



FAITH NOTES

MARCH
2019

Gadsden Cumberland Presbyterian Church

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Carole Edwards

Jonathan Edwards

Scott Hutchinson

Mike Ray

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ELDER of the MONTH

Carole Edwards

GREETERS

Sid & Judy Moyer

USHERS

Sid Moyer

Randy Nickels

David Ray

Chris Bobo



Church Family and Friends,

We are entering the season of Lent, an extra special time of year when we look ahead to the cross, and reflect upon our great need of a Savior. Our focus is on the grace of God that has come to us in our greatest hour of need. But we also must understand this is not a one-time visitation from God, but He is ever present with us through all of life's good times and bad. Whatever you may be going through at this moment, remember Christ is with you.

I had the privilege of reading a wonderful devotion recently that speaks of the wonderful gift of God's presence. I want to share it with you. The author is Paul Tripp, from his book "New Morning Mercies". He writes:

Your life is not good because it is easy or predictable, but because the I Am has invaded your existence by his grace.

It is a very instructive vignette in the life of Jesus and his disciples, recorded for us in Mark 6:45-52. Jesus has sent his disciples across the Sea of Galilee to Bethsaida. They have encountered an impossible headwind and angry seas. If you look at the time clues in the larger passage, you can see they have been rowing for about eight hours. They are in a situation that seems impossible, exhausting, frustrating, and potentially dangerous. They are far beyond their strength and ability. As you read the passage, you have to ask yourself why Jesus would ever want his disciples in this kind of difficulty. It's clear that they're not in this mess because they've been disobedient, arrogant, or unwise, but because they have obeyed Jesus.

Jesus sees that his disciples are in this exhausting and dangerous situation, and he sets out and begins to walk across the sea. Yes, you read that right; he walks across the sea. Now, the moment he begins to take this walk, you are confronted with two things. The first is the fact that Jesus of Nazareth is the Lord God Almighty, because no human being could do what he is doing. But there is a second important thing to observe. The minute he begins to take the walk, you know what he has in mind. If all Jesus wants to do is relieve the difficulty, he wouldn't have to take the walk. All he would need to do is say a prayer from the shore and the wind would cease. HE takes the walk because he is not after the difficulty. He is after the men in the middle of the difficulty. He is working to change everything they think about themselves and about their lives. Standing next to the boat as the wind still blows and waves still crash, he says: "It is I. Do not be afraid." He is actually taking one of the names of God. He is saying the "I AM" is with them, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the One on whom all the covenant promises rest. It is impossible for them to be alone because their existence has been invaded by the grace and glory of the I Am.

Why did Jesus send his disciples into that storm? He did it for the same reason he sometimes sends you into storms-because he knows that sometimes you need the storm in order to be able to see the glory. For the believer, peace is not to be found in ease of life. Real peace is only ever found in the presence, power and grace of the Savior, the King, the Lamb, the I Am. That peace is yours even when the storms of life take you beyond your natural ability, wisdom and strength. You can live with hope and courage in the middle of what once would have produced discouragement and fear because you know you are never alone. The I Am inhabits all situations, relationships, and locations by his grace. He is in you. He is with you. He is for you. He is your hope.

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.)

- *David Moyer
- *Ken Payne
- *Dale Henry
- *Tim Waddell
- *Madde Sue Bazzell
- *Linda Howington
- *Tony Elrod
- *Sonny Brady
- *Haley Ryan
- *Karina Barrett
- *Jason Russell

- *Joanne Kelley
- *Carol Payne
- *Denice Hall
- *Avis Elrod
- *Elizabeth Cline
- *Fran Kennedy
- *Lew DeJoseph
- *Peggy Jolly
- *Kristin Bean
- *Gilda Knighten
- *Brayden Garrett

LONG-TERM PRAYER NEEDS

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| *Jerry & Carol Stombaugh | *Ginny Acton |
| *Michael Moyer | *Betty Jo Ponce |
| *Walter Westbrook | *Marie Hendricks |
| *Charlotte Davis | *Janice Spivey |
| *Elaine Ray | *Neil Hall |
| *Dale Mayo | *Sonny Brady |
| *Larry Gramling | *Greg & Jennifer Dobbins |
| *Aimee Collier | *Wesley Lyons |
| *Ava Gallahair | |
| *Our military personnel, police, fire, and 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, AL*
- *Ann Corley— *Cherokee Village in Centre, AL*

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



Two are better than one...
If one falls down, his friend can help him up.
But pity the man who falls
and has no one to help him up.
Ecclesiastes 4:9-10



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