

The Riverchase Family

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Tis The Season

When you think of the focus on thankfulness, the giving and receiving of gifts, and the sense of an opportunity to start over, it is no wonder that this is often called, "the most wonderful time of the year."

We even have the order right, although you have to think about it to see it. Looking at the season as we do, we will consider the starting over to be at the end rather than at the beginning. But in reality it is at the beginning with the gratitude and giving coming at the end. Or, to think of it in a better way, as the result.

To me, it simply becomes another example of what we have been given in Jesus.

The "beginning again" comes as we enter Christ and are washed in His blood. By His death all of our sins are washed away in the sacrifice He offered for us. When we trust that sacrifice and trust Him to the point that we surrender our lives to Him we begin the living of a new life in Him. We are raised to walk in a new way of living.

This new life is not perfection. We will still have struggles and sins. Now we belong to Him and we are constantly reminded of what He has done for us. So we enter this struggle to fight to put off our old self and learn and strive to grow into this new self which is striving to be like Him.

All the while remembering that as we go through this continuing struggle of life, we have His great and tremendous gift of the forgiveness of our sins. This great gift actually becomes a strong motivation for us to work harder at putting off that old self and putting on His likeness in every part of our life.

This great gift of forgiveness fills us with gratitude because it is a gift truly given to us even though we do not deserve it and there is nothing we could ever do to achieve it.

The gratitude and thankfulness that fill us make us want to share this great gift with others. We do so by sharing the great gift of Jesus to all and by ourselves forgiving those who sin against us.

Tis the season. Tis the life in Christ Jesus.

-Dewayne

Upcoming Events:

Adventure Club/Pre-Teen

- **Breakfast with Santa:** Saturday, December 2, 9:00 a.m. in Reception Room.
- **Pre-Teen Devo:** Sunday, December 3, 6:00 p.m. in the Kid Cave.

Teen

- **Distribution of Clothing / Breakfast for the Homeless:** Saturday, December 2; 6:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.
- **Teen Supper / Christmas Compassion Project:** Wednesday, December 6; Supper at 5:30 p.m. Following Dinner, we will shop at Target on Hwy 150 at the Grove and return by 8:00 p.m.

College

- **Volleyball:** Friday, December 1, 6:00 p.m. in the gym.

Breakfast with Santa

Saturday, December 2, 9:00 a.m.
Bring an unwrapped present for Children's Hospital
Mrs. Claus will be joining us this year!



Pre-Teen Devo

Sunday, December 3, 6:00 p.m.
We will be meeting in the new Kid Cave located in the
old 4-year-old classroom.



Caroling and Christmas Party
Saturday, December 16, 4:00 p.m.
Meet in the Reception Room

signup.riverchasechurch.org



Packing Day for the Homeless: Last Saturday, in one hour, many of our teens and parents helped pack over 200 backpacks full to capacity. Please join us this Saturday at 6:00 a.m. in the gym to prepare breakfast and distribute not only food but all these backpacks and sleeping bags to the homeless at Linn Park in downtown Birmingham. We will spend time in prayer with them, listen to their stories and hopefully bring some joy and hope into their lives. If you would like to contribute financially, each backpack and sleeping bag is \$50 total.



How Did The Sermon Make You Feel?

1 Thessalonians 2: 4 but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not to please man, but to please God who tests our hearts. (NASB)

Paul is making a case for the brethren in Thessalonica. Some people have come to the church there and thought that Paul's message was not accurate. These new preachers wanted the brethren to "expose" Paul for what he was doing. Taking money from other churches so he can travel, see the world and live at the expense of the churches. Paul then decided to write this chapter telling them what it took for him to preach to them. He preached the gospel to them out of love. He preached to them out of duty and preached to them out of respect for God.

The message preached from the pulpits is not about us. The message should never be about how to make me or anyone feel better. Sometimes God's message does make us feel better, and sometimes God's message does encourage us. The main message should be "Is this what God said?" When we want to hear what God says, we will always feel better. We will always be encouraged. Paul tells the church that the problem is not in the preaching but in the hearing. Each time we listen to the word preached, we need to ask or think, what is God telling me to do?

- David

Sympathy

Our sympathy is extended to **Bobby and Cathy Hayes, Ryan, Robin and Carter Vincent and Grant and Hayden Gurganus**, in the death of Cathy's mother and Robin's grandmother, Ellaree Jackson. The funeral was Sunday in Lester, Alabama.

