

~ ~ ~ Those Privileged To Serve ~ ~ ~

<b>Sunday 1st Service</b> Welcome/ Announcements Prayer Song Leader  Preside Communion Serving Preaching Closing Prayer  Prepare Communion	<b>January 8, 9:00 A.M.</b> Scott Richards Scott Richards Russ Baker  Michael Hollis Dylan Madden/ Farron Whisenant Alfred Barnes Greg Harp  Deborah Lester	<b>January 15, 9:00 A.M.</b> Scott Richards Scott Richards Evan Barnes  Michael Hollis Dylan Madden/Farron Whisenant Alfred Barnes Dylan Madden  Deborah Lester
<b>Sunday 2nd Service</b> Welcome/ Announcements Prayer Song Leader Preside Communion Serving Preaching Closing Prayer	<b>January 8, 11:30 A.M.</b> Scott Richards Scott Richards Russ Baker Randy Harp Dylan Madden/ Farron Whisenant Alfred Barnes Bob Boykins	<b>January 15, 11:30 A.M.</b> Scott Richards Scott Richards Evan Barnes Michael Hollis Dylan Madden / Farron Whisenant Alfred Barnes Dylan Madden
<b>Wednesday Evening 7:00 PM</b>	<b>January 11, 2022 7:00 P.M.</b>	<b>January 18, 7:00 P.M.</b>

Weekly Assembly Schedule  
9:00 AM - 10:00 AM - Worship  
10:30 AM - 11:15 AM - Bible Classes  
11:30 AM - 12:15 PM - Worship  
Wednesday Bible Study - 7:00 PM  
(Some variation may be necessary)

***"To God Be True In 2022"***

<u>What Must I Do To Be Saved?!</u>	
Realize I am lost	Rom. 3:23
Hear the Gospel	Acts 15:7
Believe the Gospel	Mk. 16:15-16
Repent of sins	Acts 17:30
Confess Christ	Rom. 10:9-10
Baptized to remit sins	Acts 2:38
Remain faithful	2 Pet. 1:5-11

<u>Record of Attendance</u>	
<u>01/01/2023</u>	<u>Total</u>
Sun. Bible Study	37
Sun. 1st Worship	39
Sun. 2nd Worship	30
Wednesday Evening	17
Contribution	\$4,665.00



# The Tara Beacon

Tara Church of Christ  
1820 Highway 138  
P.O. Box 1145  
Jonesboro, GA 30237  
Issue 2 January 08, 2023

Volume 47

"The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple." Psalm 119:130

**Tara church of Christ**  
770-471-7300

**SCHEDULE OF SERVICES**

**SUNDAY**  
1st Worship 9:00 am  
Bible Class 10:30 am  
2nd Worship 11:30 am  
**WEDNESDAY**  
Bible Study 7:00 pm

**Minister**  
Scott Richards  
(678) 602-6260  
richards.scott98@yahoo.com

**OFFICE HOURS**  
Tuesday thru Thursday  
10:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

**Church Secretary**  
Debbie Lester  
(770) 265-2966  
dlester5@comcast.net

**Elders**  
Alfred Barnes  
(678)-778-2580  
Bob Cadenhead  
(770) 961-4208  
Richard Harp  
(678) 399-9905  
Scott Richards  
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**E-MAIL**  
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[www.tarachurchofchrist.com](http://www.tarachurchofchrist.com)

## GOD'S PRUNING

Several years ago, while having trees removed near our home, we had an overgrown tree in the backyard trimmed. It resembled an overgrown bush more than a tree. Surprisingly, the next spring, it was full of blossoms. That year it produced hundreds of plums. The prior year it had produced no fruit and we did not even know it was a plum tree. Without pruning, the tree produced no fruit. After removal of all the dead, unfruitful branches a great harvest was realized.

"I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit" John 15:1-2. God's people, the church of Christ, is subject to "God's Pruning." How God does the pruning is not always clear to us, but we know that He is working through the church to maximize the harvest.

The church plays a role in God's pruning. As we learn from the instructions to the church in Corinth (I Corinthians 5), the church must, on some occasions, exercise church discipline. It is to be done in a spirit of love and concern for the individual to be disciplined. --Cont. Inside

**In Christ Be Free**

**In 2023**

## Our Prayer List

**Jimmy Miller**– was life-flighted to a hospital in Mississippi. He has pneumonia and covid. His condition is very serious.

**Ron Brinkley**– is having problems with his equilibrium. He fell a few times recently and has a diabetic ulcer on his foot.

**Havanna Goebel's** brother, Larry Favor, had a stroke and is in rehab showing some improvement.

**Maggie Miller**-had a positive outcome from her procedure. She is still having a few headaches. Pray that she continues to get well.

**Vera Pollard**, daughter-in-law of Paul Pollard, has liver cancer.

**Don Cheek**– is having some health issues.

**Bob Taylor**– is having more health issues with his thyroid. He is blind in one eye and is having leg problems.

**Frank Johnson**, is having back and neck issues.

**Maria Martin**, daughter of Robert & Mary, is at home and taking physical therapy.

**Continued Prayer List**– Terrance Hannah, Donna Taylor, Bernice Harris, Ivan Gonzales, Myrna McKenzie, mother of Marilyn Valentine, Willie thomas, father of Ehre Slocumb, Elijah Mackey, cousin of Angelia Hollis, Jimmy Miller, Doris Pate, Mozelle Jones, Shannon Deleon, niece of Scott Richards, Qention Hogan, family of Richard Harp, Willie Mae Brown - Carla Robison's mother, Alfred and Lenora Barnes, parents of Alfred Barnes, **Send Cards, Make Calls, Show your Love and Care!**

**Notice**– **Richard & Dixie Harp**– have a new home phone number. (678) 399-9905. Please add it to your directory and put it in your cell phone.

