

A Full Parking Lot by Jay Lanius

One of our beloved American pastimes is the road trip. The idea of loading up the car with family or friends and taking off on an adventure to explore unfamiliar highways and byways is very appealing. One aspect of the road trip is to find and experience the restaurants, diners, and cafes located in small towns along the way. So, how does one choose the best places to eat while traveling in a new place? Today, we can take out our smart phones and “google” for eateries that have the best reviews and the most stars. But how did we choose a good place to eat in the past before we had the internet? While traveling down the road around lunch time, we looked for a restaurant with a full parking lot. If a café’s lot was overflowing with local cars and utility vehicles, then it was sure to have fine food and good service. Even with the available information today, looking for a full parking lot is still a good method of picking a fine restaurant.

With this methodology in mind, what do people see when they drive by our church building during meeting times? A full parking lot or one with just a few cars randomly scattered about. The church with a parking lot that is filled and running over gives the impression that this is a place where people gather to be filled with spiritual food and enjoy service and fellowship. (Acts 2:42-47) It is a place that people want to come to regularly and consistently to be stirred up with love and good works. (Heb. 10:24-25) The church with a full parking lot is a place where there is community, encouragement and comfort during both good and difficult times. It is a place where the God of the universe is worshiped, and Jesus Christ is remembered and praised. (Rom. 15:2; John 4:24; 2 Cor. 1:3-4; 1 Cor. 11:24- 25) A church with a full parking lot peaks the interest of those who pass by and perhaps they wonder, “What am I missing?” On the other hand, the parking lot sparsely filled gives the impression that something is missing and of a lack of interest. It is not impressive nor inviting to the passer by. On a personal note, do you suppose our unchurched family and friends look for our cars when passing by the church building on Sunday mornings, evenings, and Wednesday night? Am I doing my part to assure that my parking place is filled at every opportunity?

Brushy church of Christ
774 Hwy 48 South
Centerville TN 37033



The Brushy Beacon

“Let God’s Word Be Our Guide in 2025”

October 19, 2025

Schedule of Services	
Sunday Bible Study	9:00
Sunday Morning Service	10:00
Sunday Evening Service	6:00
Wednesday Bible Study	7:00

The church of Christ at Brushy

Elders	Deacons	
Ricky Atkinson	Paul Johnston	Terry Banks
James Atkinson	Kevin Johnston	Justin Atkinson
Tony Duncan	Caleb Truett	

Preacher: Kevin Johnston

You can Have Purpose and Meaning in Christ

Every person longs to understand *why* they are here. Many search for meaning in career, success, or relationships, yet true purpose can only be found in knowing and serving God. Scripture reminds us, “*For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them*” (Ephesians 2:10). Our purpose begins when we realize that we were created by God and for God — to live a life that glorifies Him.

The world often defines purpose by achievement, but the Bible defines it by faithfulness. Jesus said, “*Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you*” (Matthew 6:33). When we make God our priority, everything else in life finds its proper place. True meaning isn’t discovered in chasing what we want, but in aligning our hearts with what God wants.

Finding your purpose also means serving others. Paul wrote, “*Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others*” (Philippians 2:4). When we use our talents to help others and share Christ’s love, we fulfill the good works God has designed for us. Purpose is not hidden — it’s lived out daily in obedience, compassion, and faith.

When we walk with Christ, our purpose becomes clearer through spiritual growth and daily faithfulness. Paul reminds us, “*Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect*” (Romans 12:2). The more we study God’s Word, pray, and live by His guidance, the more we understand the direction He has for our lives. Our meaning is not found in temporary things but in living as disciples who reflect Christ’s character in every situation.

Living with purpose also gives us strength and hope through life’s challenges. Even when the path ahead seems uncertain, God’s plan remains steady. “*And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose*” (Romans 8:28, ESV). When we trust that God is working in every season — in joy, in sorrow, in waiting — we can face each day with confidence. Our lives have meaning because we belong to Him, and every moment can be used to honor Christ and draw others to His saving grace.

Take time this week to pray and reflect on how you can better serve in God’s kingdom. Ask yourself: *Am I using my life to glorify God?* Look for opportunities to encourage, teach, and serve. As Jesus said, “*Whoever loses his life for my sake will find it*” (Matthew 16:25). True purpose and lasting meaning are found only in Him.

CREATED

with a purpose

Family News & Notes

Welcome We are so glad you are here and welcome you to a time of Bible teaching and worship. We hope you will come and worship with us again!

Congratulations to... Savannah Porter who completed the Nurse Residency Program at the TriStar Natchez ER in Dickson. We appreciate her dedication and devotion to letting her light shine and serving others!

