

Sing And Be Happy Today!

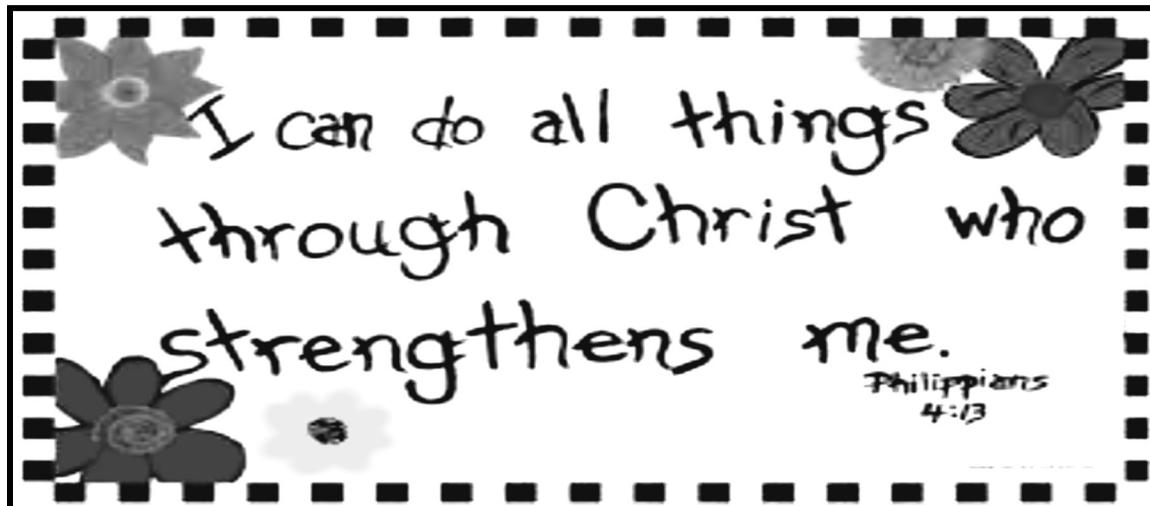
As we rolled five-year-old Mary into the MRI room, I tried to imagine what she must be feeling. She had suffered a stroke that left half of her body paralyzed, and had been hospitalized for treatment of a brain tumor.

She went into the MRI without the slightest protest. At that time, each imaging sequence required the patient to remain perfectly still for about five minutes. This would have been difficult for anyone - and certainly for a five-year-old. We were taking an image of her head, so any movement of her face, including talking, would result in image distortion.

About two minutes into the first sequence, we noticed on the monitor that Mary's mouth was moving. We heard a muted voice over the intercom. We halted the exam and gently reminded Mary not to talk. She was smiling and promised not to talk.

We reset the machine and started over. Once again we saw her facial movements and heard her voice faintly, but not what she was saying. Everyone was becoming a little impatient with Mary. We went back in and slid Mary out of the machine. Once again, she looked at us with her crooked smile. The technologist, said, "Mary, you were talking again, and that causes blurry pictures." Mary's smile remained as she replied, "I wasn't talking. I was singing. You said no talking, not no singing." We looked at each other, feeling a little silly. "What were you singing?" someone asked. "Jesus Loves Me," came the reply. "I always sing Jesus Loves Me when I'm happy." Everyone in the room was speechless. Happy? How could this little girl be happy?

Many times since that day, when feeling stressed, unhappy, or dissatisfied with some part of my life, I have thought of Mary, and have felt both humbled and inspired. Her example made me see that happiness is a marvelous gift—free to any one willing to accept it. "*Rejoice evermore*" (1 Thess. 5:16). ~ Author Unknown (edited for space); Central church of Christ, Bastrop, LA



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

April 25, 2021

THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD

Throughout this past week or two as I have tried to share words of comfort and encouragement, I have found myself looking at and using some of the same Bible passages. These verses range from words of Jesus to His apostles as He prepares them for His crucifixion and eventually His ascension into heaven, to the apostle Paul sharing words of comfort to the church in Thessalonica regarding their concern for those who had passed from life. I find comfort in these verses as they focus my thinking about our eternal resting place.

I also find myself returning to the thoughts David shared in the 23rd Psalm. This psalm may very well be the most used psalm at funerals today, because it does bring so much comfort to those grieving (and perhaps a psalm we are most familiar with). But as I look at the psalm, I am also reminded that even in afflictions that you and I may face in our lives from time to time, the Lord is still our Shepherd and can be depended on to guide us through life's storms. We may grow comfortable and content with the Shepherd making us to lie down in green pastures and leading beside still waters, but what about those really difficult times in life? We may forget that David was very aware that the Lord was with him even in the valley of the shadow of death and that His rod and staff would bring comfort. The more I think on David's psalm, the more I am convinced that each of us face "dark" valleys in life and we need to remind ourselves that the Lord is still watching out for us and guiding us through troubling times. With Him as our guide, we have no need to fear any evil. Perhaps our bigger challenge is accepting what life may bring our way, remaining focused on David's goal—dwelling in the house of the Lord forever! Sooner or later, I pray that we all will share David's goal in life. ~P. Mowrer

On a Personal Note:

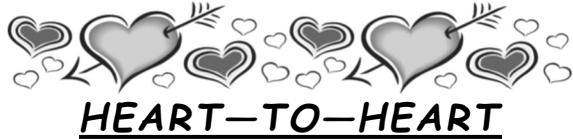
I do want to thank each and everyone of you for your prayers, words of comfort and encouragement, and meals shared. Many of you sent texts, emails and made phone calls to Cathy and me during this month long journey. During one particular visit, a social worker visited with us to check on our "support" group. Yes, we have a great support group! Thank you. We will continue visits from time to time to be sure the cancer has not returned, but for now, we are free and clear. Thank you for the love you shared during our "dark" valley.

