

LIVING WATER

"Whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst"
John 4:14

Simply Profound

Betty Ann Wheeler lived a simple life. This does not mean that she didn't encounter difficult things in her life, for she did. Her husband, Charlie, died at the age of 58, leaving Betty and their special needs daughter, Nancy (age 21). Betty took care of her daughter to her last days on earth that were difficult as she battled cancer. Nancy passed away at the age of 49. Betty faced many health challenges of her own including a major stroke. She was the oldest of three daughters and outlived her beloved sisters. Betty suffered many losses in her lifetime, but she persevered.

The simplicity of her life was evidenced in the way that she lived. Jesus said, "Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses" (Luke 12:15). Life is not about stuff. Betty embodied that truth. She didn't have much stuff, but she was one of the most contented people I have ever met. She lived for many years with her daughter in a small, affordable apartment. She had some old furniture and just enough money from Social Security and a VA benefit from her husband's military service to provide for their basic needs. Her clothing was comfortable and well-worn; her wardrobe was quite small, her belongings meager, but she was satisfied.

After her daughter passed away and her own health began declining, Betty moved into a nursing home. In time, she adjusted well to her new surroundings. She made her "nest" in her room, surrounded by her favorite recliner and a few of her belongings. Some of her prized possessions were her family photo albums.

Betty would often walk the halls of the nursing home pushing her rollator. She loved people and was always happy to engage in conversation. As those conversations ensued, it wouldn't be long before she would reach into the storage compartment on her rollator and pull out a small photo album. She would show pictures of her family members that meant so much to her.

Betty didn't live a flamboyant life; she didn't call attention to herself. She lived simply. But her simple life was a profound example of contentment. Betty exemplified the words of the Apostle Paul: "I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances" (Philippians 4:11).

What is the key to living a life of contentment? The Apostle Paul identified the secret: "I can do all things through Christ Who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13). Betty knew "secret," and she lived it out in her life.

The key to a contented life is faith in God who loves us and cares for us (see Matthew 6:25-34). It is found in knowing God as our heavenly Father that loves us so much that He gave His Son to die on the cross for our sins so that we can be saved and live eternally with Him (John 3:16).

God will save and give eternal life to those who place their **faith** and trust in Jesus Christ (Acts 16:30-31), turn from their sins in **repentance** (Acts 17:30-31), **confess** Jesus before men (Romans 10:9-10), and are **baptized** (immersed) into Christ for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38). He will continue to cleanse from sin those who continue to walk in the light of His Word (1 John 1:7-9).

As Betty was barely conscious in her hospital bed, I reminded her of what God has in store for His people. "Because of Jesus, we have an eternal home in heaven, and heaven is a far better place than this world. Do you believe this?" Her eyes barely open, Betty summoned the energy to verbally respond beneath her oxygen mask: "Yes, I do!"

By the grace of God, in heaven Betty will have everything she needs... and more.

-- David A. Sargent

* In loving memory of Betty Ann Wheeler (1935-2024), a sweet, contented, Christian lady that lived a profoundly simple and beautiful life. Until we meet again.

Creekwood Church of Christ

"Conservative in Theology • Liberal in Love • Progressive in Ministry"



Minister David A. Sargent	Associate Minister Tucker Presley	Youth Minister Casey Crawford	Family Enrichment Minister Ricky Butts	Missionary (India) Jaya Paul	Missionary (Ghana) Michael Fordjour
Ricky Butts	Michael Eddlemon	• ELDERS • Greg Hall	Chris Presley	Glenn Sargent	
Joey Adams Jonathan Brooks Bruce Englund		• DEACONS • Lyndell Farmer Glen Hall Scott Hardy		Terry Livingston Sammie Morris	
Sunday	Morning Worship	9:00 AM	Morning Bible Class	10:15 AM	Evening Worship
Wednesday	Morning Bible Study	10:00 AM	Evening Bible Study	6:30 PM	6:00 PM

September 1, 2024

WELCOME TO CREEKWOOD CHURCH OF CHRIST

We would like to welcome all our visitors to Creekwood! Please sign the guest register in the foyer. We also invite you to stay for our Bible classes immediately following morning worship services.

