

In the Beginning

John's gospel begins in a way that none of the others do. This does not make it any "better" than another gospel account, but it certainly sets itself apart thematically. When one reads the book of John, he/she will immediately be reminded of the very first words of the Genesis. These were the very first words of God's revelation to man. The first three verses of John's gospel offer a simple yet impactful message to its readers. The reader learns three things: Christ was in the beginning, Christ made everything, and Christ is God. Every Christian ought to realize and be reminded that he/she serves the eternal God who made everything seen and unseen. God is the Lord over time, the Lord over creation, and the Lord of Lords. What then is expected of me? Where do I fit into the mix? Perhaps the answer to that important question can be found further down the page in verse 12. "But as many who received Him, He gave to them the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name." Let us never forget how great and mighty the Lord is; moreover, let us never forget the great opportunity we have to be His adopted children.

-Dimitri Sims

Ecclesiastes 7 Questions

Sunday, January 10, 2021

Tom Steed

- How well do you like or appreciate the Book of Proverbs? Is it one of your favorite books?
- Do you have a favorite (or top five?) Proverb? What is it?
- How can it be better to go to the house of mourning than the house of feasting? Ecclesiastes 7:2
- How could the end of a thing be better than the beginning? Ecclesiastes 7:8
- Do you think the 'good old days' are better than today? Ecclesiastes 7:10

Upcoming Events:

Adventure Club/Pre-Teen

- **Parent Meeting:** TBA, we will have a parent meeting to help plan for our 2021 calendar.

Teen

- **Winter Retreat:** Friday - Sunday, January 15-17, Children's Harbor.
Cost: \$75.00
Deadline: Wednesday, January 6

College

- **Volleyball:** Friday, January 8, 6:00 p.m. in the gym.
- **JR/SR Retreat:** Friday - Sunday, March 5-7, Marshall Retreat Center, Guntersville, Alabama.

A New Year Eric Gott

For me, the days between Christmas and New Years always feel like time stands still. It's a time when Leah and I reflect on the past year and focus on our hopes and goals for the new year. I have never been one to make New Year Resolutions mainly due to lack of preparation once December comes. However, I do like to focus on a specific word as a personal theme for the new year. I like to find a word that can guide my decisions and ideas and be a focal point throughout each month.

Over the past few days, I have reflected on the children's ministry here at Riverchase. A year ago, I had many hopes and dreams for 2020. I was preparing to leave for my annual children's ministry conference, and I was eager to begin planning events for the summer. We were meeting for LTC practices, and Leah and I were working with the chorus. We were also in the early stages of our foster journey and unaware that our first placement was coming to an end. As we all know, 2020 did not go as planned for anyone. In March, our church began navigating the pandemic, and we learned to adjust and adapt to new circumstances. Gone were many of the events I was looking forward to doing. Gone were many of the gatherings. Gone was hugging friends, meeting for Bible class, and spending regular time together. Yes, 2020 had many blessings and positives, too. We learned to slow down, we learned to focus on family, and we learned not to take small things for granted. Ultimately, we learned God is in control.


As I reflected on the past year, the word that kept coming to mind was **connect**. For me, I want 2021 to be filled with connections.

I want 2021 to be a year where we as a church are connecting more with Christ.

I want 2021 to be a year where our children's ministry families are connecting more as a family unit.

I want 2021 to be a year where we are connecting more with our brothers and sisters to create a stronger Church community.

Have you ever focused on a word for the new year, too? If not, take time this week to explore your goals, thoughts, and ideas. What do you hope the new year brings? I would love to hear your thoughts as well.



TEEN WINTER RETREAT
Children's Harbor
Friday - Sunday
January 15-17, 2021
Cost: \$75.00
Deadline to Sign up is
Wednesday, January 6, 2021

Teen Winter Retreat Guest Speaker



We will have a guest speaker at the Teen Winter Retreat this year. Jason Darden received his B.A. in kinesiology and missions from Harding University in Searcy, Arkansas. In December of 2010, Jason graduated from Fuller Theological Seminary with an M.A. in theology. He is now a bible professor at Harding University. He previously served in the Army and was stationed in Egypt after 9/11. He continues to serve in the Army reserves as a chaplain. He was previously a pulpit minister at the Parkway Church of Christ in Savannah, Georgia. He also served as minister for two congregations in California and did campus ministry at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles. Jason is married to Mary Darden and together, they have two daughters, Alayla and Izabella.

