

INDEPENDENCE CHURCH OF CHRIST~  
JUNE 28, 2020

**SICK/TEMPORARY:** Bill Burford and his wife Harriet have both been fighting the Coronavirus for the better part of two weeks; they have not had to be hospitalized and are getting stronger. Sheila Massey has been diagnosed with Bell's palsy on her left side and has been having problems with high blood pressure.

**PROTRACTED:** Janice Bailey—Alzheimers; Scooter Birmingham (friend of Destiny Clayton); Brian Brown (Paul Brown's nephew)—epilepsy; Shelly Cates—fibromyalgia; Gladys Marie Elrod (Mary Ray's son-in-law's mother)—congestive heart failure; Addliae Farrow (Tabatha Clayton's great niece)—heart; Bubba Farrow (Emma Farrow's son)—Alzheimer's; Jimmy Ferguson (former preacher here)—heart rhythm; Jerry Floate (of this community)—liver transplant; Kaylie Hadley—UCTD; Paula Harrison—Meniere's Disease; Wanda Jackson—a-fib; Brenda Jones—Lupus; Stan Jones—Meniere's Disease; Monica La Rock (granddaughter of Orelia Ferguson and mother of Noah)—recovering from a brain bleed and awaiting further surgery; Garrett Lentz (son of a co-worker of Cody Hadley)—seizures; Becky Munns (Tabatha Clayton's aunt)—heart problems, Crohn's Disease; Robert Rawson (preacher at Crockett)—diabetes; Ray Reynold's (Sheila Massey and Mary West's dad)—memory trouble; Brett Rutherford (Dan Cates' friend)—MS; Tammy Turner (a preacher's wife whom we support)—dementia; Francis Wallace (friend of Mary Ray); and Madison Young—laryngomalacia.

**CANCER:** Clifton Angel (preacher at Coldwater)—thyroid; Sherry Brown (retired MSOP secretary); Alicia Busby (from the community); Earl Carlton (son of a friend of Syble Embrey)—esophageal; Gary Darnell (Ella Darnell's son)—leukemia as well as diabetes; Brenda Davis (a grandmother of Edra and Ryan Farrow); Tom Gordon (Cody Hadley's grandfather); Nathan Jones (the Hounshell's neighbors' 16 year old family member)—brain; Sara Kiestler (an FHU student)—Hodgkin's; Wade Loggins (member of congregation in Elkmont, AL); Dorothy Mosher (wife of an MSOP instructor); Carol Ogelsby (family of Sonny Stewart and the Browns)—stomach; Tommy Pierce (the Browns' friend); Tiffany Taylor (the Browns' friend); and Tabby Waters (Tabatha Clayton's sister-in-law)—leukemia.

**SHUT-IN:** Marie Crockett (home), Emma Farrow (in a care facility in Sardis), Orelia Ferguson (home), and Annette Cates (Dan Cates' mother who is at home in Pensacola, FL).

**SERVING:** Dylan and Maggie Cooper (Air Force, Offut AFB, Neb.), Cameron Hadley (Grayson Hadley's dad—Marines, Camp Lejeune, NC), Jacob Petrowski (grandson of former members here—Marines, soon to be let out). Also, please continue to pray for Kyle Embrey (Syble Embrey's grandson—policeman) and all other military [especially who are going or remain abroad] and for all those in authority that we might live "quiet and peaceable" lives (I Timothy 2:1,2).

Please check the directory in the foyer to see if your information is correct; if you need to change anything, please do so; if all is correct please indicate it with either a check mark or your initials. If you can receive texts, you may note that by the appropriate phone number as well.

---

*Independence Church of Christ*  
8543 Highway 305  
Coldwater, MS 38618

# INDEPENDENCE CHURCH OF CHRIST

## The Informer



8543 Highway 305

Coldwater, MS 38618

662-560-8045

[www.independencechurchofchrist.org](http://www.independencechurchofchrist.org)

**Services:** Sunday 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 4:45 p.m. (pew-packers), 5 p.m.  
Wednesday 7:15 p.m.

**Ministers:** Every Christian

**Elders:** Dan Cates (662-560-8045)

Carl Hounshell (812-653-2358)

**Evangelists:** Dan Cates (662-560-8045; [dsmccates@yahoo.com](mailto:dsmccates@yahoo.com))

Garrett Young (334-663-2509; [gty021@gmail.com](mailto:gty021@gmail.com))

**Missions** [the latest reports from these works are on the bulletin board in the foyer]

Independence Mission Fund (next: tbd)

Memphis School of Preaching (Jonathan Jenkins)

Brown Trail School of Preaching (Spanish Department)

Jim and Tammy Turner (Fairfield, North Carolina)

Trent Kennedy family (Four Seas Bible College, Singapore)

Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh, India [Providing Bibles]

