ORGANIZED in 2018**

The 2018 Troy Church of Christ calendars will be available



**The Power for Today** devotional guide for January, February and March are at each of the auditorium exit doors.



