

The Riverchase Family

Volume XXXVIVI

September 1, 2015

No. 35

Forgiven, But Not Forgotten

Our oldest son sent me a text this week that read, "Dad, the story of you, the police officers and the water balloons is now the favorite story in my house."

I wrote back, "Forgiven, but not forgotten."

This is another challenge to trust.

When Abraham was an old man and his wife was too old for it to be physically possible for her to have children, God made a promise to Abraham that they would have a child. In spite of the physical impossibility, Abraham believed God. His belief is why the Bible refers to him as the father of the faithful.

There are many factors of human nature that make forgiveness seem like an impossible promise.

One of them is our memory.

How can I be forgiven if I still remember it? Forgiveness is God's promise to us through our faith in Jesus, not our ability to shut it out of our mind.

Likewise, our forgiveness of others is not in our ability to forget what they have done. It is in the choice we make about how we will treat them after we have granted them our forgiveness.

It is the same with God. His promise of remembering our sins no more is not a statement about His knowledge nor His ability to remember. It is a statement about His promise to no longer hold the matter against us. It is as if it had never happened when it is covered by the blood of Jesus.

In Christ we are forgiven, even if we can't forget.

-Dewayne

Upcoming Events:

Adventure Club /Pre-Teen

- **POWERHOUR:** Wednesday September 2, Reception Room.
- **AC/PT Supper:** Wednesday, September 9.

Teen

- **Teen Supper:** Wednesday, September 2. Cost: \$3; Starts at 6:00 p.m. Menu: Breakfast
- **R.U.S.H. @ Freed Hardeman University;** September 18-20; cost: \$55.
- **J.D.R.F. Walk for a Cure:** September 27; Cost: \$6 if you want a T-Shirt

College

- **Devo:** Tuesday, September, 1, Habaneros on Montgomery Highway at 6:30 p.m.

Flowers for Today Tony Brimingham

Jana never has been much of a flower girl. I have never been much of a flower guy. I get her the obligatory rose for Valentine's day, and sometimes I surprise her for her birthday. Our relationship is definitely not hinged to flowers. I know you fellows have got to be jealous by now.



We would both agree that we enjoy looking at flowers. We enjoy the colors of different type of flowers. Recently, I bought Jana a potted plant of geraniums. Wait, maybe they were daisies. To tell you the truth, I have no idea what they were except they were yellow. But they were very nice to look at. Jana put them in the window and watered them everyday. The flowers gave us great joy for about a week, and then, as all flowers do, they began to wilt. They began to fall over. They began to lose their color. Now they sit on our window sill all dried up and brown.

I am reminded of James chapter 4 when the writer says,

"You do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes."

This verse is so true. I am not promised tomorrow. I only have TODAY.

So today I want to be the brightest flower in the pot. Today, I want to bring joy to someone's life. Today, I want to serve my purpose in life. Today, I want to be the light on a hill to those around me. Today, I want to be a Christian.

Process and Progress Scott Pruitt

So many people have asked me if I built the sandcastle from Big House, and I kindly tell them, "No, It was a team effort." I do find sandcastles therapeutic and much fun. They are definitely a process, very much like us. **Foundation** is key to a successful castle, and many times, it is where many participate briefly and quit quickly. What is always interesting to me is that during the foundation phase of the sandcastle masterpiece, very few people, if any, observe the efforts...they are wanting to see the final product immediately. No one wants to watch someone piling heaps of sand for an hour or two...so they leave.

The next phase is where **creativity** takes shape. This is when you hear comments such as, "What is that?" "Whacha doin'?" "You need some help? (I love that question and always answer with a resounding, YES.)" Most people still have no clue what is being created, but the sandcastle is starting to, at least, look cool and interesting. Walls, Towers, Bridges, Roads, and whatever else you want to dream about has a place. Sometimes, a short break is necessary to step away from the castle to gain perspective. This is why we schedule retreats and vacations.

