

The Mars Hill Messenger

FEBRUARY 4, 2018



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Florence, AL 35630*

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Service Times

*Sunday
9:45 A.M. - Bible Study
10:30 A.M. & 5:00 P.M. -
Worship*

*Wednesday
7:00 P.M.*

Elders
*Bill Bagents
Mack Blalock
Randy Medley
Tim Morrow*

Deacons
*Mark Marks
Sam Marks
Jeremy Ray
John Zahnd*

Ministers
*Chris Moran
Bill Bagents*

Youth Ministers
*Michael Dooley
Dale Givens*

Song Leader
Mark Marks

Office Secretary
Lisa Collum

Televisit With the Bible
*Comcast Channel 3
Tues. 8:00 P.M., Wed. 8:30
P.M., Sunday 8:30 A.M.*

*Presented by the
Church of Christ
Florence, Alabama*

***WELCOME TO OUR
SPECIAL SUNDAY***

HELP AND HOPE FROM HABAKKUK

- 1) Chapter 1: God's Righteous Judgment - Class, Kevin Dillon*
- 2) Chapter 2: The Just Shall Live by Faith - AM Sermon, Chris Moran*
- 3) Chapter 3: Joy in the Face of Pain In Him - Afternoon Sermon - Bill Bagents*

Bible Class - 9:45

AM Sermon - 10:30

Lunch After Morning Worship

PM Sermon - 1:15

THOUGHTS ON “NORMAL”

Patsy Clairmont wrote the book, *Normal Is Just a Setting on Your Dryer*. Smart lady. Normal is highly over-rated and sometimes super boring.

I like the Chinese curse, “May you live in interesting times.” [Are you allowed to like a curse?] Though it’s difficult to define, most of us need a degree of normal. Things get tough when all of life moves faster than our comprehension and/or our ability to adjust. A degree of stability and predictability is a blessing. Without a degree of normality, it’s hard to keep a job or a friendship.

We recognize the strong tendency to define “normal” from our personal experience and perspective. “Normal” is what’s “normal” for me, no matter how odd that might be to others. For me, normal includes mayo on a banana sandwich and apple jelly (never grape) on a PBJ. Normal means no onions, no celery, and no chicken. I doubt that’s true for most of you.

Recognizing our abnormalities can be challenging, depressing, developmental, fun, liberating, and scary. As you’d expect, I like that—it’s one of the ways I’m abnormal. Beware of people who claim to be perfectly normal. Chances are they’ll lie about other things as well.

In a sense, normal = ordinary. Given our God-given uniqueness and potential, why would anyone settle for ordinary? I love people who give themselves permission to be different. I’m not talking about disrespecting God or people, just living creatively within God’s rules. I put the faith-filled centurion of Matthew 8:8-9 and the generous woman of Mark 12:41-44 in this group.

Practically, normal = functional or capable. We wouldn’t speak a word against that, unless it includes settling for merely functional and never aiming higher. Virtually all people have within them a capacity for greatness in some sense or situation. It’s part of being made in the image of God. To rise above the normal and claim that gift or moment is anything but normal. We see Peter do that in Matthew 14:28, 16:16, and Luke 5:8.

Statistically, normal might be defined in terms of the number of standard deviations from the mean. While factual, that statement may not mean much. If we could create a scale, the most loving people around us would fall way out on the edge of our Bell Curve—and we’d be great with that. Much depends on which mean we’re deviating from and the direction of the deviation.

God is honored with our “abounding more and more” in any virtue (1 Thessalonians 4:9-10, John 13:34-35, and 2 Peter 1:5-8).

Sociologically, normal might be defined in terms of staying in step with the community around us. We know to be careful here. We don’t want temporary marriages even if most around us divorce. We don’t want to follow the god of materialism even if our culture loves him. We reject “Me first” and “My first duty is to myself” in favor of Matthew 16:24-26 and 22:34-40.

