

The **MESSENGER**

Middle Tennessee Central Office Intergroup

\$ 1.00

OCTOBER 2017

Annual Celebration of Sobriety Dinner

A Middle Tennessee Intergroup Potluck

**Friday, November 17th, 2017
at Woodmont Hills Church**

3710 Franklin Road @ Woodmont Boulevard

Reception 6:00 pm | Dinner 7:00 pm | Speakers 8:00 pm

Tickets \$ 10

Meat & Drinks will be provided

Please bring one of the following in a covered dish:

DESSERT | SALAD | BREAD | PASTA | CASSEROLE | SIDE ITEM

(Please have on site by 6:45 pm)



For reservations & tickets, please call Central Office @ (615) 831-1050

Contents

On the Cover
ANNUAL DINNER
WELCOME TO AA
 Page 2
BEST EVENING
 Page 3
TRADITION TEN
 Page 4
INTEROFFICE /
CENTRAL OFFICE INFO
 Page 4

PUZZLE
 Page 5
MEETING CHANGES
 Page 6
EVENTS
 Page 7
CONTRIBUTIONS
 Page 8 & 9
FINANCIALS
 Page 10
BIRTHDAYS
 Page 11

Welcome to AA

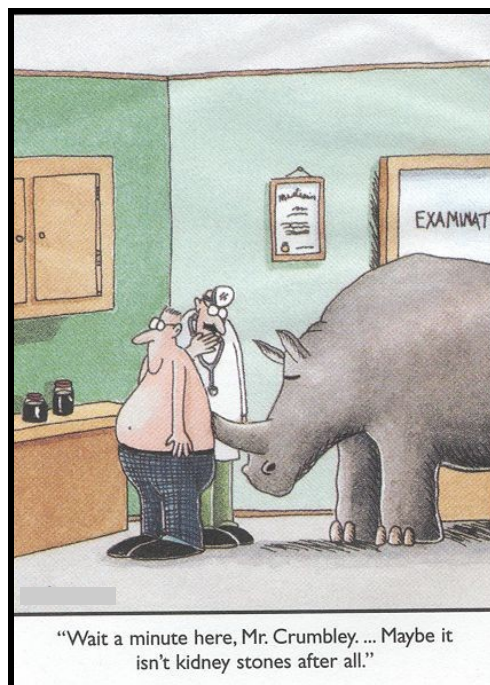
The Way Life Should Be

A group of sober alcoholics, making sure no one got left behind: my home group.

"You're not really going to a meeting tonight, are you?" My wife knew I'd been working hard and sleeping badly for a week. Townies called the mid-March Maine snowstorm still in progress "mushy rain." About six inches of the stuff lay across my driveway, with more on the way. But I'd agreed the week before to fill in for the set-up guy, who was out of town. "Only a few guys are going to show up," my wife warned, "all of them with four-wheel drive. You could stay home and get some rest. Nobody would care."

She was almost right about the four-wheelers, but wrong on the second account. I would care. This is my home group of eighteen years. I made a few three-or-four-person meetings in snowstorms my first years around the fellowship. I remember my body turning warm and relaxed back then just at the sight of the kitchen lights when I turned my rusty pickup into the church parking lot.

I drove slow as a Florida tourist, and busted tread trails through the surf the town plow had banked at the parking lot entrance, praying enough guys would show to muscle my mini-van out of there by the end of the meeting. I turned on the lights, got coffee started, set up about a dozen of the forty chairs with a copy of the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions. I was shoveling the path to the back door when a little



"Wait a minute here, Mr. Crumbley.... Maybe it isn't kidney stones after all."

foreign car spun into the lot, zigged and zagged, and skidded to a halt.

"Hope you have the number for a reliable towing service," I greeted a familiar younger guy with nine or ten months behind him. He smiled. "Dude, front wheel drive. Got me to the bars real reliable the last six winters. Sobriety's s'posed to be fun too, right?" He looked around. "Anything I can do to help?" Somebody is definitely sharing some good orderly direction with this guy.

Five group members showed a little later in one four-wheeler, a long-time silent hanger-on pulled up a chair outside the circle five minutes after the meeting started, and a brand new recruit stuck his head in minutes later. Six men and one woman, who I asked to chair, and to whom the old-timer of the group whispered, "Go to Step and Tradition one," nodding at the newcomer. So after her qualification she asked aloud, since we were so small tonight, would the group agree to read Step and Tradition one? The yays carried it.

Perfect. This kind of love and cooperation gives me a deeper, fuller sense of family than a weekend with kin. His head bowed toward the floor, our long silent, long-time hanger-on spoke for ten minutes. He shared more sober loneliness and emotional pain than I hear from most newcomers. The wide-eyed new recruit told the group his story during our five minute break

(Continued on page 8)

The Best Part of the Evening

With 26 days sober, it was her birthday and she had an emotional meeting with her parents. But a surprise was yet to come

Just four days shy of 30 days sober, I turned 28. While I had already experienced a couple of miracles from the program (I went to a NFL game without drinking!), I was dreading having a birthday without booze. Would it even be any fun?

