

PRAYER REQUEST

Members

Pat Abbitt, Audrey Arthur, Kenneth Carwile, Maxine Clements, Lorie Chumbley, David Dudley, Lennie Dudley, Alexis Hamilton, Jack Hamilton, John Jennings, Gayle Lauenders, Phyllis Minnick, Ollie Morris, Patsy Smith, Jana Terrell, Mary Thaxton.

Friends, Relatives & Community Concerns

Mimi Addison (Kanzada Phillips), Benjamin Alger (Alexis Hamilton), Kevin Belcher (Alexis Hamilton), Sarah Clements (Tommy Clements), Brenda Crawford (Jana Terrell), Doris Dailey (Kathy Noel), Joe DeCeasar (Kristen Tatlock), JoAnne Doyle (Pat Abbitt), Meg Ferry (Joy Flowers), Elizabeth Freeman (Patti Day), Bill Hamilton (Lexi Hamilton), Tracey Hamilton (Vivian Hamilton), Sonny Harlow (Pat Day), Nanny Holman (Alexis Hamilton), Charles Hubbard (Rick Hubbard), Laura Hunter (Lexi Hamilton), Ednee Irving (Lewis Noel), James Jennings (John Jennings), Greg Kirby (Jana Terrell), Joel Kramer, Larry Lawhorne (Eddie Wieringo), Kevin Layne (Leila Paulette), Fred Lewis (Marie Carwile), Avis Lovell (Pam Hubbard), Marvin Manning (Pat Abbitt), Andy Mays (Jana Terrell), Cynthia Miller, Cindi Murphy (Kirk Murphy), Jay Murphy (Joel Kramer), George Murray (Paul Stober), Phyllis Nickolas (Lewis Noel), Hunter Noel (Lewis Noel), Martha Noel (Lewis Noel), Bart Nunn (Pat Day), Anita Price (Jana Terrell), Larry Short (Eddie Wieringo), Earl Talley (Kanzada Phillips), Mary Thomas (John Jennings), Frank Tomlin (Marie Murphy).

Military & Support Personnel

Sarah Harrell, **Sarah Sullivan (deployed)**, Michael Grubbs, Jr.

DONATIONS

March Christmas Cheer donation: Canned vegetables

Neighbors Helping Neighbors: non-perishable food, personal hygiene items and plastic bags

A hundred and twenty dollars was raised for the Souper Bowl of Caring this year. Proceeds benefit Meals on Wheels.

SERVING SCHEDULE

Elders

David Alger Joy Flowers

Diaconate

Joe Hedges (volunteer) Forrest Hamilton
Leila Paulette Eddie Wieringo

Communion Prep

Leila Paulette

CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays

March 6 David Dudley
March 10 Allena Tarvin
March 13 Dicky Sheppard
March 16 Phyllis Ewers, Kanzada Phillips
March 20 Rob Flowers
March 21 Ben Alger
March 23 Brenda Young, Clayton Minnick
March 25 Shannon Moses
March 30 Stephanie Russell
March 31 Austin Crowder

Anniversary

March 22 Cathy and Carlton Cash

COMMUNITY LENTEN SCHEDULE

February 26	Rose Chapel Baptist Church	Todd Blake
March 4	Randolph Memorial Baptist	Mark Tinsley
March 11	Madison Heights Christian	Derik Hamby
March 18	Madison Heights Baptist	Donald Hamlette
March 25	Rose Chapel Baptist Church	George Harris
April 1	Amelon United Methodist	Music Service

SERMON SCHEDULE

March 1	"Everything Is Possible"	Matthew 17:14-20
March 8	"Jesus Knows"	Matthew 17:22-23
March 15	"The Greatest in Heaven"	Matthew 18:1-5
March 22	"Live in Peace"	Matthew 18:6-7
March 29	"Everything is Possible for God"	Matthew 19:16-26

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Will Hamilton on his scholarship to the University of Lynchburg. A thank you is also extended to Joy Flowers for her help in procuring the scholarship. Will's major will be accounting. He will also be traveling with his grandfather, David Alger, to Rome and London.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

The 2020 Turner-Warren Lecture on Life and Faith will be presented at First Christian Church on Sunday, March 1st at 4:00p.m. Dr. Larycia Hawkins, a political science professor at the University of Virginia will be this year's lecturer with *Losing My Liberty, Gaining My Soul*. A reception will follow in the Snidow Fellowship Hall. Childcare is provided.