Web: <http://montcofc.org/>

email: info@montcofc.org

P.O. Box 485, 2078 Hwy. 425 N., Monticello, AR 71657

phone: 870-367-3919



Becky Rice is scheduled for thyroid surgery Monday, April 26.

Our sympathy is extended to **Gary Crook** on the passing of his brother-in-law, Ken Burton Tuesday evening.

Sunday evening, May 2 will be a service in song followed by our **May birthdays** and **2021 graduate fellowship**. A **barbeque dinner with all the sides** is being provided. A graduate cake is also being provided, but other types of desserts would be appreciated along with drinks (*sweet or unsweet tea, lemonade, or 2 liter bottles of coke*). Please see **Chris Bryant** if you have questions. We will be honoring **James Robert Miller, Rebekah Perry, Olivia Wilson, Mauri Beal, and John Mark Perry**.

Cards may be sent to **Johnny Jeter**, who is battling cancer again, at the following address:

Mr. Johnny Jeter
6616 Christensted Lane
Nashville, TN 37211

We need your help in cleaning off the kitchen counters. Please take a moment to pick up from the kitchen area any bowls and containers which may be yours.

The road to heaven is never over-crowded.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Today! - Worship livestreamed at 9:00

May 2 - Regular Worship time resumes!

Singing @ 5:00 p.m. May birthdays & 2021 graduate fellowship.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members:

Lyndell Baker...Pam Beard...Tony & Judy Beard.. Becky Rice...Rita Stiles...Jeremy Wilson...Donnie & Janice Wright

Shut-ins:

Betty Henry...Betty McGuire...Bob & Pat Turner.. Marie Wooten

Serving in the Military:

Mollie Aldridge...Corey Bryant...Bradyn Curtis.. Noah Draper...Tucker Koonce...Matthew May... Neil Rampy... Christian Stepanovich... Mathew Tannehill...Curtis Walker

SPECIAL PRAYER LIST

Jerry Carter...Grace Coburn... Edna Deell... Sue Doshier..Naomi Ensey...Mike Frost..Terry Gibson.. Jimmy Hill...Judy Holly...Johnny Jeter...Brandon & Kara Johnson...Ronnie Light...Royce Morgan... Allan Morris...Christy Rice...David & Loyce Ray... John & Christine Riddle...Kelsy Robinson (boy due in Apr.)...Eddie Russell...Homer Shirey... Tess Smith... Joel Thompson..Cherice Webb..Paula Wilson...William Woods...Sue Woodward

Birthdays & Anniversaries



- | | | |
|--------------|-----------|---------------------------------------|
| April | 27 | Joel & Valerie Thompson |
| May | 1 | Ray Leonard |
| | 3 | Jason Meier |
| | 5 | Josephine Kathryn Rabb (<i>1st</i>) |
| | 7 | Jimmy Higgins |
| | 16 | Emma Miller |
| | 17 | Brad & Mandy Tolbert |

April/May Daily Bible Reading Schedule

- | | |
|-----------|---------------------------|
| 26 | 1 Chronicles 13-15 |
| 27 | 1 Chronicles 16-18 |
| 28 | 1 Chronicles 19-21 |
| 29 | 1 Chronicles 22-25 |
| 30 | 1 Chronicles 26-29 |
| 1 | 2 Chronicles 1-3 |
| 2 | 2 Chronicles 4-6 |

Graduates Continued:

College Graduates

Mauri Beal, UAM

John Mark Perry, UAM

Parker Ribble, SAU

Grandson of **Joe & Peggy Moore**

Congratulations!

Kindergarten Graduates

Sadie Gavin, Woodlawn
Granddaughter of **John & Carolyn Ashcraft**

Brooks Newton, MES

Son of **Jeff & Sara Newton**
Grandson of **Barbara Newton**

Josie Pettigrew, MES

Daughter of **Josh & Jessica Pettigrew**

Avery Smith, MES

Daughter of **Reid Smith & Kristen Smith**

Granddaughter of **Angela Naron**

Great granddaughter of **Lyndell Baker**

Ryan Thompson, MES

Grandson of **Joel & Valerie Thompson**

Great grandson of **Lyndell Baker**

High School Graduates

Caleb Baker, Conway High School

Great Grandson of **Ione Easterling**

Emma Ellington, Magnolia High School

Great Granddaughter of **Ione Easterling**

Daniel Gavin, MHS

Grandson of **John & Carolyn Ashcraft**

James Robert Miller, DCS

Son of **James & Anna Miller**

Great grandson of **Carolyn Cook**

Rebekah Perry, Home School

Daughter of **Dwane & Molly Perry**

McKenzie Welch, White Hall High School

Granddaughter of **John & Carolyn Ashcraft**

Olivia Wilson, MHS

Daughter of **Jeremy & Rachel Wilson**

Attendance

Bible Class	86
Sunday AM Worship	108
Sunday PM Worship	
Wed. Evening	70
Contribution	\$ 4741

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Monticello, AR 71657 phone: 870-367-3919

MISSIONS

Truth for Today
In Search of the
Lord's Way
Ghana Radio

NURSERY

Communion Preparation

- | | |
|---------------|--------------------|
| May 2 | Shirley Fisackerly |
| May 9 | Linda Forrest |
| May 16 | Linda Forrest |
| May 23 | Margaret Harris |

Ladies April Duties

Cards: Jessica Pettigrew
Food: Shirley Fisackerly
Stacy Usry