



FAITH NOTES

JULY

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

2020

www.gadsdencp.com

office@gadsdencp.com

CHURCH STAFF

Church Family and Friends,

PASTOR

Rev. Daniel Barkley

We have come to a special time of year, the time to celebrate the Independence of our Nation. The year so far has shown us both that spirit of independence ingrained in us all, as well as lessons in using our freedom for the good of all, not just a few. The old adage "Freedom isn't Free" comes to mind, as we contemplate not only the gift of freedom we readily celebrate but also the best way to use that freedom.

WORSHIP LEADER

David Gramling

One of my cherished memories of growing up in church was always being glad to hear Mr. Mitchell being called on to pray. He sat just right down to the left in the pew in front of me, and his prayer was always elegant but also every prayer was the same each time he was called upon. Though at one time I could have whispered every word right along with him, one line in particular has stuck with me all these years. "Lord help me to be a stepping stone and not a stumbling block." It is really quite a humbling line and causes the hearer to think. It is something I have to remind myself of quite often.

CHILDREN'S

MINISTER

Debbie Bobo

Do the things that I do or say point others to Christ or lead them further away from Him? Am I helping or hurting the cause of Christ? In the context of our Independence celebration, am I using my freedom to help or to hurt others?

YOUTH MINISTER

Jonathan Edwards

SECRETARY

Betty Bone

SESSION

MEMBERS

Richard Dean
Ann St. John
Jane Matlock
Amy Edwards
Carole Edwards
Mike Ray

Paul, in speaking about our freedom we have in Christ, or rather that is won for us by Christ, speaks about not using our freedom to cause others to stumble or to fall. Whether it is in the things we eat or drink, or merely in the way we interact with others, we are reminded that our freedom gained in Christ is not a license to do as we please, nor does it negate our responsibility to witness to others the wonderful saving power of Christ. So in letters to the Romans and Corinthians, Paul encourages us to not put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in our neighbor's way. Even Jesus, in response to Peter's rebuke in Matthew 16, says "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns."

ELDER of the

MONTH

Ann St. John

Ah, and there it is. So often we have in mind the things of man, or that is to say, we have in mind the things that will please us rather than the things above. Our minds are consumed with how we can honor or lift up ourselves rather than how my life can be used to lift up and honor the Lord. Thus, we become stumbling blocks to others who are looking at us as known followers of Christ. We are free, yes free indeed. That freedom came at great cost however, both here in our nation and our lives as children of God. In response to that gift given to us, let us use our freedom to glorify the Giver of that freedom. May we do things to honor the Lord; may we by our example be a stepping stone for others to give thanks to God as well.

GREETERS

Jason & Terri Jo
Dean

USHERS

Mike Ray
Randy Nockels
Sid Moyer
Richard Dean

In Christ,
Rev. Daniel