

Bless Them And Love Them Anyway

Every once in a while I sit back and ask questions like, “Why did they kill Jesus?” He wasn’t harsh or unkind. Jesus did say things that were offensive to the religious leaders. Jesus questioned and challenged traditional applications of Scripture, which offended the Pharisees (Matthew 15:12). He told parables, which they sometimes understood to be about them (Matthew 21:45). Jesus even told the Jewish leadership that the devil, rather than God, was their father (John 8:39-47). That still does not say Jesus was harsh and belligerent.

There were many things Jesus said and did that the religious leaders didn’t like. According to their interpretation of the Law, Jesus did not properly keep the Sabbath (Matthew 12:1-14). His followers broke tradition by not washing their hands before meals (Matthew 15:1-20). Jesus also made a habit of eating with “tax collectors and sinners” (Matthew 9:10-13).

Furthermore, the Pharisees believed Jesus was guilty of blasphemy (John 10:31-33). They rejected his claims that God was his Father and he had authority to forgive sins. They found these claims to be ridiculous and offensive.

However, there was a bigger reason the religious leaders wanted Jesus dead. They might have tolerated someone who broke the Sabbath and defiled himself by eating with sinners. After all, Judea and Galilee were filled with such people. Even his teaching, that they regarded as blasphemous and offensive, could probably have been overlooked. However, they were compelled to deal with Jesus because so many people followed him.

Jesus showed the Jewish people mercy, grace, and love. Consequently, crowds of people loved, listened to, and followed him. The Jewish leaders didn’t have Jesus killed because they saw him as belligerent, hostile, or quarrelsome. Jesus was none of those things. They had him killed because they felt like, “The world [had] gone after him” (John 12:19).

Our example is Jesus, who, “also suffered” (vs. 18). He suffered because he loved his neighbor and was faithful to his heavenly Father. At times, people might hate you for the same reasons. If they do, bless them and love them anyway.

In Him,
Mike Barnes

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“...let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” ~Matthew 5:16

WE GATHER TOGETHER

Sunday	Bible Classes for all ages	9:00 AM
	Morning Assembly	10:00 AM

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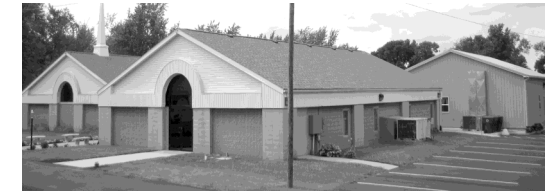
“You are the light of the world; a city on a hill cannot be hidden”
~Matthew 5:14

Fairlawn Family Focus

Issue 2696

Newsletter of the Fairlawn church of Christ since 1971!!

July 28, 2024



Welcome Visitors!

We’re glad you came our way; please let us get to know you better. Please take the time to fill out a Visitor’s Card. There is a carry-in fellowship dinner some Sunday mornings after services—Please stay as our honored guests, and let us get to know you better.

Here, we strive to follow Jesus as he is seen in the New Testament. We pray, study, sing, and take communion together in order to grow closer to God and to each other.

We would love to have you grow with us toward Christ. If we can help you, in any way, please talk to us. The telephone numbers of our elders, deacons, and minister can be found within this bulletin. We hope to see you again soon and often!

FROM THE PULPIT

07-28-24 A.M.

Series continues:
“He Promises”

**“FINDING PEACE IN
YOUR THOUGHTS”**
(John 14:27)

07-28-24 P.M.

NO EVENING SERVICE

08-04-24 A.M.

Series continues:
“He Promises”

**“FINDING FREEDOM
FROM YOUR WORRIES”**
(Matthew 6:25)

08-04-24 P.M.

NO EVENING SERVICE

*Peace I leave with you; my
peace I give you. I do not
give to you as the world
gives. Do not let your
hearts be troubled and do
not be afraid.*
~John 14:27



Prayer List



OUR SHUT-INS

Donald Henderson

~We extend our condolences and prayers to the family of **Tim Hall**. Tim was the former preacher at Winchester and Lynn. He passed away on July 22nd.

~Our sympathy and prayers are extended to **Diane Stricklin and all the family of her mother, Patricia Reis**, who went home to heaven, on July 15th. Please pray for God's peace and comfort to surround this family as they deal with the loss of her. *Diane thanks you for your prayers for her mother during the past year and for their family with her recent passing.*

~**Diane Stricklin** gave us the following update on **Cristy Abels**: *"I had received a note from Cristy Abels awhile back saying that her latest scan showed that she was cancer free. She continues to take chemo on an ongoing basis, so I am sure your continued prayers are appreciated. God is so good and so merciful!"*

~Prayers are requested for **Tony Parks**, who had to have emergency surgery on July 9th, due to severe abdominal pain. The surgery went well, and he's showing improvement. Please pray for his full recovery.

~**Judy Monroe** requests prayers for her family at this time.

~We extend our sympathy and prayers to **Ralph Bright and family** in the loss of Ralph's 93-year-old sister, **Imogene Bailey**, who passed away recently.

~The 4-year-old boy, **Owen Hines**, who had brain tumors and was in hospice care, has passed away. *(As you'll recall, the Bright's had requested prayers for him awhile back.)* Please pray for his family as they deal with the loss of him.

~**Judy Monroe** requests prayers for her sister, **Sheila Manning**, who is having some serious health problems.

Please also pray for her spirituality.

