



Sunday, November 13th, 2022

Volume 66, Number 45

Notes From The Preacher's Desk....

November is a great month. Typically, in our part of the country, we really see the full effects of fall this month of the year. Weather is cooling down and everyone is focused on ideas of thankfulness. One of my favorite verses on this idea is 1st Thessalonians 5:18. *Give thanks in all circumstances.* I'm sure we know how to give thanks when things are good and our lives are at peace...when the turkey is cooked and the mashed potatoes are ready to be served it is very easy to give thanks...and this is a great time to give thanks! But what about when things are not going so well, and you are in a time of need? Give thanks then too! You don't have to be thankful for the difficult things in your life. And I'm not so sure that our typical advice in tough times is that particularly helpful either ("be thankful because surely someone has it worse!") I think we can derive thankfulness in tough times knowing that NOTHING can separate us, or force us away from Christ (Romans 8:38-39). That is something to be thankful for. -Matt

Elders

Ronald Barker Dick Hol
Mike Barrios Charles Mars

Deacons

Dan Amar Jim Hubbert
Larry Knox Keith Loveless
Mark Mitchell Ken Robison

Pulpit Minister

Matt Mitchell

Minister of Songs & Praise

Dennis Sangster

Missions

Malawi – Preacher Training
Baxter Institute, Honduras

Benevolence

AGAPE
Sunnybrook Children's Home
Hope Works
Fleming Tarpidu Institute, India

E-MAIL/WEB PAGE

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Bible Classes 9:00 a.m.
AM Worship Svc. 10:00 a.m.
PM Worship Svc. 5:00 p.m.*
Wed. Bible Study 7:00 p.m.
(Attended Nursery at all svcs.)

*No 5:00 p.m. service on the third Sunday of the month

Phones:

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901-755-7214 (fax)

Does Prayer Really Work?

One of the great privileges of the Christian life is the opportunity to approach the heavenly Father in prayer. God's people are encouraged to draw near to the Father's heavenly throne with boldness, seeking help in time of need. Sometimes, Christians get discouraged and may wonder if prayer really works. One might say, "I prayed that God would heal my loved-one, but now my loved-one is dead. Why did my prayer not work?" I suppose we all struggle with the question, "Why?" The answer to the question is not always easy to understand, and, frankly, in some instances we may never find an answer that satisfies.

Nevertheless, Christians can know with all certainty that God hears and answers prayer. Biblical proof of this is James 5:16: "Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." This passage declares that "prayer...availeth much." In other words, prayer not only works, but it also works powerfully and accomplishes much! This should settle the issue for everyone who believes the Bible—God really hears and answers prayer. Prayer works!

But notice the kind of prayer that works. The verse cited from James chapter 5 indicates that an "effectual fervent" prayer is the kind that works. The term "effectual fervent" means "powerful or energetic." Prayer that avails is not merely uttering words in a cold, routine manner. It is not simply "saying" a prayer, but rather it is "praying" a prayer with sincerity, eagerness, and faith. The one praying pours out his heart to God.

Another characteristic of prayer that works is that it is prayed by "a righteous man." A righteous man is one who is just and holy, one who is a faithful child of God. God does not promise to honor the prayers of those living in rebellion to his will (Psalm 66:18), but the prayers of his righteous children avail much.

God does not always answer prayers with a "yes." However, God's people have assurance that God hears; He cares; and He answers according to his divine will. In view of these thoughts, how comforting it is when a righteous child of God says, "I'll be praying for you." No wonder Paul encouraged, "Brethren, pray for us" (2 Thessalonians 3:1).

*Mark Lindley
Chapman church of Christ
Ripley, MS
Bulletin Digest*

OUR PRAYER LIST

Woodland Hills Members:

Stan Adams, Tom Adams, Rhoda Amar, Clemmie Allison, Ron Barker, Jim Brown, Jeffie Dacus, David Dement, Chris & Paige Essary, Barbara Rea, Vicktor Tretiakov, Louise VanSickel

In Assisted/Senior Living or Homebound:

Stan Adams, Clemmie Allison, Wilma Barfield, Janet & Billy Brown, Jackie Greene, Pat King, Elaine Martin, Raymond McClendon, Mary Ann Morrison, Osby & Martha Riley, Clara Shipman, Linda Thompson, Mary Ann Watson

Family and Friends:

