

# Russellville Church of Christ

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## Reflections - JANUARY 2024



### **2023 WAS A BLESSED YEAR AT RCC!**

As I get older it shocks me at just how fast time really does fly. Days, weeks, months, years.....zoom there they go! Sometimes it is shocking to realize how much time has past. The reality is, some years are seemingly forgettable, while others are at time more worth celebrating. This was one of those at RCC this year. We had strong attendance, record breaking giving, positive staff changes, and many successful community events. Even in the tougher years, it is important to remember that God is good ALL the time. We all have much to be thankful for as families and as a church. The “waves” of ministry are real and who knows what comes next, but will you pray fervently for another blessed year @ RCC?

*In everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.*

**1 Thessalonians 5:18**

# Gloves Off

*"The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds."*

~ 2 Corinthians 10:4 NIV

It's time to draw the line in the sand.

The devil is on attack and he will not let up until you and your family are destroyed.

As children of God we cannot risk another moment fighting this spiritual fight with natural means.

It's not about politics or who is running for office. It's not about the amount of money you make. Those things are important but they're also distractions.

It's about God's calling on your life and the direction you're taking your family.

Remember, as a men & women of God your primary goal is to make sure your children have a relationship with Christ. That through their relationship with you, they can establish a real relationship with our Heavenly Father.

The devil is aware of the power behind that and will do everything in his power to prevent it.

But it won't work. You have at your disposal the most powerful weapon mankind has ever seen.

## **Prayer.**

It's time to take off the gloves, fall to your knees and lift your hands in surrender to Christ. No more fighting in the physical. You're fighting in an arena destined to lose.

Instead take it to the spiritual arena where your victory is cemented.

Speak over your family, pray for your kids, and rebuke any attempt you see the devil making to destroy their confidence and identity in Christ.

Declare war on the devil. Don't fall for his distractions. He knows he doesn't stand a chance against the power of prayer.

Use it.

**PRAYING SATAN AWAY IN 2024**

# BUTLER SPRINGS CHRISTIAN CAMP

Summer 2023

## SUMMER RECAP

And just like that, summer is over! In many ways, it feels like it should still be May, but summer 2023 is now in the rearview mirror.

This summer, we had a record number of campers for an eight week summer, fed over 2,500 guests, and raised money for a great organization. But that is not why this summer was so successful.

We were able to watch new friendships form,

fears be overcome,

and campers come out of their shells. We heard the sounds of laughter, cheers, and praise daily. Most importantly, we got to see the old become new in Christ every week and relationships with Jesus deepen. God was working here all summer long, just like we knew He would!

We are able to track baptisms, campers, and volunteers every summer. But, God only knows the things that we cannot track. We don't know how many hearts were softened toward the Gospel, or how many decisions will be made down the road in part because of camp. Lives were changed here this summer and we pray that every camper was able to take something impactful

away from their time at camp.

All this to say, we could not do summer camp without you! You have no idea how much your prayers and support are felt all summer (and off-season) long here at Butler Springs. If we did not have people who love the Lord and love camp, Butler Springs would look a whole lot different. You are the ones who make this ministry successful!



### SUMMER STATS

Campers: 1,735

Volunteers: 414

Baptisms: 72

Camp Sessions: 70

Missions: \$21,054



## 2024 CHRIST IN YOUTH

Coming in late July is this year's trip to Christ In Youth for our RCC students who are 7-12<sup>th</sup> grades.

This will be a great week of learning, worship, fellowship and fun! We will be holding several fundraisers to help offset the cost as we go through the year. This will be our 9<sup>th</sup> Christ in Youth event!

Be praying NOW that lives will be changed as we plan this important trip. Our youth are our future!

## Gods Closet

UPDATE

The closet seen a record number of visitors in 2023!

We will continue to be OPEN to the public every Thursday from 9-5, with only a few days off throughout the year.

THANKS to the special crew who work hard to make a special impact for the needy in our community!

**COMING DECEMBER 2024**

**OUR BIGGEST CHRISTMAS OUTREACH EVER!**

**Food, gifts, chapel, hot meal, fresh produce!**



As we enter into a new year, here is something to remember: When it's all said and done, we have three things we can offer God—our treasure, our talent, and our time. Each of these is given to us by God, and each of them should be given back in generous portions.

First, there is our **treasure**. I urge you to commit yourself to give faithfully and generously to the Lord in this coming year. **Jesus** said, "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (**Matthew 6:21**) Whenever we put our money into something, we develop a vested interest in it. It makes sense to us that we would place our treasures where our hearts are. If we love reading books, or being entertained, or the latest technology, we spend our treasure on those things. And if our heart's desires change, that changes where we put our treasure.

But it works the other way too: Where we put our treasures, our heart will follow. Do you want your heart to be in the things of God? Then put your treasures in the things of God! Develop a vested interest in God's kingdom.

The second thing we can give to God is our **talent**. God has gifted each believer in different ways. Everyone has something to offer for the work of the kingdom. **Romans 12** says, "Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, so it is with Christ's body. We are all parts of his one body, and each of us different work to do".

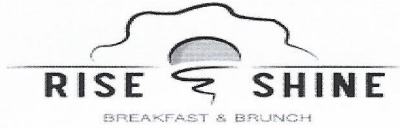
Finally, there is our **time**. Let's say that one day your phone rang and it was the president of the bank that you use. He told you that an anonymous donor who loved you very much had decided to deposit 86,400 pennies into your bank account each and every morning. At first, maybe that didn't seem like a lot. But then you figured out that it was \$864 a day. At seven days a week and 52 weeks a year, those pennies add up to almost \$315,000 each year! But the bank president added one thing: "The anonymous giver said you must spend all of the money on the day you receive it! No balance will be carried over to the next day. Each evening the bank must cancel whatever sum you failed to use! Remember, what you don't spend is lost."

