

# PRAYER LIST

**MARK ALLEN**, Paul & Nell's son – quadruple bypass recovery (surgery 8/13)  
**PAUL ALLEN**, recovery/rehab at home  
**CHELSEA AYCOCK**, age 24; cancer recovery; friend of Lara King; girl-friend of Renée Cumberland's cousin  
**CHERYL BARRON**, Stan Raley's sister  
**TOMMY BEECH**, surgery recovery  
**ANN BOWLING**, friend of Kitty Dooley & Linda Collie – dialysis following kidney cancer surgery  
**RITA CHAPLIN**, friend of Renée Cumberland, in Waukegan, IL; cancer; on hospice care as of 8/18  
**DAVE DAVIS**  
**SUE DAVIS**, surgery recovery  
**KITTY DOOLEY**, knee surgery recovery at home  
**TERRY DYER**, replace pacemaker at Rush, Tuesday 8/23  
**ODELL GURLEY**, Jeremy's (Elizabeth Fair Gurley) granddad; lung cancer treatment  
**DR. MONEERA HAQUE**, Rush Cardiologist; complications with baby delivery; husband is Khondker Islam of Rush GI Lab with Jennifer Guy  
**CHRIS HATCHER**, brother-in-law of Paul Guy  
**BETTY JOHNSON**, home-bound  
**SAILOR RAE JONES & her mother Melyna**, friend of Jennifer Guy  
**NAN LEGGETT**, friend of Mike & Renée Cumberland  
**MIKE McCRARY**, Josh McCrary's dad  
**ALAN MOTES**, Shirley Raley's great-nephew – car accident, in DCH Hospital, Tuscaloosa, AL  
**BETSY PARNELL**, friend of Cindy Harper – chemo/radiation for cancer  
**REATHA RAINER**, in dementia facility; % Adrian Rainer 5310 Tara AVE ~ Northport AL 35473  
**MRS GENE RALEY**, Stan's mom – health issues  
**STAN RALEY**  
**ALETHA RAY**, Moriah McCrary's mom  
**FAY RIVES (Mrs. Ted Rives)** – 109 Executive DR ~ Arab AL 35016  
**AL ST. CLAIR**  
**DEE TUCKER**, Shannon Finley's cousin, health  
**DICK & SANDY VINSON**, on-going health issues  
**ROB WARREN**  
**WAYNE WARREN**, Rob's dad/TX; knee surgery 8/2  
**EUGENE WHITE**  
**VELMA "DUCK" YATES**  
**LOUISIANA & SOUTH MISSISSIPPI FLOOD VICTIMS MEMBERS of our ARMED SERVICES CHURCH MISSION WORK WORLDWIDE**

# ANNIVERSARY & BIRTHDAY

September 4 : Betty Lewis  
September 5 : Alyana Jensen  
September 7 : Bruce Clopton  
September 9 : Dwight Callens

NOTE: If you are new to our family, or have changes to your info, please see Renée Cumberland.

## 1st Birthday Party

1st Celebrating  
**Alyana Jensen's**  
1st Birthday  
Saturday, September 10, 2016  
at 3 pm at  
The Clubhouse 1st  
Willow Ridge Apartments  
2701 Willow Bend Drive  
Meridian, MS

## Louisiana Flood Assistance

Last Sunday we collected a special offering for Lafayette, Louisiana's Riverside Church of Christ flood victims. Thank you all in showing your generous hearts in giving \$1,202.

Some were not prepared to give last week, so we will be extending the opportunity again today for any wishing to help make "life after the flood" a bit easier for these brothers and sisters in Christ.

Following the usual offering, a second offering designated specifically for Riverside will be collected. We will send the funds to Riverside this week.

Again, thank you or always being there to help those in need.

# The Mosquito Truck

As we sat at the supper table, it was The Maiden who first heard the ominous hum from the next street over. She sat at attention, caught ours, and about the moment we all heard it, she pronounced, "The mosquito truck!" Up we jumped, all three of us, to close windows and The Missus, in the voice of General Patton, sent me running to rescue items off the clothesline in the back yard.

Not that we weren't glad to hear it and let the truck spray its cloud of poison to free us of pests. Just last week a health official from the city knocked on our door to warn us that an unconfirmed case of dengue had occurred in our quadrant. She also wormed her way in to check for possible breeding spots in standing water.

But we didn't want the foul-smelling, mosquito-killing mist in our house and on clothing.

Our defensive operation of clockwork skill comes from long experience of trucks that regularly spray the area.

Would to God our response was as prompt and energetic when the clouds of immorality and doctrinal departures waft our way.

But we prefer last-minute swerves and faith in contrary winds to avoid the inevitable visit that temptation regularly makes up our street.

After all, we persuade ourselves, it's impossible to avoid everything. A little bit of tolerance shows we're not radicals. And, you never know, the individuals showing bad signs may straighten up.

But when sin is seeping its way toward them, people don't often straighten up by themselves. They succumb.

And the creeping of immorality and lessening standards doesn't find an automatic correction, as if they were airplanes drifting off course. They slide into ditches of ruin.

Departures of doctrine and morals must be met with prompt, energetic responses. When prevention doesn't knock them in the head, every doctor knows that the earlier the signs are treated, the better the chance of saving the soul.

Every mechanic knows that the knocking sounds in a car won't go away by themselves. The longer it's left, the higher the bill.

In the church, these departures are everybody's business. The New Testament doesn't leave it to elders or preachers. The order is for every saint, "you who are spiritual" ([Galatians 6:1](#) NET). Here, "spiritual" is a synonym for "Christian."

It's everybody's business because departures of doctrine and morals are never restricted to a single person. They spread. They cause direct hits and collateral damage.

The old saw that we're either part of the solution or part of the problem applies here.

So next time you hear the faraway hum of the mosquito truck, jump up and run for the windows.

–by [J. Randal Matheny](#), [Forthright Magazine](#) via [Bulletin Digest](#), April 15, 2011