

Little Sharks, Big Jelly Fish

Every time I go swimming in the ocean, someone inevitably warns me: watch out for sharks! I always do, but I've never seen one, I've never heard the "bom-bom-bom-bom" music that plays in the background when sharks come near! And it's a good thing, because once you hear the music, it's probably too late. I've been warned to watch out for sharks, but no one has ever said to me, "Watch out for the jelly fish." The fact is, jelly fish are far more dangerous and each year kill more people than sharks do. I take a walk each day in the park, but no one has ever said to me, "Watch out for the bees." Yet, bees kill more people each year than sharks and jelly fish combined.

We tend to spend our lives worrying about the sharks because sharks are big and scary. We tend to ignore real threats because, by themselves, they're not all that intimidating. Don't let the little things in life fool you. You ignore them at your own peril. Every good marriage...every good employee...every good business...succeeds because they've learned to pay attention to the little things.

Jesus told a story about a servant who was given some money to manage, and because he managed it well, he was rewarded by his master. The master said, "*You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities*" (**Matthew 25:21**).

Our greatest wins and losses in life result from our ability to master the seemingly minor details of life. Reading a few verses of scripture and spending some time in prayer each day may not seem significant to some, but it's long-term effect is revolutionary. Making the effort to bite your tongue may not seem that important, but in the long run it could save a relationship.

Don't give the sharks more attention than they deserve—especially at the cost of ignoring the jelly fish. It's the little things that hold us back and the little things that move us forward. ~Harrisburg church of Christ, Harrisburg, IL

MINISTERS

Pulpit Minister
Paul Mowrer

Campus Minister
Brad Tolbert

Youth Minister
Jason Meier

Secretary
Cathy Mowrer

ELDERS

Mike Beard
Larry Fisackerly
Joe Moore

Deacons

Marty Baker
Chris Bryant
Ray Linder
Jason Meier
Jeff Newton
Josh Pettigrew
Kerry Rice
Jeremy Wilson

Assemblies

SUNDAY
Bible Study 9:30 AM
Assembly 10:30 AM
Assembly 5:00 PM

WEDNESDAY
Bible Study 6:30 PM



MONTICELLO

CHURCH OF CHRIST

"...speaking the truth in love..." Eph. 4:15

September 20, 2020

MATURING IN THE LORD

I enjoy doing the occasional woodworking project. It keeps my hands busy and allows extra time for thinking on life. To help improve my abilities in woodworking I subscribed to a wood magazine. I was excited to get my first issue and began the process of becoming a master craftsman! As I perused through that first issue, I quickly realized that I had bitten off more than I could chew. There were tools and terms totally strange to me. I have since subscribed to a different magazine more on my level.

Sadly, there are many Christians today who suffer through the same problem in their walk with Christ. The initial desire is to know the Lord to the greatest extent, but find in their daily reading of His Word a world far beyond comprehension. Terms can be hard to understand and a culture far removed from our current lifestyle. The more we turn the pages, the more lost we become, until giving up altogether.

The Hebrews writer addresses this very problem in the early church. The writer chastises Christians for their lack of maturity in Christ. Though they ought to be teachers by now, they are needing others to teach the elementary principles of the oracles of God. They were needing the milk of the word, not solid food (**Heb. 5:12-14**). But the Christians were encouraged to leave behind the elementary teachings and press on to maturity (**6:1-2**).

What the writer is addressing is the problem of apathy in the church then, and today. Have we become comfortable where we are in our lives with Christ? Are we satisfied (status quo) in our relationship with the Lord? Have we ceased striving to know more about the Lord? Have we become comfortable with the same well known stories, instead of delving into the greater "mysteries" of the Word? The Hebrew writer continues his challenge by describing the immature [apathetic] Christian as ground that either brings forth useful vegetation or ground yielding thorns and thistles with its unfortunate end to be burned (**Heb. 6:4-8**).

Where are you in your walk with the Lord? Yes, there are passages which are difficult to understand, but if we will apply ourselves to knowing God, He will bless us with a greater understanding, leading us to a full life for Him and the promise of eternal life! I hope and pray that you are maturing in the Lord in all ways: church attendance, a greater knowledge of His Word, serving the Lord (as you serve others), and reaching out to the lost. ~P. Mowrer

Together

These seven "togethers" are seven links of a chain which bind us to Christ:

- * Crucified together (**Rom. 6:6**)
- * Quickened together (**Eph. 2:5**)
- * Raised together (**Eph. 2:6**)
- * Seated together in the heavenly places (**Eph. 2:6**)
- * Sufferers together with Christ (**2 Cor. 1:7**)
- * Heirs together (**Rom. 8:17**)
- * Glorified together with Christ (**Rom. 8:17**)

They indicate the everlasting purpose of God in our redemption, and His plan in effecting that purpose. ~ Author Unknown, *Leaves of Gold*

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Our sympathy is extended to **Christina Conley** on the passing of her grandmother, **Lucille Roach**. Funeral services were held this past Thursday in Gurdon, AR.