Paul's Advice

2 Timothy 2: 15 *Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a worker who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth (NASB).*

This verse is a good reminder of how every year we must commit to work hard to become who God wants us to be. First, Paul instructs Timothy to "be diligent." That meant Timothy needed to be ready to work, and he needed to make haste in that readiness. There is a sense of urgency that needs to be initiated from one's self. Timothy was asked to hurry to take initiative in order to present himself to God. "To present" means to show up and be ready to take orders. To be present is not just being there, but rather being there in order to make a difference. "Approved" means that there are certain requirements that need to be in order. People who wear uniforms understand this concept. They don't just show up in any fashion, they have to respect the uniform. "To God" means that the approval we need is God's and not man's. Sometimes we forget this. Timothy as a young Gospel preacher needed to be reminded that he serves God and His people, but more than anything, he needed the approval of God.

- David

Welcome to the Family



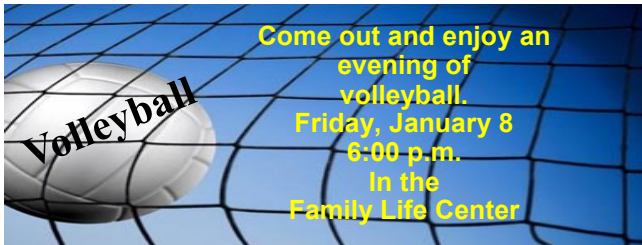
Welcome to **Josh, Sarah, Ava, Henry, Jack and Emma Shelton** (FTG #3) who recently placed membership. Their address is 2408 Mahasha Drive, Birmingham, Alabama 35244. Their phone number is 501-593-9933.

Sunday Worship Services Schedule

Due to the rise in the COVID numbers, our elders have decided to have three Sunday morning worship times. We will have 8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services. Our adult Bible Classes will now be on Sunday nights, 6:00 p.m., in the auditorium and streaming in the classrooms. Wednesday Bible Service for adults will be in the auditorium at 7:00 p.m. Teen and children classes will meet Sunday nights in their respective classrooms, or as directed. The broadcasts will be available on [Riverchase's webpage](#), [Facebook page](#), [YouTube](#) and [Vimeo](#). Recordings of all services will continue to be available under sermons on our website, www.riverchasechurch.org.

New Elders Recommendations

The Eldership sincerely appreciates your recommendations for additional Elders. Each suggestion is being prayerfully considered. Please keep this process in your prayers as we move forward.



Ladies' Ministry

Dorcas Club will meet Saturday, January 16, 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. in the Family Life Center. We will be making hygiene kits, which will be distributed to African women through Healing Hands International.

Riverchase Church of Christ

LifeSouth Blood Drive

January 24, 2021

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

In the Reception Room

Give Blood
It's About *Life*

For the Record

Sunday, January 3, 2021

8:00 Worship	70
9:30 Worship	151
11:00 Worship	63
Total Sunday Morning	284
Sunday Night	81
Contribution	\$87,985.36
YTD Average	\$87,985.36
Budget	\$37,500.00

Dear Riverchase Family,

Thank you so much for the flowers and prayers during the loss of my brother in law.

Love,

Jay Cleghorn

Dear Riverchase Family,

Thank you so much for the beautiful spray for mom. The colors were what mom would have loved. We love the support from our church family.

Love,

Glenn and Francie Savage

Dear Riverchase Family,

Thank you so much for all the calls, cards, messages and offers to help. We appreciate each one! You are such a loving and wonderful family. God hears each plea and sees each good deed. Bob has felt each one, and God has helped him as he is doing so well now!! Praise God!

Love,

Bob and Alice Smith

Dear Riverchase,

I want to thank everyone for all the cards, phone calls and emails. I hope everyone had a good Christmas. I'm looking forward to a Happy 2021 and wish the same to you all.

Love,

Betty Lovell

Upcoming Events

- **Volleyball:** Friday, January 8, 6:00 p.m. in the gym.
- **Teen Winter Retreat:** Friday - Sunday, January 15-17. Sign-up now. Cost:\$75.00
- **Dorcas Club:** Saturday, January 16, 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. in the Family Life Center.
- **Riverchase Church of Christ Blood Drive:** Sunday, January 24, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. in the Reception Room.

