

The Watering Can

Following Lent's Leading Man

Matthew 28:19-20 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

My brother Paul (who is now a surgeon) and I were building a teepee by cutting down some skinny trees and tying them together. As I finished chopping one tree, it began to fall in Paul's direction. Seeing the danger, Paul turned and ran for safety. Unfortunately, Paul's escape route was in the direction the tree was falling.

Before Paul could run far enough to escape injury, the tree bounced twice on the top of his head before it hit the ground. The good news is that Paul was not badly hurt, but he did end up with a scratch and a knot on his head. The sad news is that Paul could have taken two short steps to the right or the left and escaped all injury.

Paul's mistake was trying escape by running the longer length of the tree instead of the much shorter width of the tree. To be completely honest, Paul could have escaped all injury if his older brother (me) had been watching out for him and said, "Hey Paul, you might want to back up while I am chopping this tree."

Experience is a great teacher. Almost killing my little brother with a tree made me a more observant person when I cut wood. Sometimes we learn from our mistakes. The problem is learning from mistakes causes you to have to say, "I am sorry" too many times because people can get hurt. (Sorry about the tree, Paul.) Fortunately, there is a much better way to learn.

We best learn by example. This is the path of discipleship. Jesus invited a varied group of misfits and began to lead them around mixing spoken and demonstrated teaching styles. Don't get me wrong, they still had to learn from mistakes they made, but Jesus was right there with them to show them the right path. Later Jesus turned these disciples into disciple makers.

Matthew 28 tells us that everyone who calls him or herself a Christian is called to be both a disciple and a disciple maker. We are called to go and make disciples by baptizing (bringing them into the family) and teaching (leading by example).

We need you to find your place in being a disciple maker. We have plenty of people who can say what Caswell Springs should and should not be doing, but we have very few who have taken up the task of making disciples.

We have many children who need to be taught the ways of God through Jesus. We have young adults who need more mature adults to walk the path of discipleship with them. We have a deep need for older adults to teach us all how to walk as Jesus walked.

Do we really want the church to learn by mistake? Do we really want to be bouncing trees off each other's heads by mistake? Or, do we want the church to learn by following the example of others who are walking the path with us, following Lent's leading man, Jesus?

Because of His Extravagant Grace,
Brian.



HIS WAY MINISTRY APRIL 2014

1 John 3:17-18

But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

During one of Brian's Lenten sermons, he touched on how we are all God's children. This makes us think about how comfortable we become serving in our community with people of like minds and looks.

Would we be as joyful in our tasks if we were asked to serve someone outside of our comfort zone? Do we find it hard to remem-

ber that God truly created us all and that we are all children of God no matter where we live, what we wear or how we look?

His Way serves in our community. Are there those in our community that do not get served because they don't fit the mold?

It is our intent to serve all in need. Do you know someone who is

in need regardless of where they live, what they wear or how they look? If so, please contact us at His Way so we may do as God has commanded and serve all who are in need.

Revival

Our revival will begin on May 4th at 6:30 p.m. Our guest speaker this year is Cynthia Cross, Hattiesburg District Superintendent. Our music will be provided by Daniel Banke. There will be a

children's revival service. A meal will be provided in the dining room Monday-Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. with service following. There will be a prayer vigil in the Sanctuary 24 hours

prior to the revival. Please plan on participating and attending these services.

Anniversaries

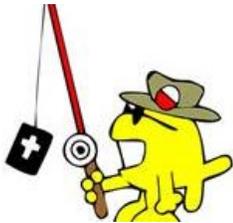
6 Jon & Jan Harris
8 Wesley & Brandy Kitchens
16 Matthew & Xinia Poore
26 Roy & JoAnn Jenkins

Bridal Shower

Please join us for a bridal shower in honor of Tiffany Hillman and Brantley Goff Saturday April 5th at 2 p.m. in the Church Dining Room. Brantley is the son of Troy Goff and grandson of Paula and Wayne Goff. The couple is registered at Belks.

Missions and Evangelism

Can you believe it is already April! It is time (April through September) to revive two of our Ministries- the Living Water Ministry and the Vessel Ministry; although any time is a good time to share our faith with others. Hopefully you have taken advantage of the opportunities previously provided to learn about these two Ministries as well



Be ye fishers of men

as the other thirteen being offered through the church. If you are not familiar with these Ministries, please contact Lori Cupit, chairman of the Missions and Evangelism Team.

Hopefully at this writing, the weather is getting warmer and more of us are going outside to enjoy the beauty of God's creation. Some of us are beginning to get the urge to go fishing or to do something on or around the water. Why not contact Jesse Davis (228-588-2809) and pick up a few bottles or a case of "Living Water" to have on hand so

that you can pass some bottles out to those you meet while enjoying God's beauty on, in or around the water or some other place. Our thanks go to the youth of our church who took advantage of "Old Fashion Day" to get our Living Water Ministry kicked off for 2014.

Also, Benny Goff, Pete Bonfiglio and other members of the Men's group that meet upstairs on Wednesday nights will begin the Vessel Ministry again. Our cookie lady, Mrs. Ellen Griffin, has once again chosen to serve the Lord by baking the cookies that are placed with other items in each of the

bags to be given out. An invitation is extended to anyone who wishes to be a part of this Ministry to come and join them on Wednesday night, April 30th at 6:30 pm., and then the fourth Wednesday night at 6:30 p.m. of each month through the month of September. Benny (228- 990-9919) or Pete (228-219-9066) will be happy to answer any questions you might have. Just give one of them a call.

