

THE INFORMER

Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

www.nacoc.us

January 21, 2020

CHANGE ME

*Dear Lord change not Thy will in my life,
Or trial and sorrows to be;
Renew my faith and make me strong,
Change not Thy will, change me.*

*Though teardrops fall when trouble comes,
Like storms on a rolling sea;
Let Thy beacon guide my ship to port,
Change not the storm, change me.*

*When thy Holy Word I don't understand
And Thy glory I cannot see;
Teach my eyes give me sight and wisdom,
Change not Thy Word, change me.
If the fruit Thou hast given me to eat,
Taste bitter and sour, I plea;
Let not my will but Thine be done,
Change not the fruit, change me.*

*If sometimes I murmur and grumble, dear Lord,
About the cross I carry for Thee;
Keep it firm on my shoulders, but hold my hand,
Change not the cross, change me.*

*If You change Thy ways to please me, dear Lord,
I would soon grow cold and turn from Thee;
That You may hear my prayers, dear Lord,
Change not Thy ways, change me.*

*There's a valley that I must cross,
Someday Thy face to see;
Lest if forget what power is Thine,
Change not the valley, change me.*

~ Author Unknown ~

Use Your Talents

God has blessed each one of us with different talents and abilities. Some are blessed with extraordinary gifts that indeed make them famous because of their superior talents. Many who have been blessed with special talents don't use them for the glory of the Lord but for their own glorification. Unfortunately many look to these few with envy and dwell on their unusual abilities that they don't have instead of seeing and using what they do possess. God is not interested in our daydreams of what we could be if I just had...just like... These are idle thoughts that benefit no one and usually only bring self-pity, laziness or a spirit of self-defeat that prevents us from even trying to accomplish anything we would like to achieve. Excuses are always easily found for not seeing or trying to develop our talents if we focus on the talents that we don't possess.

In Matthew 25:14-30 Jesus is teaching lessons about what His second coming will be like. Each of the servants in the parable were given talents matching their abilities and expected to put those talents to use for the Master's glory. The first two servants took the talents that they were entrusted with and put them to work earning more. They were praised by the Master and given more responsibility because they had been faithful in the few things they were given. Finally the last servant who was given the one talent told the Master that he was afraid of Him and so he hid the talent. See he tells the Master here is what belongs to you. The Master calls this servant a wicked and lazy servant. The Master calls this servant on his excuse that he did nothing because he was afraid. The Master tells him if he were really afraid he would have given the talent to the bankers so that there would have been interest on it to give back to Him.

The Bible encourages us to use our talents – look at Romans 12:1-21. First we are told to think of ourselves with sober judgement in accordance with the measure of faith that we have. God wants us to have a spirit of humility so we can serve one another with our talents instead of using those talents for our own glory. In verse 6 we are told each one of us has different gifts according to the grace we've been given. It goes on to name many different talents from the more noticeable to the easily overlooked ones. It has one common factor for each gift it tells us "let him" do it. Many times we need to uncover what our talents or gifts are. Sometimes we don't see or realize the gifts that we've been blessed with and so we miss many opportunities to serve and encourage one another with those unused abilities. Rest assured all of us have been blessed with talents and God expects us to use them to the best of our ability. If we don't use the talents we've been given for whatever the reason, we choose to put ourselves in the same position as the lazy servant in Matthew 25. We can never repay Jesus for the gift of His Grace but using our talents and abilities to His glory is one of the small ways we tell him how much we appreciate the salvation that we enjoy. ~ via Long Island CofC

YOUTH NEWS

- ◆ Youth Devo Sunday night Jan. 26th, following evening services.
- ◆ Lads to Leaders practice at 5:00pm Jan. 26th.
- ◆ Feb. 2nd there will be a Super Bowl Party at the home of *Greg and Kim Clayton* following evening services.
- ◆ The next NAPE meeting will be Jan. 29th, following 5th Wed. night singing service.
- ◆ Feb. 9th will be the next Area Wide and be held at Pontotoc Church of Christ.
- ◆ Junior Bible Bowl will be held at the Antioch congregation Feb. 16th at 2:00pm.
- ◆ CYC will be held Feb. 27th– March 1st in Pigeon Forge. TN.

"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity." 1 Tim. 4:12



The Book

Junior bit the meter man.

Junior kicked the cook.

(Junior's anti-social now According to the book.)

Junior smashed the clock and lamp.

Junior hacked the tree.

(Destructive trends are treated in chapters two and three.)

Junior threw his milk at mom.

Junior screamed for more.

(Notes on self-assertiveness are found in chapter 4.)

Junior tossed his shoes and socks out into the rain.

(Negation – that is normal – disregard the strain.)

Junior got in Grandpa's room,

Tore up his fishing line.

(That's to gain attention; see page 89.)

Grandpa seized a slipper and Yanked junior 'cross his knee.

(Grandpa's read the Bible since 1953!)

-- Vance Havner (adapted)

PRAYER LIST



Jerry Coats, minister for the Potts Camp congregation, is now at home following a stay at the Tupelo Hospital, due to heart issues.

Dixie White has been diagnosed with shingles.

Helen DePriest is at home recovering.

*Several of our members were out sick Sunday with various illnesses.