TEAM 3 – Compassion Card Group You will need to sign cards TODAY. Please go to the Ladies Classroom following the morning worship service. It will not take you long. Please see Justin & Emily if you have questions. *James, Kim, Tate Tammy & CJ Glenda David and Crystal Maelynn Keith and Nancy James & Helen*

Guest Speaker Frank Williams with Latin American Missions will be here to speak tonight. This mission work focuses on a variety of activities throughout Latin America, including preacher training and support, medical missions and evangelism, benevolence, printing of resources for Spanish-speaking churches, and construction of meeting places and disaster relief.

Men’s Business Meeting There will be a men’s business meeting on Sunday, October 26, at 5 P.M. All men are invited to attend!

4th Sunday Singing Night Aden Weber will be our speakers on Sunday, October 26. He is the son of Ande and Jenny Weber and a Sophomore at Hickman County High School. We are so thankful for his willingness and ability to share the Gospel. We hope you will make plans to attend.

A Happy Birthday to... Lynlee Porter...October 22

Compassion Cards Our mission continues—to reach those who are outside of Christ. We are committed to sharing the Gospel and studying God’s Word with as many souls as we can. Take a moment to think about the people in your life who need to know Jesus. Who could we reach through a kind card, an act of benevolence, or a Bible study? Write their name on a card and place it in the box. Let’s work together to bring others to Christ.

Consider how you can show JOY this week ~ Joy Comes from Our Relationship with God
“You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy.” — Psalm 16:11. True joy begins in knowing God and walking with Him. It is not found in possessions, success, or circumstances—but in the presence of the Lord. Think about a tree drawing water from a hidden stream, the Christian’s joy is fed from a source the world cannot see. Spend time daily in God’s Word and prayer. The closer you walk with Him, the more joy will fill your heart.

Upcoming Events

*Sunday, October 26 ~ Men’s Business Meeting at 5 P.M.

*Sunday, October 26 ~ 4th Sunday Singing Night with Aiden Weber

*Saturday, November 8 ~ Fall Hayride, Soup, & Chili Setup by Caleb, Paige, & David G.

For the Record

Sunday Morning Bible Class	Sunday Morning Worship
Sunday Evening Worship	Wednesday Evening
Contribution \$3054	

Pray for Those Sick Among Us...

Ann Bryant is continuing to improve after having a hip replacement.

David Grimes is continuing with therapy 2 days week.

Amy Johnston is improving and will have her follow-up appointment on October 20.

Justin Atkinson knee surgery went well and is improving.

Helen Bryant is recovering after heart procedure last Friday.

Cathy Duncan is waiting for test results as she deals with health issues.

Elaine Jones Sister of Louise Adams, will have surgery in December.

Deborah Roberts daughter of Glenda Tanner, received good results from the colonoscopy.

Eric Mayberry son of Shirley Mayberry, had his kidney stone removed last Friday and is doing better.

Chuck Ward nephew of Ed & Terri Perkins, got an infection, went back in the hospital, but is home now.

Continue to Pray... for those who lost their lives in the explosion at Accurate Energetic Systems. It is such a tragic event for those families who will be dealing with grief for quite some time.

Continuing Prayer Requests

Dealing with Cancer - Glen Herrington, Rodney Tune

Special Requests - Chris Allen, Miranda Smith, Judy Goodman, Annis Womack, Karen Bowen, Vera Woods, Paul Johnston, Hazel Elizabeth & Emslee Bell Taylor

Pray for Those in Nursing Homes

Community Living Center in Murfreesboro... Fred Bowman

Ongoing Prayer Reminders

- All in the military and civil workers overseas and their families right.
- All those Preaching and teaching the Good News all over the world.
- Our Government Leaders – Local, State, and National (1 Timothy 2:1-2).
- Our Elders and Deacons who oversee, care for, serve, and feed us spiritually. (Hebrews 13:7)

Your Voice is a Powerful Part of our Worship

A cappella singing allows every voice to join together in unity and praise. *"I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation, I will sing your praise."* (Hebrews 2:12). Each person becomes an active participant, blending their heart and voice in true worship. The focus stays on the words, the message, and the shared faith that lifts us all closer to God.

One great blessing of a cappella singing is congregational unity. When voices rise together, there is just believers joined in one purpose. As Paul reminded the Corinthians, *"I will sing praise with my spirit, but I will sing with my mind also"* (1 Corinthians 14:15). This shared understanding turns our singing into teaching, encouragement, and fellowship.

A cappella singing also keeps the emphasis on the heart, where true melody begins. We are not relying on instruments to stir emotion, but on the truths we sing and the faith behind them. This makes our worship deeply personal and spiritual—*"the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name"* (Hebrews 13:15). Each voice, whether strong or soft, becomes a living offering of praise to God.

Let us sing with joy, sing with understanding, and sing from the heart—your voice is a vital part of worship that honors God and strengthens the church.

