



2700 Pulaski Highway
Columbia, TN 38401
office@sgcoc.org
www.southgatechurchofchrist.org
Office: (931) 388-7334

South Gate Family Counseling Resource
Individual & Marriage & Family Counseling
Brian Gregory - 931-446-5445

Informer

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He Wants Family! – By Dan Jenkins

“Sing to God, sing praises to His name; Extol Him who rides on the clouds, By His name YAH, And rejoice before Him. A father of the fatherless, a defender of widows, Is God in His holy habitation. **God sets the solitary in families**” (Psa. 68:4-6). Such an amazing thought! God’s plan is for those He loves and protects to find a place within a family.

It has always been His nature and desire. When He created Adam and saw that it was not good for man to be alone, He put the first man and woman in a family. Cain and Abel were part of that family. God knew that mankind needed families... So it should not surprise us that when His master plan for mankind is revealed in the New Testament that the church is described as a FAMILY. Men in that first testament did not begin their prayers saying, “Our Father,” but we can! If He is our Father, then all those in the FAMILY are brothers and sisters! We are FAMILY!

That disciple whom Jesus loved said, “Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed upon us that we should be called children of God” (1 John 3:1). We are FAMILY! Paul adds that because we are children of God, we are joint heirs with Jesus (Rom. 8:17). He is our brother, and we are FAMILY. Solomon described that there could be in our lives someone closer to us than our physical brother. “There is a friend who sticks closer than a brother” (Prov. 18:24). It is in the church, the body of Jesus, the FAMILY of God, where this concept finds its ultimate fulfillment. We are FAMILY. The spiritual growth of the body of Christ shows that we should add Christian character to our faith. Peter said that to our faith we should add brotherly kindness (2 Pet. 1:5-7), and Hebrews 13:1 urges, “Let brotherly love continue.” We are to “...Love the brotherhood” (1 Pet. 2:17). We are brothers; we are FAMILY... God has a plan for each of us to have those in our lives who are closer than our physical family. Let’s work together to be one because we are FAMILY.

Double Honor

1 Timothy 5:17 The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching.

How often do we stop to say we appreciate those who are faithful servants of the church? Elders have a tremendous responsibility in serving God's people. They are the leaders of the congregation. A high standard of faithful living is to be set by them. They watch out for the souls of the individuals of the congregation. Their eyes are constantly looking for any false teaching that could come along and destroy the previous good accomplished. Their ears are opened for sinful behavior that needs to be corrected. These actions all take place because elders love the church, the Lord and every individual in the church. Elders want to make heaven their home and desire to take all that they possibly can with them. These men should hold a special place in our hearts and minds. Paul says they are worthy of double honor.

What is meant by double honor? Various explanations are given for this phrase but here are some thoughts we can all agree upon. These men are to be given respect (therefore honor). The text discusses in the same paragraph allowing an ox to eat grain while he is working. Not only are these men to be given respect but also wages especially when their work is preaching and teaching. The church needs more full time elders and they need to be appreciated for what they do. Unless you are married to an elder, you probably have no idea how much time is devoted to the work of the church. From time to time go to one of our elders and express your genuine appreciation for their work. It is their work of love.

Joe

KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS:

OUR MEMBERS

- Roberta Bolton
- Ann Brady
- Bernice Bratton
- Joy Brown & Fred Brown
- Bill Carroll - 2502 Shangrila Trail
- Ruth Childress - NHC Hillview, Rm. 217
- Mary Chumbley
- John Churchwell
- Athaleen Cox
- Vera Daniels
- Nell Hood
- Margaret Johnson
- Maetta King - Poplar Estates 215
- Linda Luna
- Helen Lusk
- Frances Petty - NHC Columbia, Rm. 111-A, 375-4887
- Jimmy Quirk - in Houston for tests
- Barney Roland - NHC Hillview, Rm. 101-B
- Ethel Spears - NHC Hillview, Rm. 111
- Laura Spires - open heart surgery today at Vanderbilt
- Eden Stutts - tubes in ears, tonsils & adenoids removed
Apr. 11 at Vanderbilt
- Elaine Whitehead

Our deepest sympathy is extended to Athaleen Cox in the death of her brother, Harold Dean Beard, who passed away recently.

