



Mark 14:38  
“*Watch and Pray*”

Easter is very near and we are following the steps of Jesus during this Lent season. Remember that Lent is about remembering, reflection, repentance and drawing closer to the Lord. We see Jesus going to a favorite place to pray after His meal with the disciples. I am sure that each of us have a favorite place to pray. It is a place to withdraw and spend some time alone with our Heavenly Father where we can commune with Him and pour out our hearts to Him. It is interesting to me this garden called Gethsemane comes from a word meaning a wine press. In this garden, we see Jesus falling to His knees prostrate before the Lord in prayer. The weight that He carried upon His shoulders is immeasurable. Knowing what He faced in the coming hours is something we cannot fully fathom in our own minds. Keep in mind that not only would Jesus have to endure the physical suffering but more importantly the fact that He would literally bear the sins of the world upon Himself as our substitute on the cross. He who knew no sin would become sin for us. He also was facing the darkest hour emotionally. He would be rejected by those whom He loved, His friends would desert Him, He would be ridiculed, beaten, mocked and spit upon and finally experience death. My friends, is it not amazing that the One who gives life would have to endure the sting of death Himself? In the dark of night with the enemy closing in, it is no wonder that Jesus prayed until He sweated great drops of blood. **Yet remember Jesus suffered all this because of His great love for us and great love for His Father in heaven.**

Easter is not about bunny rabbits, Easter eggs, and spring. It is about death and life. It is about us coming to grips with our own relationship with God through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. It is about identifying ourselves completely in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. It is about our lives being transformed by the resurrection power of Christ and living out our faith in real tangible ways. It is about submitting ourselves in loving obedience as Jesus did when He prayed these words, “Not my will but Your will be done.” Real heart changes and life transformations come about by experiencing the love and power of the risen Savior. This Easter I feel the call to return to the Garden and in my decisions saying, “Not my will be done but Your will be done Lord.” It is the same in the church’s life, we must always pray this prayer for ourselves and the church even when we face the darkest trials and tribulations. I pray this Easter that you experience a fresh touch of the Lord and the transforming power of the resurrection in your life. Happy Easter everyone and remember this: Christ is risen, He is risen indeed!

Your servant in Christ,

*Pastor David*

# Prayer Concerns

The following people have been added to our prayer concern list since our last newsletter:

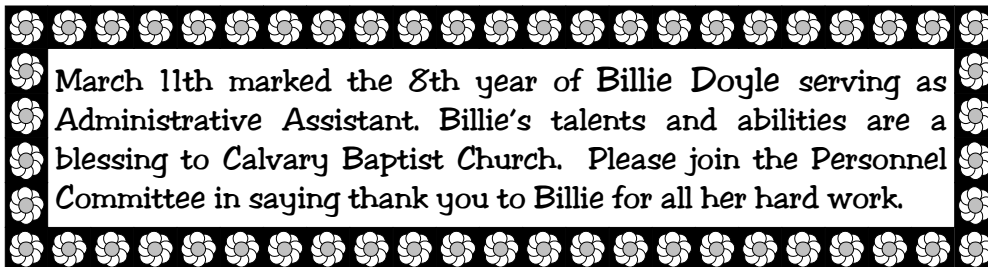
**Patrick Chandler**, *Mary Jo White's grandson's friend*; **Nick Conzone**; **Matthew Easter**, *son of Christa Grimes and grandson of Owen & Sandra Stone*; **Vera Goins**, *Lavon Thompson's aunt*; **Tom Horner**; **Capanola McHone**; **Charles Ray Payne**; **Tony Robertson**; **Chris Vernon**; **Walter Walker's son**

## Remember the Bereaved

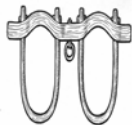
The Family of **Callie Lothian** in her death, *Linda Gordon's stepmother*

## Recent Contributions

In memory of Vernell Phillips	In Honor of Carolyn Greene
Brian Bruner	Frances McBride
Donna Bruner	In Honor of Eugenia Pearson
Jennifer Hall	Frances McBride
Clarence Phillips	In Honor of Paulette Surratt
	Frances McBride



**Chris Dotson**  
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**THE YOKEFELLOW MINISTRY OF GREATER MOUNT AIRY:**

**SUGGESTED ITEMS FOR MARCH: PEANUT BUTTER & CRACKERS**

Collection baskets are located at church entrances for your donation of any non-perishable items.

Helpful Reminders	March 21	March 28
Youth Snack Supper	Randy & Karen Beasley Vicki & Bodey Fields	Ted & Sheryl Hulme Kent & Karen Moser
Nursery Workers	<b>Uplift</b>	<b>Uplift</b>
	<b>March 21</b>	<b>March 28</b>
Bed Babies—4 years	Shane & Gina Gammons	Bob & Pam Peake
Children's Church	Drew Nowlin & Holly	Clay Nowlin & Audrey
	<b>Traditional</b>	<b>Traditional</b>
Bed Babies / Toddlers	Janet McPherson, Thelma Shelton	Kerry & Paxton Berrier
2 & 3 Year Olds	Julie Warren, JoAnne Surratt	Sandra Dunbar, Wilma Roberson
Children's Church	Deena Martin	Danielle Sechrist, Rachel Hull



Recently our daughter, Julie, was considering a promotion within the company she works. The promotion would mean more responsibility and more money, but she was somewhat apprehensive about it. She told me that she had prayed about it asking that God show her whether she should stay with the company by providing this promotion for her. She

had observed the person she would be replacing in their work to learn about the job. Before a final decision was made, her supervisor sent out an email to the ones that had shown an interest asking if they were still interested. With this, she had to make a decision as to whether she was really interested in pursuing this opportunity. She realized that she would stay with the company in her current job and for various reasons would withdraw her name from consideration. As she told me what had happened, she made the statement, "God did not make that decision for me, but He made me make it." I admit that I am not one that professes to know what God has in mind sometimes, but as I told her, that email message may have been God telling her that she needed to be sure of what she wanted to do.

We rely on God for help and guidance and sometimes ask God to make decisions for us. God does not decide for us what our relationship will be with Him. He provides resources as well as His presence that enables us to make that decision. Things happen that prompts us to make decisions one way or another, sometimes right and sometimes wrong, but either way, the decision can be guidance. Being involved in Sunday School is one of those decisions that provides a resource. God will not make us be a part, but provides us the opportunity. Together let's strengthen our Sunday School and decide to utilize as well as build this valuable resource.

*Bob McPherson  
Sunday School Director*

### **"Eggs for Annie"**

**"Eggs for Annie"** is a missions project sponsored by the Girls in Action (GAs) and Royal Ambassadors (RAs) of Calvary. It encourages each of us to give to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering and pray for the North American Missionaries.

Check the **"Eggs for Annie"** display table and consider how much you will give to help our home missionaries reach the lost for Christ in North America.

Each colored egg carries a pledge amount.

Gold/Silver Egg	\$500.00
Orange Egg	\$100.00
Purple Egg	\$75.00
Yellow Egg	\$50.00
Blue Egg	\$25.00
Green Egg	\$15
Pink Egg	Whatever you can



Give any time this month the amount you pledged using the special offering envelopes or by writing "Eggs for Annie" on a regular offering envelope.

Keep the egg as a reminder to pray for the more than 5,300 Home Missionaries.