



FAITH NOTES

Gadsden Cumberland Presbyterian Church

P.O. Box 2055, 1200 Piedmont Cut-Off, Gadsden, AL 35903...Phone 256 492-2556

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JANUARY 2018



CHURCH STAFF

PASTOR

Rev. Daniel Barkley

CHILDREN'S MINISTER

Debbie Bobo

SECRETARY

Dana Brown-Vaughn

SESSION MEMBERS

Chris Bobo

Richard Dean

Jonathan Edwards

Scott Hutchinson

Lisa Kirby

Ann St. John

ELDER OF THE MONTH

Ann St. John

GREETERS

Sonny & Pug Brady

USHERS

Mike Kirby

Richard Dean

David Ray

Chris Bobo

Church Friends and Family,

As we wrap up the Advent season and look forward to a new year, I am left pondering a few things. Namely, the gift we have been given in Christ and our response to it, a response that leads to action.

Two of our fine young men posed a question recently as we prepared to depart for Wednesday evening Bible study. Jackson (Martin) and Issac (Barkley), who can often be wise beyond their years simply asked, "What is the greatest gift ever given"? Stemming from a Jonathan (Edwards) led discussion, I am certain or in response to one, Jackson and Issac posed this profound question to me during this last month. Jesus is the answer I should have given, Jesus is the stock answer for all things, right? But in my fleshly state and trying to think like the two young teen boys standing in my kitchen, I said the thing that I loved at their age, Nintendo. Once you blew on the end of the game enough to get it to work, you could lead Mario on grand adventures!

If not video games, then surely the phone, or the computer, or something of the like, surely this is what they were looking for. Their disappointment in the preacher for his terrible answers could not be overstated! So given a second chance I said life, life is the greatest gift we have been given. You know, getting back to Jesus and all. But their reply was much more profound.

"Come on Brother Daniel, skin, skin is the greatest gift ever given!" Their reason for this was skin is a living organ, it's the largest organ in the body, it heals itself, it contains very unique properties like fingerprints that can't be duplicated, it protects our insides. But much more, the Bible says in John 1 "the Word became flesh and dwelt among us." The flesh, Christ, is that greatest gift. This gift, this gift of flesh protects us, it guides us, it has unique properties that provide healing, covers us, or more specifically, covers our sin, and acceptance of this gift affords us life, life everlasting. This gift was no last minute decision or afterthought. The plan for this gift was set up from the foundation of the world.

So, what do we do in response to this awesome gift? Think back to when you have received a gift, or anything new, what do you do with it? You look it over, try it out, press all the buttons to see what all it will do. You even read the instruction manual! You show it off to others and let them try it out or take it for a spin!

How are we responding to the greatest gift ever given? Much more than just showing up to church every once in a while, because that's just what we are supposed to do, my challenge for us (yes me too) is to spend more time exploring this wonderful gift this year. Spend more time in fellowship, fellowship with God and His Church, His people. Spend more time exploring His manual, His Word. Spend more time trusting in our Savior and seeing what faith can do. Let's work on building such a relationship with Christ that we want to worship Him like never before. I truly believe that by putting these things into better practice we will see positive reactions here at GCPC. The gift of Christ is within us, surrounds us, beckons us to live in Him. JOIN me in exercising the GREATEST GIFT EVER GIVEN!

*In Christ,
Rev. Daniel*

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PRAYER REQUEST

RECENT PRAYER REQUESTS

(This list will be purged every two to three weeks, unless indicated otherwise in your prayer request.)

- *Wesley Lyons
- *Linda Sue Warren
- *Brandy Weiman
- *Cindy Bowman
- *Randall Vaughn & family
- *John Calhoun
- *Rev. Don Tabor
- *Ryan Webb
- *Lara Davis
- *Don Richards
- *Sandra Lowler
- *Tara Rodriguez
- *Gene Kilpatrick
- *Jamie Roberts
- *Ronny Campbell family

- *Aimee Collier
- *Linda Swann
- *Sarah Cox
- *Joan Benson
- *Bruce Bishop family
- *Marzette Johnson
- *Christal Whitaker
- *Kaley Webb
- *Mark Vernon
- *Emily Carroll
- *Glendya Gorham



LONG-TERM PRAYER NEEDS

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| *Jerry & Carol Stombaugh | *Ginny Acton |
| *Nell Hall | *Michael Moyer |
| *George Girling | *Sonny Brady |
| *Larry Gramling | *Marie Hendricks |
| *Dale Mayo | *Carson McGraw |
| *Jimmy St. John | *Greg & Jennifer Dobbins |
| *Charlotte Davis | *Elaine Ray |
| *Ava Gallahair | *James Miller |
| *Walter Westbrook | *Tim Warren |
| *Our military personnel, police, fire & rescue | |
| *The children & families of The Children's Home | |

OUR ASSISTED LIVING, NURSING HOME and HOMEBOUND MEMBERS

- * Milton Roe— *Piedmont Health Care Center in Piedmont*
- * Willodean Gilbert— *Woodland Place in Southside*
- * Peggy Chastain— *Meadowood Retirement Village*
- * Wilma Weathington— *Mountain Cove in Gadsden*
- * Ann Corley— *Cherokee Village in Centre*

NOTE: This information is current at time of printing. Weekly updates are printed in the Sunday bulletin.



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