

Life In The Body

News and Notes for the :
Shelbyville
Church of Christ

May 2, 2021

Redbuds and Dogwoods

Every year at this time our part of the world is blessed with the blossoms of redbuds and dogwoods. In the spring the redbuds sprout their purplish brilliance, followed in a couple of weeks by the equally brilliant white and pink blossoms of the dogwoods. In many areas these trees are planted in such a way as to accent each other. Our older redbud is blooming brilliantly this year, and a younger one is just beginning to bloom a bit. It has taken a few years, but our dogwood will also bloom soon.

Each year the spring plants and trees offer us a vivid reminder of God. It's not evolution that maintains the laws of nature - it's God! If evolution was true (*and of course it's not*) things would be constantly inconsistent. You would never know from one year to the next how evolution would have worked it "*magic*" and altered the redbuds to start producing yellow blossoms or begin blooming in September instead of late March. But we know that won't happen because God is in control of nature and will maintain his laws of nature as long as the world exists. One of the great things the book of Hebrews says about Jesus is that He not only created the entire universe, but He also sustains "*all things by his powerful word*" (*Hebrews 1:2-3*). That's why every spring the redbuds and dogwoods put out their beautiful colors. Because of God, you can count on it year after year!

Jesus consistently demonstrates His power over the physical realm, and because of this we have reason to believe that He also can and will exercise His power over the spiritual realm. Redbuds and dogwoods give us evidence for believing that Jesus has all power and all authority in heaven and on earth (*Matthew 28:18*). When Jesus healed the paralytic (*Mark 2:1-12*) He made the point: “*But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins...*,” He said to the paralytic, “*I tell you, get up, take up your mat and go home.*” Jesus used the visible, healing a crippled man, to expand their vision to also see that He could heal the spiritually crippled.

If we choose to, redbuds and dogwoods will do the same for us. They give evidence of His creative power. They give evidence of His power to maintain His laws. They give evidence that if He can do that each year, He also can do so much more. Jesus can give us renewal, new birth (*John 3:3-5*). Jesus can maintain our spiritual relationship with him year after year through His power working within us (*Ephesians 3:14-21*).

We have no excuses for refusing to believe in Jesus’ power. King David said, “*The heavens declare the glory of God*” (*Psalms 19:1*). Paul added that “*God’s invisible qualities - his eternal power and divine nature - have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse*” (*Romans 1:20*).

Remember this when you see redbuds and dogwoods every spring.

— Joe Chesser

Hoping and Waiting

If we hope for what we do not yet have,
we wait for it patiently.

— Romans 8:25

“Rome wasn’t built in a day.” Really?

“Tomorrow is another day.” Really?

These bromides make me laugh—they are so obvious, they're silly. Still, they make a crisp point about patience: it takes time to build something significant. If today is a bummer, tomorrow will give you another chance.

"We hope . . . we wait," Paul wrote. Sandwiched between those words are these: "for what we do not yet have." Those are the things we hope for—and have to wait for.

You may not like having to wait for what you hope for. But that's the way the cookie crumbles. So, lace up your sneakers and stay in the race. Keep hoping. Keep waiting. And keep running.

*Let your actions reflect
your hopes, not your fears.*

— Joe Barnett

Update on Marge Christman

Miss Marge had a fall and a broken hip to go with it. She was in the hospital in Decatur and then went through a course of rehab at the Manor, but remained confined to a wheel chair so the family thought it best that she should be closer to them. Therefore, she's been moved from The Villas to be near Connie, her daughter in South Carolina. Marge's new address is :

Marjorie Christman
Brookdale Senior Living
Room 103
2030 Charlie Hall Blvd.
Charleston, South Carolina 29414

Sending her a card would make you feel good and might lift her spirits as well. (*Copy this address down or save it in some way because this will be the last time it'll appear in the bulletin.*)

Reading : John 14: 1-6; I Thes 4: 13-18; II Thes 1: 6-10

NEXT WEEK : (May 9, 2021)

Song Leader : Stan

Scripture Reader : Ryan

Table & Announcements : Bob

TRUE CHRISTIANITY MEANS:

- **SERVING**, even when we are not being served.
- **LOVING**, even when we may not be loved.
- **HELPING**, even when we have not been helped.
- **GIVING**, even when we have not received.
- **PLEASEING**, even if others do not please us.

Prayer List :

Wayne : His oncology treatments are on an extended pause.

Susan Bales : Rosanne's mother continues to grow weaker.

Mary Julius : Bro. Ron's sister-in-law is undergoing therapy to recover from a stroke. Thanks you for your ongoing prayers.

Mike Nickles : Bro. Mike is laid up with severe tooth ache.

Those with ongoing need of prayer :

Those with age related issues :

Marge, Mary, Doris, Delores, Betty, Pete & Hazel, Susan, Wayne, Mary & Fay Julius, Ron & Doris Bartanen

Others with ongoing issues :

Madonna Nichols : Madonna continues to receive chemo every other week to treat her liver cancer.

Butch Reynolds : Heart condition and ongoing back issues

Jerry Rankin : Jerry has multiple serious ongoing issues.

Tim Gaddis : Recovering from a stroke at the Rehab facility

Brenda Stevens : Ongoing painful back issues.

Debbie Adams : Lengthy recovery from severe car accident

Mary Julius : Recovering from stroke (*sister-in-law*)

Susan Bales : Rosanne's mother is growing weaker.

* Each day as you pray for those on this list,
always include our congregation and her elders.



*Most people want to be delivered from temptation
but would like to keep in touch.*



*Visitors are always welcomed.
We invite you to visit our assemblies.*

Ya'll Come !

Schedule of Services :

Sunday Morning : Bible Study 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:20 a.m.

Sunday Evening : Worship 6:00 p.m.