~Continued prayers are requested for **Jimmy Evans (Kim Evan's husband)**, who had a serious accident on May 19th, & suffered severe internal injuries. He had surgery on May 21st, to address multiple internal injuries. He's in the ICU and has a long recovery road ahead of him. **Update:** *Jimmy went home from the hospital a week ago to continue his healing and participate in physical therapy. He still has quite a way to go, but God is answering your prayers for Jimmy. So keep on lifting him up in prayer!*

~**Nancy Friedrich** requests prayers for **Michael Beer** (a former college member). His biopsies are back and he does have prostate cancer. His numbers are low though, so his doctors will follow up with him in a year to check his condition. Please keep him in your prayers.

~Prayers are requested for **Lois Calvert's daughter, Kathy Chanel**, who has a new tumor. Please pray for her healing and strength, as she has been battling cancer for the past four years.

~**Nancy Friedrich** requests prayers for her long-time childhood friend, **Cheryl Hubert**, who has leukemia. **Update:** *She has been told she has less than 1 year to live, and she needs a bone marrow transplant.* Please pray for her, & also pray that she will be open to know about God.

~Please keep the **Bright family** in your prayers: **Ralph's nephew** has bone cancer, **Charlotte's stepdad** fell off his mower and broke his wrist. Her brother, **Jay** continues to have issues. *(As you'll recall, back in January, he fell out of his bed and broke his hip and had to have surgery.)* Pray for **Ralph & Charlotte**, as they are trying to help their family deal with all of this.

Prayer List Cont'd. from Page 2

~Prayers are requested for **Ralph Bright's sister, Sarah Bowling**, (age 86) and **niece, Tonya**, who are both battling stage 4 liver cancer. They live together but can't be treated with chemo or radiation. **Update:** *Ralph's sister, Sarah, is back in the hospital with severe problems with her feet.)*

~Continued prayers are requested for **Tim & Jenny Leach**, as they continue to deal with **Tim's** recent diagnosis of having Pulmonary Fibrosis (a terminal lung issue). Please continue to pray fervently for Tim's healing of this and that it won't be as aggressive.

~Please continue to keep **Tony Parks** in your prayers, as he has been having seizures along with his Parkinson's.

Long-Term Prayer List

CONTINUED PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR THE FOLLOWING:

~**Anderson Christian School**—Financial support needed.

~**Fran Bailey**, Lois Calvert's sister-in-law—Serious illness.

~**Beau Bell**, Michelle Cook's brother—Parkinson's disease—aggressive.

~**Collette Bright**, Charlotte Bright's daughter-in-law—Many medical issues—liver, heart, etc.

~**Dawn Cook**, Charlotte Bright's niece—3 brain tumors.

~**Courtney (Mathews) Sullivan's mother-in-law**—Cancer.

~**Cristy Abels**—Chemo.

~**Kathy Chanel**, Lois Calvert's daughter—Cancer/Chemo.

~**Cristie Dickey's mom, Dorothy Anderson**—Ongoing problems from GI perforation & surgeries.

~**Nancy Friedrich, her, bro-in-law Rick Mirecki**—cancer, **her sister Peggy**, & **her brother Joe**—health struggles, **her sister-in-law, Susan**—bladder cancer, **her great niece, Kylee**—difficult family situation, & **her great niece, Evelyn**—brain issue, and **her great great nephew, Michael Martin**, who is having epilepsy episodes.
~**Dan Huston**, **Debbie Huston's** hus-

Prayer List Cont'd.

band—Multifocal Motor Neuropathy.
~**Stephnie Huston**—Serious form of autoimmune disease.

~**Judy Monroe**—M.S.

~**Tony Parks**—Parkinson's disease.

~**Angie Reed**—M.S.

~**Sam Schlagel**, Lois Calvert's son—Autoimmune issue.

~**Sally & Gary Sloan**, Jenny Leach's sister & bro.-in-law—Leukemia (both).

~**Clara Smallwood**, Angie Walls' sister—Rare form of cancer/chemo.

~**Bob & Jan Todd**—Both have Parkinson's disease.

~**Jordan Webb**—Ongoing struggles, rehab./recovery.

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.
~Romans 5:1-2

Deacons

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Pulpit

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The next **Fairlawn Work Day** will be on **Sat., August 10th.**



There are new/updated **Quick Directory** pages in the magazine racks (on the wall) in the front lobby. Please pick one up after the service this morning.

Fairlawn Birthdays & Anniversaries This Week in July and August



<u>Date</u>	<u>Birthday</u>	<u>Anniversary</u>
July 28		Don & Roberta Craycraft
July 29	Glenda Wrangham	
July 30	Titus Hill	
	Cheryl Mathews	
July 31	George Huffman	
Aug. 2		Ralph & Charlotte Bright George & Sherry Huffman



For the time being, for those unable to attend worship service at the church building, we are still publishing sermon *audio* to the following link:

<https://FairlawnChurchOfChrist.sermon.net/main>

& also *video* on Facebook: **Fairlawn Church of Christ**

and now...on Fairlawn's website: <http://www.fairlawncc.org> (click on *Media* tab, then click on *Sermons* in list, then click on the highlighted Facebook where it says our Sunday sermons can be viewed on Facebook.)

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The pantry is in need of the following item(s):

**Brownie Mix
Cake Mix & Frosting**

Please note: Fairlawn is continually feeding families, and we need to keep replenishing the pantry as each week goes by. *As always, if you would like to donate money, for the purchase of perishable items, please see an elder.*

This week's pantry volunteer on call:
Dale Lawrence



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The Fairlawn Family Focus is published weekly as an informational ministry for the Fairlawn Family. It is typeset and printed on Thursdays in the offices of the Fairlawn church of Christ. Items submitted for publication should be sent to the Fairlawn office at the above address or emailed to:

fairlawncc@yahoo.com

*Submissions should be sent **NO LATER than midnight on the Wednesday before publication.**