

## Those Privileged to Serve

**Sept 10th - MORNING WORSHIP**  
6 A.M. R. Pack, J. Smith

**Announcements:** Gaylon Cooper

**Lead Singing:** John Smith  
**Read Scripture:** Darrell Cunningham  
**Opening Prayer:** Freeman Kidder  
**Sermon:** Ray Pack  
**Closing Prayer:** Jeff Lewis

**Communion:**  
K. Ross, A. Vaughn, W. Ferguson  
E. Anderson, C. Richardson, P. Love

**Greet:** Reba Donaldson & Panda Green

**Sept 10th - EVENING WORSHIP**

**Lead Singing:** Paul Hatcher  
**Opening Prayer:** Mike Wages  
**Sermon:** Ray Pack  
**Closing Prayer:** Joseph Johnson

**Communion:**  
R. Pack, J. Adams

**Sept 13th - WED BIBLE STUDY**

**Lead Singing:** Paul Hatcher  
**Opening Prayer:** Darrell Cunningham  
**Devotional:** Mike Wages  
**Closing Prayer:** Joe Venable

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**Sept 18th - MORNING WORSHIP**  
6 A.M. B. Richardson, M. Wages

**Announcements:** Gaylon Cooper

**Lead Singing:** Mike Wages  
**Read Scripture:** Marion Thomas  
**Opening Prayer:** Joseph Johnson  
**Sermon:** Ray Pack  
**Closing Prayer:** Carleton Kidder

**Communion:**  
K. Ross, A. Vaughn, W. Ferguson  
E. Anderson, C. Richardson, P. Love

**Greet:** Ken & Paula Wadley

**Sept 17th - EVENING WORSHIP**

**Lead Singing:** Marion Thomas  
**Opening Prayer:** Carleton Kidder  
**Sermon:** Ray Pack  
**Closing Prayer:** Freeman Kidder

**Communion:**  
R. Pack, J. Adams

**Sept 20th - WED BIBLE STUDY**

**Lead Singing:** Marion Thomas  
**Opening Prayer:** Freeman Kidder  
**Devotional:** Darrell Cunningham  
**Closing Prayer:** James Eddleman

## Weekly Record

6 AM Worship	7
Sun. Morning Bible Study	79
Sunday Morning Worship	121
Sunday Evening Worship	72
Wed. Bible Study	96
Contribution	\$ 4478



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# South Jackson Beacon

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No. 36

## Guide for Growth

I've heard a lot about spiritual growth lately from Christians who both claim to be growing spiritually and some who have expressed concern over the lack of it in their lives. What amazes me is how many Christians place the blame for their lack of it, or the credit for their spiritual development, squarely on the shoulders of others (i.e. the church, the elders, the preacher). Now, I am certainly not discounting the importance of others to our growth in Christ. I have been blessed beyond measure with faithful, godly individuals (family members, friends, mentors) who have contributed profoundly to my edification in the faith.



However, it seems that our societal propensity to skirt personal responsibility and to desire plausible deniability has polluted the church and infected our personal spiritual lives. If we fail spiritually we want to pass the buck and blame someone else. At the same time we want to be blessed by God and to be spiritually minded but we seem to want someone else to do it for us. Fundamentally, it should be clear that the tools God has placed all around us (church fellowship, sound preaching and teaching, godly leadership) are just that — tools!

But personal spiritual growth demands personal spiritual effort. Personal responsibility in...

**Regular Worship:** One caveat here is that where you worship is essential to proper spiritual growth. If you worship with a church that does not preach or practice the truth you will NOT receive the proper spiritual growth you need to be pleasing to God. But having a faithful church family will not ensure spiritual growth if you neglect the regular worship assemblies of the body (Hebrews 10:25; Matthew 6:33). It has been my experience that some of the weakest members of the church, and often those who complain

about a lack of spiritual growth (or who simply display spiritual immaturity), are those who are the most irregular in their attendance.

**Regular Bible Study** : It is beyond the reach of this article to address the general ignorance of irreligious people concerning what the Bible actually says. Yet it is a sad commentary on the state of the church today that far too few Christians spend any real quality time with God's Word. Consider that Paul wrote, " All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:16 – 17). If one hopes to stand before God justified in Judgment then he would be wise to know what it really says (John 12:48). Both regular private and group study is essential and often those who study in a vacuum don't really grow spiritually, while they are deceived into thinking otherwise.

**Regular Prayer** : The Spirit inspired the apostle's pen to command the Christian to "pray without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5:17; Colossians 4:12). Speaking with God regularly will help one to be more aware of his blessings, more thankful, less self – involved and humble and more concerned for others. The less time one spends communicating with God the less spiritual he will be.

**Regularly Fellowship With Positive Christian Influences** : Mankind is a creature that does not do well isolated from others. We are social creatures who need regular engagement with others. We are also highly influenced by those with whom we engage. For proper spiritual growth one would be wise to avoid not only evil company (1 Corinthians 15:33) but also those who are negative and disruptive to harmony and unity.

If we really want to live a good life, grow in our knowledge and relationship with God, and spend eternity in heaven when this life is over it is imperative that we take personal responsibility for our spirituality. Each one will give an answer for himself in judgment (2 Corinthians 5:10; Ezekiel 18:19; Ecclesiastes 12:13 – 14). But caution should be exercised less we over – value ourselves. While we need to take personal responsibility for our salvation, without the Lord, and without other faithful brethren, we ourselves are nothing. Be faithful.

*Tim Dooley  
Point Pleasant Church of Christ  
Hebron, KY*

### **Sunday Sermons**

AM - Can I Still Grow? - 2 Peter 3:18 - Ray Pack  
PM - Making Christianity Attractive - Matthew 5:13-16 - Ray Pack

## **Congregational News and Notes**

### **Prayer Requested**

#### **Members**

Harold and Doris Davis,  
Ron and Nadine McDonald,  
Sammy Puckett, Rachel Epperson,  
Ted Lingren, Billy Landers,  
Fredie Stewart, Cindy Kidder,  
Iva Hopper, Tom Crow,  
Freeman Kidder, Doug Crouse,  
Margie Montgomery, Tommye Siegler  
Margie Whitehead, Helen Avent,  
Louise Buck, Gwen Smith,  
Jorita Richardson, Barbara Ray,  
Jerry Crabb, Jeanette Morris

#### **Friends & Family:**

Horace Yearwood, Tim Boyd,  
Al Stewart, Ruth Cox,  
Judy Jennings, Raymond Cagle,  
Beverly Martindale, Rosie Love,  
Bethany Tims, Nancy Anderson,  
Donald & Christa Smith,  
Bill and Gladys Gowan

#### **Cards to Send**

Bill Gowan  
Maplewood Healthcare  
100 Cherrywod Drive  
Jackson, TN 38305

Iva Hopper  
82 Will Mcknight Drive  
Jackson, TN 38301

Margie Whitehead  
1778 South Highland  
Jackson, TN 38301

### **Happenings**

#### **South Jackson**

##### **Today**

Youth Devotional after evening services

##### **9/17**

Men's Business Meeting at 3:30

#### **Area Events**

Numerous area events are posted on the bulletin board.

#### **Pantry Item**

Peanut Butter

#### **Dorcas Class**

Dorcas class will start back on Tuesday, September 12th. Class meets at 10 AM each Tuesday. We will continue to follow our policy of not having class when Madison County Schools are not in session.

#### **FHU Student Series**

Beginning September 20th.

The series will run for 8 consecutive Wednesday nights.

Please come and support these young men who are training to become servants in the Kingdom.