Admittedly, most of us know we ought to pray, and indeed quite a few of us have found no small measure of comfort, courage, and strength through prayer. We may even have enjoyed moments when our prayers on behalf of others have yielded profound and even surprising results. For all that, however, we may feel that our prayers tend to be rather paltry and superficial. Words often fail us, and we may wonder about the “signal strength” of our connection with God. Like Jesus’ disciples before us, we say, “Teach us to pray. Let us in on the secret of effective prayer.”

I am convinced that our richest and best prayers are those that emerge from soil of our daily lives. They have as their inspiration the daily, gritty stuff we encounter daily. Such prayers are not empty and vapid but are instead clothed with flesh and blood and are made alive by the urgency of our circumstances. In other words, we are at our best when we learn to “pray our lives.”

Over the next several Sundays, we’re going to take a look at some of the life prayers we find in the New Testament—particularly those offered by the Apostle Paul at the outset of some of his letters. We’re going to examine the prayers he made for some of his churches and for himself so that we cultivate the habit of “praying life,” letting some of our real-world experiences become the inspiration for our own prayers. Here’s the outline:

“Doing What’s Best” Philippians 1:9-11
“Frustrated Ambition” Romans 1:8-12
“Strong Enough” Colossians 1:9-10
“What Good Can I Do?” Philemon 4
“To See the Treasure in Our Hands” Ephesians 1:15-19

Take some time to read these passages of scripture. Think about the circumstances that prompted them. I think you’ll find that they portray some of the challenges we face and will provide helpful guidance for “praying your life.”

Grace and peace,

Bill Ireland,
Senior Pastor


dedalton.org
Volume 58 Issue 29 August 16, 2013

This Sunday at First Baptist Church August 18
Education Sunday

Sermon Title:
Praying Life:
Doing What’s Best
Philippians 1:9-11
Dr. Bill Ireland

Special Music:
Open the Eyes of My Heart
Janna Pye, Clarinet

Ancient Words
Sanctuary Choir and Congregation

Here I Am to Worship
with
My Jesus, I Love Thee
Educator’s Ensemble

8:30 a.m. Early Worship/Chapel
9:45 a.m. Bible Study for All Ages
10:55 a.m. Morning Worship/
Sanctuary

Please note that this will be Children’s Worship Sunday for August.

Extended Session Volunteers!
Coordinator-Debby Barto
8:30 a.m.-Graham & Bradley Fox
10:55 a.m.-Ashton & Maddie Lowery
Clay & Karmen Chambless
Derrell & Susan Grantham
Lee & Julia Dillivan
Mark Your Calendars!

Be sure to mark your calendars for next Sunday, August 25, when composer Joel Raney will be visiting and leading us in worship. There will be no 8:30 a.m. service that day, but please make plans to join us in the Sanctuary at 10:55 a.m. for a wonderful morning of music featuring the Sanctuary Choir, First Light, Celebration Ringers, and children’s voices.

Please note that a reception honoring the 30th staff anniversary of Sandra Blackwell and 25th staff anniversary of Patti Cannon will be held in the Atrium immediately following the 10:55 a.m. worship service.

Reminder!

Please note that there will be no 8:30 a.m. worship service on August 25 or September 1, but will resume on Sunday, September 8, in the Chapel.

A Busy Summer for our Construction Team!

This summer has been particularly full of requests for ramps in our community. Our very gifted FBCD Construction Team has done an incredible job responding to the needs of others! The ramps they build make a tremendous difference in the lives of those they serve! The most recent ramp building effort included at least 16 volunteers, 6 of whom were family members of the woman needing the ramp (see picture below). It was a wonderful day of partnership and being the presence of Christ. One family member noted that their mother could now come out to see “the clouds and the trees again!” What a joy it is for us to share our gifts and talents beyond the walls of the church! Thank you Construction Team for a job well done!

