

PRAYER LIST

RILEY AGAN, Jared Agan's brother – possible surgery if determined cut tendon while carving pumpkin

CHERYL BARRON, Stan Raley's sister

JO ANN BROSELL, friend of Kathy St. Clair – surgery, Wednesday 2/22/2017

TED BRWON, Sherri Clopton's dad, Poplar Springs Nursing Center - Rm A-39
6615 Poplar Springs Loop, Meridian, MS 39305

RAY CANTRELL, brother of Linda Bowen of Waynesboro; Anderson Hospital

MIKE CUMBEFRAND, Home Therapy

ODELL GURLEY, Jeremy's (Elizabeth Fair Gurley) granddad; lung cancer treatment

THERMAN HODGE, surgery recovery for cancer

JUDY JENNINGS, former member; cancer recurrence ~ 2027 Green Gate PL ~ Grayson, GA 30017-1857

BETTY JOHNSON, home-bound

WALTER KING, Lamar's dad, post-aneurism surgery recovery at home

NAN LEGGETT, Brookhaven, MS area; friend of Mike/Renée Cumberland; leg muscle syndrome

JENNIFER MARTIN, auto accident spinal injury

BETSY PARNELL, friend of Cindy Harper –

MRS GENE RALEY, Stan's mom – health issues

STAN RALEY

AL ST. CLAIR

ZELIA STEPHENS, aunt of Jason Smith; cancer

THELMA TALBERT, Shirley Raley's mom

RUTH TAYLOR, Room 102 at Brookdale Meridian, 4555 35th AVE, Meridian, MS 39305

AMBER TUTTLE, Beth Dyer's cousin from Anderson, IN; suffered 3rd° burns over 1/3 of her body during fire which destroyed her house

ROB WARREN

EUGENE WHITE, injury/fall from ladder

VELMA "DUCK" YATES

MEMBERS of our ARMED SERVICES

CHURCH MISSION WORK WORLDWIDE

ANNIVERSARY & BIRTHDAY

November 5: Joy St. Clair

November 7: Charles & Kitty Dooley

November 8: Terry & Beth Dyer

November 9: Shabreyla Hanley

November 9: Tashayla Hanley

November 9: Dick Vinson

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

Upcoming Holidays Worship Schedule

Wednesday, November 22,
no Bible Study

Sunday, December 24th,
10am Worship Service only

Adult Christmas Party

This year's party is set for Thursday, December 6th. This year we will be dining and playing Dirty Santa at Red Lobster located on the South Frontage Road, Meridian. Festivities to begin at 6:30 p.m.



Those wishing to join in the fun, whether or not you decide to participate in the Dirty Santa game, please sign up on the flyer on the foyer bulletin board, or contact Renée and she will add you to the list. Please indicate the number attending in your party so we can give a total to Red Lobster a week before the party. If you do plan to participate in the Dirty Santa game, please keep in mind the gift price, which remains at \$20.

Message, Not Messenger

From time to time we need to be reminded that the power of the word of God is in the message, not the messenger. A simple illustration was when Jesus was heading into Jerusalem for His final week on earth. He sent two of His disciples ahead of Him to go and get a colt that was tied up just inside the city. Why would someone let strangers untie their colt and lead it off? So, Jesus told the disciples that if they were questioned why they were taking the colt, their reply was to be, "The Lord needs it." Sure enough, the owners of the colt questioned them, but when they heard that the Lord needed it, they let the disciples take it away (Luke 19.29-34). The power was in the message, not the messengers.

Amazingly, even Jesus, the Son of God, was rejected as a messenger. He gave up equality with God to become flesh and to bring the message of salvation face to face (Philippians 2.6-7; John 1.1). For a short time, people flocked from the villages to hear Him. But even His preaching and miracles were not enough for them to follow Him and accept His message. The greatest message ever was rejected because of the messenger (John 1.11).

Human nature being what it is, we have an understandable tendency to be drawn to great messengers over great messages. We love to listen to gifted and polished speakers. We love stories and captivating illustrations, and that's natural – nothing wrong with that, in and of itself. The danger is when we fall in love with charm, personality and wit to the neglect of truth and spiritual nourishment. But the food is more important than the packaging.

I thank God for gifted preachers who can communicate God's powerful word with humility, persuasiveness and love. May their numbers increase. But I'm just as thankful for those men who, though less gifted, are proclaiming God's message to the best of their abilities to people who love the Lord and are anxious to hear a word from God. I'm also thankful for these patient and faithful brethren who assemble every week to hear the word of God preached, regardless of the abilities of those who are standing before them. Men should always do their best when it comes to proclaiming the gospel, but with a constant awareness that the power is in God and His word, not in their ability to preach it.

If we are not reminded of this occasionally we will naturally drift toward elevating the messenger over the message. It has always been this way, and always will. People have always had their favorite preachers. This problem quickly arose in the 1st century. Paul heard about "preacheritis" in Corinth and needed to correct it ASAP (1 Corinthians 1.10-13). Believe it or not, not everyone in the church at Corinth was a fan of Paul ... or of Peter ... or even of Apollos (a gifted and powerful speaker; cf Acts 18.24). Quarreling over preachers has been around a long, long time. That kind of division may be human nature, but it's not God's nature. God chose the "foolishness of preaching" the message of the cross so that our faith might not rest in the messenger, but in the message (1 Cor. 1.20-2.5).

Joe Chesser, Fruitland Church of Christ, Fruitland, MO ✦ BulletinGold.com, March 2017

Pine Vale Christmas Party Saturday, December 9th

The fun begins at 11am at the Foote Street Church of Christ Annex. Bring Pot Luck Foods. For information on helping with the purchases of our assigned 10 year-old, 5th grade young lady, please see Glenda Rives. More info is on the foyer bulletin board.

There will be a caravan traveling to Corinth. See Randy Rives if interested in going.