

Where The Thirsty Find Life

"What is this thing that you are doing for the people? Why do you alone sit as judge and all the people stand about you from morning until evening?"

Exodus 18:14b

Have you ever said this "If I want it done right, I'll just have to do it myself!"? Maybe you're tasked with a job at work, and instead of teaching your subordinates what they need to know to help you complete the task, you just do it all by yourself. Or maybe you're not happy with something your spouse does at home and just do it yourself to "show" them how it should be done. Or maybe it's something at church, and you don't want to deal with the messiness of talking with the person who you think needs to step it up. That's never happened, right? These examples arise out of a philosophy of individualism that we all have grown up with. It goes back all the way to the founding of our country; consider how the Bill of Rights is framed-as individual rights over group rights. It's been a part of the American ethos for centuries.

Yet, this philosophy finds no place in Christianity. We need each other to survive and thrive. We are created as relational beings. We worship a God who is three persons (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) in one being. John Dunne, the 17th century English poet, wrote this in a poem: "No man is an island, entire of itself. Each is a piece of the continent, a part of the main." When we look at the Biblical story, we come to realize very quickly that almost all the main characters needed someone to rely on for wisdom, fellowship, and support. Even Moses, the great leader of the Israelites out of Egypt who spoke with God "face to face" and confronted the great Pharoah of Egypt, needed someone to tell him it was okay not to handle everything by himself. That someone was Jethro, his father-in-law. If you read the story in Exodus 18, you see that Moses served as judge of the people over all manner of disputes and arguments (v. 13). One problem-he was there from morning to evening-a 12-to-14-hour workday he wasn't getting paid for! Jethro witnessed this and counseled Moses about a better way to handle things. "And Moses' father-in-law said to him, 'The thing that you are doing is not good. You will surely wear you, both yourself and these people who are with you, for the task is too heavy for you; you cannot do it alone." "(vv. 17-18) Jethro saw the danger in Moses trying to handle everything by himself, and advised Moses to train men under him in the laws & statutes to judge over the small disputes while only intervening when it was a major dispute. We all need a Jethro in our lives; someone to tell us that we don't need to do it alone. Someone to tell us that it's okay to ask for help. Someone to remind us to lean into humility. Someone to counsel us about how we can best use our resources for the glory of God. Remember-you were not created to be an island unto yourself; you were created for the body of Christ. Will you live into it?

In Christ,

New Prayer Requests

Family of Frankie Fitzgerald

Lynley Ann Alexander - Tonsillectomy

Tom Sanderford - Brain Tumor (Dianne Shannon's brother)

Kenneth Storms - Stroke (friend of Cathy Ellis)

Ricky Brant - Cancer

Shirley Dooley, Francois du Plessis, James & Glenda Smith,
Ken LaBruyere, Otha Barham, Brenda Huffman, Sharon Stephens,
Charlotte Chaney, Shane Helton, Adrian Hill, Robert Sanford,
Brenda Ferry, Cheri Barry, Neal Martin, Nora Goodsell, Justin Dean,
Jamie Rawson, Lorraine Vaccarella, Ceil Coleman, Kevin Stiefel,
Ben Hutcherson, Thomas Vaughns

If you have a prayer request please let the office know.

Sunday, August 13

9:30 A.M. Worship 10:45 A.M. LifeGroups

Monday, August 14

1:00 P.M. Women of the Church/Parlor

Tuesday, August 15

10:00 A.M. Bible Study/St. Andrews

6:00 P.M. Basketball

Wednesday, August 16

5:00 P.M. Choir Rehearsal

6:00 P.M. Bible Study

6:00 P.M. Youth and Children

Sunday, August 20

9:30 A.M. Worship

10:45 A.M. LifeGroups

Tuesday, August 22

10:00 A.M. Bible Study/St. Andrews

Wednesday, August 23

5:00 P.M. Choir Rehearsal

6:00 P.M. Bible Study

6:00 P.M. Youth and Children

Thursday, August 24

5:00 P.M. Missions Meeting/Conf. Rm.

August Birthdays

Peggy Baldwin 4th Beth Hall 5th Jake Joyner Mindy Mendiola **Gertrude Hodges** 13th 15th Whitney Rhett **Butch Shannon** 24th 25th Semmes Martin 28th Suzanne Grafton 29th Leigh Ann Smith 30th Barbara Miller 31st Jim Autry

WOMEN OF THE CHURCH

August 14th - 1 pm
Parlor

MISSIONS MEETING

August 24th - 5 pm

Conference Room

Wesley House

We will not be collecting donations for July and August

Bible Study Opportunities:

"Passing the Faith Along" - Tuesdays and Wednesdays

Beginning Tuesdays, August 8th, at 10 AM and Wednesdays, August 9th, at 6 PM, our Fall Bible study will be an extension of our fall sermon series, *Passing the Faith Along*. We'll be walking through the books of 1 & 2 Timothy, letters written by Paul to his protégé, Timothy, a leading pastor in Ephesus, who seeks to continue the preach the gospel message he received from Paul in the community. Join us as we hear Paul's advice & exhortation and consider how you might "pass the faith along" yourself! We will be meeting in the St. Andrews classroom.

"The Good Gospel" by Jennie Allen Wednesdays

Beginning Wednesday, September 6th, 6 PM

So many of us claim to know the gospel, but sometimes we can forget parts of the story. God has created a narrative of salvation that reveals who he is -- and so much more. Because of the gospel, we can experience life with God. Because of the gospel, we are free from sin and death. Because of the gospel, we have an eternal hope no matter what happens.

Do we live like we believe every part of the gospel? In this six-week study with Jennie Allen, Jamie Ivey, and Jackie Hill Perry, learn about the foundation of our faith to discover how God brings us from death to life, from fallen to free.

Above is the introduction to our Wednesday evening study for women beginning September 6th. Each week we will watch a short video together, then read in Genesis 1 & 2 and Romans 1 - 8 and dig deep into the good news!

COMING IN SEPTEMBER ...



August 13

Acolytes: Cathy Ellis, Neldia White Greeters: Linda Long, Sandy Thomas

Scripture Reader: Nancy Crews
Sunday Snacks: Marilyn Browne

August 14 - Monday

Meals on Wheels Delivery: Gary & Robin Thompson

August 20 - Sunday

Acolytes: Wanda McBrayer, Angie Sherrill Greeters: Cindy Lang, Luci Wolvers

Scripture Reader: Neldia White

Sunday Snacks: ____

Volunteer Opportunities

August 21 - Monday

Meals on Wheels Delivery: Dixie LaBruyere & Cindy Lang

August 27 - Sunday

Acolytes: Melissa Brown, Irby Lang Greeters: Cathy Ellis, Angie Sherrill

Scripture Reader: Patti Coxwell

Sunday Snacks: ___



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August 9,2023

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

To:

The 2023 Bible Challenge

August 9	Isaiah 54 - 58	Commit spending time every day in God's word. For those who meditate and journal, here are some reflection questions:
August 10	Isaiah 59 - 63	
August 11	Isaiah 64-66	 What does this passage teach us about God? What does this passage teach us about ourselves?
August 12	Jeremiah 1 -3	
August 13	Jeremiah 4 - 6	
August 14	Jeremiah 7 - 9	3. What does this passage teach us about our world?
August 15	Jeremiah 10 - 13	4. Are there any thoughts, words or phrases that caught your attention ? Why ?
August 16	Jeremiah 14 - 17	

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