

# LIVING WATER

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

## When Seeds Produce Fruit

In 1999, Joe Jandacek and his family befriended Ted Blankenship and his family. During their friendship, matters of faith were discussed. Both families confessed that they believed in Jesus, but the Blankenships did not see the need to be baptized into Christ for the forgiveness of sins.

Joe became a preacher and moved away for a while, but then moved back to Wisconsin, a few dozen miles from where the Blankenships live. The families had lost the close contact they once had, but the friendship was still there.

Recently, twenty-five years after the initial friendship connection, Ted sent a text to Joe. He had been studying his Bible and recognized his need to be baptized into Christ for the forgiveness of his sins. Ted wanted Joe to come to Appleton and baptize him in the baptistery of the Mason Street Church of Christ. Joe was elated!

Ted, along with his daughter Alyssa McCord and granddaughter Mia McCord, met Joe at the church building; each of them desired to be immersed into Christ. Other members of the Blankenship family came to witness the event.

After witnessing Joe baptize Ted, and Ted baptize Alyssa and Mia, three more family members decided to put on Christ in baptism: Alyssa's husband, Ryan; Ted's daughter, Breanna Lieftring; and Breanna's husband, Christian.

"A little planting and watering over 10 years ago to people who genuinely sought to be pleasing to God resulted in six family members being baptized into Christ, receiving the gift of God's Spirit, and being added to our family in one glorious day," Jandacek said. \*

"I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase," wrote the Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 3:6. One never knows when the Seed of God's Word will produce fruit in the lives of those who hear it and ultimately heed it.

But why is baptism so important?

Our sins separate us from God (Isaiah 59:1-2). But God loves us so much that He gave His one and only Son to die on the cross for our sins (John 3:16). Through Jesus and His atoning death, we can be reconciled to God and added to His family (2 Corinthians 5:17-21). Baptism is part of our faith response to what Jesus did for us on the cross.

God will save, give the gift of His Spirit, and add to His family (the church), those who place their **faith** and trust in Jesus (Acts 16:30-31), turn from sin 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). God will continue to cleanse from sin those who continue to walk in the light of His Word (1 John 1:7-9).

The Seed of God's Word produces fruit in the life of one who studies it, believes it, and obeys it. So, plant the Word in your heart, do what the Word teaches, and witness the fruit of a changed life. It's a change that will last through eternity.

-- David A. Sargent

\* Information gleaned from "Across the Nation: The waving Oregonian, a family baptized and more quick takes" by Calvin Cockrell in the *Christian Chronicle*, 11/15/24, [www.christianchronicle.org](http://www.christianchronicle.org).

# Creekwood Church of Christ

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



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

**December 15, 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 – "The Faithful Son"**

**PM – "Planting the Seed"**

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

For information regarding on-line contribution, please visit [creekwoodcc.org/contribution](http://creekwoodcc.org/contribution)

1901 Schillinger Road S, Mobile, AL 36695 • (251) 633-2931 • (251) 633-3037 • Fax (251) 633-2936

Web site: [www.creekwoodcc.org](http://www.creekwoodcc.org) • E-mail: [creekwoodchurchofchrist@comcast.net](mailto: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; Lacey Phillips

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

**PLEASE PRAY FOR UKRAINE & THE WAR IN ISRAEL!**

**OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY** is extended to **Walt Wade and his family** in the loss of Walt’s mother, **Kim**.

**OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY** is extended to **Betty Gunnels** in the loss of her brother, **Thomas Nelson**. His funeral is set for Wednesday, December 18, from 10-12PM at the Charles Haynes Masonic Lodge, 13410 N Wintzell Ave., Bayou La Batre, AL. Interment to follow at Oddfellow's Cemetery.

**PRAYER REQUEST** for **Bob Hanks** who is in USA Providence Hospital being treated for high heart rate and other health issues.

**PRAYER REQUEST** for **Lester Sellers** who underwent back surgery on Thursday.

**PRAYER REQUEST** for **Sandra Dowling** who fell on Tuesday morning and fractured a vertebra. She is also dealing with pneumonia. She is in Thomas Hospital in Fairhope.