The final phase is what I call the **Sculpting** Phase. Details, Details, Details. Stone, brick, steps, windows, shadow lines, doors, words, swimming pools. Call me a sandcastle nerd, but I actually have a sandcastle tool kit for all the intricate sculpting. The kit even came with a pneumatic sand remover for mortar lines (it's a straw).

This is the thing. Some of us are detail driven, some are gifted with ideas and conceptualization, most understand the importance and value of foundational principles. All are key to sandcastles and life. I'm always asked after building a sandcastle, "Are you finished?" I kindly tell them, "No, the next phase is tomorrow." They typically reply, "Well, what if the waves knock it down?" I smile and answer, "Then, we start over again if we are given another day." We are a work in progress with increasing talents and gifts. Use them, develop them, grow them and invite others to join you in the process. Love Deeply. Live Simply. Every now and then, build a sandcastle and think of the incredible plans God has for you. Allow Him to sculpt you into a masterpiece.

Give Me One Good Reason

A long time ago when my daughter was very young she got into trouble for opening presents she wasn't supposed to. When we found out what she did we talked to her about it and explained why it is important to wait. Being little she heard what we said but did it again. So now I had to put on my big daddy shoes and talked to her and told her, "Give me one good reason why I shouldn't punish you." Her response left me a little perplexed; because I didn't know what to say. She said, "Because you love me."

That situation makes me think of my relationship with God. Should he punish me even though he loves me? Will his love for me prevent all the bad things from happening? Can I avoid all forms of pain and suffering because he loves me?

Hebrews 12:6 (NASB) For those whom the Lord loves He disciplines, and He scourges every son whom He receives."

Continued on the church website...

-David

Sympathy

Our sympathy is extended to the Donaldson Family in the death of our brother and former member, **David Donaldson**.

TOTS

Join us on Tuesday, September 15, for TOTS. We will meet in the gym to make bears and then enjoy a potluck lunch together. Our first Ladies' Bible Class will be on Tuesday, September 22. We will be studying *John - Light in the Darkness*.

Wednesday Night Ladies Bible Class

In the Fall Quarter, the Wednesday Night Ladies Class will begin an in-depth study of the Book of Proverbs. The format will change a bit in an attempt to delve deeper into the teachings and applications of this great book. Come ready to work. Come ready to learn. Come ready to sharpen one another.

Involvement Forms

Place completed involvement forms in the bins in the West Wing and in the front foyer. There are extra forms if you need one.

Help Needed

Are you looking for a way to be of great service? Tom Carter will be bringing Becky home mid September and is in need of a someone to stay with her during the day. If you can help or know of someone who can help in anyway, please call Tom at 988-3478.

Pictures for Directory

Kim Cleghorn will be making pictures for our November pictorial directory every Sunday in September and October. She will be making them after Sunday school and after late service.

Office Closing

The office will be closed on Monday, September 7, for the Labor Day holiday.

Upcoming Events

- **Teen Supper:** Wednesday, September 2, 6:00 p.m. in the Family Life Center.
- **Men's Prayer Breakfast:** Saturday, September 5, 8:00 a.m. in the Family Life Center.
- **FTG #1 Fellowship:** Sunday, September 6, 7:00 p.m. in the reception room.
- **Church office closed:** Monday, September 7, for Labor Day Holiday.
- **AC/PT Supper:** Wednesday, September 9, 6:00 p.m. in the Family Life Center.
- **LiveWires! Game Night:** Friday, September 11, 6:30 p.m. in the reception room.
- **Volleyball:** Saturday, September 12, 10:00 a.m. in the gym.
- **FTG #4 & #5 Sandwich/Chips Fellowship:** Sunday, September 13, 7:00 p.m. in the Family Life Center

For the Record

Sunday, August 30, 2015

Bible Study	452
Early Worship	244
Late Worship	400
Total Sunday Morning	644
Sunday Night	450
Contribution	\$29,640.63
YTD Average	\$33,039.07
Budget	\$32,500.00

Dear Riverchase Family,

Thank you all for the prayers, cards, calls, the words of encouragement and visitations during my last surgery.

