



# FAITH NOTES

JULY 2017

**Gadsden Cumberland Presbyterian Church**

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

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## CHURCH STAFF

### **PASTOR**

**Rev. Daniel Barkley**

### **WORSHIP LEADER**

**David Gramling**

### **CHILDREN'S MINISTER**

**Debbie Bobo**

### **SECRETARY**

**Dana Brown-Vaughn**

### **SESSION MEMBERS**

**Chris Bobo**

**Jonathan Edwards**

**Scott Hutchinson**

**Lisa Kirby**

**Glenda Langley**

**Mike Ray**

### **ELDER of the MONTH**

**Mike Ray**

### **GREETERS**

**Sonny & Tenley Kirby**

**Sonny Brady-back hall**

### **USHERS**

**Mike Kirby**

**Sonny Kirby**

**Kenneth Borders**

**Sid Moyer**

## *Church Family and Friends,*

There is a pediatric condition known as “failure to thrive”. This is the diagnosis when a child has insufficient weight for his or her age, or has experienced a low or slow rate of increase in weight. Failure to thrive is not itself a disease or disorder. Rather, it is a sign of an underlying issue. Perhaps it is caused by some sort of defect or disease or sometimes the child just does not have much of an appetite. They are only taking in enough nourishment to get by but no more. Yet, it could also be that the child is not being given the proper amount of nutrition required for his or her age. Those who care for the child are not providing the necessary sustenance for them to thrive.

To thrive means to grow and/or develop well, to prosper, to flourish. It is expected that we, beginning in the womb to the end of our days, will thrive. This includes not only physical growth, but mental, social, and spiritual growth as well. Therefore, failure to thrive can be applied to more than just small children not growing at the proper rate. Anyone who simply gets by from day to day, the one who seeks only what will get him to tomorrow, the one who simply survives, well, that person fails to thrive.

What are the indicators that we, as Children of God, are thriving? Is it measured by wealth, health, and happiness? Is it measured by the number of friends listed on our Facebook account, or the contents of our pantry? What does it look like for a Christian to thrive in this world?

Would we consider Paul as one who failed to thrive? After all, the first we hear of the man, he was engaged in rounding up those who did not worship like he did. Then he was struck blind for a while, he was feared, he was beaten over and over, he was thrown in prison multiple times, he never seemed to settle in one place. He admits to having some nagging issue that plagued him for years (his thorn in the flesh).

In the view of one who didn't know any better, Paul was one who just survived from one problem to the next. Yet we know that Paul did indeed thrive as he lived his life for Christ.

Perhaps we consider ourselves as ones who simply survive one issue to the next. We live paycheck to paycheck, doctor appointment to appointment, one family drama to another. I wonder, have you ever uttered “if I can just make it through today” or “if Friday would only hurry up and get here”?

The tensions and stresses of life can weigh us down, can seem to be an insurmountable force in our lives. In essence, we fail to thrive because we let the worries of this life weigh us down. Notice, those who fail to thrive almost always focus solely on their external circumstances. But dear friend, we were made for much more. We were made by our Creator to thrive, to find abundant joy in Him. We have a Savior, one who frees us from sin and lives within us to lead and guide. “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly” (John 10:10). You have an abundant life in Christ that is promised, given, and ready to be lived out. Let us thrive, together, in Him.

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.)*

\*Scott Hutchinson  
\*Gladys Webb  
\*Dustin Elrod  
\*Mike Green  
\*Mona Clark  
\*Mike Watson  
\*Rosie McNeil  
\*Laycie Hawkins  
\*Yvonne Smith  
\*Danya Golden Wright  
\*Mary Bynum  
\*Dwight Benson Jr.

\*Ryan Webb  
\*Cody Elrod  
\*Hazel Lyons  
\*Tommie Bryant  
\*Brylee Payne  
\*Steven & Brenda Swindel  
\*Taylor Cox  
\*Jerry Headrick  
\*Lavonne Williamson Sr.  
\*Vernie Pierce  
\*Shari Strange  
\*Mickey Kessler

## Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of JULY



Let Freedom Ring...

#### LONG-TERM PRAYER NEEDS

\*Jerry & Carol Stombaugh  
\*Ava Gallahair  
\*Greg & Jennifer Dobbins  
\*Walter Westbrook  
\*Charlotte Davis  
\*Elaine Ray  
\*Dale Mayo  
\*Sherry Tanner  
\*Jimmy St. John  
\*Tim Warren  
\*Our military personnel, police, fire, and rescue  
\*The children & families of The Children's Home

\*Ginny Acton  
\*Sonny Brady  
\*George Girling  
\*Marie Hendricks  
\*Marion McCowan  
\*Nell Hall  
\*Carson McGraw  
\*Michael Moyer  
\*James Miller  
\*Larry Gramling



#### OUR ASSISTED LIVING, NURSING HOME And HOMEBOUND MEMBERS

\*Milton Roe— *Piedmont Health Care Center in Piedmont, AL*  
\*Willodean Gilbert— *Meadowood Retire Village in Glencoe, AL*  
\*Peggy Chastain— *Meadowood Retirement Village*  
\*Ann Corley— *Cherokee Village in Centre, AL*

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



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