

## LITTLE CHILDREN, YOUNG MEN AND FATHERS

How do you see or perceive yourself in the faith; a follower of Jesus Christ? It has been my observation throughout ministry to see various levels of maturity and immaturity in the body of Christ as referenced by Paul and the Hebrew writer (**I Cor. 3:1-3; Heb. 5:11-14**). The inconsistency is influenced by how we often perceive people should be. We logically think that someone who has been a Christian for a long time should be mature in their faith and in their understanding of GOD's Word. How often is that not true? Then we see someone who is young in age but has a deeper grasp of what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ than someone who is older in both age and length of time as a Christian.

John, the elder, is writing about what it means or what it looks like to walk in the light, be an imitator of Jesus. The claims of some did not match up to their behavior. So John, the elder, gives us the bottom line, "*Whoever claims to live in Him [abide in Him] must walk as Jesus walked,*" (**I John 2:6**). The Message translation reads, "*Anyone who claims to be intimate with God ought to live the same kind of life Jesus lived.*" I have found in my own life that usually when the "heat is on," when I am in a crisis, when I am being tested, that is when my true level of spiritual maturity comes out. Quite honestly it isn't always a pretty picture. I can look back and see times when I acted very immature as a follower of Jesus; I did not "walk as Jesus walked."

In the midst of John's portrayal of what it looks like to be a disciple of Jesus Christ, he comments in poetical form regarding the spiritual blessings we have in Christ Jesus (**I John 2:12-14**). It is suggested that we are all little children and as little children we can be divided into two groups, either young men or fathers (immature or mature). Immature may indicate a lack of experience in the faith and perhaps needing instruction and mentoring by more mature believers. But most likely John is referring to all Christians in these verses without any classification. All are like little children in that we can regain our innocence by the forgiveness of Jesus' blood. All Christians are like fathers, full grown, responsible men, who can think and learn a deeper knowledge of Jesus Christ. All Christians are like young men who have the strength to fight the battles of the evil one. Certainly John wants every follower to understand the provisions of the new covenant, (**Jeremiah 31:33-34**). GOD in Christ has triumphed over the power of darkness. We have the assurance of victory! Praise be to GOD!!

# CHURCH NEWS

## LEADING PRAYERS

- **Mid-Service**-Jerry Chapple
- **Closing**-Billy Simon

## MONDAY

- **EXERCISE CLASS (not GET FIT) FOR SENIORS** continues at 1 pm in room 211.

## THURSDAY

- **PRAYER BREAKFAST:** Join us on Thursday at 6:30 AM for breakfast & prayer.
- **EXERCISE CLASS (not GET FIT) FOR SENIORS** continues at 1 pm in room 211.

## FRIDAY

- **BREAKFAST CLUB:** Join us at the Shake Shack at 9AM.

## SATURDAY

- **WEDDING SHOWER** for Hannah Wilson (granddaughter of Margaret Organ) will be on Saturday, **August 25**, from 1-3 PM, at the home of Val Ramer (703 N. Riverbend Cove). Hannah is registered at Target & Bed, Bath & Beyond.

## FAREWELL

- Today is the last Sunday Linda Vaughn is going to be with us. On Thursday she is moving to Maumelle, AR.
- Donna & I are moving to Lakeland TN & will be looking for a congregation that will be closer to that area. We are so grateful for 20 great years here & your love, help & support in raising our four kids. We will miss our Missouri Street Family & will never forget your positive influence on our lives. Jamie Nanney

**JACK RAINES MEMORIAL BIBLE CLASS:** Dan Shepherd will resume this Wednesday afternoon class on **September 5** at 3 PM in room 221. This year's theme is "The Writings of Paul".

**NEW SERIES OF [BLOG POSTS](#)** "Thoughts on 1 John" written by the staff are available on our blog, Facebook page and APP.

## SYMPATHY

- We express our sympathy to the family of Mark Shemansky of Shelby Township in Michigan (cousin of Emily Stewart) in his passing away on Wednesday after a long battle with cancer. His family needs our prayers.