Religiously, normal might be defined in terms of Matthew 7:21-23—hearing but not doing, serving self rather than God. Matthew 15:1-10 and Luke 13:1-5 also come into play. It’s so easy to think that if we’re just about as good as most folks (normal), then we’re okay. We love all things good, but there is no salvation short of loving submission to Jesus. –Bill

NEWS & NOTES

Congratulations to Mary Sue Simpson on the arrival of a new great-granddaughter on Jan. 25. Lucy weighed 7 lbs., 7 oz. John & Claire Cheek of Murfreesboro, TN are the happy parents. Lucy is Mrs. Simpson's ninth great-grand child.

Please see the sign-up sheet on the Fostering Faith room door. It requests volunteers to shelve donated items and to help keep the room well-organized.

The annual Friends of the Overton Memorial Library Yard Sale will be 6:00-11:00 AM on Saturday, April 14 in the HCU gym. Proceeds buy books. If you'd like to donate items, please see Jamie Cox. Sorry that space limitations will not allow clothing donations.

Don Williams reminds us of the 9th Annual Coats Farm Benefit Trail Ride and Auction which assists the North Alabama Christian Children's Home on March 3. The event includes meals, a yard sale, and other entertainment. Don also reminds us that the Children's Home is seeking an additional set of house parents.

Upcoming:

February 5 Monday Night for the Master at 5:45

February 10 Men's Breakfast at 8:00

February 14 Valentine's Dinner for single members at 5:30

February 17 Ladies' Brunch at 10:00 (Opportunity for all ladies to meet with the elders, ask questions, and offer suggestions.)

February 19 "Working Missions" seminar at HCU 6:00-8:30 PM

SAVE THE DATE: Our gospel meeting with Brian Jarrett is scheduled for April 8-11

THE HABIT OF WORSHIP

While worship is far more than just a habit, there's element of truth and wisdom in the phrase "the habit of worship." Good habit. Regular practice. High importance. Commitment. Consistency. A key way in which we please God. A key opportunity for us to encourage one another to love and good works. A key way we show the world what we believe and what we value.

While far more than just a habit, we are blessed with outstanding examples of commitment to faithful worship of God. We worship each week with good folks who struggle to put one foot in front of the other, but they are always here. They find a way. And their commitment makes us better.

On the other hand, some of us have fallen out of the habit of worship. We need to fall back in. We'll honor God to fall back in. We'll help our brethren at a higher level if we fall back in. We'll fare better spiritually when we fall back in. Blessings await, but it takes choice and commitment to fall back into the habit of worship.

FACTS AND FIGURES

Sunday Class Attendance	48
Morning Worship Attendance	107
Evening Worship Attendance	72
Wednesday P.M. Attendance	51
Weekly Contribution	\$9,934.12
Budget	\$7,765.85

NURSERY ATTENDANTS

A.M.

Carolyn Collier, June Smith, Denise Golden

P.M.

Lori Ray, Leighana Ray, Jackie Lewis

PICK UP CARDS

Matthew Moran Austin Moran



<p>Coriene Riedout Opal Hannah Clovis Hamm Blanche Horseman Joan Barrett Ann Clemmons Don Pollard Tony Hollingsworth Don Pollard Margaret Easley Betty Sparkman JoAnn Rickard Phyllis Underwood Susan James June Smith Jon & Jan Mitchell Susie Vaughn</p>	<p>Olivia Collins Jesse & Debbie Sain Stacey Bevis Charles Hoard Rheata Mansell Lisa Reid Wisdom Earline Price Bill Lamb Wanda Jones Doris LaPlante Martha Chambers Amelia Daly David Underwood, Sr. Joan Barrett Betty Beadle Don Ponders Vicki Morrow</p>
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WORSHIP LEADERS