### Watch The Sermon Live Each Week!

Go to: tarachurchofchrist.com Scroll to the bottom of the page. Like us on Facebook for more videos

Listen To The Sermon Again On  
YouTube

LIVE

## Activities And Events

**Today**- 9:00 A.M. 1st morning service.

**Today**- Sunday Morning Bible Classes at 10:30 A.M.

**Today**-11:30 A.M. 2nd service

**Today**– Ladies there is a new list to sign up to fill communion trays in 2023

**Wednesday night Bible class**– 7:00 P.M.

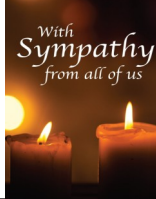
**Jan. 28-29**– **Annual Bible Lectureship**, mark your calendars and plan to attend and bring some friends.

The theme is “Faith Over Fear.”

**Feb.26th through Mar. 2nd**-Southside Progressive Meeting.

**Apr. 30th** Family & Friends Day

**Our Sympathy** - A memorial service was conducted for Charles Carter, the son of the late Gail Cheek and the step son of Don Cheek. His service was here at Tara on Friday. Keep this family in your prayers.



**What a great example to us all!**- Wednesday evening Susan Wellman came forward asking for prayers for strength. We all need strength to daily keep a home in Heaven as our number one goal. Thank you Susan for the good example!

**It's with sadness we announce**, Jim & Maxine Howell moved to South Carolina with their daughter on December 28th due to their health issues. We wish them well on this new journey and they will be greatly missed. Keep both of them in your prayers. Their new address is: 4357 Goude Street, Murrells Inlet, S.C. 29576

**In Search Of The Lord's Way**  
Sundays - Channel 57 - 7:30 AM

1/15/23 “The gift Of Repentance”  
1/22/23 “Ironies Of The Cross”  
1/29/23 “The Word Must”



## Elders' Comments

This New Year will bring us new opportunities to grow in Christ and reach out to others with what God offers them for spiritual growth. Our Annual Bible Lectureship resumes January 28th and 29th with the challenging theme, “Faith Over Fear.” This will fit well with our 2023 theme, “In Christ Be Free In 2023.” Christians are to be free of fear, and faith is the only means of overcoming it. Will you be present to give personal support to this congregational event? Our Southside Progressive Meeting will follow February 26th through March 2nd, with Tara hosting the Tuesday night service. On April 30th, Tara will have a “Friends And Family Day.” Our goal is to have 100 in attendance. There is more to come on all these events, but we encourage everyone to make your plans now to support them and pray for their success.

## “GOD’S PRUNING” Continued from front page

God’s desire is for the wayward soul to repent and return to the faith. To the Thessalonian church, Paul by inspiration of the Holy Spirit wrote, “But we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you withdraw from every brother who walks disorderly and not according to the tradition which he received from us” (II Thessalonians 3:6). While we want the erring brother to repent due to discipline, we can also see that it is a means of pruning off the dead and dying branches for the church to produce a more abundant harvest.

God works providentially to accomplish His will also. This is true when He prunes His vineyard. God can turn an event to His advantage to accomplish what is needed.

When Elijah was fleeing for his life and was feeling isolated, God reminded him, “Yet I have reserved seven thousand in Israel, all whose knees have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him” (I Kings 19:18). Elijah, in his despondency, could not see the faithful through the multitude of the unrighteous. God’s pruning would come in the form of the Assyrians. The dead branches would be removed, the faithful few would become manifest by their worship and service of God. Their lives would serve as a beacon of God’s light to both Jew and Gentile.

A similar pruning would happen to Judah about 130 years later when the Babylonians would conquer them. The result of that pruning prepared them to be the people through whom the Messiah would come. The brightness of God’s love would then shine for all the world to see.

For the past several years the church in America has been shrinking. Young people, when leaving their parents’ home, often leave the church as well. Congregations have become older, and many of them have closed their doors. Have we become apathetic to our mission of local evangelism? Perhaps the hearts of the people have become hard and unreceptive to the message of the cross. Some congregations view door knockings, gospel meetings and other efforts to reach the lost as unproductive, so they have stopped making any effort to evangelize at home. They will still support foreign mission work, but local efforts are almost totally abandoned. Has a time for pruning arrived, and could God use a pandemic to accomplish it?

Since 2020 congregations have put greater effort into streaming services. As a result, many members are now comfortable worshipping in their living rooms. I Corinthians 11:20 still says, “**When you come together in one place.**” Has God been pruning the dead and dying branches? If the pandemic has been used by God as a pruning event, could a time of reaping be near? Only time will reveal if this is true. In the meantime, we must be about the Father’s business and prepare ourselves to reap the harvest. “Therefore, pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest” (Matthew 9:38).

*Scott Richards*

**Please remember to turn off your cell phone during Bible study and Worship!**