

THE REMINDER

BELLAIRE CHURCH OF CHRIST, 09 SEPTEMBER 2018

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **The Men's Breakfast** will be this coming **Saturday, September 15**, at 8:30, at Panera Bread (3151 W Holcombe).
- **Brian and Deb Haley** are moving back into their home today! There is still a lot to do to get their house back to working order, but give thanks to God for bringing them to this point! Now all our our displaced Harvey families are back home!
- In recent weeks, we have had less to announce, which may mean that fewer difficult things are plaguing our members at this time. Let's give thanks for God's care, and at the same time let's focus our concern on those who do have ongoing health and family concerns, many of whom are listed below.
- **Beverley Berthold, Muffy Garrett's** mother, continues to receive cancer treatment, and **Muffy's nephew, Truman Berthold**, is undergoing radiation at St. Jude's in Memphis.
- Keep praying for those with on-going health concerns: **Pat Butler, Laura Claburn, Jan and Richard Cooper, Mike Flinn, Deb Haley, Janice Kimbrough, Johnny Martinez, Anna Miekle, Bob Stark.**
- **Sermon Title: Sharing the Truth**

WHO ARE WE?

A group of God's children, striving to maintain the organization, doctrine and worship as taught in the New Testament

ELDERS

Brian Haley
Mark Mann
Mike Pharris

DEACONS

Scott Clanton
David Haley
Mitchell Howell
Dan Kimbrough
Jesse Knapp
John Moon
Alex Morolez
Gregory Williams

EVANGELISTS

Daniel Broadwell
Steve Garrett

CONTACT US

8001 S. Rice Ave
P.O. Box 1029
Bellaire, TX 77402
bellairechurchofchrist.org

DIRECTORY UPDATES

Email:
danieljady@gmail.com

SCHEDULE

Sunday:

9:30 AM Worship
11:00 AM Bible Study

Wednesday:

7:30 PM Bible Study

SERVICE

Welcome - M. Gomez
Song Leader - L. Williams
Opening Prayer - J. Mitchell
Communion Talk - R. McDonald
Lesson - S. Garrett
Announcements - M. Mann
Closing Prayer - I. Davies
Wed. Songs - D. Broadwell
Wed. Invitation - L. Williams
Wed. Prayer - B. Mann

BIBLE CLASSES

New Songs/Thessalonians

- Steve Garrett
- Auditorium

Middle - High School

- Daniel Broadwell
- Upstairs

Classes for All Ages

- God's Mighty Hand
- Back Classrooms

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He to Whom We Pray (A note on prayer, 1 of 2) by: Kenny Chumbley

“To whom then, will you liken God?” Isaiah 40:18

“God, being infinite, can never be fully comprehended by our minds . . . Our conception of him can never correspond with the reality . . . but can only represent the reality, and stand for God within our souls, till nobler thoughts arise and reveal themselves as our interpreters” (James Marineau, Prayers in the Congregation and in College).

Marineau’s quote is as right as it is inescapable. Try as we might, the finite can never fully grasp the infinite. Whatever we think about God—the Ultimate Reality—is only a rough approximation, and even our best thoughts will fall ten thousand miles short of Him. But despite our limitations, not only does God want us to think of Him, He tells us how to think of Him. In the very heart of the Sermon on the Mount, in the section known as the Lord’s prayer, He tells us to think of Him as our Father.

Christ doesn’t philosophize or theologize on prayer and God in His preaching; He gets commonplace. He brings heaven close to earth by telling us to approach God as a Father. For those fortunate enough (like myself) to have had the best dad in the world (Matt. 7.7–11), father is a rich term—so rich that God wishes us to think of Him that way. Around seventy times, Christ spoke of God as Father; it seems He wanted to lodge the idea deep within us.

That believers should think of God as a Father is a stunning declaration. The great George MacDonald was born into the gloom of Calvinism, and the concept of God he inherited (mostly, from his grandmother) was of an awesome, almighty, terrible Being; unsmiling and infinite in His displeasure; angry with sinners; eager to pounce whenever they failed. But MacDonald had a father who was warm, understanding, compassionate, forgiving; always ready with an arm to wrap itself in love around his son’s shoulder. When MacDonald read in his Bible that God is our Father, he slowly started to hope against hope that the true God was not the one portrayed by his grandmother or his church, but one like his own kind father. In the introduction C. S. Lewis penned for MacDonald’s fantasy novel *Phantastes*, he wrote, “From his own father, he [George] said, he first learned that Fatherhood must be at the core of the universe. He was thus prepared in an unusual way to teach that religion in which the relation of Father and Son is of all relations the most central.”

When we pray, we are not praying to a Calvinistic headmaster, or to an aloof deistic Maker, or to the projection of human desire upon an Olympian peak; we pray to a loving Father. It’s good we remember this. And one of the best ways to do so is by beginning our prayers the way Christ taught. Our Father who art in heaven is a revelation of one of glory’s most precious secrets. Of all relations, it is, indeed, the most central.