



# Rockwood Church of Christ

## The Proclaimer

Dec 25, 2022

P.O. Box 416  
129 S. Chamberlain Ave.  
Rockwood, TN 37854  
865-354-0855

**Elders:**

Kendall Bear  
Dana Carter  
Don Chandler

**Deacons:**

Larry Brackett  
Aaron Evans  
Larry Hill  
Steve McCreary

**Minister:**

Dale Barger

**Service Times:**

**Sunday**

Bible Study 10 am  
Worship Service 10:45 am  
Worship Service 6 pm

**Wednesday**

Bible Study 7 pm

**Email:**

rockwdcc@gmail.com

**Website:**

Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

## There's No Place Like Home

A good home is such a wonderful place. It seems that we are always wanting to go home. And we especially love being home for the holidays. In fact, there is a traditional song that testifies to that fact. What is it that is so great about home? Let's note a few of them through an acrostic. And since the church is our heavenly home on the earth (**Eph. 2:19**), these will certainly apply there, as well.

**Harmony** – How marvelous it is when family members get along with each other. When this happens, the times together are cherished and memorable. This is also true with the church family. “*Behold, how good and how pleasant it is For brethren to dwell together in unity*” (**Psa. 133:1**).

**Optimism** – A good home is desired, in part, because of the positive nature it presents. Everyone enjoys being together in a home where there is lots and lots of cheerfulness and sunniness. Without a doubt, this is true of a church home, also. “*Christ as a Son over His own house, whose house we are if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end*” (**Heb. 3:6**).

**Mercy** – Home is the place where bountiful forgiveness is offered. The best homes are the ones that demonstrate agape love for one another, which always leads to overlooking shortcomings. There should be copious amounts of love and forgiveness in the Lord's church, as well. “*And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you*” (**Eph. 4:32**).

**Encouragement** – Another of the reasons we enjoy being part of a wonderful home is the strength and inspiration that we receive. It is where we can get great encouragement to keep on keeping on. The church home should also be a place of boosting one another.

“*Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing*” (**1 Thess. 5:11**).

Edd Sterchi  
Broadway church of Christ  
Campbellsville, KY

# Giving and Receiving

*“What are you getting for Christmas?” “What do you want for Christmas?”*

How many times have you heard these questions lately? Christmas shopping is in full swing. For the next two weeks many gifts will be given and received. Which do you enjoy the most – giving or receiving? Unfortunately, for many people, the truthful answer to that question conflicts with the answer they know they should give. Honestly, receiving gifts, especially the one(s) we’ve always wanted, brings a lot of pleasure and happiness. But there’s no honor in receiving gifts (however, there can be dishonor in the way we act when we don’t get the gifts we’d hoped for).

Several years ago, Calvin Coolidge, our 30th president, said, *“No person has ever been honored for what he received. Honor has been the reward for what he gave.”* Can you think of an award or honor given to someone that received the greatest or most gifts? There may be, but nothing comes to my mind. On the other hand, there are numerous honors and rewards for those who excel at giving to an individual. Oscars and Emmys are given to the person who contributed the most to the music and entertainment industry. Athletics have their Most Valuable Player awards. Universities, governments, and even zoos have buildings named after major contributors.

This probably doesn’t surprise you at all. No doubt you have heard many times the statement of Jesus: *“It is more blessed to give than to receive”* (**Acts 20:35**). The best known verse in the Bible honors God for what He gave, not for what He received (**John 3:16**). What does surprise many people is that when God honors giving, it has nothing to do with the amount of the gift. Generation after generation honors the poor widow who, even though it wasn’t much, gave all she had (**Luke 21:2**). The Macedonians are also esteemed for their giving, even though poverty stricken themselves (**2 Cor. 8:1-5**). In contrast, very little is said about those receiving the gifts. What do you know about the poor saints in Jerusalem other than they were famine stricken and very poor? About the only thing we know about how to receive gifts is to do so with gratitude and in a way that glorifies God. Perhaps we need to work a little harder at becoming a generous giver, and spend less time hoping and dreaming about all the things we might receive. That’s hard to do, especially at this time of the year, but by doing so, we will become a little bit more like the God we love and serve. Givers truly are more blessed than receivers.

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