

## PRAYER LIST

**RILEY AGAN**, Jared Agan's brother – possible surgery if tendon cut 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, home rehab  
**DWIGHT CALLENS**, medical tests  
**RAY CANTRELL**, brother of Linda Bowen of Waynesboro; Anderson Hospital  
**MIKE CUMBERLAND**, leg issues/home therapy  
**PEGGY CUMBERLAND**, leg issues/home therapy  
**ANTORIOS GROVES**, Ethel Clark's son-in-law, cancer; 105 Lexington DR, Hattiesburg MS 39402  
**ODELL GURLEY**, Jeremy's (Elizabeth Fair Gurley) granddad; lung cancer treatment  
**THERMAN HODGE**, surgery recovery for cancer  
**JERE JENNINGS**, Judy's husband – multiple blood clots in lungs  
**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**, Cindy Harper's friend - cancer  
**NANCY PUCKETT**, Sandra Callens' cousin-cancer  
**GENE & CHARLENE RALEY**, Stan's parents  
**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 35<sup>th</sup> AVE, Meridian, MS 39305  
**ROB WARREN**  
**WAYNE WARREN**, Rob's dad cardio issues  
**EUGENE WHITE**, health issues  
**VELMA "DUCK" YATES**  
**MEMBERS of our ARMED SERVICES CHURCH MISSION WORK WORLDWIDE**

## ANNIVERSARY & BIRTHDAY

December 13: Rob Warren

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

### Upcoming Holidays Worship Schedule

**Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>**  
10am Worship Service only

**Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup>**  
Morning Service as usual  
Evening Service change:  
Worship 6-7  
"New Year's Eve  
Food~Fun~Fellowship"  
to include games, singing, etc.  
from 7-until

### 2018 Wednesday Evening Bible Study

Beginning Wednesday, January 3, 2018, the following schedule will be used:

At 6 pm everyone will meet in the auditorium for a devotional and announcements.

Classes will then proceed to their appropriate areas for the remainder of the hour, being dismissed at 7pm.

## Keeping Christ In Christmas

~continued inside~

Even with New Year's resolutions people will often aim to be more spiritual, read their Bible more, attend worship more often. One survey even found that 57% of people who don't regularly go to church are either "very likely" or "somewhat likely" to attend if invited around Christmas. FIFTY. SEVEN. PERCENT! Opportunities abound. Again, the point remains – do *something*.

You don't have to support Christmas as CHRISTmas to see that the fields are particularly white unto harvest this time of year. We live in a world where Jesus' name is everywhere between Thanksgiving and Christmas, and by New Year's Eve, he's completely forgotten again. Everyone wants to talk about the manger, few want to talk about the cross. I understand that, and I see the challenge that presents... but at least they're thinking about Him. It's our job to take that and use what they do know about Him to make them into disciples who see Him as He truly is. I've talked to Christians who are more concerned that the world has misunderstood December 25th than they are that those souls are lost. Our focus has to change.

The whole point of Jesus coming to earth, whether that occurred in December or not, was to seek and save the lost (Luke 19:10) and to take our sins to the cross with Him (1 Peter 2:24). If people see that we'll go to great lengths to make sure "Merry Christmas" is used instead of "Happy Holidays" but don't see us caring about those around us, shame on us. If people learn from us that there weren't actually three wise men but don't come away understanding what Jesus' life means to them eternally, shame on us. Instead of worrying about the specific date or the details that have been misunderstood over time, let's use the chance given us to show people the entirety of who Jesus is and to follow His mission to reach them with His love.

Jack Wilkie, Focus Press - December 17, 2014

<https://www.focuspress.org/?s=keeping+christ+in+christmas>

FEAR NOT, FOR I AM WITH YOU.  
I AM YOUR GOD.  
I WILL strengthen YOU.  
I WILL help YOU.  
I WILL UPHOLD YOU WITH MY righteous RIGHT HAND.  
ISAIAH 41:10