



FAITH NOTES

SEPTEMBER
2018

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

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Debbie Bobo

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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

Maureen Latronico

Chris Bobo

USHERS

Sonny Kirby

Mike Kirby

Chris Bobo

Kenneth Borders



Church Family and Friends,

Our goal in following Christ is to continually grow more and more like Him each and every day. One of the “churchy” words for this continual growth is discipleship. To be a disciple is to be willing to follow and learn from another, which in our case is Jesus. Yet it goes a step further. Not only do we believe in and learn from Jesus, but we also put into practice the things he taught. We mimic the things He did. Paul implores us to be “imitators of God” as live as children of God.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer was a big proponent of faith and action working together in the life of a disciple of Christ. Repeatedly in His book “The Cost of Discipleship”, Bonhoeffer uses the phrase, “Only he who believes is obedient, and only he who is obedient believes”. One cannot say they believe in the work of Christ without putting into practice the things he taught. This only results in our justification of our sin in our own minds, hoping for forgiveness all the while continuing in sin, never giving thought to leaving that sin behind to actually give ourselves completely to Christ. How can we be in fellowship with Christ all the while refusing to be obedient to His word? Likewise, one cannot say they are obedient to Christ without belief in Christ, namely, His sacrificial death on our behalf. Obedience without belief is attempting to earn our salvation some other way, by being good or doing good, thinking our efforts are the means to salvation.

Believe and obedience go hand in hand. The act of responding to God’s call (believing in His offer of Grace and forgiveness) is seen in our obedient surrender to Him. And stepping out in obedience is where we learn to trust and believe that indeed Christ is Lord. Consider the example of the Apostles as they answered the call to follow Jesus. Their trust(belief) in Him was made evident by their obedience to leave all else and follow. Likewise, their willingness to leave all else was an act of faith. To believe is to be obedient and to be obedient is to believe.

So then, as we trust in Christ, our faith should be made evident by our obedience, seeking to become more like Him every day. And as we willingly surrender our lives to him, our faith grows stronger. As we personally continue to grow more like Christ, we are also called to help others begin or maintain that journey as well. All the while remembering that Jesus is with us every step of the way. “Go therefore and make disciples... and lo I am with you always, even to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:19-20)

We will begin a study on being disciples on the first Wednesday this month. As we glean understanding of what it means to be a disciple, we can also put into practice the call to make disciples as well. Join us. Invite a friend. Let us grow together in our walk with Christ.

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.)

- *Marilyn Jones
- *Jean Cunningham
- *Cody Thompson
- *Donna Smith
- *Don Chandler
- *Eric Beasley
- *Joyce
- *Larry Acton
- *Diana Brambley
- *Bill Mitchell
- *Tawana Croy
- *Sarah Cox
- *Michael Moyer & family
- *family of M.N.Cothran
- *Gary Starling
- *Doug Johnson
- *Flash Watson
- *Blake Covington
- *Taylor Edwards
- *Susan Wallace
- *John Ryals
- *Doyce Day
- *Terry Warrilow
- *Vickie Riley

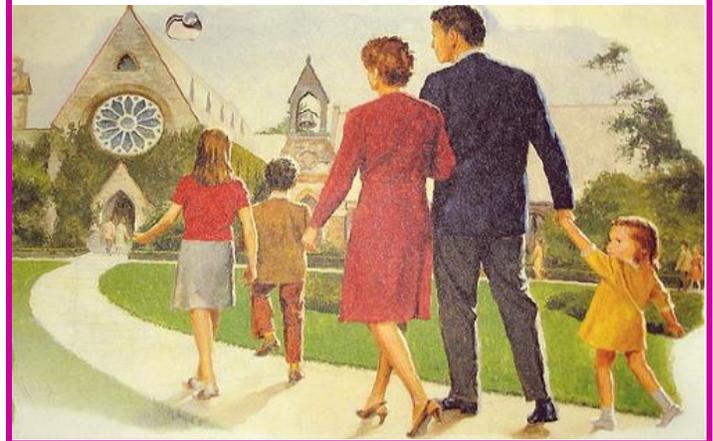


LONG-TERM PRAYER NEEDS

- *Jerry & Carol Stombaugh
- *Larry Peppers
- *Walter Westbrook
- *Charlotte Davis
- *Elaine Ray
- *Dale Mayo
- *Larry Gramling
- *Aimee Collier
- *Carson McGraw
- *Our military personnel, police, fire, and rescue
- *The children & families of The Children's Home
- *Ginny Acton
- *George Girling
- *Marie Hendricks
- *Betty Jo Ponce
- *Nell Hall
- *Sonny Brady
- *Greg & Jennifer Dobbins
- *Tim Warren
- *Wesley Lyons

OUR ASSISTED LIVING, NURSING HOME And HOMEBOUND MEMBERS

- *Milton Roe— *Piedmont Health Care Center in Piedmont, AL*
- *Willodean Gilbert— *Meadowood Retirement Village*
- *Ann Corley— *Cherokee Village in Centre, AL*



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