*In Christian Love,
Peggy Rogers*

Dear Riverchase Family,

Thank you to everyone for the thoughts, cards, calls, messages and prayers during my brother's illness and passing this summer. Also, a special thank you to those that attended the visitation and funeral or sent flowers. Your support was appreciated.

*In Christian Love,
Kim Cleghorn*

Dear Riverchase Family,

I want to thank everyone that opened their hearts and homes to feed my family while I was sick in the hospital and through my recovery. I love this family that God has given me as a church family. Words can not express what this godly family means to me. But please know that I really appreciate the love you guys have shown my family time and time again. Now I want more than ever to work in the church to show my love and support to others during their time of need.

*In Christian Love,
Tabitha McDowell*

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This week at Riverchase:

Wednesday, September 2

- Teen Dinner 6:00 p.m. in the Family Life Center
- Pre-Teen Power Hour

Saturday, September 5

- Men's Prayer Breakfast 8:00 a.m. in the Family Life Center

Sunday, September 6

- FTG # 1 Fellowship 7:00 p.m. in the reception room.

Monday, September 7

- Church Office Closed.

Wednesday, September 9

- AC/PT Dinner 6:00 p.m. in the Family Life Center

Please continue to remember in prayer:

Patricia Anderson (former member), **Sherry Cardwell** (Lynda Cardwell's mother), **Tommie Cleghorn** (Jay's mother), **Bonnie Daniels** (Turner's friend), **L.D. & Mini S. Davis** (D. Bronte's parents), **Celia Dorantes** (David's mom) **Pat Driskell** (David's mother), **Ruth Hare** (David Hare's mother), **Joan Harris** (Betz's friend), **Jennifer Henderson** (friend of Masoner's) **Richard Howe** (Steve's dad), **Butch Johnson** (Dana Jones' brother), **Sharon Lawley** (Brandy Tuech's mother-in-law), **Kate Kirk** (Greg Coker's cousin), **Dot Mandle** (Kelley's friend), **Nancy Marlo** (Tami Picantine's sister), **Ralph Martin** (Kristi Sibert's dad), **Charles Mills** (Robert and Michelle's father). **Dell Moody** (Jane Windam's cousin), **Thelma Moon** (Diana Barnes' mother), **Barbara Stetler** (Sandy Sims and Lydia Howe's mother), **Maxine Mount** (Darrell's mother), **Kristy Tatum** (Rardin's neighbor).

Please continue to remember our military in prayer :

Thomas Balentine (Rejetta Balentine son)
Michael Epperson (Kevin and Amber Henderson's brother-in-law)
Jim Hendley (Jim and Peggy's son)
Dewayne Hester (Bill and Jan's son)
Alan Smith (Bates' grandson)
Brad Walker (Tommy's son)
Kirk Walker (Tommy's son)

Riverchase Family:

Dee Barr (#7) recovering from surgery in room 3135 at Princeton.
John Bearden (#2) in room 435 at UAB West with an infection.
Becky Carter (#3) in Aspire room 113.
Jackie Mathews (2) arteriogram, Thursday, September 3, at Brookwood.

Continue to remember these members:

Shirley Bailey (#3), **John Bearden (#2)**, **Lynda Cardwell (#1)**, **Jake Cole (#5)**, **Henry & Vonda Cook (#2)**, **Michelle Dichiara (#6)**, **David Driskell Jr. (#3)**, **Elaine Evans (#4)**, **John Gibson (#6)**, **Don & Jan Haefner (#7)**, **Alan Jackson (#4)**, **Grover Jackson (#6)**, **Bill Johnson (#5)**, **Ray Johnston (#3)** **Debra Jones (#2)**, **Diana Kelley (#5)**, **Bill Lovell (#1)**, **Steward Masoner (#4)**, **Norma Nabors (#5)**, **Norma Thomas (#4)**, **Ed & Nina Pitchford (#2)**, **Peggy Rogers (#4)**, **Ollie Scott (#6)**, **Matt Snow (#4)**, **Jo Wamack (#2)**, **Michelle Whitaker (#1)**, **Shirley Wilson (#5)**, **Linda Yerby (#4)**.

