



Betty Burch

Birthday 02/14/2021

Linda Wheatley

Birthday 02/15/2021

Whitman Kent

Birthday 02/16/2021

Janie Brewer

Birthday 02/18/2021

Doug Williamson

Birthday 02/23/2021



The Flower Fund is in need of contributions. Please contact Karen Ingram if you can help!

Contributions

For those able to attend worship services at the building please leave your contribution in the box at the rear of the auditorium.

For those who give by check and are meeting by Zoom, you can simply mail your check to Kerry Lashlee 9748 Bent Brook Dr Montgomery, AL 36117

Contribution last week

\$6,477



“It is not, as somebody once wrote, the smell of cornbread that calls us back from death; it is the lights and signs of love and friendship” (John Cheever).

WHEN WE MAKE THE CHOICE TO BE FRIENDLY RATHER THAN UNFRIENDLY, WE OPEN THE DOOR TO ONE OF THE BEST COMPARTMENTS OF THE GOOD LIFE.

“Friends are the sunshine of life” (John Hay). But it is a choice that we must make. Friendliness should be more than a mood that comes over us. It should be an act of the will, a decision to live in a certain way.

“Friendliness,” as opposed to “friendship,” is a *fondness* for friendship, a *disposition* in that direction, a *determination* to make decisions that favor friendship. It’s an attitude which says, “I see the value of friends, and I want to do my part to foster friendly relationships.”

Friendliness is one of the qualities we need to have if we intend to grow throughout life rather than stagnate. Friendly people are open to new friendships, and as they acquire them, they find their lives expanding in healthy ways. Without neglecting their old friends, those who have the quality of friendliness welcome the chance to demonstrate that attitude to new people in new situations. Sarah Orne Jewett said it colorfully: “Yep, old friends are always best, unless you can catch a new one that’s fit to make an old one out of.”

Today happens to be a day set aside for some special gestures of friendship. Who are those to whom you will give or send some Valentine’s greeting today? Chances are, they’re special people you need to be thankful for . . . and show friendship to on other days too.

We don’t always have to be in close proximity to our friends, but it’s important to know that we have them. It’s important to know that, somewhere, there are those who know us, like us, and trust us. *Continued on page 2*



Friendship

Continued

There is a sense in which friendliness is a measure of character. By this I don't mean that those with outgoing personalities have a better character than others, but simply that the choice to welcome friendships into our lives (along with the work necessary to nurture them) is an indication of character. In the end, we'll enjoy little else that we've accomplished if we haven't been fond of friendship.

"A man cannot be said to succeed in life who does not satisfy one friend" (Henry David Thoreau).

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PRAYER LIST - AS OF 02/13/2021

Matthew Bruce deployed until mid-April 2021.

Linda Boren tested positive for COVID on Monday, 2/1.

Vaughn Thayer just found out that she has cancer. but treatable

Thomas Brewer's mother may be home from rehab soon. Keep in your prayers.

Katherine Trefethen - now going for walks. Getting stronger.

All Hart family - Pat at home and still with cellulitis both legs.

Jess at home but still plagued with retention of fluid.

Janis has shingles on head and face near eye. Referred to eye doctor.

Pray for Gary, Janis & Janie as they care for Jess & Pat.

Pray for Janie Brewer who assists Gary & Janis.

John Demas' mother, Janice Lindner- Cancer has grown, but not spread. Janice began first of five radiation treatments on Feb. 8. She is in good spirits.

Grace Meyers - in KY - friends of Bill's daughter - leukemia.

Marsha Williamson - Parkinson's - Evaluating after surgery Feb. 9, 2021.

Beth Beasley (Marsha's sister) - fractured shoulder, final stages of COPD, Hospice

Susan Kochik - (Ron's niece) - therapy working.

Please pray for all of our Bible Correspondence Course students (about 35)

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK. IF YOU HAVE NEWS THAT SHOULD BE SHARED IN THIS WAY, PLEASE CALL, TEXT OR EMAIL JOHN BURCH OR RONALD MCDONALD.

Unconditional Surrender



"And not only as we had hoped, but they first gave themselves to the Lord, and then to us by the will of God" (2 Corinthians 8:5).

TO SEEK GOD SINCERELY IS TO GIVE

OURSELVES TO HIM COMPLETELY. The good things that come from life in God come to those who yield themselves to Him entirely. If we hold back parts of our hearts or our lives from His benevolence, we will miss the unique blessings that flow from commitment. If we sow sparingly, we will not reap bountifully (2 Corinthians 9:6).

"A living sacrifice" is the expression Paul used to characterize the yielding of ourselves to God: "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service" (Romans 12:1). In the Law of Moses, animals that were sacrificed to God had to be slain. It was not possible for the worshiper to retain the living animal for himself and still give a part of it to the Lord. The very life of the animal itself had to be given. Corresponding to those sacrifices, our offering must be total. Although ours is a "living" sacrifice, the gift must be no less complete than if our bodies were to be slain. God deserves no less than our all, both inwardly and outwardly.

But the partial approach not only tries to give God less than He deserves, but it involves us in great difficulty and frustration. Just as a timid soul can't leap a large chasm by taking two medium-sized jumps, the requirements of our new life can't be met by the half-hearted efforts of our old mind. If we try to hang on to all that we think is ours and give God only enough of our outward behavior to get us to heaven, we are attempting the impossible. The old self will never be happy having to give up parts of itself to God. Since it never relinquishes its own desires except when forced to do so, the old self will never find Jesus' yoke "easy" and His burden "light" (Matthew 11:30). So the old self must die and a new self must come to life. We must be "crucified with Christ" (Galatians 2:20). When that happens, we will then find that the Lord's "commandments are not burdensome" (1 John 5:3).

"The Christian way is different: harder, and easier. Christ says, 'Give me all. I don't want so much of your time and so much of your money and so much of your work: I want You. I have not come to torment your natural self, but to kill it. No half-measures are any good'" (C. S. Lewis).

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