



FAITH NOTES

MARCH

Gadsden Cumberland Presbyterian Church
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2020

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SESSION

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Ann St. John

Jane Matlock

Amy Edwards

Carole Edwards

Mike Ray

ELDER of the

MONTH

Carole Edwards

GREETERS

Sid & Judy Moyer

USHERS

Sid Moyer

Randy Nickels

Richard Dean

Chris Bobo

Church Family and Friends,

The most famous sermon recorded in Scripture is the Sermon on the Mount. Matthew 5-7 records this teaching of Jesus as he shared with his disciples and a great crowd of onlookers. That sermon begins with those powerful lines we know as the Beatitudes. These are several statements that reflect a way of thinking and living that results in great blessings in our lives. To be sure, these are not always easy to live out, but when we are able to let our attitude be guided by these principles, we begin to understand what Jesus means in calling those who do- blessed.

In Sarah Young's *Jesus Calling: Bible Storybook*, her paraphrase of the Beatitudes is quite powerful. Listen to the way these are stated:

"These people will be very blessed", Jesus said, "and here is how they will be blessed; Those who believe they are sinful will be part of God's family. Those who are sad for their sins will be comforted by God. Those who are humble and obey God will inherit the new earth. Those who desire to do what is right will know they have God's righteousness. Those who are kind and forgiving toward others will receive forgiveness from God. Those whose hearts are forgiven will see God as He is in heaven. Those who help others find peace with God are peacemakers, and God calls them His children. Those who tell others about God, even when people hurt them, are part of God's family."

We are blessed when we admit we are nothing without Christ, when we mourn over our sin, when we are meek, humble, kind, forgiving, merciful, peacemakers, pure in heart; when we seek after a transformational relationship with God. We are blessed when we live out our calling in Christ, so that others might be drawn to Him.

As a church, from the session down to the youth, we have been wrestling with the question, "How can we best reach others for Christ in this church?" Certainly we can begin by aligning our attitudes with this model prescribed by Jesus in His famous sermon. But we can also bombard the throne of God with our prayers, praying that we might be effective witnesses for Him and His kingdom.

As we have come to the season of Lent, we have a 40 day period (47 counting Sundays) leading up to Easter to focus on letting our attitude reflect that of Christ, as well as calling out to the Lord in prayer. We have come up with a prayer calendar for this season of Lent. Each day a family or families of the church are listed, as well as a ministry or an opportunity for ministry of our church. Let us all join together in prayer, beginning right here praying for the people who attend this church, and flowing out from there. If we want to see God move, if we want to see growth in His kingdom and this church, then let us seek God's guidance, His grace, His presence in the lives of our people and our ministry. Join me in this time of prayer.

In Christ, Rev. Daniel