FRIENDS AND FAMILY

Henry Harris, father of Jan Thomason, Caroyln Macer, mother of Joe, Patricia Luna - aunt of Jason Kelley, Austin Long - uncle of Phillis Churchwell, Susan, Alex and Evan Rector, Shirley Sharp - lung cancer, Doug Wilson - brother of Peggy Jones, Debbie Spears, Wanda Nix, sister of Debbie Massey, Norma Boyette - sister of Bill Jones & Elaine Whitehead, Roiki Phillips, Juanita Boyd - stepmom of Gary, Kathy Reed - friend of Linda Mabry, Dora Bolton - mother of James, JoAnn Anderson - mother of Katherine Nicholson, Ginger Chesnut - at Vanderbilt for bone marrow transplant, Elvis Frierson - friend of John Mayberry, Glenda Collins - sister of John Mayberry, Katherine Jones - mother of Alice Bolton, Mike Primm, Nick Tank - student at Baker - leukemia, Clara Harvey, aunt of Ray Rummage - Life Care, Rm. 143, Clarence Weaver - Poplar Estates, Rm. 219, Joan Hermsdorfer - aunt of Robin Weaver, Stacey Brown - cystic fibrosis, Billy Oliver (Poplar Estates, Rm. 201) - brother of Corrine Goetz, Dorothy Rea - sister/Elmer Lusk, Evelyn Felker - sister/Benny Bolton, Ann Graham - Morning Pointe, Rm. 113, Beverly Dawson, Jack & Daisy White, Jane Davis - sister of Nell Hood, Ronnie Springer-leukemia, friend of John & Debbie Massey, David Luther, Jacqueline Potts, Mary Blocker.

Sympathy is extended to the family of Patsy Totty Loveless, who passed away. Her funeral is Thursday at 2 pm with visitation beginning at 11 am until 2 at Oakes & Nichols Funeral Home. Juaneese Perdue's daughter Shannon is married to Patsy's son Jeff. She was also the sister of Peggy Caskey and daughter of Clara Totty.

WORSHIP LEADERS APRIL 3, 2016

SUNDAY 9:00 A.M

- Welcome.....Greg Lusk
 Song Leader.....Kevin Mick
 Prayer.....Barry Cross
 Lord's Supper: Presiding.....Mike Lyle
 Corey Massey Tracey Wilkins
 Brennan McNeese Blake Daniels
 Dustin Stutts Jonathan Macer
 Trent Thomason Sam Quirk
 Read: Colossians 1:15-20.....Ryan Massey
 Sermon: The Church of Christ.....Joe Macer
 Announcements/Closing Prayer.....Greg Lusk

SUNDAY 5:30 P.M.

- Welcome/Song Leader.....Nathan Hixson
 Prayer.....Boyd Wood
 Read: Proverbs 6:20-35.....Jerry Barber
 Sermon: Adultery of the Heart.....Joe Macer
 Lord's Supper Presiding.....Dennis Thomason
 Announcements/Closing Prayer.....Randy Jones

Ushers: Gary Boyd, Tommy Hight, E.J. Hill
 Greeters: Randy & Melissa Jones, Greg & Kelley Lusk
 Audio/Visual: Chase Thomason

Security Team: A.M. Cheyenne McNeese, Chris Mobley P.M. Cheyenne McNeese, Chris Mobley

If you are unable to keep your appointment to serve, please call Ray Rummage (446-0668) or Joe Williams (388-9183)
 Or go to our website and follow the "Unable to Serve" link and submit the information.

NURSERY CARE

- A.M.....Rita Skelley, Donna Hubbell
 P.M.....Joyce Johnson, Melissa Jones

WEDNESDAY APRIL 6, 2016 - 6:30 P.M.

- Song LeaderBlair Keeling
 Prayer.....Benny Bolton
 Announcements/Speaker.....John Thomas