



# Rockwood Church of Christ

## The Proclaimer

January 3, 2021

P.O. Box 416  
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Rockwood, TN 37854  
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**Elders:**

Kendall Bear  
Dana Carter  
Don Chandler

**Deacons:**

Larry Brackett  
Aaron Evans  
Larry Hill  
Steve McCreary

**Minister:**

Dale Barger

**Secretary:**

**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

## Happy New Year

“Happy New Year” is an expression that we throw about. But do we really mean it? As you enter the new year, is your life filled with Joy? As a Christian, you have many reasons to be joyful. May I mention a few?

**All your sins have been forgiven.** When you came up from the waters of baptism complete and total forgiveness was yours (**Acts 2:38**). If you have remained faithful all your sins are constantly washed clean by Jesus’ blood (**1 John 1:7; 1 John 2:2**).

**All your prayers are being answered (1 John 5:14-15).** Sometimes the answer is no. Sometimes it is “I have a better idea.” But in all cases, your prayers are being answered. And each answer is for your eventual best outcome (**Romans 8:28**).

**As Christians, God will “draw near to us.”** Often, we hear people say: “I feel like God doesn’t care.” Or they say, “God doesn’t like me.” The fact is, those folks are probably not making the effort to come close to Him. In the Old Testament, we read: *“You will seek Him and find Him when you search for Him with your whole heart” (Jeremiah 29:13)*. In the New Testament, we find similar passages attesting to this truth. For example, consider **Hebrews 2:1**: *“We must pay the most careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard (the message of Christ), so that we do not drift away.”*

There are many other reasons to be joyful in Christ in the New Year. But please remember: this is “Joy in Christ” because true joy doesn’t exist outside of Christ.

Happy New Year!

Larry Fitzgerald, revised

# You Sure Are Mean to Those That Love You

Madge Wallace hated Harry Truman.

Well, it was said she didn't care much for anyone in Independence, Missouri but she seemed to really have it in for Harry. To her, he was just a "filthy farm boy." Early on, she might have a point.

Harry lost his family farm and failed at two different businesses until he finally found his place in politics. But that wasn't good enough in the eyes of Madge. As a senator, she constantly criticized him, as vice president she scorned him. Even when he was elevated to the Presidency after Roosevelt's death people close to her said: "It galls her to see him in the White House running the country."

When Truman famously fired MacArthur she ranted: "Imagine a captain from the National Guard telling off a West Point general! Why didn't he let General MacArthur run the Korean War in his own way?" When Truman ran against Governor Thomas Dewey in 1948, Madge stood firmly behind his opponent. "Why would Harry run against that nice Mr. Dewey?" she wondered aloud, "I know dozens of men better qualified to be in Mr. Truman's place in the White House."

That pretty bad criticism considering Harry was supporting Madge and she was living in his home since he came to Washington. Why would Harry do that for his biggest critic? Well, Madge Wallace was Harry Truman's mother in law!

The people closest to us can sometimes be our biggest detractors. Those that should support us are the ones that can nip at our heels the most. It might be that way in our families, but it should never be that way to our church family!

Jude says grumbling, and fault finding are ungodly ways (**Jude 15-16**). Paul tells us that we are to encourage and build up one another (**1st Thessalonians 5:11**) not tear each other down (**Ephesians 4:29**). Jesus warns us not to unfairly judge our brother (**John 7:24**). Scorn, ridicule, and backbiting are not to be the ways a Christian.

If you can't say anything nice, the problem might be you!

**Barry Haynes**