AGAPE Pecan Sale

Just in time for Holiday baking! Pecans are \$13.00 for pieces and halves. Please make checks out to AGAPE. They are being sold in the West Wing Foyer.

Rainbow Omega Poinsettias

Delivery will be on Wednesday, November 29. Please look in the front hallway for your flowers.



LIVEWIRES! CHRISTMAS AT ARLINGTON
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2,
9:30 A.M.
TOUR AND REFRESHMENTS

Christmas Caroling for the Shut-ins

Sunday, December 3, we will be singing Christmas Carols to the shut-ins. Buses will leave at 2:00 p.m. and return around 4:00 p.m.



For the Record

Sunday, November 26, 2017

Bible Study	440
Early Worship	242
Late Worship	397
Total Sunday Morning	639
Sunday Night	265
Contribution	\$33,051.50
YTD Average	\$35,303.77
Budget	\$36,000.00

ORNAMENT EXCHANGE

Thursday, December 7, 6:00 p.m.
In The Reception Room
\$10 ornament should be wrapped in a brown paper bag.
Please bring your favorite Christmas finger food.

LIVEWIRES! CHRISTMAS PARTY
Sunday, December 10, 2017
11:30 a.m. in the Family Life Center
Cost: \$10.00 per person
A Catered Meal Will Be Served
Please Sign Up on the LiveWires! Board
Please leave a check/cash with :
Diana Barnes, Luann Spivey, Lynne Selby,
Tami Picantine, Peggy Gaines or Mary Sue Wagner

Christmas Eve Service

On Sunday, December 24, we will have a combined bible class at 9:30 a.m. and combined worship at 10:30 a.m. No 8:00 a.m. service or evening service.

Upcoming Events

- **Volleyball:** Friday, December 1, 6:00 p.m. in the gym.
- **Teens Breakfast for the Homeless:** Saturday, December 2, 6:30 a.m.
- **Breakfast with Santa:** Saturday, December 2, 9:00 a.m. in the Reception Room.
- **LiveWires! Christmas at Arlington:** Saturday, December 2, the bus will leave at 9:30 a.m.
- **Christmas Caroling:** Sunday, December 3, 2:00-4:00 p.m.
- **Pre-Teen Devo:** Sunday, December 3, 6:00 p.m.
- **Ladies' Bible Class:** Tuesday, December 5, 10:30 a.m. in the Reception Room.
- **Teen Supper and Christmas Compassion Project:** Wednesday, December 6, 5:30 p.m. in the Family Life Center.
- **Ladies' Ornament Swap,** Thursday, December 7, 6:00 p.m.
- **Riverchase Annual Singing,** Friday, January 26, 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

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This week at Riverchase:

Friday December 1

- Volleyball

Saturday, December 2

- Teens Breakfast for the Homeless
- Breakfast with Santa
- **LIVEWIRES!** Trip to Christmas at Arlington

Sunday, December 3

- Church Christmas Caroling
- Pre-Teen Devo

Tuesday, December 5

- Ladies' Bible Class

Please continue to remember in prayer:

Patricia Anderson (former member), **Greg Case** (Penny's husband), **Tommie Cleghorn** (Jay's mother), **Bonnie Daniels** (Turner's friend), **Wynonia Davis** (Peggy Jackson's mother), **Celia Dorantes** (David's mom), **Brenda Forehand** (Joyce Bowen's sister), **Robert Garner** (Paula Davis' friend), **Joan Harris** (Betz's friend), **Jim Hollon** (Clemmons' friend), **Richard Howe** (Steve's dad), **Butch Johnson** (Dana Jones' brother), **Martha Manwarring** (former member) **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), **Jay Odom** (Kevin Arvin's brother-in-law), **Claudia Sibert** (John's mother), **Deb Rose** (Heidi Bogg's mother), **Kristy Tatum** (Rardin's neighbor), **Roger Thomas** (Fabray Turner's uncle), **Olen Vickery** (Kim Ledingham's brother-in-law), **Bill Wright** (Georgia Vaughn's father).

Please pray for our active duty deployed military:

Jimmy Hendley (Jim & Peggy's son)
Michael Epperson (Amber Henderson brother-in-law)

Riverchase Family:

Curdell Allen (#2) recovering at home from knee surgery.
Carol Crawford (#7) recovering at home from broken hand and dislocated shoulder.
Stephen Porterfield (#1) recovering at home from knee surgery.
Shirley Vines (#6) recovering at home from back surgery.