I hadn't celebrated a birthday that didn't end in a blackout in more than a decade. I remember the first time I met my sponsor to do Step work. I told her I was worried about staying sober on my birthday.

"Oh, is today your birthday?" she said. I told her it wasn't. "Then no need to worry about it now," she said. "God lives in today and that's where we'll stay."

She also told me to train my brain to "think of God instead" when any worries of my birthday (or any feelings of anxiety for that matter) popped up into my head. My spiritual toolkit had just received one of its very first tools.

My first sober "belly-button birthday" (as you guys called it) fell on a Tuesday night. I only remember it was on a Tuesday because I had to miss my home group meeting to go to my parents' house for dinner.

Mind you, I had avoided my family all summer long because I had been arrested for DUI in June. I was so overcome with shame and guilt that my favorite coping skill—avoidance—kept me in hiding. When I was drinking, I was so loaded all the time that I'm not even sure I called home on birthdays, let alone tried to see my parents.

With the newfound freedom from starting the Steps (I was about to begin my Fourth Step), what better time than my birthday to let my parents know that I had a progressively fatal disease? My timing may not have been impeccable but I do know that God's always is.

I was terrified to say out loud to my parents that I was indeed an alcoholic. I knew once I admitted it to them, I would be reaching a point of no return. I just had to stay sober once they knew my secret. There was something in sharing that secret that made my alcoholism feel more real.

Taking the advice of my sponsor, I prayed that God would "give me the words and speak for me." I also

prayed for the courage to be open and honest. I couldn't focus on the outcome. I had to trust God that my sharing of this news with my parents wouldn't stop the world from turning.



Shockingly, the whole conversation went smoothly. Of course, there were tears, but they were tears of love and support. I was able to say to them that being arrested was the greatest gift that God had ever given me. I told them that it had catapulted me into a life beyond my wildest dreams and given me freedom.

The highlight of the evening, however, was not the admission of my alcoholism to my parents. While that was a very liberating experience, it was still uncomfortable. The real highlight was going to the "meeting after the meeting" at the coffee shop across the street from my home group.

My sponsor had made sure that I had a sober place to celebrate my first belly-button birthday in sobriety once I was finished at my parents' house. She invited her other sponsees and women from the home group to show me that we never have to walk through anything alone. They sang "Happy Birthday" to me with a little cake on the patio.

While I was overwhelmed at the time by all the unconditional love and attention, I am brought to tears today to think of the selfless gift those women gave me. They showed up for me and they didn't even know me. They loved me before I was able to love myself. They stayed out late to make sure I was going to be OK and show me that there is such a thing as having fun without drinking.

The gift of fellowship that those courageous and kind women gave to me that night helped me get through one of my very first "firsts" in sobriety. I'm eternally grateful to them, and have had the honor of being able to pass on the love to help other newcomers celebrate some of their very first "firsts" too.

-- Megan M. Phoenix, Ariz., USA
Copyright © The AA Grapevine, Inc. (Oct 2017).
Reprinted with permission

Tradition Ten: Question Of Tolerance

Keeping the doors of AA open to all

AA is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organization or institution, nor does it oppose any of these things. Yet, I've noticed that one denomination receives frequent--and mostly negative--mention.

When I hear this negativity in meetings, I'm glad that Sister Ignatia and Father Ed Dowling are not in attendance.

I remember reading about Sister Ignatia in *Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age*. The early Akron Group brought their new recruits to her at St. Thomas Hospital. With no beds or rooms available, and at Dr. Bob's request to admit a suffering drunk, Sister Ignatia "slyly bootlegged AA's first jittering candidate for admission" into the hospital's flower room. She accepted Dr. Bob's revolutionary ideas. No thought was given to religious affiliation. She and Dr. Bob cared for about 5,000 alcoholics in AA's early years.

Father Ed Dowling, another AA legend, sought out Bill in the New York clubhouse. He had read the first edition of the Big Book and was struck with the

similarity between the Twelve Steps and the "Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius, of Loyola." Bill and Father Ed talked at length about "ego deflation at depth" as a springboard to a spiritual awakening. Father Ed became a key spiritual adviser to Bill, started AA meetings in St. Louis, and helped scores of alcoholics discover AA and the Twelve Steps.

Bill, Dr. Bob, Sister Ignatia, and Father Ed knew that no one should be excluded from AA on the basis of their religion. This helped establish the AA practice of cooperation without affiliation.

