



The Dying Leaf

As autumn approaches, we welcome the cooler temperatures and the changing of the seasons. We remember the promise of God to Noah,

*“While the earth remains, Seedtime and harvest, Cold and heat,
Winter and summer, And day and night Shall not cease.” (Genesis 8:22)*

Along with the change in the weather comes the beautiful splendor of fall colors. We enjoy the reds, oranges, yellows, and all hues in between as the Lord’s nature gets ready for the coming winter. However, it is somewhat ironic that we take so much enjoyment in the dying leaf.

All summer the leaves have provided oxygen to breathe and offered shade from the heat. But now they have run their cycle and soon the colors will fade, the leaf will fall, and eventually decay back into the earth.

Now consider how our lives resemble the dying leaf. Our lives are full, active, and productive. While serving God, we provide good things for others. Then, as the years pass, we grow old, fade away, and return to the earth.

For the Christian, the journey and its end is a joyous one. Just as we celebrate the dying leaf, we look forward to being with our Lord forever. “For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.” **(2 Corinthians 5:1)**

Brushy church of Christ
774 Hwy 48 South
Centerville TN 37033



The Brushy Beacon

“Abounding in the Word in 2026”

October 4, 2026

	Elders	Deacons
9 a.m. Sunday Bible Class		
10 a.m. Sunday Morning Worship	Ricky Atkinson	Paul Johnston Terry Banks
6 p.m. Sunday Evening Worship	James Atkinson	Justin Atkinson Caleb Truett
7 p.m. Wednesday Bible Study	Tony Duncan	Kevin Johnston

The Motive Behind Our Obedience by Smith, Alan

An investment counselor started her own business and realized she needed an attorney on staff. As she began interviewing applicants, she looked across the desk at one promising young lawyer and said, “In a business like this, personal integrity is absolutely essential. Our clients must be able to trust us completely.” Then she leaned forward and asked, “Mr. Peterson, are you an honest lawyer?” The young man smiled confidently. “Honest? Let me tell you about my honesty. My father loaned me \$15,000 to pay for my legal education, and I paid back every penny as soon as I tried my very first case.” “That’s impressive,” she replied. “What kind of case was it?” The lawyer shifted uncomfortably in his chair before admitting, “He sued me for the money.” We recognize the difference between doing the right thing because we want to and doing it because we have no alternative. That distinction is significant. God has always been concerned not only with our actions but also with the motives behind them. Two people may perform the same act of obedience, but one does so out of love while the other does so out of obligation. Outwardly they look the same, but inwardly they are worlds apart.

This often happens when young people leave home for college or begin their careers. Many faithfully attended worship services throughout their childhood because Mom and Dad expected it. Then they move away and, for the first time, no one is checking to see whether they get up on Sunday morning. That moment reveals what was really driving them all along. Were they serving God because they loved him, or simply because they had no choice? It’s not just a challenge for young adults. All of us face moments when no one else is watching. We can pray because we delight in talking with God, or because we feel guilty if we don’t. We can give generously because we love God’s work, or because we think we have to. We can read Scripture as a joyful privilege or as a burdensome chore.

David gives us a beautiful picture of the heart God desires. He didn’t merely obey God’s commands; he delighted in them. He wrote, “I rejoice at Your word as one who finds great treasure . . . I love Your law . . . My soul keeps Your testimonies and I love them exceedingly . . . Let Your hand become my help, for I have chosen Your precepts. I long for Your salvation, O Lord, and Your law is my delight” (Psalm 119:162, 163, 167, 173-174). Notice the words that David uses: rejoice, love, chosen, long, delight. His obedience flowed from his love for God, not coercion. The greatest test of our character is not what we do when we are forced to obey, but what we choose to do when we are given the choice. May our obedience always spring from grateful hearts that genuinely love the God who first loved us.



Welcome We're so glad you're here! Welcome to a time of worship and learning from God's Word. We hope this will be a blessing to you and that you'll join us again.

We are Rejoicing with the Angels in Heaven... Tate Atkinson, son of Justin and Emily Atkinson, and the grandson of Gary Gatewood and James & Kim Atkinson, was baptized last Sunday, September 27, by James Atkinson. We are thankful for Tate's desire to be obedient and live a life devoted to God. Please continue to pray for Tate and his family!

Guest Speaker Randy Atkinson will be our speaker for Morning and Evening Worship today. We appreciate him stepping in while Kevin is away!