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A Letter to My Son…

Phillip Cannon

Dear Chandler,

940! I read an article the other day that said that there are 940 Saturdays between the time a child is born and the time that they turn 18 years old. 940 Saturdays—for you, perhaps, the days, weeks, and months have gone slow, but for me and your Mom the years have passed all too fast. It seems like only yesterday that you came to be a part of our lives, and now this coming Saturday, actually 982 Saturdays later, you will be leaving us to begin the great journey of your life that is called “college” at Mercer University.

I hope you realize that from the day that you were born there has not been a single day that I have not thanked God for the gift that you are to our lives. I have marveled each day as I have watched you grow from an infant to become the fine young man that you are today. When I say the words “fine young man” you might hear that the same something that any Dad would say about his child. But, for you, I say those words with a deep sense of pride as I have watched you grow and mature to become the person that you are. I know I have not said it often enough over these 982 weeks, but I am so proud of you! With all of my heart I believe that God has something special in store for you—an amazing plan for your life—and I am so thankful that you are making yourself available to Him and to His leadership in your life. When I watch you—I know that you don’t notice it—I see a depth of love and a compassion for people that is such a remarkable attribute in the day in which we live. You are not too busy to love and to care for everyone. I believe that God is continuing to mold within your life a servant’s heart, and with that heart He is going to do a lot of good in this world in which we live. Add to that compassion your gift of humility plus the integrity of your character and the recipe for greatness in God’s eyes is well underway.

Not that you have a “loud” bone in your body (like your Dad), but our house is definitely going to be much quieter without you there with us. I will miss the routine smells of popcorn and finishing off the final one-quarter of a bag that you always seemed to know that I wanted. I will miss watching you shake the orange juice bottle with insane vigor each morning at breakfast. I will miss your sharing of the most random and obscure facts imaginable with Mom and me. I will miss having my electronic wizard who could always fix the television or computer when I pushed the wrong buttons. I will (not) miss being beaten soundly on every IPhone game or X-Box game that we played together—you never showed me any mercy there and enjoyed every moment of your victory! Cammie (for those reading, our Corgi) will miss her brother greatly. You are the only one that she allows to hold her in their lap—I will miss watching my boy and his dog. Plainly and simply, Mom and I will miss you, son. But, we will be fine because we know and believe with all of our heart that you will not depart from the ways in which you have been taught.

The old roots and wings thing holds true even today. We have tried to give you strong roots to anchor your life—roots of love, faith, hope, courage, family, security, and the list goes on. You have a church family, too, that has nurtured and strengthened your life. And, now it is truly time to offer you the wings that come with maturity. I pray that with those wings you will soar to new heights that are unlimited because, as I said, I know that God has a special plan for you. And, as you fly, remember there is always a resting place for you in your life’s journey—you will always have a home with a Mom and Dad who love you with a love that is beyond description or calculation. We will always, no matter what you face or how old you get, be there for you. Play hard, study harder, and have a great year at Mercer. Go Bears!

I love you, Dad
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**MINISTER ON CALL**

**August 19-25**

**Phillip Cannon** 706.537.5705

Courtney Allen 706.581.5152
Derrell Grantham 706-270-2868
Bill Ireland 706.537.5703
Bridgette Poag 706.537.0705
Susan Deal 706.980.8033

**Welcome New Members!**

By Profession of Faith:
Hayden and Annie Barger
111 Golf View Dr.-Cohutta, GA 30710

**Among Our Members**

Those Hospitalized:
- Memorial Hospital-Chattanooga
  - Brenda Dickson
- Regency Park
  - Wendell Ashworth
  - Stacey Bryant
- Morningside Healthcare
  - Jimmy Clark
- Quinton Healthcare
  - Lois Hamilton

Christian Sympathy is extended to . . .

The family of John McDonald and Heather Donahue in the death of John’s brother and Heather’s uncle, David.

To the families of Susan Grantham and Lamar McClure in the death of their aunt.

To the family of Billy Nimmons in the death of his brother-in-law.

**LISTEN TO OUR SUNDAY SERVICES**

11:00 a.m. every Sunday
WYYU—104.5 FM or www.mixx1045.com

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