We welcome **Samantha** and **Sawyer Scott Tannehill** back home while **Mathew** is serving a year long tour in Afghanistan. Our prayers are with *all* of our service men and women and their families.

Sawyer Tannehill is home following a brief stay in Children's Hospital this past week.

Best Choice Labels, for **Paragould Children's Home**, need to be given to **Terry Boykin**.

Church Directory Update: Land line telephone number for **Bob & Pat Turner: 870-460-0113**.

LIFE LINE SCREENING
The Power of Prevention

The ultrasound screenings that can be done are:

- * Carotid Artery
- * Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm
- * Peripheral Arterial Disease
- * Heart Rhythm Screening
- * Osteoporosis Risk Assessment

The tests will be offered at **Monticello church of Christ on 10/15/20**.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sept. 20 - *Worship live streamed at 9:30*
 Sept. 23 - *Evening devotional streamed @ 6:30*

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members:
 Lyndell Baker... Tony & Judy Beard... Jacque Davidson...Barbara Durham... Janet Staudinger... Rita Stiles...Sawyer Tannehill... Donnie & Janice Wright

Shut-ins:
 Clara Cooper...Betty Henry...Betty McGuire... Linda Rabb...Bob & Pat Turner...Marie Wooten

Serving in the Military:
 Corey Bryant... Donnie Collins...Braydn Curtis... Noah Draper...Tucker Koonce...Matthew May... Neil Rampy...Christian Stepanovich...Mathew Tannehill... Curtis Walker

SPECIAL PRAYER LIST

Butch Baker..Valerie Bryant (due in Dec.)...Meagan Dyson (due in Nov.)...Terry Gibson...Eloise Harris... Lavon & Betty Light..Ronnie Light..Rita McBroom. Stephen McKinney...Jesse Naron (due in Oct.)... George Nickolson..Janetta Pugh...John & Christine Riddle..Homer Shirey..Mary Jane Speer...Harold & Mary Stuart...Sharon Sullivan...Brooke Thompson.. Joel Thompson...Cheiree Webb...Sue Woodward

Birthdays & Anniversaries



Today! Jacque Davidson
 Kristen Smith

Sept. 21 Madison Conley

23 Kay Crook
 James & Anna Miller

25 Kerry Rice

27 Joshua Pettigrew

28 Holly Dial

29 Rosemary Perry

30 Lynn Burton

Oct. 1 Lori Rabb

2 Jean Enlow

September Daily Bible Reading Schedule

21 Ezekiel 32-34
22 Ezekiel 35-37
23 Ezekiel 38-40
24 Ezekiel 41-43
25 Ezekiel 44-46
26 Ezekiel 47-48
27 Daniel 1-3

You are invited to show your love and congratulations to:

Will, Jesse, & Baker Lee Naron

with a **Virtual Shower** or filling the **Baby Bed** with love.

Baker Lee is due October 22.
 They are registered at *Amazon.com*

Gifts & cards may be mailed to the following address or placed in the baby bed in the hallway next to the offices.

Will & Jesse Naron
 235 Knox Road 450 East
 St. Augustine, IL 61474

Obedience

The man who would lift others must be uplifted himself, and he who would command others must learn to obey. ~ Charles K. Ober

Burning Bridges

He who can not forgive others breaks the bridge over which he must pass himself. ~ George Herbert

Goodness

You can only make others better by being good yourself. ~ Hugh R. Hawies

Attendance

Bible Class
 Sunday AM Worship 92
 Sunday PM Worship
 Wed. Evening
 Contribution

Schedule of Volunteers for Communion to Shut-in

MISSIONS

Truth for Today
 In Search of the Lords' Way
 Ghana Radio

NURSERY

Communion Preparation

Sept 20 Sandra Baker
Sept 27 Sandra Baker
Oct 4 Judy Beard
Oct 11 Judy Beard

Ladies September Duties

Cards: Barbara Newton
Food: Lori R. & Leah B.
Pens & Cards: