



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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MARCH 2018

CHURCH STAFF

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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

Lisa Kirby

GREETERS

Jane Creel

Carole Edwards

USHERS

Mike Kirby

Sonny Kirby

Richard Dean

Chris Bobo



Church Family and Friends,

“Our thoughts and prayers are with you.”

This is often heard after tragic events, most recently, another horrible shooting at a high school in Florida. This phrase is said with heartfelt concern for the victims of dreadful occasions, an expression uttered to indicate those who suffer are on your mind, even if you are 3000 miles away. It is said by folks who feel completely unable to help in any other way. I would venture to say that in most cases, most people who voice this expression do so with a heavy heart, with love and compassion for those who suffer.

While one would never imagine this phrase to be harmful in any way, I have noticed a growing trend following several recent tragic events. There are an increasing number of people who criticize the one offering “thoughts and prayers” as being insincere, ineffective, and merely speaking to hear the sound of their own voice. The idea behind this criticism is that “thoughts and prayers” do nothing to help bring resolution to a situation, or bring about change to prevent such things from happening again. The perpetually angry, including those who live on social media, to news outlets, all the way up to members of Congress, ridicule those who pray as part of the problem, rather than a companion standing against evil. Yes, this ridicule of “thoughts and prayers” has even come from within the Church.

While some see “thoughts and prayers” as opposite of action, I would argue it is indeed a worthy endeavor, given that those who suffer are actually in your thoughts and are the subject of your prayers. When we say someone is in our thoughts, we are really saying that we are placing their situation before everything else in our life. That we are “looking out not only for our own interests, but also for the interests of others.” (Phil. 2:4) As we go about our life from this point forward the sufferer is on our mind, and we consider our own actions; that they may reflect healing and hope rather than adding to the evil of this world.

When we lift someone in prayer, it is not done lightly. We are bringing the suffering of our fellow man to the very throne of God. We are calling on the name of Jesus, the name above every name, that He may intercede for those who are hurting. And even if we do not know what to pray, “the Spirit makes intercession for us... He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God” (Romans 8:26-27) James encourages us to “pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.” (James 5:16)

Though “thoughts and prayers” may be laughable to some, perhaps what this world needs is more Jesus, more prayer, more compassion. Do not be ashamed to offer your prayers to God. Do not hesitate to keep those who suffer in your thoughts. This world will attempt to shame you for being a person of faith, for hoping, for knowing that there is a God in Heaven who cares for His creation. “Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong. Do everything in love” (1 Co 16:13-14), including offering your thoughts and prayers for those who are hurting.

*In Christ,
Rev. Daniel*



PRAYER REQUEST

RECENT PRAYER REQUESTS

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

- | | |
|---|---------------------|
| *Michael Moyer | *Lisa Kirby |
| *Signa Adcock | *Carole Edwards |
| *Gail Gorham | *Virgil Adcock |
| *Larry Peppers | *Judy & Shari Moyer |
| *Wade Acton's niece's family | *Randall Vaughn |
| *Drake—Jerry Stombaugh's great, great, grandson | *Melva Glenn |
| *Ann Corley | *Morgan Bone |
| *Fran Johnson | *Tim Fulmer |
| *Linda Webb | *flu victims |
| *family of Christopher Hart | |
| *family of Jeff Jester | |

**Amazing Grace
How Sweet
The
Sound**

MARCH

LONG-TERM PRAYER NEEDS

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| *Jerry & Carol Stombaugh | *Sonny Brady |
| *Ginny Acton | *Marie Hendricks |
| *Nell Hall | *Carson McGraw |
| *Michael Moyer | *Greg & Jennifer Dobbins |
| *Aimee Collier | *Elaine Ray |
| *George Girling | *James Miller |
| *Larry Gramling | *Tim Warren |
| *Dale Mayo | |
| *Jimmy St. John | |
| *Charlotte Davis | |
| *Ava Gallahair | |
| *Walter Westbrook | |
| *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*
- * 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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