**PRAYER REQUEST** for **Bernice Fables** who is very weak at this time.

**PRAYER REQUEST** for **Valary Smith** who is being treated for some issues with her heart.

**MEMBERS:** Ann Dubose, Lester Sellers, Richard McDonald, Sheila Hudson, Betty Gunnells, Linda Baker, Ryan James, Sara Sargent, Nancy White, John & Sharon Bogle, Valary Smith, Tom Busby, Patti Mitchell, Kathy Stacy, Ken Grisham, Jeannie Aldred, Betty Thompson, Bennett Gibson (Omak, WA), Charlie Burch, Mike Powell, Alona Gobble

**FAMILY & FRIENDS OF MEMBERS:** **Amelia McGaughy** (granddaughter of Cathy Shelburne); **Carolyn Terrell and family; Sam Childs; Jack Bryan; Denver Hayes** (brother-in-law of Mary Frances Barganier); **Chuck Giles**

(Teresa Gallaher’s brother); **Rick Gray, Susie Gobble, Pam Davis, Rowena Leekley, Valerie Thompson** (friend of Nancy Lenoir); **Bonnie Blair** (friend of Gayle Lunsford), **Keith Parker** (Angela Tapley’s son-in-law); **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), **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) **Sally Tindell** (sibling of Nancy Moorer), **Boots Carson** (mother of Gina Englund and Ka Kinman), **Kellen Franks** (grandson of Bill & Martha Franks), **Don White** (brother of Celeste Chandler)

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

**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.

**SOME SCHEDULED DECEMBER EVENTS:**

- **15<sup>th</sup> – TODAY!! Eunice Warsh Nursing Home Bags – 2:30 PM at Mobile Nursing Home & Rehab – Worship, Christmas Caroling, and Gift-sharing**
- **19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> – Holiday Food Giveaway with A Servant’s Love, Inc.** 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> for preparation (6-8 PM) and 21<sup>st</sup> for Giveaway, 9 – 11 AM.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR AN EVANGELISM SEMINAR** from Jan. 12-14, 2025, here at Creekwood. Rob Whitacre from House to House, Heart to Heart will be with us to help us more effectively reach the lost.

**L2L ANNOUNCEMENT:** It is good to see all of the activity in Lads to Leaders as they practice, study, and prepare for various presentations at convention this coming spring. These efforts are helping our young people develop their leadership potential to become future leaders in the Lord’s church. This work requires many volunteer hours on the part of mentors. We are thankful for all of the adults who sacrifice their time and energy for the youth. This work also requires strong leadership to organize and administer the details of the program. We are thankful for the excellent job Chris and Rachel Lunceford have done in leading this program for several years. Chris and Rachel have announced their desire to turn the reigns of leadership over to others after convention this coming spring. We are asking for volunteers who would like to serve in this role beginning after convention in 2025. If you are interested in this effort, please contact the elders.

**DEAR CREEKWOOD FAMILY:** Thank you so much for all the cards and calls while we were fighting Covid. It’s great having a family like you. In Christian love, Bill & Jerrol Sawrey

**FROM THE FAMILY ROOM**

***Family Traditions***

***“And you shall keep this event as an ordinance for you and your children forever.”*** -- Exodus 12:24

I have many positive memories because of traditions my family kept through the years. Some of those traditions were observed on Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. As I think back over our family traditions, I remember some great people in older generations that have gone on to their reward. I still love and miss them. As an adult now, I also remember some great people in younger generations of our family as we have observed family traditions in more recent years. I love them and we look forward to spending time with them.

In our family now, we celebrate Christmas by gathering at our house to eat a Christmas breakfast. Each person has custom made omelets. This comes together one omelet at a time after hours of work cooking bacon, Conecuh link sausage, ground sausage, ham, slicing peppers and onions, slicing various types of cheese, and cracking about three dozen eggs. Some get scrambled eggs with cheese. Others get a fully loaded conglomeration omelet including every available ingredient. After eating we go to the family room and empty stockings that have been hung by the fireplace with care. We give out gifts left under the Christmas tree. We then take a family picture usually by the tree and the fireplace. We always loudly announce the blinkage that occurs just before the picture is taken. Then groups are independently formed and dispersed outside to kick or throw new footballs and shoot new basketballs. Inside new dolls get entertained at a tea party. We also visit the cemetery to remember loved ones who are no longer with us. Later everybody leaves for Christmas celebrations with other branches of their families. Then Freda and I enjoy a great nap! What are some of your family traditions from your past and some that are observed currently? Family traditions can make memories come alive for us.

Each family is something special. Our unique family traditions are valuable. They give us an identity as a family. They bind us together now. They can guide us into the future. They are a source of consistency in this fast paced and ever changing world. God knew this about His family. He used memorials and traditions throughout the Bible to remind His people of the great ways He showed His love and care for them. He wanted the Israelites to remember when they were spared the plague of death of the firstborn when they were slaves in Egypt. God has given us as Christians the Lord’s Supper

to help us remember how much He loved us and gave us His only Son to die for our sins.

It has been said that traditions hold people together through the years. We should remember the value of family traditions. The unique traditions of our family help us define the culture of our family. The memories of family traditions can bridge generations. The pictures taken of family should be cherished and appreciated. They can also cause some laughter when grandchildren see that Grandpa used to have a lot more brown hair. We should make every effort to create precious memories that linger for generations.

Ricky Butts  
Family Minister