TODAY'S MESSAGES:

AM – "God is Light"

PM – "Unsung Heroes: A Real Prince Charming"

Listening Devices for the Auditorium are available in the Control Room.

For information regarding on-line contribution, please visit creekwoodcc.org/contribution

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Web site: www.creekwoodcc.org • E-mail: creekwoodchurchofchrist@comcast.net

Know Your Bible on the WHBR station on Mediacom channel 13/Comcast channel 7; Sundays at 6:00 PM CT.

Getting To Know Your Bible on Sunday on DirecTV-Uplift Channel 379 10:30 a.m. & Dish-Folk TV Channel 218 8:30 a.m.

Both broadcasts are co-sponsored by the Creekwood Church of Christ.

Wireless Internet Id: **Creekwood** Password: **gracegrace**

Please remember those listed below in your prayers and with other expressions of love (Cards, Phone Calls, Visits)

OUR COUNTRY & THOSE SERVING: Chris Campbell - Navy, Nick Marcet - Air Force, Lt. James Chapman III (Kuwait), Harry Lehman – Coast Guard, Mitchell Englund – Marine Reserves, Dylan Butler – Navy, Jacob Jones – Navy, Pam Bradshaw - Air Force, Charlie and Neecy Burch – National Guard, Kelly Leverett – Army, Parker Abila (Cassie Devitt’s grandson) – Air Force

OUR EXPECTING MOTHERS: Courtney Barlow - ???

OUR MISSIONARIES: Jaya Paul (India), Michael Fordjour (Ghana)

PLEASE PRAY FOR UKRAINE & THE WAR IN ISRAEL!

OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY is extended to the family and friends of **Betty Wheeler**. Ms. Betty passed away on Monday; her funeral was Friday. Let's pray for the few members of Ms. Betty's remaining family and reflect on the lessons she taught us. She was a sweet, contented soul.

OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY is extended to the family of **Madeline Petite** (friends of the Buzbees) who passed away after a valiant battle with cancer. Please pray for her family.

PRAYER REQUEST for **Bernice Fables** who is recovering from knee replacement surgery. She is facing some rehab at a skilled nursing facility.

PRAYER REQUEST for **Pam Davis**, the daughter of Nancy White, who is in Mobile Infirmary recovering from open heart surgery to replace an aortic valve.

PRAYER REQUEST for **Sandy Hall** who is recovering from recent surgery.

PRAYER REQUEST for **Sara Sargent**. She is at home undergoing physical therapy. Home

PRAYER REQUEST for **Richard McDonald** who continues to have struggles as he battles Parkinson’s disease.

PRAYER REQUEST for **Rick Gray**, son-in-law of Bob & Alona Gobble, who suffered a stroke and is suffering effects on his right side. Rick is under hospice care.

PRAYER REQUEST for **Colton Wilson** who broke his arm.

PRAYER REQUEST for **Gina Williamson** who may have to undergo surgery due to a fracture suffered in a recent fall.

PRAYER REQUEST for **Valerie Thompson**, friend of Nancy Lenoir. Valerie had surgery for Thyroid Cancer.

PRAYER REQUEST for **Linda Baker** who recovering from surgery on her leg.

PRAYER REQUEST for **Bonnie Blair**, friend of Gayle Lunsford. Bonnie has been taken home to Brewton for extended care.

MEMBERS: Maurice James, Jerrol Sawrey, Linda Baker, Ryan James, Lester Sellers, Janet Oglesby, Carol Easterwood, Makenzie Hall, Betty Nichols, Sara Sargent, Kitty Morris, Betty Gunnells, Nancy White, John & Sharon Bogle, Valary Smith, Tom Busby, Patti Mitchell, Kathy Stacy, Ken Grisham, Richard McDonald, Martha & Bill Franks, Jeannie Aldred, Betty Thompson, Bennett Gibson (Omak, WA), Charlie Burch, Sandra Dowling, Mike Powell

