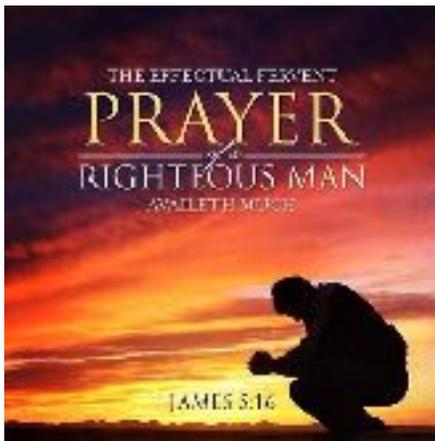


MEADVILLE MESSENGER

JUST A THOUGHT... Rev. Milton Whatley

Praying for... Him or Her



In the process of packing, I have taken on the task of passing along some of my books. I have jokingly said at times, "I don't have friends, I have books." Still, I have continued to wander into thrift stores to look at their inexpensive books. Sometimes I'll find an out of print book I've been looking for or I'll find a favorite book I already have a copy of that I'll buy to pass on to someone. Recently I ran across the wonderful book (and a favorite) So What's the Difference by Fritz Ridenour. The book is a detailed comparison of Christianity with other religious groups. It's a book several decades old but has been revised and updated many times. The copy I found had some wear and tear and at a quick glance some underlining, but I thought it would be a good reading copy for someone. It was only when I got

home and spent some time with the copy that I realized the person who had owned it previously had underlined sections of the book not as an affirmation of their faith, but pointing out points of profound, personal disagreement. The heavy underlining, on nearly every page, (using a ruler for emphasis) along with marginal notes tell the story of a person who describes themselves (their words not mine) as an atheist.

I don't know who owned the book previously, but I wish I did. I'd like to hear the story of what drove them to faithlessness. Since I don't, what I'm going to do is pray for them (him or her). I'm going to pray that God will bless them. I am going to pray that He might heal whatever hurts they might have on their precious soul. I am going to pray that the Holy Spirit, who works in prevenient grace, might touch their heart from the outside so that God might be able to do his work on the inside. I am going to pray for that person because Jesus died on the cross for them as much as he died for me. I don't know them, but God does. And I can pray a prayer of intercession, as one who stands in the gap between them and the Father.

You can pray a him or her prayer. We all in our day to day lives run across people who are broken in some way. We may not know them personally or what their point of brokenness is, but by their demeanor, the sadness written on their faces, we can tell they are carrying a weight that they are having a difficult time dealing with. You may not know them personally, but you know someone personally who can help if He is unleashed in their lives. If you keep your eyes open, you'll see them. Pray! for Him or Her.

Worship Matters!

I recently had the opportunity to participate in a great worship experience as a singer and a speaker. Of course, it was a real treat to be there along with my son, Cory, who plays guitar at Olde Towne Community Church where the concert was held.

The musical event was “God With Us”, written and arranged by Don Moen. If you are familiar with this awesome work, you know how powerful the worship music actually is! After weeks of rehearsals and preparation, the production was a week away, and I was suffering with strep, bronchitis, and terrible vertigo. No top riser for me, I had to sit on a high stool on the stage, as did a few others who had leg fractures, recent heart surgery, etc.

When the music began and we processed down the aisles to the stage, my physical discomfort was still there, but faded into the background when we started to sing, “Let there be Glory and Honor and Praises!” The voices, instruments, dancers, and enthusiastic faces of the congregation, moved me into focus on the One Holy God being worshipped!

This reminded me of one of my favorite books, David Jeremiah’s *My Heart’s Desire*. Here is an excerpt:

“You come to the place of worship carrying many burdens, and when you come to the door of the holy of holies, you find room enough only for *you* to fit through — no backpacks, no suitcases, no packages. Everything else must be set down and left behind you. When you emerge again, glowing from an encounter with your Lord, you’ll no longer see the need to carry that cumbersome baggage.”