Jim Adams (Brother of Tom Adams), Kris Alexander (Sister of Julie Grantham), Aaron Cadden (Nephew of Dee Close), Eleanor Daugherty (Mother of Betty Barker), Jacqueline Ferrell (Sister of Ina Story), Phyllis Gilbreath (Sister of Judy Brown), Phil Hubbert (Cousin of Jim Hubbert), Kevin Knight (son of Debbie Knight), Donny Long (Bro-in-law of Diane Hinton), Archie May (Father of Kerwin May), Russell May (Uncle of Kerwin May), Debbie McCoy (Friend of Hintons), Leah Morgan (Daughter of Sharon Estes), Jesse Murah (Friend of Kerwin May), Kesha Owsley (Friend of Daphne Jenkins), Mark Paschall (Brother of Brenda Renner), Randy Pinckley (Brother of Robi and Rhonda), Misty Pinckley, Beverly Renner (Sister-in-law of Brenda Renner), Mike Robison (son of Barbara Rea and brother of Ken Robison), Tammy Roschell (Sister of Bill Estes), David South, Pat Thomas, Doris Watson (Sister of Wilma Barfield and Mother of Bob Watson),

SHARING GOOD NEWS!

We learned last Sunday that Jonathan & Jessica Pilgrim (son and daughter-in-law of Gary and Ginger Pilgrim) are expecting their first child (a baby girl) in April of 2023. Congratulations to all the Pilgrims!

NEW MEMBER

We are so excited to announce that Barry Holland has indicated his desire to place membership at Woodland Hills. He is the husband of Eleanor Holland and they live at 445 Hidden Meadows Cove, in Oakland.

THIRD SUNDAY LUNCHEON SCHEDULED FOR NEXT WEEK!

TO SERVE THIS WEEK - November 13

Welcome & Announcements::

Matthew Mitchell

Opening Prayer:

Bob Karr

Closing Prayer:

Steve Grantham

Serve Communion:

Dan Amar, Ken Robison,

Bill Seward, Mark Mitchell

AM Nursery: **Renee Brittain/Connie Amar**

5 PM Singing/Devotional Service

PM Opening Prayer: *Mike Barrios*

PM Closing Prayer: *Ron Barker*

PM Nursery: *Joy Adams*

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- 19 Ryan Hubbert
- 21 Hampton Cox
- 22 Sue Adams
- 27 Margaret Wilkinson
- 28 Emilee Anderson
- 28 Rhonda Hubbert
- 29 Garrett Pilgrim



Our menu will be Leonard's Barbecue, cole slaw, baked beans, bread and dessert. Get your tickets from Larry Knox. As with

everything else around us, food prices have increased. In order for the dinners to continue, we are raising our adult prices to \$10 and children 5 years and under will be \$5. Thank you for your understanding and your continued support of this fellowship effort.

YOGA CLASS SCHEDULE

December 17th at 1 pm – 1:45 chair yoga and 2:15-3:15 for mat yoga. Sign up sheet in the foyer.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Everyone is invited to the home of Jeffie Dacus on Saturday, December 3rd between the hours of 2-4 to celebrate her 90th hday. Celebration will be at her home at 4720 Chambers Chapel in Lakeland. NO GIFTS please! Your presence will be a gift in and of its own.

SOUP & DESSERT

On Friday, November 18th at 6 pm, Dennis and Annette Sangster are hosting a fellowship night at their home. It will be a soup and dessert theme! Please bring your favorite soup and/or dessert and warm up with an evening of fellowship.

MEMORIALS

We have received a memorial donation in memory of Wayne Close from Bill and Robbie Seward.

We have also received a memorial gift from Jim and Judy Brown in memory of Brenda Brown's sister, Nancy Derryberry.



2nd SUNDAY SINGING NIGHT

Tonight is set aside to worship in song. Pick out your favorites and let our long leaders know which of your favorites you would like to sing tonight.

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

The week of Thanksgiving holiday, we will move our mid-week Bible study to Tuesday evening and it will be an auditorium devotional/singing only. No children's classes.

HOLIDAY GATHERINGS

Mark your calendar for an "Open House" at the home of Sharon Close on December 18th to begin at 6 pm. Please bring finger foods/desserts/etc. Always an enjoyable evening of fellowship/and singing!

Sharon is also hosting a Widows luncheon at her home on Sunday, December 11th following our morning worship. Sharon and Wayne have hosted this luncheon for many years. If you plan to attend, please RSVP Sharon.

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