

Grace Presbyterian Gazette



February, 2020

PASTOR'S CORNER

BY REV. RUSTY MOSLEY

Is there some prayer request you keep making, which God seems to be answering with a “No?” Is there something in your life, which seems clear from all you know about God that it would be better if it were the way you are asking God to do something, and you just cannot understand why God wouldn't provide it and answer it?



Consider Hebrews 5:7-9: “In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him,”

It says that through this, Jesus became “perfect.” But of course, he was already perfect in his divine personhood, being already very God himself. But in his humanity, his development and accomplishment was not yet complete until he underwent his fullest and most difficult test of obedience in the garden and on the cross.

And in the garden, he asked the Father to remove his suffering, and it says he did so with “loud cries and tears,” though he knew from the beginning that it was his sole purpose for being born. And indeed the Father does answer his request. The Father answered Jesus with a “No.”which Jesus accepted.

The Father gave Jesus a “No,” which they had already agreed upon from eternity past. But Jesus cries out for mercy to the Father simply as a part of the agony of his human experience of receiving all of God's wrath and anger, God's crushing anger toward all our evil that was laid upon him, a separation and removal of all forms of God's kindness, the immensity of which would be unimaginable. Jesus cries out and yet gets nothing but

suffering, as a Lamb. He went through the agony of feeling the Father's “No,” followed by a fierce anger and wrath from God on the cross.

But the reason that Jesus received that “No,” was so that you and I can be absolutely certain, from here on, that we will always receive God's “Yes,” from our dear Father in heaven, and always have his comforting mercy every time we ask.

If there is something in your life to which God is saying “No,” some prayer request God seems to be ignoring, then we can know that because of Christ and what he's done for us, we can have perfect assurance that, if you could know all that God knows, you would see that it is actually MORE loving of him not to grant that desire. This can be hard to trust. But we have to. Since Christ took God's “No” in the garden and on the cross, now we can know that we are always getting God's “Yes.” So, today, if God is withholding something in our lives, or not granting some prayer request, then it can ONLY be because it will ultimately, somehow, be better not to. When we are in Christ, God either answers our prayers with a “Yes,” or better than a yes.

With that as our motivation, let us rejoice in this magnificent love which we get to rest in and relish in every day. In prayer, let us give our lives to God. Let us give him our day today, and every day.

Prayer: Precious Lamb of God, Jesus, my sweet Savior, thank you so much, for enduring what I cannot even imagine.which I deserved! Thank you for taking our Father's terrible “No” so that I can be assured of always getting your precious and wonderful “Yes.” Help me to trust you with all of my life, even those parts which seem so broken, so unredeemed, so wrong. Help me to believe that somehow, ALL things in my life are working out for my good, for my best!, and for your glory. May your glory be my aim. In your name, Jesus. Amen. ■

CURRENT ACTIVIES AT GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

- ◇ The **Men's Breakfast Group** will meet at Golden Corral on Saturday, February 8th at 8:30 a.m.
- ◇ Please join Pastor Rusty for a Bible Study covering Revelation. It will be a fascinating study in this apocalyptic vision that the Apostle John was given. Everyone is welcome!
- ◇ If you need help with anything from our church office, call 501-504-6899 or email Erin at gracepres@conwaycorp.net. Her **office hours** are Wednesday, and Friday 8:30-2:30.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ◆ If you would like to have your picture taken for the directory, please see Annette Sackhoff after the service.
- ◆ A sign-up sheet is posted in the hall for the Variety Show on Sunday, February 9th. The potluck will begin at 5:00 p.m. followed by the show at 5:30 p.m. Don't forget to sign up for this fun filled event!
- ◆ The 2020 Sanctuary Setup and Cleanup sign up sheets are posted in the hallway. We need volunteers to help fill these spots. If you are able and would like to serve in this capacity we would appreciate your help!

DIANCONATE

I. OLD BUSINESS

Diaconate Changes

- I. Discussed the changes that will occur with 1 deacon rolling off and 2 new deacons being added in February.
 - a. The establishment of a new administrator of Charity Tracker and the Assistance Fund was discussed.
 - b. Training for the new deacons in using Charity Tracker was also discussed.
 - c. Eliminating the signature of the deacon rolling off and adding the 2 new deacons' signatures for the Assistance Fund bank account was also mentioned.

Undershepherd Group Issues

- I. Recent issues regarding undershepherd group members were brought up and discussed.

Cases In Process

- I. A case from Charity Tracker that had been contacted and helped recently was discussed.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Can you cut a rug or caterwaul a tune? Maybe you can spin a tall tale yarn or tell a chortle worthy joke!! Well, we need you at the February 9th Variety Show!! There will be a potluck supper at 5:00 and the show starts at 5:30. Be there or be square. The sign up sheet is on the bulletin board. If you have any questions please contact Bud or Debbie McConkie.



