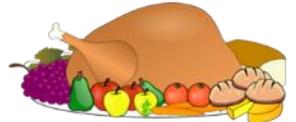


# FAITH NOTES

**Gadsden Cumberland Presbyterian Church**

P.O. Box 2055, 1200 Piedmont Cut-Off, Gadsden, AL 35903, Phone 256 492-2556  
www.gadsdencp.com office@gadsdencp.com



**NOVEMBER 2017**

## 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**

**Glenda Langley**

### **GREETERS**

**Glenda Langley**

**Marionette Bishop**

### **USHERS**

**Richard Dean**

**Kenneth Borders**

**Sonny Kirby**

**Chris Bobo**



Church Family and Friends,

This month celebrates the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. The neat, watered down, quick version goes like this: Martin Luther, an Augustinian Monk residing in Wittenberg, (in what is now Germany) was sick and tired of the Catholic Church. So he wrote 95 things (theses) he disliked about it, and in dramatic fashion and flair he nailed this list to the door of the Castle Church of Wittenberg, and thus the reformation began...

As you know, we have an uncanny ability to reduce historical events down to one or two sentences. While we certainly don't have the space here to rehash everything that led to and resulted from that momentous day Luther nailed his theses to the door, we need to understand it wasn't as cut and dry an event as we make it out to be. It is true that on October 31, 1517, Luther wrote 95 theses, or statements that he felt needed addressed within the Catholic Church, and posted them on the door of the church he ministered in.

However, Luther simply wanted to discuss and debate these ideas with fellow theologians to get their input on the practices of the Church. So, he did what anyone would do when they wanted to get word out about something. He posted it on the door of the church, which also functioned as the community billboard. No fanfare, no big theological gauntlet thrown down, no formal protest of the ways of the Church, just the desire to start a dialog about practices that had strayed away from Scripture.

This act however, was quite controversial. Not so much the posting of the theses on the door of the church, but the act of questioning the Church, its practices, the Pope, to make accusations against such, well, that was viewed as heretical. There were some who had gone before who dared question the authority and/or practices of the church. They ended up burned at the stake, but their spirit and ideas lived on. When Luther took up the cause, it was certainly not meant to be a move against or a protest of the Church in any way. He simply sought reform. The powers that be did not like anyone questioning their authority, so what was meant as ideas for debate and to align the church more closely with scripture, ended up in a full fledged, all out rebellion against the official Church.

It would take decades, but eventually the fledgling Roman Empire would officially recognize these protestant areas, breaking the centuries old link between Church (Catholic) and State (Roman Empire). And reformation would soon spread into England, Scotland, and even into a new land being populated across the ocean.

The Reformation began and was sustained because the people hungered for the word of God. Luther advocated for it, and even translated the scriptures from their original Greek and Hebrew into German, i.e. the language of the people. This, in effect, empowered the common man to fully partake in a direct, loving relationship with God.

We have seen that over the last 500 years, there have been periods where this spirit of revival had to be stoked once again. Our church, the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, is a result of such action. Sadly, what was fought for so valiantly over the last 500 years has waned, such that today, many who identify as Christians have abandoned the Bible altogether.

A recent survey says that 60 percent of the members of the Church of England "never" read the Bible. And its not much better here in America. Gallup research indicates fewer than one in two adults can name the four Gospels. Many Christians cannot name more than two or three of Jesus's disciples. They say America is "a nation of biblical illiterates." It's little wonder that so many churches are dying. Perhaps it is time to seek reformation once again. To once again spark a desire and yearning for the Word of God. For the people of God to honor those who fought and died for the rights of individuals to read and partake in the Word of God.

May we, the Gadsden Cumberland Presbyterian Church, love and serve the Lord as Luther did. May we, based on the principles of Scripture, proclaim the Good News to all around us. May we dedicate our lives to living the Gospel.  
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.)*

- \*Rev. Daniel Barkley
- \*Lucille Williams
- \*John Bates
- \*Janice Spivey
- \*Gina Payne
- \*Blake Maxwell
- \*Patti Bryan
- \*Richard Dean
- \*Jonathan Evans
- \*Lee Miles
- \*Ricky Sims
- \*Bobby Goodwin
- \*Dwight Benson
- \*Tyler Adams

- \*Anne Batie
- \*Patrick Turner
- \*Jo Atchison
- \*Jeanelle Pearson
- \*Harvey Kiser
- \*Donald Jarrells
- \*Aimee Collier
- \*Frankie Jones
- \*Austin Wray
- \*Brandy Gorham
- \*James Miller
- \*Christie Walker
- \*Barbara Watson
- \*California wildfires

**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
- \*ALL of the hurricane victims
- \*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 Retirement Village*
- \*Peggy Chastain— *she has moved; not sure where yet*
- \*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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