Dr. Hawkins will also deliver the Jennie Cutler Shumat Lecture on Christian Ministry at the University of Lynchburg in the Snidow Chapel on Monday, March 2, at 7:30 p.m. Her title for this lecture is *Does Your Blood Not Boil? Embodying Solidarity with Suffering*.

All lectures are free and open to the public.

In case of medical emergencies the church needs to know who within the membership is medically trained. AED and CPR training is planned for March 12th or 19th in the evening. Please let the church office or minister know if you plan on attending, as we need a head count.

Madison Height Christian will host our annual **Lenten Lunch** on **March 11th** at noon. Please let Brenda Harris know if you can help with set up, clean up or providing desserts.

Amherst County Public Schools Smart Start Four-Year Old Preschool Program applications are available in the church office. Children must be 4 by September 30, 2020. Applications must be returned by April 3, 2020. Call (434) 946-9386 ext. 9651. <http://www.amherst.k12.va.us/smartstart>

Infected With a Virus

As of Feb. 18, there have been 1,868 deaths attributed to the Coronavirus. The latest headlines report that 14 Americans infected with Coronavirus have arrived in the United States. As of February 14, the total case count in the U.S. was 15 people tested positive. This now brings the U.S. total to 29 people infected, none of them in Virginia. At this time, it is not spreading in communities in the U.S.

As the Coronavirus continues to dominate the headlines I am reminded of other viruses past and present that have easily infected us. Towards the end of last year I got a flu shot to protect myself from the flu. Many people get their shots every year because they have learned how mean and nasty such a virus can be and from their own personal experience they have no desire to be infected again.

I also remember the last time I experienced a nasty virus within my computer. They are called viruses due to the way their behaviors mirror biological viruses. I don't know when or how this electronic worm infected my system. Like the biological viruses, it was sneaky and invisible, early symptoms were not alarming as it worked its way

through the computer to try to steal personal information like passwords and bank account information. The very first thing it did was to shut down the defense mechanisms. My computers are set up for the anti-virus programs to run at night so that all of the maintenance programs, that allow computers to run smoothly, can be performed without interfering with daily usage. The virus deactivated my anti-virus program first, and then it was allowed to roam freely within my system to attack other programs and settings. As undesirable things happened with increased frequency I realized that my system had been infected. I checked to see when the last time the anti-virus program had run and discovered it had been over a month. Finally, after a considerable amount of time and research, I was able to kill the virus, delete junk files, and reset some of the programs. Luckily, I was able to get my computer back to normal.

Now, if I have not lost you with technology or boredom, here comes the lesson. Like a virus that infects us biologically, and like a computer virus that infects our computers, we can also get infected spiritually. The symptoms may not be alarming at first, but soon they begin to spread and close the doors on our defense mechanisms. Then we do not recognize it when we fail to function as we are called to act by Jesus Christ. In our minds it becomes OK to slip further away from a life of devotion. The serpent tricked Eve into thinking it was OK to do something that was forbidden. This is the way evil works, by tricking the individual into thinking things are OK when they are not. This gradual spread hinders awareness and continues to get worse without the infected realizing that something is seriously wrong.

The defense from the flu bug is the flu shot but you have to go to the doctor to get it. The defense from a computer virus is an anti-virus program but you have to go buy it and install it on your system. The defenses from spiritual decay are first of all standing steadfast in faith and not slipping away into a life that does not match your confession of faith. To be spiritual but not religious, to be absent from worship, is not what the Bible teaches. Live a life of devotion, worship in spirit and in truth, study the Bible, and maintain an in depth prayer life. Internal conflict exists within the person who wants to confess a commitment to God but live a life that contradicts those confessions. Sometimes people treat their faith like a habit and just get out of the habit of practicing their faith. This is the spiritual virus at work within the individual. This is the virus that has infected the United States.

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