February 2020

February 2020

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

March 2020

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Jan 26	27	28	29	30	31	Feb 1
2 9:00am Choir Practice 11:30am Cong. Care Committee 6:00pm Yth CANCELLED	3 8:30am Exercise Class ECO National Gathering 1:30pm Diaconate	4 8:30am Exercise Class 1:30pm Diaconate	5 8:30am Exercise Class 5:30pm Mission and Evangelism Meeting (Grace Presbyterian)	6 8:30am Exercise Class	7 8:30am Exercise Class	8 8:30am Men's Breakfast
9 9:00am Choir Practice 11:30am Worship Committee Meeting 6:00pm Youth Group	10 8:30am Exercise Class	11 8:30am Exercise Class	12 8:30am Exercise Class	13 8:30am Exercise Class	14 8:30am Exercise Class	15 8:00am Serving Saturday
16 9:00am Choir Practice 6:00pm Youth Group	17 8:30am Exercise Class	18 8:30am Exercise Class	19 8:30am Exercise Class	20 8:30am Exercise Class	21 8:30am Exercise Class	22
23 9:00am Choir Practice 6:00pm Youth Group	24 8:30am Exercise Class	25 10:00am Grace Garden's Meeting 4:00pm Session	26 8:30am Exercise Class	27 8:30am Exercise Class	28 8:30am Exercise Class	29

SECOND TIME AROUND A GREAT SUCCESS

BY RENEE HUNTER

Jean and Charlie Brown met on a blind date.

After Jean's husband Roy died in 1991, a friend pestered her to date a divorcé, but Jean wasn't ready. "I didn't want to go out," she said. But the friend was persistent, and Jean finally agreed to a double-date. In August 1993, the couples had dinner at the Capital Club in Little Rock. Thirteen months later, Jean and Charlie married.

"Religion is a big part of our lives," Jean said. Both were raised Baptist. Jean professed her faith at age nine in Shreveport, LA, where she grew up. "I attended church thinking I was a Christian until I was a sophomore in law school," Charlie said. Then he was saved.

After high school, Jean sang with the Ted Weems Band, where she met and married Roy, a trumpet/trombone player. Eventually, they left the band and settled in Dallas-Ft. Worth. When Roy was diagnosed with cancer, they moved to Sherwood.

Jean was living in Maumelle and attending a "tiny" church in Maumelle, and Charlie was attending First Baptist in Little Rock when they met. Charlie was born in Mississippi, and his family moved often -- three times when Charlie was in ninth grade. After high school, Charlie attended Henderson State University for two years.

BIRTHDAYS:

2/05 - Betty Ellis; 2/18 - Tommy Mebane; 2/18 - Keith Woosley; 2/20 - John Davis; 2/21 - Joe Dablock; 2/22 - Vicki McCarron.

CURRENT PRAYER LIST AS OF (2/1/2020):

Don Adams, friend of Joe and Sue Dablock; Bill Conner; Charlie Rose Cullum, friend of Annette Sackhoff; Pam Dalke, sister of Debbie McConkie; Bo Denton; Paul Ellis, son of Herman and Betty Ellis; Heather Hiatt premature baby, relative of John and Nancy Davis; Jason Hays, friend of Kevin Tucker; Jimmy and Nancy Higgins; Steve Hoffman, friend of Nancy Davis with cancer and transplant need; Steve Jensen, F35 pilot, son of Barbara Watkins, deployment to UAE; Betty & Fred Knight, friends of Pedersen family; Martha Lierley; Ann Moss, mother of Debbie McConkie; Netta Seifert, friend of Joe and Adele Pruet; Jeff and Jenny Whitehead, friend of Joe and Sue Dablock; Justin Sage Williams, friend of Jeff and Annette Sackhoff.

"Then I ran out of money," he said. He held different jobs and moved several times to earn money for college. In each town, he played baseball. Eventually he could afford to return to college. He entered the University of Arkansas, and played Razorback baseball. He graduated in 1953, passed the bar that summer, was drafted, and served in the Army JAG Corps until his discharge in December 1955.

Between them, Jean and Charlie have four children, nine grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. When Charlie retired from the law in 2000, the couple moved to Greers Ferry and joined First General Baptist in Heber Springs, and then a small Presbyterian church closer to home.

They moved to Conway in 2014 to be closer to medical care for Charlie's heart, and Jean was diagnosed shortly thereafter with breast Cancer. Chemo didn't shrink the tumor, so Jean's doctor prescribed a pill that was hoped would at least stall the growth. "That little pill started shrinking my cancer" Jean said. "It was a miracle." In July, Jean will have been cancer-free for five years.

In Conway, the Browns visited several churches, but didn't find one that fit until they visited Grace. "We absolutely loved it from the first Sunday," Jean said.

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r a free downloadable copy or podcast of the sermon, please visit our website at

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Choir Director/Pianist: Eloise Stowe

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Ralph Scott
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OUR DENOMINATION:



ECO

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