



THE INFORMER

Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

www.nacoc.us

May 12, 2020

A Kinder, Gentler, Brotherhood

By: Steve Higginbotham



“Stand your ground.” “Don’t back down.” “Hit him back.” “Teach him a lesson.” “Don’t cry.” “Be a man.” To many boys, “being a man” is summed up in the rough and tough descriptions above. Consequently, any sign of “softness” seems incompatible with manhood. But just when we think we have “manhood” all figured out, we read this:

“Now these are the last words of David. Thus says David the son of Jesse; *“Thus says the man raised up on high, the anointed of the God of Jacob, and the sweet psalmist of Israel...”* ([2 Samuel 23:1](#)).

Did you see that? Don’t miss it. David was described as the *“sweet psalmist of Israel.”* Well, that’s no way to describe a “real man,” is it? Maybe our view of what a “real man” is needs a bit of tweaking.

Oh, there’s no doubt about it; David was a real man! He killed a lion and a bear ([1 Samuel 17:36](#)). He defeated the giant, Goliath ([1 Samuel 17:50](#)). He engaged in hand-to-hand combat in time of war ([2 Samuel 21:15](#)). But coupled with all this strength and courage is the *“sweet psalmist of Israel.”*

Friends, we need more “sweet psalmists of Israel today.” We need a kinder and gentler brotherhood. We need men who can do more than “fight,” “stand their ground,” and “push and shove.” We need men who are “sweet.” Who can speak words of kindness and grace. Who can show compassion. Who will give ground. Who will step aside. Who will speak and write words of encouragement and edification. And who will “hold a punch.”

Oh, but I can hear objections already, “Are you saying we should just stand down and let evil and error prevail?” “What about Jude’s command to ‘earnestly contend for the faith?’” “Have you never read what Jesus said to the Pharisees?” “Have you forgotten that Jesus overturned the tables of the money changers in the temple?” etc.

Friends, I’m not telling anyone to lay down their sword, what I am saying is to embrace balance. There’s a time for “war” and a time for “peace” ([Ecc. 3:8](#)). We can be “defenders of the faith” while at the same time be *“sweet psalmists of Israel.”*

Balance is what we need, and listen carefully... **there is no counter-balance of “sweetness” to sinful behavior and speech.** While we need balance, no amount of “sweetness” provides balance...

- for unkind, unloving words.
- for gossip and half-truths.
- for taking public what should remain private.
- for enjoying conflict and arguments.
- for impatience and lack of forbearance.
- for being quarrelsome.
- for indiscriminate denunciations of brethren.
- for endless wranglings, tit-for-tat, and drive-by insults.
- for treating brethren as though they are a willful enemy.

Don’t you think David would have been pleased with this description: *“David – the son of Jesse, a man raised up on high, the anointed of God, and the sweet psalmist of Israel?”* Friends, we’ll always remember David for his strength, bravery, and manliness, but don’t ever forget that he was also the **“sweet psalmist of Israel.”**

A MESSAGE FROM THE ELDERS

The Elders responsibility is the spiritual well-being of the congregation, our next priority is the congregation's physical well-being.

We are all anxious to get back to normal, however we all need to be diligent and mindful of the precautions that have been given by the medical community.

Each individual should evaluate their current health and family situation to determine if they should attend services at our building or continue to attend worship service remotely. However, eventually we look forward to seeing everyone return.

If you decide to attend services at the building, the Elders are requesting that all members adhere to recommended precautions. Please maintain social distancing guidelines.

We realize our first instinct is to shake hands or give one another a well overdue hug. Unfortunately, we will need to wait awhile longer.

We will have procedures in place as you enter the building and Ushers will be there to assist to make things go more smoothly.

All of these provisions are designed to keep our congregation and visitors as safe as possible.

For our shut-ins and those members worshiping remotely, the elders have decided to purchase new video streaming equipment.

This will allow you to see the service, song lyrics, bible verses, and sermon slides during the live streaming

We anticipate this equipment will be operational within the next month or so.

Plans are to return on Sunday, May 24th and resume our Sunday morning worship services. As we get closer, we will confirm, if in fact we will start on that date. When we do please arrive early to allow the appropriate time to be in place by the time services begin. It will take us all a little more time than usual as all of this is new to us.

The Elders will continue to evaluate current circumstances to make decisions about returning to Sunday bible classes, Sunday evening worship, and Wednesday night bible study.

As mentioned, this situation is new to all of us. There is no rule book. We are all trying to do the best we can.

Again, the Elders want to assure you, the spiritual welfare of the congregation is our first responsibility as well as keeping everyone safe.

CHURCH NEWS

- Communion supplies are available if you need any. Please contact the office or one of the deacons. Also, your contribution can be mailed to our post office box 148.
- Remember that our services are being live streamed Sun. morning at 10:30. You can go to our website @ nacoc.us to watch live. On Wed. night we will be posting a video devo by Shaler no later than 6:00 PM.
- Youth have opportunities for Bible Class through Zoom and Video. Please see Shaler for more details.
- Please continue to check on each other via texts, calls, face book etc.
- The Area Wide Youth Meeting for June has been canceled.



