



The Global Flyer

FIRST BAPTIST ATHENS

The Front Porch

A cup of good coffee. The sounds of spring. Birds sing their unique songs while the wind blows through the trees. The smells of flowers blooming and freshness of the air abound. The front porch is a place of welcome and a place of gathering. But as I sit here, writing this article, I am praying for our church to grow in prayer in this season. I would love for you all to come to the Prayer Breakfast next weekend. God is doing amazing things.



But I am also simply thankful for this place I sit. I can think of all the times I have sat in this very place and enjoyed the presence of God. Sometimes it has been with friends or family. But often times it is alone. Me and my Creator. I'm thankful for this place I can come because I know He will always be there waiting. It doesn't have to be a conversation. Just to gaze upon the Lord and be loved by Him. This is where I'm filled. This is where I'm loved. It is a sacred space where I meet with God and He always is there to meet with me.

When I was growing up, I learned many ways to pray. There is the Lord's Prayer, a great place to start. Prayers of blessing for food, prayers for the sick, and prayers for life's troubles and challenges. But as I have grown in my relationship with the Lord, I have learned that prayer is more than a conversation with God. He has led me to grow to simply enjoy being with Him. Do you have anyone in your life that you just love to be with? Someone that just being with them is enough? Sure you may chat and joke and laugh, but their presence is enough to sit in silence and enjoy every moment. This is the relationship God wants to have with each of us. And Jesus shows us the way.

Yet the news about him spread all the more, so that crowds of people came to hear him and to be healed of their sicknesses. But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed. (Luke 5:15 - 16 NIV)

As the ministry of Jesus spread, many came to him for teaching and for healing. I'm certain his everyday routine was rapidly changing. There was more to do, more time spent and busyness doing work the world had yet to see. Can you imagine being there in that time? Can you imagine what it might have been like for Jesus and the disciples as more and more people came to hear these teachings and experience all they had heard? How easy it must have been to fill the time in a day with all this miraculous work of Jesus of Nazareth. *BUT Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.* The word for "lonely" used here can be translated as the wilderness, the desert, a solitary place where one is all alone.

The text could have said, *But Jesus often withdrew to pray* but it doesn't. It gives us an incredible piece of advice for our walks in prayer with God. Jesus knew that to be with His Father, he had to leave the busy and GO OFF somewhere. He had to retreat from the whirlwind to be with his Father. Where is that place for you? Find it regularly. Abide in His Presence. I heard this quote the other day and I believe it is a paraphrase of Psalm 27:13 and I love it as an encouragement to us all. "May you find the goodness of God in actual life. May you find the lonely place only to find that you are not at all alone."

Grace and Peace,
Wade

Watch Online @
Lovingtheworld.com
YouTube
Vimeo
Facebook
8:30AM
11AM Worship Center
11AM Bilingual

Members' Birthdays

Sun, April 21 – Maxine Martinez
Mon, April 22 – Robert Walker Jr., Gwen Mills, Ginny Hedge
Tues, April 23 – Jessica Moore Skiles, Becky Gillert
Wed, April 24 – Erin Quattlebaum, Jack Harris
Thurs, April 25 – Carolyn Rowell, Virginia Knott, Craig Hayes
Fri, April 26 – Evelyn West, Mary Stroud, Anne Stark, Florence Ferrell
Sat, April 27 – Robert Wilson

Prayer Requests (church attendees & families). Please call with updates

Our Sympathy to: The family of Ray Taylor;
The family of Laura Pool

- Reba Henson...pneumonia/home
- Becky Pemberton's brother, Fred Ham...Acute Specialty Hospital/DeSoto
- Margaret Austin...pacemaker scheduled 4-29 at Christus Heart Hospital, Tyler
- Terry McNatt...back pain, surgery pending
- Lisa Wilson...blood clots/home
- Piper Gillert...broken femur/home
- Elizabeth Flores' daughter, Vania Maldonado and daughter Aleyah/UT Health, Tyler NICU
- Drew & Lori Douglas' daughter-in-law, Thiana Douglas...cancer surgery/home
- Josh Moreno...blood pressure issues, cardiologist appointment pending
- Claudia Limon...stress testing
- Gracie & Carlos Murillo's son, Max...awaiting kidney transplant match
- *Hospice Care: Anita Wiggin's brother, Bill Meadors; Lisa Collins' mom, Glenda Beard; Roger Littleton's sister, Elizabeth Boynton; Tammy Womble's mom, Jessie Dixon*
- *Military: Hattie Graham's granddaughter, Karah Lawyer (E5/GSM2) Asian Countries; Judy Ward's granddaughter & husband, Gabriella & Tanner Burtrum, South Korea*
- *Cancer Diagnosed: Bill Hauck's sister, Marie Kirby; Daniela Matchael's sister-in-law, Joana Cortez; Cindi Livingston, mother of Anna Fay Wicker's daughter-in-law; Doris Raney's niece, Stacy Bates; Rusty Morris; Miriam Inestroza's mother, Luce Torres; Trayona Skiles; Mary Boehler's niece, Denise Leach; Kellis White; Jack & Paula Harris' son-in-law, Carlos Banuelos; BJ Davies; Bob & Tonya Foster's son, Jim*
- *In Rehab or Recuperating: Betty White's brother, Dwaine Coley; Dwight Millar; Lisa Montgomery's mom, Selah Mason; Nikki DuBose's mother, Nancy Kissinger; Nikki DuBose's brother, Donnie Kissinger; Wanda Kinney; Wanda Kinney's daughter, Jeudi George; W.D. Farnham; Rebecca Habibelahian; Bill Dye; David Yarbrough; Judy Dorsett's brother-in-law, Billy Fleming; Cindy Henderson; Christy Warnock's brother, Duncan Frizzell; Ginny Hedge; Linda Campbell; Judy Dorsett's brother-in-law, Brady Pollock; Barbara Hearn's nephew, Jeff Shumate; Barbara Hearn's great nephew, Blaise Shumate; Kern & Barbara Railsback's granddaughter, Waverly; Beverly Moore; Shirley Bailey's sister, Charlott Hutson; Win James; Drew Douglas' mom, Pam Douglas; Katherine Hellwig; Marylyn Wright's sister, Jeanne Gage; Laura Pool's sister-in-law, Brenda Bickley; Tom & Catherine Ward's daughter, Brandy Shirvinski*

Bible Reading Plan, Grace & Peace

Day of the	Date	Scripture
Sunday	4-21-2024	Luke 18:18-43
Monday	4-22-2024	Luke 19:1-27
Tuesday	4-23-2024	Luke 19:28-48
Wednesday	4-24-2024	Luke 20:1-26
Thursday	4-25-2024	Luke 20:27-47
Friday	4-26-2024	Luke 21:1-19
Saturday	4-27-2024	Luke 21:20-38