Team 1 – Compassion Card Group You will need to sign cards today in the Ladies Classroom following the morning worship service. It will not take you long. Please see Tony or Cathy if you have questions. Jim, Louise, Beverly Jim, & Pamela Brooks Dean, Cecily, Dustin, Dalton Mark & Angel Cindy, Crystal, Laynie Leland & Savannah Brad, Jacinda, Lynlee, Ansleigh, Everleigh

Skeet Shoot We will have our skeet shoot on Saturday, October 10. We will begin with breakfast at 8 a.m. at the Pavilion. The Game Warden is coming and will do a presentation. We have a devotion together and then go Cane Creek to shoot skeets. Please bring your own gun and ammunition. Invite family and friends to attend! It's going to be a nice Fall Day!

All Ladies are Invited... to the Secret Sister Reveal Meal on Sunday, October 11, following the morning worship service. Please bring your favorite dish or fingerfood and enjoy the fellowship! You don't have to be a secret sister in order to attend.

The Men's Meal... will be on Sunday, October 11, under the pavilion. ***There is a signup sheet on the table in the back for the food.*** Please see Kevin or Caden Johnston if you have questions.

Evangelism Table Ever wonder why there is a table in the back of the auditorium? It is filled with evangelism materials. Books, Dvd's, and study materials to help you share God's Word with others. Feel free to take a look and pick up anything that you would like to help in your study of God's Word.

Compassion Cards Explained Each week we send out cards to visitors, people in the community, friends, and family who may not attend worship anywhere. Think about your family and friends and consider submitting their name to receive a card. There is a box and cards on the Evangelism Table to fill out to submit their name. Also, if you are not currently on a team and would like to be, please see Kevin or Amy to be added.

Upcoming Events

- *Saturday, October 10 ~ Skeet Shoot with Breakfast at 8 a.m at the Pavilion
- *Sunday, October 11 ~ Secret Sister Reveal following Morning Worship at the Annex
- *Sunday, October 11 ~ Men's Meal Following Morning Worship under the Pavilion

For the Record

Sunday Morning Bible Class	43	Sunday Morning Worship	74
Sunday Evening Worship	xx	Wednesday Evening	29
Contribution	\$2263		



A Friend of Cecily Nunes requests our prayers for the health and safety of her unborn baby.

Continuing Prayer Requests

Dealing with Cancer - Glen Herrington, Robin Walters, Hilda Atkinson, Dennis Edwards, Matt Howell, Woody Woodruff

Special Requests - Miranda Smith, Judy Goodman, Annis Womack, Karen Bowen, Vera Woods, Glenda Dorton

Pray for Those in Nursing Homes

Fred Bowman (Murfreesboro); Joanna Campbell (Life Care Centerville)

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.

The Beauty and Design of Creation and Changing Seasons – As the autumn season arrives, the world around us transforms into a breathtaking scene of vibrant reds, golds, and oranges. This vivid display serves as a beautiful reminder of the incredible artistry of our Creator. As the Psalmist wrote, “The heavens declare the glory of God; and the skies above proclaims His handiwork” (Psalm 19:1). Every falling leaf is a testament to the natural rhythms and seasons ordained by Him. It reminds us that God brings change into our lives with intentional, flawless timing. Just as autumn prepares the earth for the quiet rest of winter, God works through our own seasons of transition to prepare our hearts for what lies ahead. We can rest in the promise of Ecclesiastes 3:1, which tells us, “There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens.”

The Spiritual Lesson of Letting Go – Autumn also invites us to reflect on our own spiritual journeys. Just as the trees gracefully shed their leaves, we are called to release the heavy things that hinder our growth—our worries, burdens, and sin. By letting go, we clear space for growth and renewal to work inside us. This mirrors the wisdom found in Hebrews 12:1: “...let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.” The true beauty of fall is not merely found in nature’s outward display, but in the comforting truth that God can redeem any situation. Even in seasons that feel like loss, emptying, or letting go, He is setting the stage for new life. Though earthly things fade, His foundation never shakes: “The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever” (Isaiah 40:8).

Trusting His Perfect Plan – As you enjoy the crisp air and the beauty of autumn, let it stir an appreciation for God’s constant presence. The same God who paints the evening sky and decorates the trees with brilliant foliage cares for you with an intimacy that goes far beyond what the eye can see. He is continually working behind the scenes to orchestrate your life beautifully. Let this season be a gentle invitation to quiet your mind, appreciate His creation, and trust completely in His design. For we know that “He has made everything beautiful in its time...” (Ecclesiastes 3:11).