Bible Reader:.....David Underwood, Jr.
A.M. Opening Prayer:.....Sam Marks
A.M. Closing Prayer:.....Michael Dooley
P.M. Opening Prayer:.....Kevin Dillon
P.M. Closing Prayer:.....Matthew Moran

For Food and Food Group Needs

Call April Adams 615-971-9620



CEREAL SOAP

FOSTERING FAITH ITEM OF THE WEEK

DIAPERS & PULL-UPS (ALL SIZES)

SERVE COMMUNION

1. R. Fowlkes	4. K. Dillon
2. B. Broadfoot	5. R. Collins
3. M. Blalock	6.M. Moran

ALTERNATES

1. J. Adams	2. J. Ray
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EXTENDED FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Sara Goldman (HCU), Bob Comer, Nancy Jones' brother, Doris Berry, sister of Phyllis Underwood, James Leo Hogan, brother-in-law of David Underwood, Sr., Randy Parrish, Novella Anderson, Richard & Faye Hollingsworth, parents of Shari and Tony, Megan Robertson and Brinley, Phyllis Underwood's niece, Michael & Krisi Wray and baby Charlie, niece of Alana Marks, Marsha Sanders, friend of June Smith, Cecil Stacy, brother of June Smith, Quenton & Judy Hogan, brother-in-law & sister-in-law of David Underwood, Dean Stewart, sister of June Smith, Billy Ray Suiter, brother of Debbie Sain, Allie Gower, granddaughter of Ed & Betty Sparkman, Jason Yarbrough, son-in-law of Mack & Jane Blalock, Michael Hayes, coworker of Dale Givens, Maye Kanbe, friend of June Smith, Stephanie Flippo, daughter of Frances Day, Lisa Smith, friend of Cheryl Medley, Celeste Black, friend of Lori Ray, Joel Lewis, grandson of Howard Lewis, Will Underwood, grandson of David Underwood, Sr. Reagan Morris, friend of Rheata Mansell, Haley Murray, Donna Hays, sister of Randy Medley, Rose Cantrell, sister of Sandra Brewer, Mary Alice Wilhelm, Wayne Lewis, grandson of Howard Lewis, Mary Tweddy, friend of Shari Hollingsworth, Butch Spry, friend of the Blalocks, Mr. Ray, friend of Francis Day, Cole Kelley, 5 year old from Jackson Heights, Phillip Weddington, Millie Clemmons, sister-in-law of Ann Clemmons, James Robert Clemmons, brother of Ann Clemmons, Chase Lewis, great grandson of Howard Lewis, Tyler Andrew Rickard, grandson of JoAnn Rickard, Anna Bell Barker, great niece of Van & Jane Scott, Brenda Williams, friend of Francis Day, Melanie Young, mother-in-law of Judy Young, Cory Keeton, friend of Kayla Eckl, Jack Powell, son-in-law of Cornelia Rager, Tony Gifford, grandson of Earline Price, Joey Higgs, friend of June Smith, Melody Gann, friend of Shari Hollingsworth, George Richardson, brother of Sandra Brewer, Janie Wright, friend of the Zahnd's & Ann Ligon, Gerald Howell, brother of Willodean May, Leisa Williams, wife of Don Williams, Steve Hover, Pride Sherell, Emory Flippo, friend of Frances Day, Glenda Johnson, mother of Charles Johnson, Patsy Harris, sister of Mack Blalock, Elaine Butler Culp, aunt of Kevin Dillon,

Brookdale

Howard Lewis (room E-158)

Cedar View Assisted Living

Hellon Johnson (room 106)

Bob Springer (room 109)

Lauderdale Christian Nursing Home

Virginia "Ginny" Putnam (room 7-A)

Mitchell Hollingsworth

Louise Graham (room 409 A)

At Home

Charles Hoard, Blanche Horsman,
& Don Ponders

Florence Nursing Rehab

Don Ponders (room 304)

El Reposo

Mary Brewer (room 217)

Keestone

Joanne Barnett (room 112)