Continue to Remember:

Michelle Bell, Molly Clayton, Daniel Cross, Shane Crotts, Arelus Dye, Prebble Foster, Paul Franks, Eleta Grimmett, Phillip Haynes, Janie Huggins, Ronnie Miller, Elizabeth Phagen, Shannon Sciara, Levi Smith, Mildred Shackelford, Josie Tidwell, Angela Victory, Cynthia White, Donnie Wilson

Shut-Ins: Bill & Helen DePriest, Linda Griggs, Billy Joe Garner, Nancy Petrowski, J.D. Stroud

Nursing Home/Assisted Living:

Joe Downs, Jerry & Lucille Gibson, Price Senter

Military List:

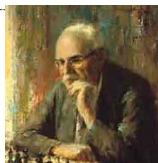
Derek Bradley, Tevin Bradley, Chase Seals

AREA EVENTS

- The Fulton Bible Institute will begin a new study Jan. 21st. Please check the bulletin board in the foyer for details
The Ripley Church of Christ has scheduled 'Our Christ is King Lectureship' for Feb. 23-26. The guest speakers are the second year students from Memphis School of Preaching. The topic will be 'The Fruits of the Spirit'.
The East Main congregation is hosting a series of lessons on 'Coping with Loss' a grief recovery seminar, Jan. 24th- 26th. The speaker will be Ron Williams. Please check the bulletin board for details.
A Gospel Meeting will be held Feb. 9th-12th at the Hwy 15 Church of Christ in Pontotoc, with guest speaker Don Blackwell. Mon.-Wed. nights at 7PM

I've Learned...

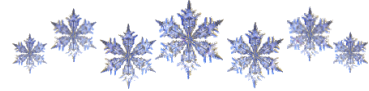
You can tell how much a man cares by what he is willing to do.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



- January 23.Shane Crotts
January 29 Alice Ashmore



CARE GROUP MEETINGS

- Care Group 1 (Kurt Clayton & Dane Coggins' group) will meet Sun. Jan. 26th, following morning services at the fellowship building. A meal will be provided by the team leaders but a donation to offset some of the cost would be appreciated. This will be their first meeting of 2020. Please sign the list in the foyer if you will be coming.
Care group 2 (Brian Carpenter and Matt Jennings' group) will meet following morning services at the fellowship building on Feb. 2nd. The meal will be potluck.

YOUTH DEVO

This month's Youth Devo will be held Jan. 26th, following evening services. Richard & Kathy Jennings will be hosting. The girls are asked to bring desserts and the boys drinks.



CHURCH WEBSITE

Our Church website is being updated. Please take time to check it out! http://www.nacoc.us. More updates will be available in the coming weeks.



LADS TO LEADERS PRACTICE

Those participating in Lads to Leaders this year are asked to meet each Sun. at 5:00pm unless otherwise announced. The girls will meet in room 12 and the boys in the teenage classroom. Boys, you need to have your outline prepared by Sunday, Jan. 26th.

GUEST SPEAKER SUNDAY

This coming Sunday, Jan. 26th, our guest speaker will be Ken Joines of the South-haven area. He will be speaking at both morning and evening services. We look forward to his being with us Sunday.

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Volume 03

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday School.....9:30
 Morning Worship.....10:30
 Evening Worship.....6:00
 Wednesday Bible Study....6:30

MINISTER

Shaler Grigsby.... Youth/ Assoc.
256-263-9137
 Office 534-4649

ELDERS

Richard Jennings316-1305
 Troy Robertson316-3163
 Phil Young.....316-2059

DEACONS

Greg Clayton.....252-9762
 Roger Clayton 538-8195
 Shane Crotts.....266-0195
 Jason Jennings..... 801-3260
 Randy Wall 316-9255

TO SERVE

Scripture.....Martin Crotts
 A.M. Prayer..Joe Owen
 Closing.....Greg Harrison
 P.M. Prayer.....Jim Gann
 Closing.....Hunter Jennings
 Wed.1/29.....Kevin Simmons
 Wed.1/22.....Harold Russell
 Lock 1/26.....Shane Crotts
 Usher 1/26.....Shane Crotts
 Security 1/26.....Greg Clayton

OUR RECORD

Sunday School.....101
 Sunday A.M.....120
 Sunday P.M.....70
 Wednesday.....87
 Contribution.....\$3,804.80
 Budget.....\$4,095.92

PANTRY ITEMS



Pantry is full!

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Fault-Finders, Inc.

A math teacher worked ten problems on the chalkboard for the class to see. From the beginning, she heard giggles as she continued writing. By the time she had finished, giggles had turned to laughter and ridicule. Putting down the chalk, she turned around and asked the class, "What's so funny?" One student said, "You got the first problem wrong!" The teacher responded, "I know, and I did it on purpose. I wanted to show by example that all of you focused on what was wrong. No one bothered to see that the other nine are correct!"

Christians live in a fishbowl. Jesus said to let our light shine (Matt. 5:14). We all make mistakes in judgment at times, lose our tempers, etc. It's too easy to criticize a work being done, a lesson taught, no one visited the sick, etc. I wonder if we get so caught up in expecting perfection in others performing the works of the church that we don't notice the good being accomplished. What catches our eye is the mistake or less-than-expected result. We complain about what could've been done better, or what should've been done. Perhaps the task at hand could've been done better if we had pitched in and contributed our talents! Worse yet, we complain about our fellow Christians' flaws in their work or character to someone who isn't a Christian. How many times have I seen that? And we wonder why our neighbors and friends have no interest in listening when we talk about God!

Yes, we are in a fishbowl; the world will see our good; but the bad can overshadow our good. We must all work together, encouraging each other, "*exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching*" (Heb 10:25). Let's focus on encouraging each other, not on joining Fault-Finders, Inc.
 --Steven Prine