FAMILY & FRIENDS OF MEMBERS: **Bonnie Blair** (friend of Gayle Lunsford), **Keith Parker** (Angela Tapley’s son-in-law); **Amelia McGaughy** (granddaughter of Cathy McGaughy Shelburne); **Jeremie Benzinger** (son of Gayle); **Sandy Hunt** (neighbor of the Fetners); **Sandra (Ryals) Shell**; **Jimmy Linder** (father of Angie Bacon), **Marie Waters** (aunt of Kristy Adams), **Julie Todd** (friend of Brook Oglesby Grice), **Diane Glover**, **Logan Moore**, **Daniel Mitchell Brabham** (the brother of Stephanie Hulon), **Barbara Bradford** (grandmother of Erin Cunningham), **Larry Tart** (brother of Jerrol Sawrey), **Betsy McCaskill** (friend of Larry Duncan), **Nelda Carr** (former member), **Dawson Moorer** (former member), **Sally Tindell** (sibling of Nancy Moorer), **Boots Carson** (mother of Gina Englund and Ka Kinman), **Alona Gobble** (Penny Davis’ mother), **Kellen Franks** (grandson of Bill & Martha Franks), **Don White** (brother of Celeste Chandler), **Pam Davis**, **Rowena Leekley**

SHUT-INS – **Martha Irvin** **Esther Boulanger** **Barbara Roley Hurley Crews**

BACK TO SCHOOL UNIFORM DRIVE for **Spencer-Westlawn Elementary School!** Donations will be available to families in need. Items needed: Sizes 4-12 red polo style uniform shirts, sizes 4-12 khaki uniform pants, socks, underwear and belts. These items are available at Walmart and Target. Used items are also welcome. Financial donations are also accepted to purchase uniforms. See Amy Owens for more information. Thank you!

BLOOD DRIVE- There will be a blood drive on September 18th from 4-8 pm in the fellowship hall. Sign-up sheet is located at the Welcome Center.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR MEALS ON WHEELS RECIPIENTS. Many are struggling with health issues.

NURSING HOME DEVOTIONAL – We host a devotional on Sunday afternoons at Mobile Nursing & Rehab at 2:30 p.m. Please come and visit with the residents, sing a few songs, and have a brief Bible study.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! **Walk4Water**, October 5, 2024, hosted by the Azalea City congregation and benefiting Healing Hands International for the digging of water wells in impoverished countries. Let’s raise funds and walk for this great cause!

FROM THE FAMILY ROOM

Forgiveness

“Be kind to one another, compassionate, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.” -- Ephesians 4:32

Family dynamics are tricky. Interactions within families can result in disagreements, arguments, pride, rivalries, and hurt feelings. These things happen to some degree in every family because no one is perfect. We are all sinners. But sometimes these negative results endure for many years.

In strong families, there is love. After the dust settles from disagreements and hurt feelings, the family remains the family. Love should always be there. Where there is love, there is forgiveness. Offering an apology is usually hard to do. Accepting an apology and forgiving is normally harder. Failing to forgive is failing to love. “I love you” is easier to say than “I forgive you.”

When we consider the events of the past and grow from them, we should be thankful for the growth we have experienced. We should not continue to carry the hurt and resentment with us into the future. When we forgive, we untie these negative emotions from our life and let them go. We then become better able to move on to focus on current opportunities for growth. We are better equipped to move into the future and enjoy the blessings our families provide.

We must create a culture of forgiveness in our family. We as parents must lead in this task by teaching the loving nature of God. We must be aware of God’s mercy and grace which He gives us as a result of His love for us. We should then teach God’s forgiving nature as a result of His mercy and grace. A family culture in which we live in God’s love will result in family members loving others. Forgiveness will be the result of that culture of love. We forgive because God has forgiven us.

Individually, we experience healing when we forgive. As a group, a family experiences healing when there is forgiveness among family members. Forgiveness is a gift we can give ourselves and our families. May we appreciate God’s love for us and grow in our love for Him. May we appreciate God’s gift of forgiveness He gave us in Jesus and be more forgiving within our families. We all need forgiveness. Every family needs to practice forgiveness.

-Ricky Butts
Family Minister