

Why Not Say Thanks?

The late William L. Stidger, famous minister and teacher, once had a nervous breakdown. He was enclosed in gloom and depression, caring for nothing. In the midst of his despair a friend suggested, "Think of those who have benefitted you in life and ask if you have ever thanked them."

Upon reflection Stidger realized many people had helped him, but he could not recall having ever thanked one of them. Stidger's friend encouraged him to write a letter of thanks to each one who had been helpful to him.

Stidger remembered a teacher named Miss Smith who had given him a love for literature. He wrote Miss Smith and expressed his appreciation for her influence on his life.

Shortly after he received a letter in shaky handwriting. Miss Smith wrote, "Dear Will, When I read your letter I was blinded with tears for I remembered you as a little fellow in my class. You have warmed my old heart. I have taught school for fifty years and yours is the first letter of thanks I ever received from a student, and I shall cherish it until I die."

This response so encouraged Stidger he wrote another letter and another. After 500 letters he stopped. The depression had lifted.

Is the dark cloud of depression camped on your front porch? Pick up a pen and write a letter of appreciation to a teacher who taught you to love a particular subject. Go visit a favorite aunt who lives in a nursing home or is shut in. Locate a former coach and thank them for having faith in you. Tell your older sister or brother thanks for not killing you before your 16th birthday!

The list of people to thank is limited only by your memory. To whom do you owe a word of thanks?

~Chris Smith, Hanford, CA,
Bulletin Digest (edited for space)

"Thanks be to God for His unspeakable gift." 2 Corinthians 9:15

MINISTERS

Pulpit Minister
Paul Mowrer

Campus Minister
Brad Tolbert

Youth Minister
Jason Meier

Secretary
Cathy Mowrer

ELDERS

Mike Beard
Larry Fisackerly
Joe Moore

Deacons

Marty Baker
Chris Bryant
Ray Linder
Jason Meier
Jeff Newton
Josh Pettigrew
Kerry Rice
Jeremy Wilson

Assemblies

SUNDAY

Bible Study 9:30 AM
Assembly 10:30 AM
Assembly 5:00 PM

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study 6:30 PM



MONTICELLO

CHURCH OF CHRIST

"...speaking the truth in love..." Eph. 4:15

November 8, 2020

THORNS IN THE FLESH

We all have them. Those nagging thorns in the flesh. They come in different levels of severity, but they do come. Perhaps they are seen in the process of aging. We don't like to deal with the changes our bodies and minds go through, but like it or not, it is a part of the aging process (**2 Cor. 4:16-18**). Perhaps they are seen in the physical struggles everyone may face with surgeries and medical procedures. Right now it seems we are controlled by COVID, keeping us from our "normal" activities. But these thorns in the flesh are not limited to physical struggles and pains. They can be seen day to day while trying to scratch out a living. The job market may be challenging, the economy fluctuating, and of course, our current dilemma of political unrest. All of these begin to affect our emotional well-being. Sometimes these "thorns" may be self-inflicted because of decisions we make that are not always centered on God's will.

Unfortunately, too often we allow these "thorns in the flesh" to dictate our lives for the Lord. We allow these struggles to draw our attention from the promises God has shared with us as His children. Perhaps we have allowed our own thoughts and desires to take first place in our lives, relegating God and His will to second, third, or fourth place. Or maybe, we have allowed these "thorns" to diminish our trust and faith in God.

The apostle Paul dealt with an unknown "*thorn in the flesh*" (**2 Cor. 12:7-11**). He prayed earnestly to God that the "thorn" be removed from him. We handle those "thorns in the flesh" much the same way. We pray they be removed, so as not to plague our lives. But note the answer God gave to Paul, "*My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.*" And no doubt, the Lord is giving us the same response. But unlike Paul, we may continue to gripe and complain and whine about how things are.

What would happen if we would accept Paul's response to the problems we face in life? "*Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.*" Our society deals with "thorns in the flesh" from a very worldly point of view—my way or else! We have the opportunity each day to shine a light to the Lord, no matter how difficult things may become in our lives. We look beyond the struggles of life and are reminded of the marvelous hope we have of eternal life because of the wonderful grace of God. "*Therefore I am well content with weaknesses (thorns in the flesh)...*" ~P. Mowrer



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HEART-TO-HEART

Congratulations to **Jim & Barbara Dyson** on the birth of their grandson **Max Carter Dyson** born Thursday morning, November 5. He weighed 9lbs. 9 oz. and is 22 inches long. Proud parents are **Jay & Meagan Dyson**. Congratulations may be sent to the following address:

Mr. & Mrs. Jay Dyson
19503 Ruggles Ct. West
Flint, TX 75762

Christy Rice remains in Methodist Hospital in Memphis following surgery to remove a mass on her spinal cord.