Wouldn’t it be wonderful if we could make a conscious decision as we entered the sanctuary to give those worldly, anxious thoughts to the Lord (either silently in our minds, or maybe a moment at the altar before we go to our regular pew) and then fully worship Him in spirit and in truth from the beginning to the end of the service! Those burdens might seem lighter when we exit, or gone altogether!

See you at the grace place!

P.S. Thank you Vana, Leigh Beth, Milton, Cindy, and Marty Jones for being there!

**BACCULAREATE SUNDAY CELEBRATING FHS
GRADUATING SENIOR, DANIEL YOUNGBLOOD, WILL BE
SUNDAY, MAY 13.**

News from Methodist Men

Gary Hurst

In looking at the schedule for May we find that the church celebration for Baccalaureate falls on Mother's Day weekend this year. Traditionally the men have chosen that weekend to host a meal and program for our church ladies. It would be difficult to compete with such a life event for all parents. The men have decided that we will simply bow to the schedule and join the party. That said, let's try to give the ladies a break for this dual celebration. We encourage all the men in the church to step in as they are able and handle their family's contribution for the meal after church.

Since the regular monthly breakfast falls on the same Sunday, we will not be having our monthly breakfast in May. The men's program will be taking a break for the summer. We will post in the newsletter and bulletin when programs are to resume.

COLEMANISM:

Heaven goes by favor. If it went by merit, you would stay out and your dog would go in. - Mark Twain

Romania Missions

Dr. Gabbert will be traveling to Romania again this year from June 25-July 5, 2018. Please remember him in prayer as he prepares for this trip.

The following items are needed:

- Antacid, regular strength
- Ibuprofen, 200mg (Advil, Mortin, or generic)
- Tylenol, regular or extra strength (Generic Acetaminophen)
- Aspirin, 81mg
- Muscle Rub (any type) cream or ointment
- Ladies head scarves (Larger ones are desirable)

Items may be dropped off at the church or given to Dr. Gabbert by June 15. Thank you for partnering with him to reach the people of Romania.

MAY TABLE BLESSING

Creator God,

Who is the source of every good and perfect thing,

Bless our spirits and nourish our lives

That we may reflect your perfect goodness in the world.

PROVIDED BY THE COMMITTEE ON INTER-RELIGIOUS CONCERNS
MISSISSIPPI CITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Sunday

9:45 - Sunday School
 11:00 - Morning Worship
 4:00 - Intercessors
 5:00 - Choir Rehearsal

Thursday

4:00 - Prison Ministry

Friday

6:00 - Sewing Ministry



MAY

Twenty eight

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	10:00 A.M. Jolly Elders	8	9	10	11
13 Mother's Day!	14	6:00 P.M. Emmaus	15	16	17	18
20 Baccalaureate	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Where GOD guides, He provides.

ISAIAH 58:11

MAY BIRTHDAYS!

- May 01 Daniel Youngblood
- May 01 Keith Zimmerman
- May 03 Delores Martin
- May 06 Joyce Wilson
- May 07 Jennifer Cowart
- May 09 Stacye Campbell
- May 12 Larry Jones
- May 12 Theresa Wege
- May 16 Chase Freeman
- May 16 Eli Herring
- May 16 Joe Bowlin
- May 18 Josh Herring
- May 19 Opal Bowlin
- May 21 Mary Kay Holt
- May 25 Tyler Williamson
- May 28 Martha Dickey
- May 30 Michael Hester
- May 31 Barbie Fleming



MAY ANNIVERSARIES!

- May 5 Gary & Cindy Jones
- May 18 Jimmy & Tammy Torrey
- May 26 Chris & Stephanie Sullivan
- May 29 George & Elizabeth Rushing
- May 31 Ed & Barbara Herring

**THIS IS THE DAY THE
LORD HAS MADE.
WE WILL REJOICE AND
BE GLAD IN IT.
PSALM 118:24**

MUMC Staff



Pastor,
Rev. Milton Whatley



Director of Music,
Pat Jones



Office Manager,
Samantha Sivils

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HOME MAINTENANCE

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



The wise woman builds her house, but with her own hands the foolish one tears hers down.
 - PROVERBS 14:1 NIV

Chosen by God to Proclaim Christ through Worship, Study, and Service

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