

Sick

At Home:

Georgia Brooks
Debbie Fitro (Rickey Hurst's sister)
Grady Hurst (Rickey's father)
Mary Davis-following surgery
Preslie Slatton (granddaughter of Jim & June Slatton)
Melba Hillis (Steve's grandmother)

In The Hospital:

none known at this time.

Sympathy

We want to extend our sympathy to the family of Lawrence Lane. His passed away Sunday. Brother Lane was a long-time member of the congregation at Bybee Branch. In lieu of flowers, the family has requested donations be made for funeral expenses to Love, Cantrell, & Cope Funeral Home.

Sermons Topics

Sunday AMSomeone Is Watching You
Sunday PM Getting Along

Fill The Pantry

The special day to “re-fill” the pantry is set aside for this Sunday, January 6. Please bring any non-perishable item to help re-stock the pantry. This time of year there are numerous requests for food and we don’t want any family to go hungry. Thanks for what so many of you have done over the past few weeks to help accomplish this.

Wise sayings

“Following the path of least resistance is what makes rivers and men crooked.”

“Learn from the mistakes of others. You can’t live long enough to make them all yourself.”

“There are two things I've learned: There is a God. And I'm not Him.”

Shut-ins

NHC (P.O Box 528, McMinnville, TN 37111)

Florene Nokes (#106)
Betty Lane (#111)
Carol Sue Taylor (#212)
Dora Mae Wilcher (#313)
Helen Bouldin

Raintree Manor

Clercie Delon

Hillcrest Health Care

(111 E. Lenox St, Ashland City, TN 37015)
Edith Collins

Mayfield Rehab and Special Care

(200 Mayfield Dr, Smyrna, TN 37167)
Loy Watson

Life Care Center of Sparta

(508 Mose Dr; Sparta, TN 38583)
Shirlee Young (Helen Morgan's sister)

Windsor Place Nursing & Rehab Center

(81 Windsor Blvd; Columbus, MS 39702)
Helen Lawrence (Tony's mother)

NHC Murfreesboro

(420 N University St, Murfreesboro, TN 37130)
Vivian Ferrell

Bedford County Nursing Home

(845 Union St, Shelbyville, TN 37160)
Betty Upton

Home:

Charles & Vada Campbell
Greg Grizzell
Nonie Grizzell
Georgia Jones
Willene Kell
Helen McGinness (Harold's mother)

Help us keep the list of shut-ins up-to-date. If you know of someone that has been left off, please call the office. Thanks for your help!

“Crumbs Will Do”

Recently, my wife and I stopped at a local fast-food restaurant for hamburgers. As we ate in their outside eating area, I noticed that a beautiful blackbird, having midnight black body feathers, coal black tail, and wing feathers, landed in the empty space beside our car. Standing very patiently, I knew that all he wanted was for me just to toss him a piece of bread from my hamburger. He would look at me as if to beg for just one small piece. As I began to look at him more closely, I noticed that in all his God-created beauty, he was physically flawed. This species of bird normally has three toes that are spread evenly on the ground to give them balance. This particular bird, however, only had one foot to place on the ground. The other foot was deformed and turned back so that he walked on the joint where the foot and leg connects. As I watched, the beauty of this bird really stood out as dull colored grackles begin to land, and then some aggressive pigeons appeared. None of these birds, however, could draw my attention from the blackbird. He was struggling to stand steady as a strong wind blew. Yet, with great effort he never gave in to the wind but stood firm on his one good foot. The strength, courage, and dedication of this deformed bird really touched my heart. As he was standing there on one foot, not even indicating that he was so much as even thinking about giving in to his surroundings, it almost brought tears to my eyes as I thought about his dedication to life, how he stood tall among the other birds, and how he never gave up on what he wanted. But patiently he waited, just hoping for one small morsel of bread.

Everyday I see one and usually more than one of God’s creatures standing on the street corners in the city where I live, “desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fall from the rich man’s table” (Luke 16:21). As the blackbird, for them just “crumbs will do.” I wonder why my emotions are not touched by these precious souls, who are created in God’s image (Genesis 1:27), as much as by the blackbird

that I observed at the fast-food restaurant. Instead of tossing them a “crumb”, however, I try to judge them by thinking, “If that person really wanted money he could work. Why should I give him my hard-earned money for which I work 10 hours a day for?” Then I think, “Could he really work, or was he like the deformed blackbird only I could not see it?” Was he having as much trouble standing in the challenging “winds” (problems) of life as the blackbird? Was I missing the inward beauty of this person, or was I just not looking for the beauty, but only “seeing” the deformity?

All of this caused me to seriously think about the parable of Lazarus and the rich man in Luke 16:19-31. The text tells us that this beggar “was laid” (literally, “was thrown”) or cast carelessly down by his bearers and left there. This beggar obviously suffered some physical malady which did not allow him to walk. The text also indicates that Lazarus was not fed from the crumbs, but only “desired” to be fed from the crumbs which fell from the rich man’s table (Luke 16:21). Yet, the rich man could only see the undesirability of the man rather than the man’s need. Perhaps our lives would be more spiritually blessed, fulfilling, and enriched if we were better able to “see” the physical and spiritual needs of our fellow man rather than the “deformities” in their lives and at least be willing to feed them the “crumbs” which fall from our table.

~Mike Riley~

Notes From Steve

HOODIES FOR YOUTH GROUP

Official youth group hoodies are going to be ordered. If you want one please sign the order sheet on the Youth Bulletin Board. Cost will be \$20.

BIBLE BOWL

The study session will be this Saturday evening from 5-8 pm at the home of Jeff & Regina Templeton. The Bible Bowl will be this Sunday afternoon at 2 pm at Woodbury. The bus will leave at 1:15.