A Perfect Church

I think I shall never see
A church that's all it ought to be;
A church whose members never stray
Beyond the strait and narrow way;
A church that has no empty pews
Whose elders never have the blues;
A church whose deacons always "deak"
And none is proud, and all are meek;
Where gossips never peddle lies
Or make complaints or criticize;
Where all are always sweet and kind
And all to others faults are blind;
Such perfect churches there may be,
But none of them are known to me.
But still, we'll work, pray and plan
To make THIS ONE the BEST we can!

~ Author Unknown ~

PRAYER LIST



Richard Adams had partial knee replacement surgery Monday, in Tupelo.

Bill Lyon is not doing well. Please remember Bill and Grace in your prayers.

Don Golden, father of Lakisha Golden is at home recovering from by-bass surgery.

Ron Griggs father of Madison Griggs fell this past week and had to have new staples put in. He is having a difficult time healing.

Ronnie Miller, father of Amanda Coggin is improving.

Nicki Weaver has an appointment with a neurologist this month.

Molly Clayton has tests this week at Le Bonheur.

Expectant Mothers:

Kelsey Petrowski: boy, Aug.; Erica Crotts: Oct.

Continue to Remember:

Molly Clayton, Shane Crotts, Arelus Dye, Mable Erwin, Prebble Foster, Eleta Grimmett, Phillip Haynes, Janie Huggins, Elizabeth Phagen, Jerry Robbins, Shannon Sciara, Levi Smith, Josie Tidwell, Charles Ulmer, Angela Victory, Donnie Wilson

Shut-Ins:

Bill & Helen DePriest, Linda Griggs, Billy Joe Garner, Nancy Petrowski, Sue & J.D. Stroud

Nursing Home/Assisted Living:

Joe Downs, Lucille Gibson, Price Senter

Military List:

Derek Bradley, Tevin Bradley, Luke Goff, Chase Seals

Coronavirus Value

We have been brought to our knees! We have been reminded of how much we need God! We took everything for granted. "Social distancing" now reminds us of the awesomeness of worship, the greatness of our daily blessings and the privilege of service. When this crisis is past, we will "celebrate" worship! We will be glad to "go into the house of the Lord" (Ps. 122:1). The reunion of brothers and sisters will be grand! We will "love as brothers" (1Pet. 3:8). Let us learn never to take things for granted. ~ Dwight Fuqua

I've Learned...

"A smart person knows what to say. A wise person knows whether or not to say it."



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



May 19.....Bobby Marques

May 22.....Lea Anne Clark

May 27.....Olen Clark

May 30..... Larry Cobb

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

May 31..... Jim & Emily Gann



THANK YOU NOTE

Dear church family,

We appreciate the cards, calls and text and especially the prayers in our behalf during our sorrow. You are all very special to us.

Love, Larry & Janice Cobb

BRIDAL SHOWER

You are invited to a Drive-By Bridal Shower for Madison West bride elect of Shaler Grigsby, May 17th, from 1:30- 3:00 at the fellowship building parking lot. The couple is registered at Amazon, Bed, Bath & Beyond, Southern Traditions, and Target. Let's show this couple how much we love them and have a great drive-by shower for them. They deserve it!



2020 GRADUATES

All of our 2020 graduates, high school and college, are asked to get your information to Kathy Jennings by May 18th. The high school graduates are asked to submit a photo as well. We will have a recognition of our graduates as soon as we are able to be back at the building again.



What Must I Do To Be Saved?

- 1. Hear the Gospel (Romans 10:13-17)
2. Believe the Gospel (Acts 15:7; Mark 16:15, 16)
3. Repent of Sins (Acts 3:19)
4. Confess Faith in Christ (Acts 8:37)
5. Be Baptized for the Remission of Sins (Acts 2:38)
6. Be Faithful (Revelation 2:10)

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Volume 19

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

Greg Clayton.....252-9762
 Tim Dye.....316-2527
 Richard Jennings316-1305
 Troy Robertson316-3163
 Phil Young.....316-2059

DEACONS

Kurt Clayton.....316-6420
 Roger Clayton 538-8195
 Shane Crotts.....266-0195
 Jason Jennings..... 801-3260
 Mark Jennings...731-609-3309
 Randy Wall 316-9255

TO SERVE

Scripture.....
 A.M. Prayer.....
 Closing.....
 P.M. Prayer.....
 Closing.....
 Wed.....
 Wed.....
 Lock.....
 Usher
 Security

OUR RECORD

Sunday School.....
 Sunday A.M.....
 Sunday P.M.....
 Wednesday.....
 Contribution.....
 Budget.....\$4,095.92

PANTRY ITEMS



THE INFORMER (USPS 581-500)
 Church of Christ
 511 Hwy. 15 South, P.O. Box 148
 New Albany, Mississippi 38652
 (662)534-4649

Periodical
 Postage Paid
 New Albany, MS

POSTMASTER: Send address changes
 (Form 3579) to: The Informer, P.O. Box
 148, New Albany, MS 38652

Join us for
 the wedding of

Madison Lezann West
 and
 Shaler Robert Grigsby

June 13th, 2020
 at
 Ava's Place, 5131 County Road 61
 Florence, Alabama
 four o'clock in the afternoon

please RSVP Madison or Shaler by May 15th