Netcasters and Fishers of Men (Tim Wilkes, II)

Tennessee Children's Home, West

Pablo Horna (Costa Rica) [Overseeing funds]

Many one-time, domestic and overseas, mission efforts

# FILLING THE VOID

Josh Blackmer

Aristotle stated, "Nature abhors a vacuum." A perfect vacuum is space that contains no matter. This is an impossibility in nature or even a lab. Consider yourself as a spiritual vessel for a moment. The Bible already uses that analogy in several passages (2 Timothy 2:20; Romans 9:20-21). What would happen if you stopped filling yourself with God? Would your spiritual reserve eventually just empty and be void of any contents? Sometimes we deceive ourselves thinking that way. We think to ourselves, "I may not be reading, praying or practicing any of the other spiritual disciplines but at least I'm not doing bad things." We like to think that we are neutral and doing no harm. One of the problems of creating a perfect vacuum in a lab is isolating that empty space from any outside influence.

The same is true for us. In reality, we are not empty vessels doing no harm. If we are not filling the void of our souls with the influence of God, it will get filled with the influence of the world. Try one of these exercises and see what it says about what we are filling ourselves with. Look into your internet history and see what has been on your mind most. Ask friends or co-workers to tell you what they think is most important to you. Sometimes what others perceive of us is closer to reality than the lies we sell ourselves. If you really want to get introspective, download the app Quality Time, and let it track which apps you use most. The old saying, "Time will tell," is in this case, "Time will tell on you." Jesus said it this way, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:21).

There are ways that we can be purposeful in filling ourselves up with God. An empty vessel will get filled, but a full vessel has no need of anything. We need to fill ourselves with God's wisdom and direction. We can do that by s-l-o-w-l-y reading the Bible—not doing it to check it off the list but actually thinking about what we are reading. We should be meditating and praying about the truths that are there. We can passively listen to it as we drive. Let it be the background or soundtrack to our commute. We can spend time studying with fellow brothers and sisters. We all need be doing it. Why not incorporate someone else into the routine? We also need to fill ourselves up with the practice of God's word. We need to ask ourselves what we are doing to put what we learn into play in our lives and in our families. We can be an influence to help keep other vessels full. "Iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another" (Proverbs 27:17).

A perfect vacuum is rare, and a perfect person is rarer still. Do not let the outside influence us. You decide if you will be a vessel of honor or dishonor. Stay pressurized with God.

---

*"That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:" (Ephesians 4:14,15)*

---

## BIBLE QUESTION:

This week's question: What types of vessels are "in a great house"?

Last week's question: In what city was the Pool of Siloam?

Last week's answer: It was in Jerusalem (John 9); the question should actually have read, "In what city was the pool of Bethesda?" It also was in Jerusalem as is specifically recorded in John 5:2.

---

**SERMONS:** "Jesus Saw Him" (*John 5:1-16*)

We will not meet on Sunday evenings or Wednesday nights for the foreseeable future.

**DAILY BIBLE READING (June 29-July 5):**

	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.
<b>Amos</b>	4-6	7-9	<b>Hosea</b>	1-4	5-7	8-10	11-14
<b>2 Kings</b>			15-17				

**SCRIPTURE READING (JUNE):** Dan Cates

*(JULY): Thomas Massey*

**PRESIDE LORD'S SUPPER MORNING (JUNE):** Carl Hounshell

*(JULY): Cody Hadley*

**ASSIST LORD'S SUPPER (JUNE):** Paul Brown and Sonny Stewart

*(JULY): Mark Peyton and Conor Cates*

**CLEAN BUILDING (JUNE):** The Hounshells

*(JULY): The Masseys*

**PREPARE COMMUNION (JUNE):** Kim Arrington

*(JULY): Kaylie Hadley*

**PANTRY NEEDS:** Canned good and other imperishables.

**JULY BIRTHDAYS:**

Paul Baldwin	July 8	Ella Darnell	July 10
Carson Kinney	July 19	Kim Arrington	July 21
Madison Young	July 26	Sonny Stewart	July 28

**UPCOMING EVENTS (For particular details, check the bulletin board for flyers):**

July 5-10

**Olive Branch** is hosting a Bible camp. If your children are interested, contact Jared Rhodes for details at 641-750-4188 or jaredrhodes07@gmail.com.

July 10,11

**Camp-in** for all the children of the congregation Friday night and Saturday; more details will follow. Adults and children need white t-shirts if they wish to tie-dye.

July 13-17

**Vacation Bible School** at Nesbit.

October 11-14

**Gospel meeting** at Coldwater.

September

**Gospel meeting** with Tom Wacaster.

June 6-9, 2021

**Gospel meeting** with Brian Stewart.

---

**WELCOME VISITORS!**

We are honored to have you with us today.