

# Central Church of Christ

“A Community of Grace”

January 1, 2017

## If Every Christian Imitated You

Paul told his fellow Christians in Corinth, “I urge you, imitate me...Imitate me...” (1 Cor. 4:16; 11:1). He told his fellow Christians in Philippi, “Brethren, join in following my example...The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do” (Phil. 3:17; 4:9). What would that early church have looked like if they all truly mimicked the life of the apostle Paul? How evangelistic would they have been? How encouraging? How devoted? How generous? How studious?

Now, let’s turn the tables for a moment and make this glaringly personal. Imagine for a moment that you told your fellow Christians in your home congregation at the beginning of this year, “I urge you, imitate me...Brethren, join in following my example...The things which you hear and see in me, these do.” What would your home congregation look like now, at the end of the year, if every member truly mimicked you?

**How evangelistic would your home congregation have been this year if every member mimicked you?** How many deeply religious conversations would have taken place with family members and coworkers? How many friends would have been invited to worship? How many links to articles and sermons would have been shared? How many Bible studies would have been offered and conducted if everyone mimicked you?

**How encouraging would your home congregation have been this year if every member mimicked you?** How many cards would have been mailed out? How many phone calls would have been made? How many home visits would have been made? How many warm handshakes and hugs would have been given? How many meals would have been shared? How many church members would have been personally contacted and built up if everyone mimicked you?

You get the idea, right? How fervent would singing in worship have been this year if everyone mimicked you? How sacrificial would the total contribution have been if everyone mimicked you? How many chapters in the Bible would have been personally read and studied throughout the year if everyone mimicked you?

There’s nothing wrong with programs designed to reach lost souls, to encourage fellow Christians, to improve our worship, to cause Christians to read their Bibles, etc. But what the church needs most is Christians who are deeply committed to Jesus Christ! Paul could say, “Imitate me,” because he was deeply committed every day to “imitating Christ.” Are you?

David Sproule

# Order of Worship

All Things Praise Thee

(43) (Song Leader- **Jobee Thrasher**)

**Welcome and prayer ..... Virgil Hammontree**

Wonderful Story of Love (286)

Heavenly Sunlight (611)

There is a Place of Quiet Rest (477)

Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross (383)

**Communion and Offering**

Sing To Me of Heaven (716)

**Children's Offering / Dismissal Children's Worship**

**Sermon -Timothy 2:14-15 "Back to Go" Virgil Hammontree**

Sinners Jesus Will Receive (935)

**Announcements**

I'm Not Ashamed to Own My Lord (609)

**Closing Prayer**

## **Those Serving:**

	<b>Jan. 1</b>	<b>Jan. 8</b>	<b>Jan. 15</b>	<b>Jan. 22</b>
<b>Lead/ Bread</b>	Tyler Goad	Jobee Thrasher	John Atkison	Bill Goad
<b>Fruit of Vine</b>	John Atkison	Bill Goad	Brad Oglesby	Alan Powell
<b>Offering</b>	Allen Smith	Greg Atkison	Clint Thrasher	Allen Smith
<b>Closing Pray</b>	Brad Oglesby	Alan Powell	Francis Jenkins	Tyler Goad
<b>Door</b>	John Atkison &	Tyler & Whitney	Greg & Brenda	Clint Thrasher
<b>Greeters</b>	Gracie	Goad	Atkison	

# Birthdays and Anniversaries!

Cyrus Bryant – January 5th

## Prayer concerns

The family of our brother Dickie Blue  
- Rudy-Rowland Funeral Home  
- Visitation 2-8 PM Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup> and 8-11 am Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup> with funeral at 11:00 am Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup>.  
June Thrasher at Redbanks  
Sue Hall (June Thrashers roommate)  
Bobbi Doris Redbanks Rm #103  
Allen Smith's mother, Donna  
Kim O'Daniel  
Etta Jenkins, Deaconess Gateway B510  
Clinton Jones, friend of Brenda's has cancer  
Macy King, student of Cathy Thrasher

## O Boundless Love

By J. Randal Matheny © 2016

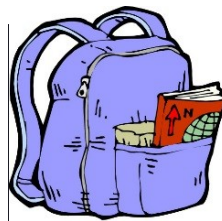
**O boundless Love, to those who hate  
Show mercy, kindness to the cruel;  
To them who rail, insult, berate,  
Let humble goodness be our rule.**

**To vengeful foes who strike our face,  
Make us disciples turn the cheek,  
To calls for rights, let us show grace,  
Toward haughty noses make us meek.**

**For we, above all else, desire,  
In all affairs, in peace and strife,  
To show your Self — to this aspire —**

## Things to remember:

In order to stand up for the truth you must know your Bible and there's no better time to make a commitment to daily bible reading than the beginning of a new year. **A schedule for reading through your bible is available on the table in the foyer.** If that one doesn't suit you feel free to pick another but let's do it. It takes very little time each day and I can assure you will be drawn closer to God and His spirit.



This week we are collecting **instant oatmeal** for the Henderson County High School backpacks.

Please contribute if possible.

**2017** actually has five 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday's with the first one coming up this month. Don't forget that a large percentage of each 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday contribution goes into a separate account to pay off our debt and a lesser percentage goes toward benevolent activities led by Bill Goad. We pay over \$18,000/ year in interest on our loan so the sooner we can pay off the loan the sooner we'll free up funds to do work for the kingdom. The kingdom of God is NOT about money, but our giving is part of our worship and is an indicator of our

attitude toward God and His kingdom.  
Let's be sacrificial as we look forward  
to the first 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of 2017.

**Central Church of Christ**

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**SCHEDULE OF SERVICES**

**Sunday:**

9:30 AM Sunday school

10:30 AM Worship Assembly

**6:00 PM Bible Study**

**Wednesday: 6:30 PM Bible Study**

**Our statistics:**

Sunday Worship	31
Sunday Night	cancelled
Contribution	\$1,265.00
Wednesday Bible Study	12

*To join the church text  
messaging services send @kce9  
to 81010. Then follow the  
directions*

## **Resolutions**

Hebrews 4:12-13

The beginning of a new year is a good time to decide to do new things. Christians need to take advantage of these opportunities to go in new directions. We could resolve to renew our prayer lives or our corporate worship attitudes. It is an appropriate time to begin to read the Scriptures again.

We do this because the Scripture is our lifeline to God. It speaks of His character and history. It tells of all the promises He made to us. It also reminds us that our connection to the Word of God is a dynamic and living experience. It changes us as we continue to read and study it. It is NOT just words on a page. It challenges us and changes us.

When we make it a priority it begins to alter our habits and challenge our perceptions. It gets inside our minds and hearts. It pierces to the very center of our spirit and infuses us with the power of the Living God. It is impossible to hide from its effect upon us. His Word reminds us that we are in the presence of a Living and Active God who is relentlessly invading His creation.

Virgil Hammontree