Bill W. borrowed heavily from men of religion in writing both the Big Book and *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*: Both Bill and Bob encouraged a spirit of cooperation with clergy, recognizing them as a great resource for the referral of new members.

I am concerned about newcomers and other AA members active in this religion who come to our meetings. Our Third and Fifth Traditions encourage a wide open door. Even well-meaning but critical

(Continued on page 9)

CENTRAL OFFICE OFFICERS	NAME	PHONE #
Chairperson	Drew T	615.440.3991
Central Office Manager	Charles C	615.973.9898
Central Office Bookkeeper	Donna C	615.832..1136
Vice Chairperson	Travis D	615.642.1027
Secretary	Jennifer S	615.218.0883
Treasurer	Garrett D	615.957.7674
Public Information/Cooperation with the Professional Community	Al C	615.587.1616
Accessibility Committee	Darin M	615.423.2620
Corrections	Charlie B	615.554.9085
Treatment Facilities	Stephen T	615.926.9467
Events Chair	Tina H	615.351.0501
Archives	John M	615.803.0211
Sobriety Dinner	Tina H	615.351.0501

FIRST TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH:

District 30 Meeting
When: 6:30pm – 7:30pm
Where: 5925 O'Brien

SECOND MONDAY OF EVERY MONTH:

Intergroup Meeting
When: 5:45pm – 6:45pm
Where: Central Office
417 Welshwood

STEERING COMMITTEE

When: Monday Oct 23rd
5:45pm – 6:45pm
Where: Central Office
417 Welshwood

FIRST TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH:

District 32 Meeting
When: 6:30pm
Where: Last Stop Club
2122 Utopia

SECOND SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH

District 34 Meeting
When: 10am
Where: 200 E. Cedar St
Goodlettsville

P	R	D	L	Y	I	W	M	B	V	M	Y	P	P	O	I	J	O	Z	K	E	Z	S	Z	R	Z	Y	V	L	U
Q	U	W	H	E	M	O	F	O	Z	G	L	O	O	V	X	I	J	M	P	T	Z	I	C	V	I	U	B	V	E
G	T	E	E	R	L	J	R	C	I	H	K	Z	A	G	C	Y	V	H	N	G	C	F	N	V	Y	O	P	O	R
S	B	Y	U	C	G	B	Q	A	G	K	H	Z	Z	G	C	J	P	S	Z	V	Q	Z	P	H	Q	Q	B	G	U
