Newsletter of the Weatherly Heights Church of Christ

Weatherly Weekly

February 18, 2024

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Prioritize Forgiveness

Michael W. McLemore

Patrick Henry's closing words of his iconic speech at St. John's church in Richmond, Virginia in March 1775 are often recalled in his honor — "Give me liberty, or give me death." Less notable are words that are to me far more profound. In the main body of his last will, Henry sought to bequeath the gift of Christianity to his family, proclaiming "This is all the inheritance I can give my dear family, the religion of Christ can give them one which will make them rich indeed." Last words are powerful. They speak to priority, to what is most important.

An interesting correlation can be drawn between the death's of two men more than 800 years apart, Zechariah, *2 Chronicles 24:20-22*, and Stephen, *Acts 7:54-60*. Both men died as a result of conspiracy against divine indictment for blatant transgression of God's Word. Both were stoned, but a marked difference is observed in their dying prayers.

Zechariah, God's prophet of old, lashed out as he was being stoned by those who conspired against him and by command of the king, "May the Lord see and avenge," *2 Chronicles 24:22*. While we cannot fault Zechariah for praying for a divine response to injustice — the same such prayer is endorsed in *Revelation 6:10* — we are left to marvel at others who prayed in those same moments with another priority on their lips.

Stephen, a man full of the Spirit and wisdom, called out as angry men were stoning him for preaching the saving truth of God, "Lord, do not hold this against them," *Acts 7:60*. Stephen mirrored the Lord who pled the same on behalf of His own killers, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do," *Luke 23:34*.

One's last words are potent. No more noble end could we bequeath to others than to have them know that we prioritize forgiveness. ❑

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Love Finds a Way

Sewell Hall

All Christians want to bring the lost to Christ. But each of us has some handicap which causes us to feel limited in our ability to do so. It may be a weakness of knowledge or difficulty in expressing ourselves. Perhaps it is a personality deficiency or even a lack of transportation. Whatever it may be, we tend to feel that it excuses us from responsibility. Actually, our most debilitating handicap is a lack of zeal. Once zeal is stirred, love will find a way to overcome all obstacles.

Take June McNeese as an example. Just 4 years ago, June held a responsible position with a Tennessee-based company which manufactured automobile hoses. She was, however, experiencing considerable throat trouble and the problem grew steadily worse, slurring her speech, until she could no longer function in the office. Doctors discovered that she had dreaded Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, more popularly known as ALS or Lou Gehrig's Disease. Rapidly it began affecting the other parts of her body until all of her limbs were paralyzed.

Her speech continued to deteriorate until now only a constant companion can understand anything she says, and then only when she uses the simplest of words. Often she must spell out very slowly what she is trying to say. Meanwhile, her sparkling eyes and the few words she is able to get across reveal a mind that is still keen and active.

If ever anyone would be excused from "personal evangelism'" it would be June. Without use of her lower limbs she cannot go on her own. Without her arms and hands she cannot write. And with her damaged speech mechanism she cannot talk. But June does not look for an excuse. She looks for a way.

When a nurse was employed, one stipulation was that she would take June to worship just as long as possible. Patti, the nurse who was chosen, found the services strange and the sermons very different from what she was accustomed to in her own religious experience. Soon she was asking questions which June found very difficult to answer with the communication problem. To add to the frustration, Patti could never seem to remember her questions when Joe Olson, a gospel preacher, came to visit.

Somehow June had to find a way to get those questions answered, either by herself or by Joe. But all she had to work with were her neck muscles. Then an idea! An electric typewriter! One was borrowed to see if she could use it. Her father cut a wooden dowel rod and placed a rubber tip on one end. Placing the other end of the rod between her teeth, June happily began typing some answers for Patti and typing questions for Joe when he came.

Patti was not easily converted. She had already changed religion once and she wanted to be sure this time. But little by little the truth, adorned by the life of her cheerful patient, did its work. Patti was baptized into Christ.

Patti is not her only convert. A Christian couple who were in error visited her on occasions. She loved them and longed to see them come closer to the truth. She successfully used her limited opportunities to teach them "the way of the Lord more perfectly." There are many others whom she hopes to reach before her time runs out. The limited life-expectancy characteristic of those with her disease makes her constantly aware, as Jesus was, that she is approaching a night "when no man can work." This lends urgency to her efforts.

Perhaps all of us would be more zealous and more diligent if we could only realize how short is the time each of us has to accomplish whatever is to be accomplished in this life. I visited June recently in her Tennessee home. I did not understand a single word she said. But, at her usual speed of 5 words a minute, she typed a message for me, perfectly capitalized and indented. "Dear brother Hall, I am very glad you could come to see me this afternoon." ❑

FAMILY MATTERS

News and Notes of Interest to Weatherly Members

2024 A Mind to Work — Together, Nurturing the Believers' Mindset

February: Praying for Opportunity, "Use me in Your service."

Family Updates

Prayers:

Doyle & Janice Wray were both able to be back with us on Sunday. We are thankful for their recovery. Sadly, Janice's older sister, Elizabeth Whisenant (96), passed away last Tuesday and was laid to rest yesterday. Please keep Janice and her family in your prayers.

Becky Hill's sister-in-law, Martha Newburn, has been placed into palliative care. The entire family is understandably very sad by her decline. Please remember her family during this time of great sorrow.

Remember Searcy Hall to the Lord. He has an MRI scheduled for March 4th and a follow-up on March 11th. They are planning to look closely at his adrenal gland.

Silvia Henderson's sister, Kiki Castaneda, is in the throes of intense Chemo. Her second treatment is slated for Tuesday. Silvia says, "She's has good and bad days, but they are unpredicatable." Silvia plans to come home Monday for a couple of weeks. Please remember Kiki and family in fervent prayer. This is a concerning time and a very serious cancer.