**PARENTS, PLEASE TAKE YOUR CHILDREN  
TO THEIR NEW CLASSES**

# PRAY

## PRAY FOR CAREGIVERS OF PEOPLE WITH LONG-TERM ILLNESSES

## PRAY FOR THOSE WHO LOST THEIR LOVED ONES

## SHUT-INS

- **HOME:** Ruie Harmon, Marge Young
- **NURSING HOME:** Broadway Healthcare Center—Griffin Elzey, rm. 303; Nema Richmond, rm. 320; Dymple Harris, room 403, Gwen Townsend, room 212; Willowbend Nursing Home—Helen McNair

## HOSPITAL

Hospital in Tuscaloosa—Billy Stripling (Mike Seale's brother-in-law—possible heart attack)

**PRAYERS FOR OUR MOST FAMILY:** Diann Combs, Clara Barnes, Mary Linn Webb, Glenda Currie, Inez Reavis, John Townsend, Peggie Curtis, Butch Pike, Peggy Griffith, Sheryl Taylor, Glenda Runions.

## OTHER PRAYER REQUESTS:

### Surgery

- **Betty Honeycutt** (Sharron Foster's sister had emergency surgery, next 7-10 days are critical for her recovery)
- **Peggy Warbritton** (friend of the Yens)

### Cancer

- **Steve Teague** (radiation treatments),
- **Lorri Petty**,
- **Hayden Campbell** & his family. Hayden (a little boy we had on our prayer list before) had his brain tumor removed. Please pray for recovery.

**Matt Robbins, James & Heather Lawrence** (son & daughter-in-law of Gretta Blanchard/custody of Heather's children), **Roger Love** (Judy Shepherd's brother is in hospice care), **Dale Wadley** (friend of Doris Bridges), **Noah Rickard** (Grandson of the Yens - polycystic kidney disease),

**If you want your prayer request to be mentioned in our prayer list please contact the church office either by email ([victoriadeal@comcast.net](mailto:victoriadeal@comcast.net)) or by phone (870.735.3394). If there are changes please let the office know. WE START A NEW LIST EVERY MONTH.**

### August 12, 2018

#### Regular Contribution

\$11,219.61

#### Budget

\$11,700.00

### Attendance

Bible Class

129

A.M. Service

280

# BIBLE CLASSES FOR ADULTS ON SUNDAY

# 9 AM

## The Book of Joshua

Lyndal Dale—Auditorium

The study of Israelites conquering Canaan with special emphasis on application for today's world.

## Unity in the Church

Dennie Stokes & Dexter Mott—Parlor

We are talking about challenges churches face. Topics include: autonomy, selfishness, decline, etc...

## The SUM-Thing

Jason & Lori Bratton—Room 221

We all long to be connected with friends. We long to know and be known by God. We long to make a difference. How does being in a small group impact those things?

In these four video Bible study sessions, Alan Danielson will take a look at four questions every small group should ask themselves. You'll hear real-life interviews from small groups whose lives were changed after they asked themselves those very questions. *What if we cared? What if we were honest? What if we failed? What if we got off the couch?*

# BIBLE CLASSES FOR ADULTS ON WEDNESDAY

# 6 PM

## Ladies Class

Cathy Sippel, Glenda Runions, Loretta Dale—room 221

## Men's Class

Mike Seale—Rash Hall

## Singing/the book of Hebrews

Keith Nicholson, Rick Shirley—Parlor

# YOUTH MINISTRY BIBLE CLASSES ON SUNDAY

# 9 AM

## "The True Love Project" (10th-12th grades)

John Warmath, David Horton—room 217

A study on how the gospel defines your purity.

## Gospels (7th-9th grades)

Kendall Lowe—room 205

A survey of the life and teachings of Jesus as told by his followers.

# YOUTH MINISTRY BIBLE CLASSES ON WEDNESDAY

# 6 PM

HUDDLE GROUP MEETS AT LAMP FACTORY (building next door)

# BIBLE CLASSES FOR CHILDREN

## SUNDAY

9 AM

Nursery	April Stokes	Room 104
2 year old	Ellen Hall, Katie Chapple	Room 103
3-4 year old	Judy Shepherd	Room 102
K-1 grade	Sue Cash, Emily Cooley, Lori Nicholson	Room 115
2-3 grades	Jan Goslin, Carolyn Malone	Room 218
4-6 grades	Jessica Conn	Room 114

## WEDNESDAY

6 PM

Nursery	Mary Anne Pike, Val Ramer	Room 104
2-3 y. o.	Lee Anne Williams	Room 105
4-5 y. o.	Jan Goslin, Vonna Nicholson	Room 114
1-3 grade	Victoria Deal, Mary Linn Webb	Room 115