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This week at Riverchase:

- Wednesday Night Bible Study in the auditorium.
- Volleyball
- Three Sunday Morning Worship Services:
Sunday, January 10, 8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m.
and 11:00 a.m. Bible Class at 6:00 p.m.

Please continue to remember in prayer:

Patricia Anderson (former member), **Tommie Cleghorn** (Jay's mother), **Joan Harris** (Betz's friend), **Richard Howe** (Steve's dad), **Martha Manwarring** (former member), **Claudia Sibert** (John's mother).

Please pray for our active duty deployed military:

RIVERCHASE FAMILY

Johnny Barnes (#7) recovering from COVID.

David Bath (#3) will have outpatient surgery on his kidney for kidney cancer.

Lindsay Handley (#6) will have surgery on Wednesday, January 6, at Grandview to remove a lump from the underside of his arm.

Billy Ingram (#3) in Grandview hospital with COVID/pneumonia.

Nona Miller (#3) recovering from COVID.

Mary Scott (#1) recovering from COVID.

Ollie Scott (#1) recovering from COVID in a nursing facility in Pell City.

Donnie Turrentine (#3) recovering from pneumonia.

James Windham (#7) recovering from COVID.

CONTINUE TO REMEMBER THESE MEMBERS:

FTG #1: Rejetta Balentine, Charles Bates, Lynda Cardwell, Angie Dickinson, Keith Dunn, Ollie Scott, Michelle Whitaker

FTG #2: Glenda Arnold, John Bearden, Bertha Bell, Victor Boone, Bill Crane, Kay Kolb, Nina Pitchford, Lance Rushing, Bob Smith, Bob Snider, Doris Tucker

FTG #3: David Bath, Ruth Bath, Becky Carter, David Hare, Martha Johnston, Nona Miller, Stephen Wright

FTG#4: Jeff Carroll, Susan Chaney, Vonda Cook, Elaine Evans, Gary Evans, Bill Hester, Alan Jackson, Everleigh Self, Cindy Snider

FTG #5: Tami Picantine, Beverly Strange, Ron Waddell

FTG #6: Zane Armstrong, Erick Boggs, Michelle Diciara, Don & Shirley Genry, Don Greer, Addie Jackson, Jo Jackson, Grover Jackson, Sarah Wolford

FTG #7: Don & Jan Haefner, Peggy Hendley, Peggy Jackson, Lori Lambert, Candy Parker, Tim Parker, Jerry Sharp, Katie Yaeger

ADD TO YOUR PRAYER LIST OUR FRIENDS AND RELATIVES:

Noreen Anderson (Jina O'Clair's mother) health issues.

Jessica Brown (Glenda's daughter in law) breast cancer.

Dot Carpenter (Snider's Sister-in-Law) health issues.

Cathy Crittenden (Dee Davis' friend) brain tumor.

Bob Edwards (Ron Steen's cousin) MDS.

Kristy Elliott (Staci Kolb's sister) mental health issues.

G. Estes (friend of Pitchford's) chemo.

Jan Hall (Helen Haskew's sister - in - law) health issues.

Jane Harrison (Peggy Hendley's sister in law) heart issues.

Billy Helms diagnosed with NASH.

Bob Hull (Howe's brother-in-law) cancer.

Myra Myrick (Pam Wampol's aunt) ovarian cancer.

Lauren Orth (David Orth's sister) health issues.

Cecil Parker (Rhonda Ball's grandfather) liver disease.

Ruby Pitts (Dana Keith's mother) Alzheimer's.

McKenzie Ray (friend of Amber Henderson) leukemia.

Faye Reeves (Paula Davis' mother) stroke.

Ronnie Rogers (CJ Rogers father - college student) brain cancer.

Pattie Ryan (Sarah Pate's mother) melanoma.

Margaret Seagrest (long time visitor) health issues.

Mary Ella Sirmon (The Sirmon's granddaughter) seizures.

Tricia Shanlever (The Hare's daughter) liver issues.

Pauline Strickland (Pam Williams friend) immunotherapy.

Lisa Wallace (Bath's niece) breast cancer.

Carol Watson (Fred Langdon's sister) lymphoma.

Raymond White (Cindy Thompson's cousin) health problems.

Ann Winsett (Brett Moran's grandmother) heart issues.