CONTINUE TO REMEMBER THESE MEMBERS:

FTG #1: Rejetta Balentine, Lynda Cardwell, Angie Dickinson, Jean Marshall, Michelle Whitaker
FTG #2: John Bearden, Victor & Glinda Boone, Henry & Vonda Cook, Cathy Hayes, Ed & Nina Pitchford, Jo Wamack
FTG #3: Ray & Martha Johnston, Becky Carter, David Hare, Nona Miller, Thelma Moon, Jean Oglesby
FTG #4: Jeff Carroll, Elaine Evans, Gary Evans, Alan Jackson, Martha Mann, Peggy Rogers, Norma Thomas
FTG #5: Jake Cole, Shirley Wilson, Norma Nabors
FTG #6: Zane Armstrong, Erick Boggs, Michelle Dichiera, Shirley Genry, John Gibson, Grover Jackson, Kathleen Perkins, Ollie Scott, Sarah Wolford
FTG #7: Don & Jan Haefner, Judy Ingram, Lori Lambert, Denise Newton, Candy Parker, Georgia Vaughn

ADD TO YOUR PRAYER LIST OUR FRIENDS AND RELATIVES:

Kristin Adams (friend of Peggy Jackson) brain tumor.
Noreen Anderson (Jina O'Clair's mother) health issues.
Andy Arvin (Kevin's Brother) prostate cancer.
Ruth Bath (Kathy Turrentine's mother) heart related issues.
Jessica Brown (Glenda's daughter in law) breast cancer.
Eleanor Callan (friend of the Mathews) recovering from heart surgery.
Becky Carr (friend of Hill's) liver cirrhosis.
Ashley Creamer (Terry Pruitt's niece) medullary thyroid cancer.
Cathy Crittenden (Dee Davis' friend) brain tumor.
Roger Davis (Peggy Jackson's brother) leukemia.
Lee Dawkins (Jane Snider's cousin) cancer.
Angela Dickerson (Amber Henderson cousin) health problems.
Sally Dunn (Keith Dunn's mother) recovering from a stroke.
G. Estes (friend of Pitchford's) chemo.
Teresa Evans (friend of the Peters') breast cancer.
Renee Folk (Cindy Thompson's cousin) cancer.
Brenda Forehand (Joyce Bowen's sister) recovering from surgery.
Sam Gray (Ward's neighbor) cancer.
Scott Green (Cindy Thompson's cousin) brain tumor.
Jan Hall (Helen Haskew's sister - in - law) health issues.
Bob Hull (Howe's brother-in-law) cancer.
Kent Ingram (Anthony Dotson's uncle) colon cancer.
Melissa Jackson (Grover & Jo's Daughter-in-law) recovering from colon surgery.
Lewis Kryger (Handley's friend) lymphoma, 127 Crestmont Lane, Pelham AL, 35124.
Sharon Lawley (Brandy Tuech's mother -in-law) chemo.
Tonya Masoner (Judy Masoner's daughter) radiation.
Paul Meacham (member at Panama Street) brain cancer.
Wayne Miller (Snow's friend) cancer.
Lynda Morris (Jim Hendley's mother) health problems.
Lowell Newton (Michael's dad) prostate cancer.
Teresa Ragland (Becky Steen's sister) cancer.
McKenzie Ray (friend of Amber Henderson) leukemia.
Teresa Richards (friend of the Hills) breast cancer.
Wally Riggins (friend of Alan Boshell) infection after surgery.
Miller Rock (John Rock's brother) health issues.
John Sehon (Helen Haskew's uncle) health problems.
Mary Ella Sirmon (The Sirmon's granddaughter) seizures.
Jenny Slaughter (The Slaughter's daughter-in-law) breast cancer.
Paul Strength (Cindy Thompson's cousin) kidney tumor.
Clay Tinney (friend of Alan Jones) recovering from a stroke.
Nicole Valentine (Ward's friend) cancer.
Cindy Van Beck (friend of Posey's) cancer.
Carol Watson (Fred Langdon's sister) lymphoma.
Raymond White (Cindy Thompson's cousin) health problems.
Ann Williams (friend of Georgia Vaughn) breast cancer.
Lisa Wills (former member) breast cancer.