That may sound like fantasy, but here's the reality: Every morning, Someone who loves you very much deposits into your "bank of time" 86,400 seconds, which represent 1,440 minutes, which of course equals 24 hours each and every day. God gives you that much to use each day. Nothing is ever carried over on credit to the next day. There is no such thing as a 27-hour day. It's called time, and you can't escape it. Time is ticking away right now. The Bible tells us to "redeem the time"—to make sacred and wise use of every opportunity.

Offer God your treasure, your talent, and your time. Live this next year as if it were your last, because it could be. Make those minutes count!

### GOLDEN GIRLS in JANUARY

We will be returning to the awesome place "Rise n Dine" in Bethel. The date of this months event will be January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024. We will depart RCC @ 9:1 am and return by 11:30. All ladies are welcome!



### Communion Prep 2024

- Jan – Tamala Mulkey
- Feb – Vicki Carrington
- March – Judy Rau
- April – Debi Broadwell
- May – The Hamiltons
- June – Debbie Parker
- July – Preston & Rachel
- August- Paula Blair
- September- Betty P/Lucille G
- October – Sandy Edmisten
- November – Becky Moran
- December – Phil & Karen W

### Childrens Program

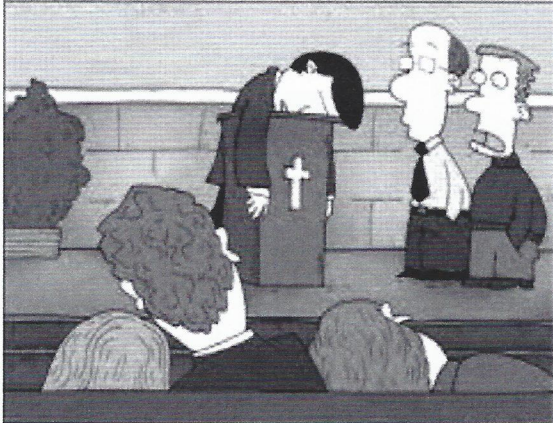
As we begin 2024, Jaycee will be assuming the responsibility of heading up our Sunday morning youth programs! This is a GREAT MOVE for RCC! We are looking forward to a great 2024 as we grow our youth programs! HELPERS are needed – please see Jaycee if you can help in any way with our programs!

It is a rewarding way to serve!

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT FAMILY

In 2024 our Sunday Night Bible Study will MOVE to Wednesday Nights. This gives us flexibility for our youth programs on Sunday Nights and also will allow more family time on Sundays after worship! The first Wednesday of EACH MONTH a family meal will be provided! The rest of the month we will have light refreshments! We will begin @ 6:00pm each Wednesday. Our first month we will conclude our Study of the book of ACTS. This will be a great time to refresh your spiritual batteries in the middle of the week! We will have a room for the kiddos as well! Make plans to join us!

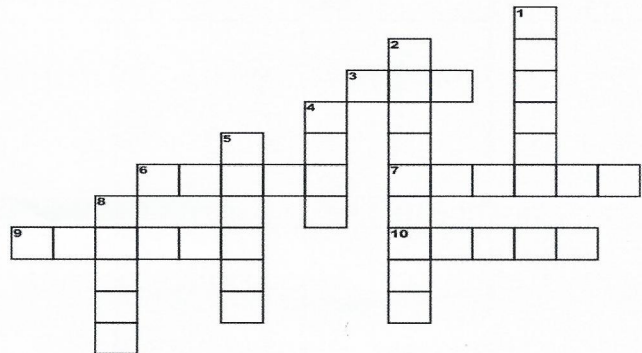
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YUP ... LOOKS LIKE THE OL' "PEACEFUL SPIRIT" SERMON

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Esther The Queen

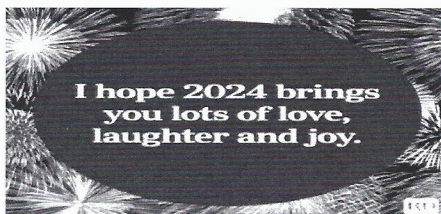


#### Across

3. Who did Esther follow?
6. What was esther?
7. The future queen of Persia
9. The king of persia
10. The kings advisor/Side kick

#### Down

1. What was esthers religion?
2. Esthers Uncle
4. What happen to haman after what he did to Esther?
5. The place where the king a queen lived
8. What is the moral of the story?



**BIRTHDAYS**

- Jan 2- Sallyann De Fosse
- Jan 7 – Marley Rau
- Jan 9- Heather Lane
- Jan 11- Brett Fisher
- Jan 12 – Melinda Allen
- Jan 14 – Amy Stout
- Jan 20 – Sue Neu
- Jan 25 – Lucille Gelter
- Jan 26 – Cheryl Edmisten
- Jan 31 – Becky Moran

**HAVE A**

**BLESSED**

**NEW**

**YEAR**

January 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
				Gods Closet		Mens Breakfast
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Worship	Closet Workday		Golden Girls 9am FAMILY – 6:00pm	Gods Closet		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Worship	Closet Workday		FAMILY 6:00pm	Leadership Meeting Gods Closet		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
RCC TUBING WORSHIP	Closet Workday		FAMILY 6:00pm	Gods Closet		
28	29	30	31			
Worship	Closet Workday		FAMILY 6:00pm			

