

# Hohenwald Church of Christ Family News

Vol. 73, Issue 5, February 4, 2018

## Shepherds

Darrell Hinson 931-209-5146

Rick Jones 796-4377

Ronnie Riley 796-4251

## Minister:

Greg Smith

931-306-7089

## Deacons

Tom Gosser

Jon Jones

Billy Don Jackson

Steve Selby

Jeff Peery

John Ellis

Check out our website:

[hohenwaldchurchofchrist.com](http://hohenwaldchurchofchrist.com)

## Honored to Serve in February:

### Announcements:

Darrell Hinson

Song Leader: Jon Jones

Preside at Lord's Table:

R.E. McDonald

Lord's Table:

Main: C.W. Carroll/Terry Thompson/  
Billy Don Jackson/Richard Clayton/  
Jeff Peery/Jeff Cameron

Wing: Cameron Troutman

Prepare Communion:

Madelyn Tharp/Kathy Pipkins

Deliver Communion:

Rick Jones

Sunday, February 4:

Opening Prayer: Bill Lynch

Closing Prayer: Luke Roberson

Sun AM Bible Study: 9:30 a.m./Worship:

10:30 Sun PM: 6 p.m.

Wednesday Bible Study: 7 p.m.

## Don't Ever Give Up

On March 4, 1993, Jim Valvano was awarded the first-ever Arthur Ashe Courage and Humanitarian Award at the ESPY Awards. The awards are broadcast each year by ESPN and honor various achievements in the sports world. That night, in the midst of a battle with cancer, the former basketball coach at North Carolina State gave what has become an iconic speech in which he shared the motto of his cancer research foundation: "Don't give up—don't ever give up!"

In a recent class in which we were discussing The Parable of the Weeds in **Matthew 13:24-30**, we talked about how the owner of the land did not want his servants to attempt to pull the weeds because some of the wheat might be pulled up with it. The master explains that at the harvest the weeds can be dealt with properly when that which is good will be separated from that which is not. The good seed which is scattered in the field represents God's people—we are expected to grow and produce goodness. The weeds are those who are evil, planted by the devil according to Jesus' explanation of the parable in **Matthew 13:36-43**.

As we seek to understand what Jesus is telling his original audience, and us today who read these sacred words, it is not our place to decide what is wheat and what is weeds. Our place is to be the best example we can be. The beauty of free will is that those who have not accepted God's gift of grace can still do so until the time of the harvest.

I told the story this past Wednesday evening of undergoing my annual training so that I could continue to conduct Bible studies at the Lewis County Jail. The law enforcement officer conducting the training referred to the inmates as "trash." In his defense, he has witnessed some of the worst of what the inmates are capable of doing in the last 10 years or more. One sister in Christ, however, corrected the officer by explaining that the inmates are not trash—they are human, and they may have done trashy things in the past but that does not make them trash.

Our sister in Christ got it right. It is not our place to pronounce judgement over anyone else, that task is reserved for the Lord of the harvest. Our challenge is to avoid becoming cynical or jaded and to never give up on the power of God to change the hearts of men and women who might someday exercise their free will to become children of God. We are to shine the light of Jesus in the dark places and bear fruit until our mission is complete. Don't give up, church...don't ever give up.

Keep the faith,

*Greg*

## Prayer Requests:

**Steve Scott** will have surgery on his shoulder February 6

### Continue to remember in prayer:

Judy Burton, Emily James, Bettye Ammons, Barbara Eglinton, Dawn Darden, John Beard, Lovada Burklow, Raylan Carroll, Terri Baker, Bobby Galya, Emerie Mitchell, Ronnie Belew, Dana Shanes Lynch, Susan Campbell, Kay Starling, Matthew Jones, Austin Duncan, Beverly Malone, Iva DePriest, Steve Hopper, Debbie Durham, Glen Garrison, Jim Webb, Darrell Potts, Connye Karpel, Louise Tatum, Janie Ellis, Waylin Spears, Jane West, Mary Lou Morton, Doris Gildersleeve, Jimmy Griner, Barbara Nixon, Carolyn Armstrong, Stephanie Fielder, Simon McBride

## Upcoming Events:

Today: Friends & Family Day

Today: Devo @ Lewis County Nursing & Rehab @ 2:00 p.m.

February 8: Community Safety Meeting @ 6:00 p.m.

February 19: Blood Drive  
1:30-5:30

## Community Safety Meeting

TBI Special Agent Tyler Sells will be presenting a Situational Awareness Class this Thursday, February 8, at 6:00 p.m. here at the HCoC. Following his presentation there will be a Question & Answer segment. This class is open to the public. All Safety Team members are encouraged to attend.



Welcome to Friends and Family Day!

We are glad to have you with us today. As always, we will have a potluck fellowship following morning worship with no evening worship. Greg's message will be centered on the idea of giving our whole self to God and others.

We are needing mailing addresses of all our college students. You may give it to Kay Duncan or leave it on the desk in the church office. We ask that you have those turned in by Sunday, February 18.



**Next Sunday, February 11, we will have a meeting following morning worship for anyone who is interested in going to Honduras with a mission team from six other congregations across the country.**

**Attending this meeting is not considered a commitment to be a part of the mission team- this is an information session only.**

## Reminder

**There will be no evening worship service tonight.**