

## Life Expectancy

When I was a boy my uncle had two black walnut trees on his farm. He did not want the black walnuts, but we did. The nuts would fall and we would pick them up. As we removed the outer husk, our hands would be stained dark brown. Then we had to crack the hard shell with a hammer.

We had a concrete block with a little dimple in it to crack the walnuts on. With my skills with a hammer, I can remember hitting my fingers as I cracked the walnuts. And that was the easy part.

After the walnuts were cracked, we had to pick the nutmeat from the hard shell. The meat was in little pockets and hard to get out. It was a very tedious task to remove the good part. My memory may not be right, but I remember it taking hours and hours to pick a bowl full of the nutmeat out of the shells.

All of this effort seemed worth it to me because I like black walnut pie. My mother and now Nancy makes a great black walnut pie. I also like black walnuts in cookies and ice cream.

Many of the really good things in life are like black walnuts. There is a hard shell around it. It takes much efforts to get to it. If we want to be a good student, businessperson, salesperson, fisherman, athlete, you have to work at it.

The same can be said about our relationship with God. It takes effort, planning and commitment to study the Bible, pray every day not just when we want something. It takes effort to give God the glory and develop the fruit of the Spirit. It takes effort to just meet for worship with our fellow Christian.

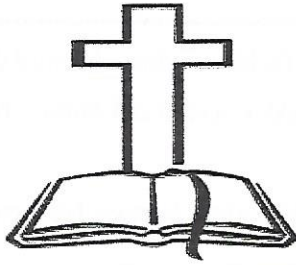
We may have to change some of our activities, or give up some of our favorite habits, or even change some of our friends. But then Jesus says in Luke 9:23 for us to "take up our cross and follow Him."

Picking out walnuts is tedious and hard on the fingers, but the pie makes it all worth it.

Raymond

Leachville church of Christ  
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# LEACHVILLE CHURCH OF CHRIST



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## Sunday, December 4, 2016

<p><b>Prayer List Updates</b></p> <p>Teddy Joe Wigginton - donor marrow may be attacking his digestive tract; condition is serious but treatable</p> <p>Bill Hetler - sores on his foot</p> <p>Adrienne Penix - lumbar puncture last week to search for cause of headaches</p> <p><b>Birthday</b></p> <p>Adrienne Penix      December 8</p> <p><b>Anniversary</b></p> <p>Carroll and June Towell December 4</p>	<p><b>Upcoming Events</b></p> <p>Tuesdays      ladies' Bible study; 10 am            kids welcome</p> <p>today            Cookies with Santa 4:30-5:45 pm    community event; sign                          up sheet on back table</p> <p>December 7      prayer night; give any 7 pm              prayer requests to                          Raymond today</p> <p>December 7      Christmas craft night 7 pm              in children's classes</p> <p>December 25    services will be                          worship only at 10:45;                          no evening services</p> 	<p><b>Correspondence Course Ministry</b></p> <p>week of Nov. 27 - Dec. 3: 17 lessons graded</p> <p><b>December Haiti Needs</b></p> <p>Powdered milk Deodorant</p> <p><b>Attendance Last Week</b></p> <p>Sunday morning: 47 Sunday night: 34 Wednesday night: 41</p>
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Weekly Service Assignments			
<b>Sunday morning</b>		<b>Bible class: 9:45 am</b>	<b>Sunday evening      6:00 pm</b>
		<b>Worship: 10:45 am</b>	
First Prayer	Raymond Lasley		First prayer      Ken Beach
Announcements	Rudi Cagle		Closing prayer    Matthew Sills
Scripture Reading	Raymond Lasley		Lord's Supper      Larry Brooks Ken Beach
Lord's Supper	1. Ed Young	3. Ken Beach	
	2. Larry Brooks	4. Justin Beach	<b>Wednesday evening      7:00 pm</b>
Second Prayer	Larry Towell		First prayer      Raymond Lasley
Closing Prayer	Matthew Sills		Closing prayer    Jerry Bolar