

# Elkton Communicator

A Publication of the church of Christ in Elkton, TN

1JAN2012

## *Men Privileged to Serve*

### Announcements

Jarred Butler

### Sunday Services

9 am

**Singing**— Jimmy Butler

**Prayer**— Mike Phillips

10 am

**Singing**— Jimmy Butler

**S. R.**— Gary Hooper

**Prayer**— Chris Crabtree

**Sermon**— Joe Greer

### Lord's Table—

- Presiding

- Frank Solomon

- David Beyer

- Serving

- Richard Parker

- Burgess Cox

**Prayer**— Johnny Lewis

5 pm

**Singing**— Jimmy Davis

**Prayer**— John Bryan III

**Sermon**— Dick Sullivan

**Prayer**— Buck Smith

### Wednesday Bible Study 7 pm

**Singing**— Joe Greer

**Invitation**— Frank Solomon

*“Teach me Your  
way, O LORD;  
I will walk in  
Your truth”*

*Psalm 86:11*

## Praying Our Way into 2012

### *Sermon Outline for January 1, 2012*

**As a church, the collective body of God's people, we have many things to pray for.**

- And, knowing the power of prayer, and having confidence in God, we should be anxious to pray together for matters we see as needed and important.
- Several suggestions have been made concerning things we should pray for.

#### ***Opportunities to teach people who are searching for truth.***

- Sometimes we are not as strong at this as we should be ... boldness often lacking.
- If that is the case, boldness is what we should pray for.
- When the disciples were being introduced to opposition to their faith, they prayed for boldness. **Acts 4:24-31 (29-31)**

#### ***We should pray ...***

- That we may have a heart for teaching the lost!
- For strength, boldness and opportunity to teach.
- For a spiritual revival in the hearts of the people of God ... that they may seek truth.

#### ***Fervent prayers for the church ... that we will walk the narrow way.***

- We are the ones who should be setting the example.
- With many roads to choose from, we need to strength to turn the right way.
- **Mt. 7:13-14**
- We are not in a position to think of ourselves as above temptation.

#### ***We should pray ...***

- Pray that we will be honest with ourselves ... look at what we do and how we live ... and become more focused on righteous living.
- Pray that we will give more time to reading the Bible ... to dedicate ourselves to this goal so that our faith will grow.
- Pray for a greater understanding of our purpose for being on earth ... to be God's people.

#### ***Pray for those who have come to the Lord in the past year.***

- What a blessing for this church, that several have been restored to service in the Lord, or have become Christians this year.
- In a day when many churches have only seen decline in number, we have been blessed with opportunity to be refreshed and encouraged by those who love the Lord and want to serve Him. **Acts 4:4, 12**

#### ***We should pray ...***

- For our new converts –
- Those who have thought carefully about their relationship with God and found something missing ...
- Those who have sought truth, and found it in the word.
- These have made the decision to commit their lives to the Lord ... and He has offered them salvation ... remission of sins through His blood. **Mk. 16:16**
- For those restored to the faith –
- Those who became weak in faith and left the faithful service of God ... but, knew their relationship with God was not right ... regretted it, and re turned to Him.
- We are so thankful for **Shaina, Taylor, John, Hannah, Jeff, Anna, Gary, Tim and Melisha.**
- We pray blessings and strength for them, that their faith may be encouraged.
- What a blessing they are to us ... and what a great encouragement to us.

*continued on the back ...*

### ***We must keep in mind those who struggle in faith.***

- There are those who ask us to keep them in prayer ... that they may not be taken away by Satan.
- We all have times where we struggle with our faith ... but, we cannot let Satan gain control ... we have so much to lose. **Heb. 3:12-15**
  - Take heed, do not depart ... instead, exhort one another.
    - Beware of the deceitfulness of sin.
    - Do not harden our hearts.
- All of us need to be encouraged and strengthened.
  - We remember Paul's prayer for us. **Eph. 1:16-18**

### ***We should pray ...***

- For those who have left the faith ... that they may return to the fold.
  - Not that they would be saved in their sins ... but, that they will love the Lord more than anything this life has to offer ... and will

### ***Special prayers for those who grieve.***

- This year has been difficult for several of our members as they continue to deal with the loss of loved ones.
- Undoubtedly, we have all been touched by the loss of loved ones and friends, and this coming year will offer the same sadness. Such is the way of life.
  - It is sobering to think that we will in all likelihood lose members or loved ones this year.
    - In some way, we all know the pain of loss ... we all grieve.
      - For **Judy, Patsy, and Ruth** ... the loss is still very real and we keep them in our prayers.
- The relationship of Christians with one another is special, unique.
  - There is a bond that runs deep, a love that is genuine.
    - When one hurts, it affects the whole ... that is, we all feel the pain.
      - And so, for whatever reason a brother or sister is suffering ... we keep them in our prayers.

### ***We should pray ...***

- The loss is real and the pain is deep ... and they have all asked for our prayers.
  - Someone suggested we should learn to love one another fervently ... and we should!
    - That is demonstrated in part in how we deal with needs of our brethren. 1 Peter 1:22
      - Unfeigned love of the brethren. (sincere, genuine love)
      - Love one another fervently. (love one another earnestly, intently)
- As we pray for our brethren and their needs, we are building that love.
  - As we seek to serve those who grieve or suffer whatever difficulties in life, we learn to serve with humility.

*(Joe Greer)*

*"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find;  
knock, and it will be opened to you.  
For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds,  
and to him who knocks it will be opened."*

*Matthew 7:7-11*

## **News and Notes**

- **Good to see everyone home from holiday travels!**
- **Rebekah Haynes— 1825 Womble Ridge Rd. Ethridge, TN 38456**
  - (A thank-you from Rebekah's grandmother) *"Please thank all those people who sent cards to Rebekah. She was so excited to get them and put them around the door facing. Both sides and the top were covered. Please keep our family in your prayers. Rebekah seems to be a little worse each time we see her. Thanks for all your concern. Thank you, Judy Haynes*

### **SICK**

- **Mike Hargrove—** (Lucille's son) In the hospital (in Ohio) for possible heart problems.
- **Louise Butler—** (Jimmy's mother) Fell last Sunday and fractured her wrist. 3275 Elkton Pk, Prospect, TN 38477
- **Marsha Sullivan, the Parkers, Betty Yant,** and others I am sure — Have been sick this week.
- **Others in our prayers —** Suzy Milligan, Justin Ruf (working overseas), Edith Marie Wilburn, Sandra Davis, Reba Gordon (at Sunbridge), Rhenda Martin, Lillian Magnusson, Richard Patterson and Kathleen Hillis.