Kay Crook fell this past week and injured her knee.

Ray Leonard is dealing with stomach issues at this time.

We are sponsoring a cottage from the **Paragould Children's Home** for Christmas. Money may be given to either **Stacy Usry**, **Shirley Fisackerly**, or the **Mowrers**.

Reminder to the **Deacons** that *budget requests* are due Sunday, November 29.

All **Men** are invited to the **Men's Breakfast** Saturday morning, November 21 at 6:00 in the Fellowship Hall.

Everyone is invited to an **Outside Christmas Movie Night** Friday evening, December 4, at 6:00 at the church parking lot. Bring your own chairs and blankets. Hot chocolate will be served. Please see **Mike or Pam Beard** if you have questions.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Nov. 8 - *Worship live streamed at 9:30*
 Nov.11 - *Wed. evening Bible Class @ 6:30*

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members:

Lyndell Baker..Tony & Judy Beard..Kay Crook
 Barbara Durham... Jean Enlow..Margaret Harris...
 Ray Leonard..John Staudinger..Rita Stiles...Donnie & Janice Wright

Shut-ins:

Clara Cooper...Betty Henry...Betty McGuire...
 Linda Rabb...Bob & Pat Turner...Marie Wooten

Serving in the Military:

Corey Bryant... Donnie Collins...Braydn Curtis...
 Noah Draper...Tucker Koonce...Matthew May...
 Neil Rampy...Christian Stepanovich...Mathew Tannehill... Curtis Walker

SPECIAL PRAYER LIST

Robert Akin...Tim Atkinson...Butch Baker...Valerie Bryant (due in Dec.)...Candice Carter...Lydia Cowgill...Hazel Duggar...Alpheia Evans...Mike Frost...Terry Gibson...Eloise Harris...Lavon & Betty Light..Ronnie Light..Rita McBroom...Stephen McKinney. Mamie Meier...Percy & Dana Morris...George Nickolson..Janetta Pugh...Howie, Christy, & Anna Rice...David & Loyce Ray...John & Christine Riddle...Kelsy Robinson (due in Apr.)...Joe Rogers.. Eddie Don Russell...Homer Shirey...Tess Smith...Mary Jane Speer...Marvin Spencer...Harold Stuart... Sharon Sullivan...Brooke Thompson...Joe Thompson..Joel Thompson..Cherice Webb..Sue Woodward

Birthdays & Anniversaries



- Today! Jim Dyson
- Nov. 9 Angela Naron
- 11 Heather Perry
John David Vanderzualm
- 15 Pam Beard
Ryan & Stacy Usry
- 16 Leah Bryant
- 19 Dillon & Sarah Rabb
- 20 Shirley Fisackerly
- 23 Judy Beard
Monty Meier
Corey & Holly Dial

November Daily Bible Reading Schedule

- 9 John 5-8
- 10 John 9-12
- 11 John 13-16
- 12 John 17-21
- 13 Acts 1-4
- 14 Acts 5-8
- 15 Acts 9-12

Card of Thanks
 Dear Church Family,
 We would just like to say thank you to everyone for the calls, texts, cards, food, and especially the prayers while we went through Covid. We are finally well and appreciate your kindness.
Rusty, Lori, and Mark



6-17
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 "Sayin' 'Amen' is like pressing the 'SEND' button for your prayers."

Honk if you love Jesus.
 Text and drive if you want to meet Him.

Attendance

Bible Class	
Sunday AM Worship	105
Sunday PM Worship	
Wed. Evening	75
Contribution	\$ N/A

Schedule of Volunteers for Communion to Shut-in

Nov 8	Nov 15	Nov 22	Nov 29
Angela Naron	Leah Bryant	Leah Bryant	Fran Calvert

MISSIONS

Truth for Today
In Search of the Lords' Way
Ghana Radio

NURSERY

Nov 8	Terry Boykin
Nov 15	Leah Bryant
Nov 22	Leah Bryant
Nov 29	Fran Calvert

Communion Preparation

Nov 8	Terry Boykin
Nov 15	Leah Bryant
Nov 22	Leah Bryant
Nov 29	Fran Calvert

Ladies November Duties

Cards:	Angela Naron
Food:	Pam Beard
Pens & Cards:	