Z	Y	M	F	H	M	U	A	T	N	O	N	H	C	B	Y	A	F	E	S	K	B	U	T	G	M	S	Q	D	U
X	A	M	A	O	E	S	S	E	C	C	U	S	K	X	Y	J	T	R	L	Q	P	O	D	E	U	J	L	N	F
J	I	J	D	N	H	L	P	X	E	E	F	Q	M	S	F	U	D	B	V	W	C	J	Q	V	R	J	E	Q	L
J	G	N	I	H	T	O	N	A	K	R	T	W	C	F	L	N	K	H	L	W	Q	N	M	I	E	X	S	K	B
N	W	Z	O	R	G	R	Z	D	H	V	G	P	R	O	A	Y	U	L	D	I	P	P	X	K	P	U	K	C	V
V	A	L	J	Z	G	T	E	M	M	O	J	A	C	Q	S	B	A	L	Y	Y	Y	S	M	E	L	B	O	R	P
D	R	L	H	U	B	N	L	V	X	Y	T	V	S	A	T	C	D	E	S	X	E	T	C	I	N	I	D	M	Y
N	J	B	U	X	D	O	C	M	Q	K	N	I	E	I	E	Q	M	B	H	F	V	T	U	I	Z	E	A	O	M
O	I	V	L	H	Z	C	C	R	L	M	P	J	G	E	D	U	V	Y	D	C	E	Z	Y	T	H	F	K	F	K
N	N	H	S	U	Y	I	O	K	H	C	Q	T	T	B	G	D	V	M	B	D	I	K	M	V	T	J	F	T	K
G	U	U	J	L	D	F	T	L	D	V	T	A	E	I	U	C	A	W	P	H	H	E	T	S	E	R	A	B	D
I	Q	R	I	Y	F	J	O	B	T	P	X	T	F	P	T	I	O	B	E	N	C	J	T	G	N	H	A	O	J
I	H	H	I	R	H	Q	N	K	E	S	F	E	T	C	H	B	S	J	V	M	A	T	E	H	T	D	B	D	I
F	P	B	R	C	L	I	M	R	A	Z	N	F	T	F	E	P	T	W	M	A	Z	X	P	O	T	U	N	O	S
E	P	O	M	Z	I	N	U	Q	K	K	L	C	O	S	R	E	P	Y	K	W	T	N	T	K	Q	O	R	U	J
R	Q	V	V	E	G	S	C	S	W	U	A	L	H	T	A	N	E	R	N	W	L	Q	I	V	M	F	C	A	L
V	U	G	C	Z	A	U	O	B	E	E	I	F	P	D	Q	K	R	W	E	D	F	W	J	B	O	M	R	G	A
M	Q	W	U	E	M	E	G	U	P	N	Y	D	R	H	A	P	C	K	D	J	C	T	S	M	X	Q	N	I	H
P	I	F	M	F	S	E	X	F	V	X	O	S	A	Y	X	I	Q	S	P	C	O	T	N	C	E	J	V	S	F
E	I	O	Y	H	R	M	W	W	X	E	E	G	J	Y	X	D	C	Y	S	T	N	S	E	O	H	T	A	R	O
L	M	G	U	G	P	F	T	T	M	L	D	S	W	L	E	M	U	O	Q	Z	O	L	M	K	Q	S	J	C	M
F	K	O	N	V	F	Q	T	A	F	O	U	F	K	E	K	T	D	T	F	N	L	G	W	X	I	B	M	Y	L
N	Z	M	D	E	S	J	O	L	L	C	J	W	R	O	U	O	L	O	X	Z	V	Q	D	H	S	L	Q	F	B
R	A	Q	K	K	K	N	I	B	W	J	D	R	I	E	K	Y	H	Q	O	K	E	G	V	M	C	N	L	C	M
U	D	L	V	V	L	V	B	T	Q	Z	J	J	K	S	S	C	B	R	B	O	X	C	W	R	A	N	E	X	J
Z	V	S	J	Y	E	V	D	Q	Q	T	E	U	G	N	O	T	I	Z	I	E	T	O	G	B	Q	K	S	W	J
C	P	T	E	B	W	P	N	G	V	F	K	X	I	M	P	O	R	T	A	N	C	E	E	F	A	E	V	U	W
D	J	J	T	T	F	O	Q	G	J	O	V	X	Y	D	C	U	E	A	U	S	N	V	L	H	C	I	P	S	V
Q	W	D	K	A	W	W	C	Q	T	C	X	C	A	Z	G	U	M	A	I	M	S	C	M	M	S	Q	K	H	P
B	V	A	D	B	D	A	Y	D	J	S	F	H	V	G	V	B	S	C	K	N	A	X	I	Z	C	I	U	D	N
Z	W	W	K	D	M	A	T	E	R	I	A	L	C	J	X	J	T	C	Y	M	T	G	T	T	R	S	P	T	F