Peggy Coward has learned following tests and a recent visit to her cardiologist that she has experienced a marked decrease in her heart function. They are going to attempt to regulate this with medication. Please remember Peggy & Mike to the Lord as you pray. The Cowards has been a major part of this family for many years. Their presence among our number is missed even now.

Peggy Childress, Ciera Elledge, Janie Cheatham, Joe & Steve Lau, and Zoila Herring remain on our prayer list.

Please be mindful of those in our family who struggle with chronic illness or the effects of aging — Peggy Childress, Peggy Monroe, Lane Roberts, Glenda Cavender, Edith Turner, Melvin Godette, Maragem Harbin, Carolynn Barr, Betty Dubose, Ron Harmon, Jim Risner, Harold Smith & Wanda Castleman.

This Week at Weatherly

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE class meets at 9:30. Mike McLemore continues his study, **"Joshua to the United Kingdom," Lesson 7.**

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP follows at 10. Mike McLemore's lesson today is entitled, **"Mighty Prayer: Stephen"** from *Acts 7.*

SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP begins at 6. Mike will lead our Bible Skillz & DEVO.

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY begins at 7. Mike continues his class **"Joshua to the United Kingdom."**

Mark Your Calendar

Sunday, March 3rd Weatherly will begin meeting only once each Sunday. **Bible Study begins at 9:00 am** and **Assembly Worship at 10:10 am.** An exact order of worship is available for everyone in the foyer. Please take one. We are trusting that everyone has "gotten the word." One Sunday service, starting March 3rd. ❑

FEBRUARY & MARCH BIRTHDAYS

2-20	Lara Ambrose	3-6	Harold Smith
3-11	Evelyn Hall	3-13	Collis Terry
3-14	Becky Hill	3-18	Susan Ivey
3-28	Adrienne West		

"Outlived Them All"

Michael W. McLemore

We read some time ago of a reporter who was interviewing a very elderly gentleman on the occasion of his 100th birthday. "What are you most proud of?" he asked.

"Well," said the man, "I don't have an enemy in the world."

"What a beautiful thought! How inspirational!" responded the now impressed reporter.

"Yep," added the centenarian, "outlived every last one of them."

We all have enemies. Paul wrote to his younger counterpart, "Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted," *2 Timothy 3:12.* Every child of God will meet with opposition if we live in accord with our commission — "You shall be holy, for I am holy," *1 Peter 1:16.* Holiness is the child of God's moniker; but it is not without consequence, *cf. Matthew 5:10-12.*

After preaching the Beatitudes, Jesus told His listeners to "Love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you," *Matthew 5:44.* In what lifetime are evil, broken people, who seek to harm blameless believers for merely professing faith, deserving of prayer? Jesus answered — in yours — "Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you," *Luke 6:27-28.* Pray for your enemies, don't take pride in outliving them. ❑

WEEKLY WALK

Weatherly Heights CHURCH OF CHRIST
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TIMES OF SERVICES

Sunday Bible Classes	9:30 am
Sunday AM Assembly	10:00 am
Sunday PM Assembly	6:00 pm
Wednesday Classes	7:00 pm

Stay informed and engaged online at
www.weatherlychurch.com

WATCH:

LIVE — Sermon archive or live stream during all Weatherly services

Weatherly's Shepherds

Tommy Hill	256 883-0010
Will Starks	256 883-5273

Evangelist

Michael W. McLemore 256 698-5941
Email: mmclemore@weatherlychurch.com

Weatherly's Deacons

Phil Furlough
Kirk Hatcher
Hill Roberts
Bobby Wright
Steve Hagewood
David Jacks
Collis Terry

Weatherly at Work

These are asked to assist in our labor.

	Sunday, February 18th	Sunday, February 25th
Welcome:	*Will Starks*	*Tommy Hill*
Song Leader:	*David Jacks*	*Hill Roberts*
Opening Prayer:	*Steve Hagewood*	*Ed Dill*
Lord's Table Lead:	*Bill Thompson* *Acts 7*	*Marty Hunt* *Nehemiah 1:4-11*
Sermon:	*Mike McLemore* *Mighty Prayer: Stephen*	*Mike McLemore* *Mighty Prayer: Nehemiah*
Closing Prayer:	*WD Patrick*	*Davis Stoll*
	Evening Worship	**Evening Worship**
Bible Skillz	*Mike McLemore*	*Mike McLemore*
Songs Leader:	*David Jacks*	*Bill Thompson*
Opening Prayer:	*Alex Thompson*	*Jim Ehl*
Closing Prayer:	*Phil Shaver*	*Wes Caudle*
	Wednesday, February 21st	**Wednesday, February 28th**
Songs Leader:	*Phil Furlough*	*Mel Ambrose*
Invitation:	*Mike McLemore*	*Mike McLemore*
Closing Prayer:	*Bobby Wright*	*Riley Monroe*

2024 Weatherly Heights Lectures

May 2-5, 2024
Buc Chumley, Jonathan Reeder
Mitch Davis & Wilson Adams

Quarterly Adult Classes

January – March 2024

AUDITORIUM SUNDAY
Joshua to the United Kingdom
Mike McLemore

AUDITORIUM WEDNESDAY
Joshua to the United Kingdom
Mike McLemore

Serving in February

Serving on the Lord's Table AM & PM
***** Overseer***
***** Phil Shaver (2-4), Phil Furlough (2-11), Bill Thompson (2-18), Marty Hunt (2-25)***

Building Lockup ***Will Starks***