Add to your prayer list our friends and relatives:

Noreen Anderson (Jina O'Clair's mother) health issues.
Bernard Bradford (Diane Snow's father) under hospice care.
Joseph (Buddy) Bradford (Emma Aycocock's cousin) lung cancer.
Jessica Brown (Glenda's daughter in law) breast cancer.
Gloria Campbell (The Campbell's sister in law) treatment for cancer.
Dottie Carpenter (Jan Snider's sister in law) has cellulitis.
Becky Carr (friend of Hill's) liver cirrhosis, transplant needed.
Hubert Conner (Ellen Davis' father) bladder cancer.
Camden Creamer (Terry Pruitt's great nephew) rare blood condition.
Jim Dillinger (Jana's dad) cancer has returned.
Lee Dawkins (Jane Snider's cousin) cancer has returned.
Mary Dubose (Kelly Watts' mother) Parkinson's.
Marie Echols (Judy Ingram's sister) heart problems.
Walburga Giguere (Karen Owen's mother) health problems.
Kim Horne (Kim Ledingham's coworker) lung cancer.
Robert Howe (Carol Ingram's father) chemo and radiation.
Kent Ingram (Anthony Dotson's uncle) colon cancer.
Vivian Ledingham (mother of P Ledingham) poor pulse in legs.
Lindsey Long (Jacob Long's sister in law) pregnancy induced heart problems.
Brenda Lowery (former member and Ryan Holsonback's sister) bacterial infection. P.O. Box 9074, Miramar Beach, Fl. 32550
Alice Lucas (friend of the Gaines) brain tumor.
Whit McMath (friend of Rardin's) complications from brain tumor.
Wayne Miller (Snow's friend) cancer.
Jay Odom (Kevin Arvin's brother-in-law) recovering from a stroke.
Cecil Parker (Rhonda Ball's grandfather) health issues.
Lyle Parker (father of Bryan Parker) ICU in Michigan.
John Pierce (Rebecca Hill's father) heart problems.
Teresa Ragland (Becky Steen's sister) cancer treatments.
Teresa Richards (friend of the Hills) breast cancer.
Eric Ritchie (Pitchford's friend) chemo.
Amy Roebuck (Lindsay Handley's cousin) cancer, 682 Shirey Rd, Henagar, AL 35978.
Marie Seals (friend of the Snow's) thyroid cancer.
John Sehon (Helen Haskew's uncle) improving.
Billy Shikle (Helen Haskew's brother in law) chemo.
Pam Snider (Bob & Jane Snider 's niece) under hospice care.
Donna Somerville (friend of the Ball's) acute leukemia.
Ann Spivey (mother of Dewayne and Larry) recovering from a mini stroke.
Roger Thomas (uncle to Fabray Turner) chemo & radiation.
Danielle Tucker (niece of Ryan Holsonback) breast cancer.
Havanna Tyree (family member of Diana Kelley) 8 year old recovering from surgery.
Cindy Van Beck (friend of Posey's) cancer.
Olen Vickery (Kim Ledingham's brother in law) memory impairments.
Darryl Waid (friend of Handleys) health issues. 2524 Comache Drive, Birmingham, Al 35244.
Cambrie Walker (friend of Rardin's) cancer.
Carol Watson (Fred Langdon's sister) lymphoma.
Don Watson (Fred Langdon's brother in law) dementia.
Burt Wheeler (Debra Jones' father) possible Alzheimer's.