The following words are found in the Tenth Step in the 12x12—can you find them there and above?

NOTHING	PAYS	OFF	THE	ONLY	ONES
LIKE	RESTRAINT	OF	THAT	CALL	FOR
TONGUE	AND	PEN	SELF	CONTROL	ACHIEVE
DISAGREEABLE	OR	UNEXPECTED	MEASURE	IMPORTANCE	MATERIAL
PROBLEMS	ARE	NOT	SUCCESS		

NEW / MOVES / CHANGES / ADDITIONS / CANCELLATIONS			NEW / MOVES / CHANGES / ADDITIONS / CANCELLATIONS		
37013	Cancel	60 Minutes - Sun 5p OD	37167	Add	Smyrna Gratitude Fri 10p OD
37014	Cancel	Downtown Tirune Group	37172	Cancel	Robertson Cnty - Wed Noon Wmn - Sun 7p
37025	Add	STORYTELLERS MEETING Storytellers Museum 9676 Old Highway 46 Wed 7:30p OD	37174	Change	RUTS - 1pm now Noon
37027	Add	Stragglers - Sat 8:30 am OD	37174	Add	Spring Hill Group - Thurs 8p OD/Lit
37027	Move	Every Woman Has A Story - Brentwood 1st Pres Ch 1301 Franklin Road - Basement	37174	Cancel	Spring Hill Primetime SH meeting
37027	Move	Cool Springs Newcomers now @ Cumb Hghts 7105 Crossroads Blvd #107	37179	Change	RUSSH - Sun 7p now /cd
37027	Cancel	The Landing	37188	Change	White House Group-B now White House Group and add Sunday 7pm OD
37040	Change	Real Deal Men's - Sun now 5pm	37203	New	Struck Gold Friendship House 202 23rd Avenue North 6p OD
37064	Add	Franklin Group - Thur Separate Men & Women Noon CD	37203	New	202 - Sun BB Study 9am
37064	Add	Sober & Safe Wmn's Newcomer - Mon 6p CD/Wmn/BEG	37206	New	East Side Recovery - Woodland Pres Church 211 N 11th St - Mon Noon OD/Lit - Wed Noon OS / OD / Men & Wmn AA with Alanon focus - Fri - Noon OD
37064	Cancel	Garden Variety	37206	New	Save Her A Seat - Woodland Pres Ch - 211 N. 11th St. Wed 7p OD/Lit
37064	Cancel	Saint Phillips Meeting	37207	Cancel	Place of Hope
37064	Cancel	Way out Group	37207	Cancel	Seven Dips
37064	Move	Celebrate Serenity 4th Ave Ch of Christ 117 4th Ave N.	37208	Add	Spiritual Living - Music City Center -1012 Buchanan Group Mon 7:30p OD
37066	Change /Add	Gallatin AA 165 East Bledsoe - 615.483.3234 - Mon & Fri OD at Noon - Wed OD/Lit Noon - Thurs 7p OD/Wmn	37208	Add	Together We Can - Mt. Carmel Baptist 1032 Monroe St - Fri 7pm OD
37066	Change	Gallatin C35 United - All Meetings at 7pm (last Sat potluck at 6p & speaker at 7p)	37209	Move	WANGL - 6:30p Fri OD/OS Friendship House 202 23rd Ave 37203
37066	Add	United Group Thurs 10a OD	37209	Cancel	Begin the Journey
37069	Change / Move	Womans AA now Every Woman Has a Story - 1213 Country Rd.	37210	Add	WIRED Women in Recovery Every Day - Club 62 - 329 Peachtree - Sat 10:30a OD/Wmn
37074	New	Cumberland Unity First Baptist 773 E McMury Blvd 8p Thu OD	37210	Change	Young Guns - Cancel Friday
37076	Move	SSS Group now at Hermitage United Meth Ch 205 Belinda Dr.	37211	Change	Woodbine - Last Friday of Month is Speaker
37087	Add	Sobriety First - Sun 3:30 CD/Lit	37211	New	Utopia Fellowship - Last Stop Club 2122 Utopia Wed Noon OD
37087	Cancel	Sobriety First - Mon & Fri	37212	New	Recovery on the Row - 1619 17th Ave Wed 6pm OD (20 min Speaker then OD)
37087	Change	New Day - All meetings now 6:30p - Add Thurs Meeting - No Meeting on Mon or Fri	37215	Move	Lambda Trinity Pres Ch 3201 Hillsboro Pike
37087	Add	Any Lengths Fri 10p OD	37216	Cancel	New Beginnings
37096	Change	Linden Group - Fri is CD/Lit - Cancel Tues	37216	Change	P.O.P - Tues & Fri now 7pm
37110	Change	Bar None now 7p Monday delete Sat meeting	37216	New	New Beginnings Inglewood United Meth Ch 3511 Gallatin Pike Thu 7p OD/Lit
37127	Cancel	Back to the Big Book Wed 7p & Sun 4p CD	37217	Cancel	Love & Laughter - Tues 6:30pm
37129	Change	Serenity Group - 2nd Sat 6p Now Eat & Speaker - 8p Sat Canceled	37218	New	Cedar Circle Unity Baptist Ch 4029 Cedar Circle Tues 6:30p OD
37130	Change	New Beginnings Tues now 11am no 6pm	37232	Cancel	Basement Recover - Vanderbilt
37130	Change	New Beginnings - Mon CD/Lit - Tues CD (1st Tues CD/Trad) - Thurs CD/Lit (this one replaces at 11a replaces the 6 p)	37398	Cancel	Easy Does It
			37398	Add	It's a Great Day Mon 7p OD -Tues 7p OD/Lit - Thu 7p OD+ALN
			38401	New	Recovery First - Craft Memorial Meth CH 907 Hatcher Lane 11am - M & F OD, 11am W - OD/Lit
			38562	Add	Friday Night Live - Sat 7pm CD

District 31 Workshop

October 21, 2017

Old Hickory Presbyterian Church

801 Jones Street

10:00am till 2:00pm



Panel

Steve L 6/30/1989

Heather C 2/17/1998

Steve L 5/1/2003

Lunch and Drinks will be provided

Please bring a desert

Bring your Sponsor and your Sponsee!!!

Call Darin M with any questions 615-423-2620

AREA 64 CORRECTIONS WORKSHOP

WHEN

**October 7th
12-5pm**

WHERE

**Fairfield Inn & Suites
1200 Sams Street Cookeville TN. 38506**

· For more info contact:

Liz @ 931-239-1075 or

Lary @ 931-310-7079

**A.A.
EVENT**

**EAT & GREET
12-1pm**

**SPEAKER
1-2pm**

**Q & A
2-3**

**CORRECTION
COMMITTEE
BUSINESS
MEETING
3-5pm**

**Sponsored
by:
District 9**

DISTRICT 9 ANNUAL Fall Picnic

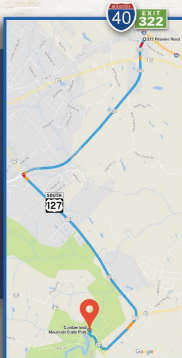
WHEN

**Sunday October 1, 2017
10:30 am - 4:00 pm**

WHERE

**Cumberland Mountain State Park
Highway 127 South • Crossville, TN**

**AUCTION
11:00 AM
LUNCH
12:30 PM**



From I-40 Take Exit 322 Peavine Road/101S Toward Crossville

Continue straight, through 4-way stop onto N. Miller Ave for 2.5 miles

Turn left onto US-127/S. Main St. at Light

Follow US-127 South for approx. 2.2 miles

Bear right, staying on US-127 S at the Highway 68/US-127 split

Continue for .7 miles past the split, entrance to Cumberland Mountain State Park will be on the right

Guest Speaker Sheila B. ~ 2:00 PM

For more information or directions please contact:

**Karla H. 931-208-0842
Dennis W. 808-783-6862**



The Passive-Aggressive Door-Holding Game: See if you can make an innocent stranger hurry from more than fifteen feet away while you hold the door.

GROUP/MEETING	AUG	YTD
21st AVENUE		150
24 HOUR		-
ANONYMOUS	37	220
ANY LENGTHS		770
BACK TO THE BIG BOOK		132
BACKROOM	695	4,508
BASEMENT BUNCH		99
BELLEVUE		100
BRENTWOOD FULL MOON	445	717
BY THE BOOK -DICKSON		322
CAME TO BELIEVE	55	413
CLARKSTREET	100	100
COLUMBIA	20	143
COLUMBIA BASEMENT BUNCH		71
COMFORT ZONE		500
COOL SPRINGS NEWCOMERS	253	353
CROSSVILLE		100
CROSSVILLE NON-SMK STEP		10
DAVIDSON RD		2,200
DICKSON AA		480
DISTRICT 9		150
DOWNTOWN LUNCH BUNCH	160	468
DOWNTOWN YMCA		74
DROP THE ROCK		50
DRUNKS IN THE PARK		320
EAST SIDE MEN'S STAG		1,319
EAST SIDE SATURDAY		1,134
EASY DOES IT	300	300
EVERY WOMAN HAS A STORY		142
FAIRFIELD GLADE		245
FAIRVIEW		200
FAYETTEVILLE		40
FELLOWSHIP		-
FIRST THINGS FIRST		283
FIVE & FIVE		662
FRANKLIN		2,670
FRANKLIN MEN'S		625
FRANKLIN ROAD WOMEN'S		100
FREE TO BE		499
FREEDOM FROM BONDAGE	10	20
FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE		20
FRIDAY NIGHT PRIMETIME		50
GALLATIN AA		50
GOODLETTSVILLE		-

GROUP/MEETING	AUG	YTD
GRATEFUL ALIVE		-
HAPPY HOUR - LEWISBURG		-
HARDING RD		-
HENDERSONVILLE BB		-
HERMITAGE	200	200
HIGH NOON		695
HOPE PARK AA LIT STUDY		-
HUT		-
ICYPAA		445
JOELTON		-
KEEP IT SIMPLE BELLEVUE	7	7
KEY TO SOBRIETY		-
LADIES NIGHT OUT		-
LAFAYETTE NEW HOPE		50
LAMBDA		300
LATE LUNCH BUNCH		1,600
LET IT HAPPEN	66	173
LIFE SAVERS	100	100
LINDEN		20
LIVE & LET LIVE	25	100
LIVING BY THE PRINT		300
LIVING THE PRINCIPLES		367
LIVINGSTON		150
LIVINGSTON 12x12		25
MADISON STREET		100
MIDDAY BREAK	235	595
MT. JULIET FELLOWSHIP		100
MURFREESBORO	15	105
MUSIC ROW		125
MUSTARD SEED		200
NASHVILLE N.O.W.		390
NEW BEGINNINGS WOMEN		160
NEW BEGINNINGS	25	200
NEW DAY	9	9
NEW LIFE H-VILLE		504
NIPPER'S CORNER		41
NORTHSIDE , CLARKSVILLE		150
ON AWAKENING	150	150
ONE DAY AT A TIME		550
ONE STEP CLOSER	213	316
OUT TO BREAKFAST		398
PAGE 112		53
PORTLAND UNITY		70
PRIMARY PURPOSE		184

Welcome to AA

(Continued from page 2)

between the tradition and step. All of us shared at least once, and the meeting closed a few minutes early with all eyes on the mushy rain accumulating outside.

We all pitched in, straightening up the church meeting room. After turning down the heat and switching off the lights, I found all four cars in the unplowed parking lot waiting to leave together: A group of sober alcoholics, making sure no one got left behind: my

home group.

When entering Maine on a federal highway, you are greeted by a large sign: "The way life should be." It is due only to the principles of the AA program and the love and humor of the fellowship that I've come to agree with that sign. In fact, they could follow it with another: "A life second to none." Ayuh.

-- Anonymous—Maine
Copyright © The AA Grapevine, Inc. (May 2011).
Reprinted with permission

GROUP/MEETING	AUG	YTD
PRIMETIMERS		100
PULASKI	5	45
REBOS	390	777
RECOVERY ROAD		38
RIGHT DIRECTION	200	200
RIDGETOP BASICS		50
ROAD OF HAPPY DESTINY		30
RUTS		500
SAFE HARBOR		150
SANGO	40	80
SATURDAY NIGHT ALIVE	10	80
SEARCHERS - HUNT CLUB		650
SEEKING SANITY		908
SERENITY	25	175
SHADE TREE		3,982
SISTERS IN SOBRIETY		34
SMITH COUNTY FRIENDSHIP		200
SMYRNA GRATITUDE	820	4,315
SPRING HILL		204
TCYPAA		865
THE HUT		50
THE STRAGGLERS	300	440
THE UNITED		300
THREE LEGACIES		40
TRINITY		50
TRUDGING THE ROAD		364
TURNING POINT		200
TWELVE STEPS TO FREEDOM		45
UNITED	10	210
UNITY		10
WANGL		273
WAVERLY	60	60
WAY OUT		50
WEEKENDERS		300
WEST NASHVILLE		93
WHITE HOUSE		80
WINNERS & BEGINNERS	227	765
WINNERS		25
WOMEN IN THE SOLUTION		150
WOMEN'S OPEN DOOR		186
WOMENS FREEDOM		550
WOMENS WAY		100
WOODBINE		20
Grand total:	5,207	48,175



Tradition Ten: Question Of Tolerance

(Continued from page 4)

sharing from ex-members of the denomination in question may make meetings unattractive to newcomers who still practice that faith. The unofficial saying that "AA is a spiritual program, not a religious program" gets misused. Some minds seem to register this as spirituality versus, religion, as if the two were incompatible. For many of us who practice religious beliefs hand in glove with AA's Twelve Steps, these resentful sharing's create intense discomfort. We sit quietly, however, not wanting to stir up controversy. But I believe our silence encourages others to join in the bashing because they mistakenly read this shared resentment as a universal AA stance. Sometimes, it seems that the criticism spreads into subsequent sharing by other members. Inaccurate dogma gets splashed around our rooms, uncontested.

Bill was diplomatic in his dealings with the professional community. He encouraged AA to develop a spirit of cooperation without formal affiliation. Some people in AA know these things innately; others are just wise enough not to promote their disdain for religion at AA meetings. Some, however, think in terms of spirituality versus religion and see two very compatible realities as somehow incompatible. They seem to share less-than-objective stories, looking back with resentment at their developing years.

These attitudes do not do credit to AA history and its Traditions. Great men and women of religion, and other professionals, have trusted us and referred thousands of sufferers our way. I wonder if they will continue to refer alcoholics to us if they become aware of the irreligious opinions, sometimes clothed in humor, expressed by some AA members.

This is not a call for censorship. The free flow of sharing should never be stymied at our meetings. Sponsors can handle resentments of religion in private, and using the Steps, with their sponsees. We must keep the doors of AA open, welcome, and attractive to all who have a desire to stop drinking.

-- Jack L. Ludwig's Corner, Pennsylvania
 Copyright © The AA Grapevine, Inc. (October 2006).
 Reprinted with permission

Middle Tennessee Intergroup Association
Statement of Activities - Actual and Budgeted - Schedule 1
For the Eight Months and Year Ended August 31, 2017

	August 2017			YTD 2017		
	Actual	Budget	Budget Variance	Actual	Budget	Budget Variance
Income						
Net Literature Sales	2,885.29	2,925.17	(39.88)	25,326.31	23,401.36	1,924.95
Group Donations	5,417.50	5,553.17	(135.67)	51,786.42	44,425.36	7,361.06
Individual Donations	165.00	308.33	(143.33)	1,758.54	2,466.64	(708.10)
Messenger Donations	-	9.25	(9.25)	105.00	74.00	31.00
Website Donations	31.97	-	31.97	890.29	-	890.29
Special Events	-	625.00	(625.00)	-	5,000.00	(5,000.00)
Interest	3.54	3.08	0.46	27.73	24.67	3.06
Total Income	8,503.30	9,424.00	(920.70)	79,894.29	75,392.03	4,502.26
Expenses						
Casual Labor	200.00	200.00	-	1,600.00	1,600.00	-
Payroll	4,775.84	5,080.08	(304.24)	40,031.54	40,640.70	(609.16)
Sales Tax Expense	112.91	-	112.91	112.91	-	112.91
Legal & Professional	350.00	350.00	-	2,800.00	2,800.00	-
Sales Tax Expense	-	-	-	1.61	-	1.61
Rent	996.00	1,006.00	(10.00)	8,013.50	8,048.00	(34.50)
Printing	208.66	50.00	158.66	270.66	400.00	(129.34)
Payroll Taxes	365.90	388.58	(22.68)	2,875.50	3,108.67	(233.17)
Repairs & Maintenance	-	33.33	(33.33)	-	266.67	(266.67)
Equipment Rental	49.99	116.67	(66.68)	923.45	933.33	(9.88)
Telephone & Fax	409.96	474.33	(64.37)	3,337.44	3,794.67	(457.23)
Answering Service	209.00	250.00	(41.00)	1,654.00	2,000.00	(346.00)
Postage	64.37	191.67	(127.30)	757.21	1,533.33	(776.12)
Office Supplies	151.82	183.33	(31.51)	1,292.72	1,466.67	(173.95)
Computer & Technology	-	125.00	(125.00)	2,130.40	1,000.00	1,130.40
Intergroup Expense	-	100.00	(100.00)	466.67	800.00	(333.33)
Insurance	89.60	200.00	(110.40)	1,244.00	1,600.00	(356.00)
Special Events	54.90	291.67	(236.77)	-	2,333.33	(2,333.33)
Travel	60.00	375.00	(315.00)	307.02	3,000.00	(2,692.98)
Depreciation	15.84	8.33	7.51	79.20	66.67	12.53
Over/Under	-	-	-	(126.79)	-	(126.79)
Total Expenses	8,114.79	9,424.00	(1,309.21)	67,771.04	75,392.03	(7,620.99)
Net Income	388.51	0.00	388.51	12,123.25	(0.00)	12,123.25

**If you read
The Messenger
on-line, a
contribution to
The Middle
Tennessee
Central Office
would help and
be appreciated.**



OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES**HIGH NOON**

Amy Z	10.10.15
Dave S	10.12.88
Heather H	10.03.12
Jeff R	10.08.16
Ken C	10.18.10
Kim V	10.05.16
Linda R	10.17.14
Tim W	10.01.16
Todd H	10.05.13

KEEP IT SIMPLE

Adam F	10.09.16
Bruce T	10.10.05
Casey S	10.14.12
Cindy B	10.15.14
Daniel B	10.24.04
Dar S	10.26.81
Jay N	10.30.15
John D	10.12.14
John H	10.13.06
Josh R	10.20.16
Kevin M	10.20.11
Margaret W	10.07.08
Tim S	10.01.12
Travis L	10.14.13

LOVE & LAUGHTER

Christy L	10.21.07
Clay K	10.04.09
John H	10.13.06
Kathy H	10.28.93
Teresa McC C	10.22.08
Virginia K	10.08.12

MIDDAY

Andrew C	10.12.16
Ann B	10.08.01
Gene T	10.09.11
Jason T	10.31.14
Polly W	10.06.15
Ryan J	10.22.14
Serena W	10.00.16
Steve G	10.28.16

NEW BEGINNINGS

Lynette F	10.29.11
Paul S	10.14.12
Ricardo F	10.10.09

P.O.P

Kevin	10.12.86
Rip B	10.25.87
Steve B	10.05.97

PORTLAND UNITY

Kevin L	10.13.89
Larry G	10.21.16

SEEKING SANITY

Charles L	10.15.08
Chrisra E	10.20.09
Edye J	10.01.08
Heather C	10.27.12
Johnnie R	10.??.84
Mandie C	10.03.15
Sam B	10.02.90
Tracie E	10.11.11
Trish H	10.02.12

SOBRIETY FIRST

Melinda S	10.01.14
Nelson I	10.31.16
Terry B	10.27.13
Will T	10.31.13

SMYRNA GRATITUDE

Sara A	10.29.12
Tina S	10.03.12
Tyler S	10.11.14
Winter P	10.17.10

WOMEN IN THE SOLUTION

Cordy C	10.31.79
Debbie C	10.09.09

YET

Deborah L	10.28.09
Mary H	10.04.94
Valeria S	10.31.88



**Middle Tennessee
Central Intergroup
Association**

417 Welshwood Drive
Suite 207
Nashville, TN 37211

615.832.1136
800.559.2252

NON PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. Postage Paid
Nashville, TN
Permit No. 517

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Middle TN Central Intergroup Association
417 Welshwood Drive, Suite 207
Nashville, TN 37211

ph. 615.832.1136
Ph. 800.559.2252
fax. 615.834.5982
or e-mail address changes to:
mtcoaa@aol.com



Time to Change?

- ☐ New / Renewal Subscription
- ☐ Address Change

The Messenger is available at an annual subscription price of \$12.00. A limited number of free subscriptions are available upon request by writing or calling the office at the address/phone number listed in this issue.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____

PHONE _____ ZIP _____