God is calling! Will you answer His call?

Community of Hope

Happy Spring from Community of Hope! We said goodbye to the last few NOMADs this past month, and we'll miss them greatly. Their hard work and prayerful support means so much to our us and our clients. We look forward to have them back again. Paul and Shirley Hope have stuck around to help with several projects. What a blessing it is to have these friends on board!

The Florida/Georgia team that we were expecting had to postpone their trip to the coast because of storm damages in their respective states. They were called to help out folks in their own areas, and we know that they are a godsend to those they are assisting. We'd like to say a big thanks to the Jackson County Multisport Club for giving COH a generous donation of

\$5000.00 from the proceeds of the Hurley Hustle. These funds are much needed in our work! In fact, some of the funds were put toward a large ongoing project...

The COH team has been working in Pascagoula to help a family in desperate need of new flooring in their home. The mom is disabled, the father is deceased, and there are three school-aged children. The floors were so bad that the mother was practically confined to one area of the home that includes one bedroom and bathroom. The daughter had to move to mom's bedroom to sleep because her floor was gone. We have replaced the floors in the large living area, three bedrooms, the family room, and the kitchen. We are still working on installing a new shower for one bathroom and new flooring for

two bathrooms. This will give the family safe access for moving about in their home. In addition to the new floors, COH was able to help redo some of the electrical work, and now the family has a working stove. The family can now prepare hot meals for the first time in several months!

Our friends at Pascagoula First United Methodist have been a huge help with this project, both with labor and funding.

Please continue praying for our ministry and those in need in our community. If you feel led to volunteer your time and talent, contact one of our team members. We can use your help! We thank you for your ongoing support.

Blessings, COH Team



Missions and Evangelism

Many of us have been preparing for different things in our lives through the years. We prepare ourselves by training or going to school to get a job. We prepare for our wedding. We prepare for the birth of our children and prepare them for school or college. And most of us make some preparation for retirement, but do you know that God tells us to prepare to share. Evangelism is not only words sharing the story of God's love, but Evangelism is also reflected by our actions to others through His love.

Leviticus 19: 9-10: "When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not wholly reap the corners of your field nor shall you gather the gleanings of your harvest. And you shall not glean your vineyard nor shall you gather every grape of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and the stranger: I am the Lord your God."

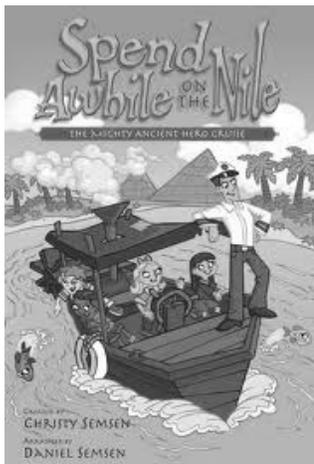
In these verses we are instructed to leave something. It doesn't say that if we have more than we want. Think about Ruth gleaning from Boaz's field. He told his workers to leave more than normal because he knew of Ruth's need. In the verses above **God instructed His people to prepare to share not as an after-thought; but as a fore-thought.**

Today most of us do not have fields or even a garden, but there are other opportunities which can provide us with the "plan ahead to share" mind set. Many of us probably already do these things that are listed below, but maybe some of us don't.

1. When you make a recipe, double it. Then freeze half of it so you can share with one of our shut-ins, with a new mom, with someone who is sick, or maybe you could half the half and share with more than one of our elderly who live alone.
2. Cool Whip tubs are an inexpensive and non-returnable dish as are many other plastic containers we receive. Keep them to use for sharing with others. It will be easier to share if you have these on hand and also easier for the person on the receiving end because they do not have to return the container.
3. Take advantage of the buy-one-get-one-free offers or specials you see. Then donate one to our church food pantry or to someone in need. There are multiple places in need!
4. Donate a percentage of your tax refund, bonuses, or any extra income to the church, to one of our Ministries, or to the needy. Sharing with others makes all of these a little sweeter for the giver.
5. Clip coupons for someone else or for a charity. A new mom would love a coupon for diapers, etc.
6. Clean out.....closets, freezers, the pantry, your garage, or your shop of extras, no longer needed items or those items that you are not going to use before they ruin. Share with our church, our childcare, the elderly, your neighbors, your friends, a shelter, or a charity.
7. Share your time....an hour or so to help one of our shut-ins with tasks they can no longer do or just visit. Keep the children while a single mom or dad goes to the grocery, to the doctor, or just to run an errand.
8. Maybe you have tickets to sporting events, movies or some other function that you are not going to be able to attend that you could share with a single mom or dad who probably don't have the funds to purchase them.

Busy schedules often keep our good intentions from becoming reality, but think what could happen if all of us follow God's instructions and prepare to share.

Music & Worship Arts



Summer Music Camp (April 6 is first deadline)

After last year's hugely successful *Parableloozza!* experience, we are now ready to take our show down the Nile on a river boat cruise (with a little imagination, of course!). This year's camp will be the week of July 7-11, and the performance of the popular show *Spend Awhile on the Nile* will be Friday, July 11 at 6:30. Children who will be between the ages of 8 and 12 by the start of camp, and who have a love for music and drama, are encouraged to participate. **Be sure to register your child by April 6 to receive the early registration discount!** Early registration is \$30, and regular registration (by June 29) is \$40. Please see Mr. Daniel for more information.

Palm Sunday (April 13)



Be sure to make plans to attend worship on April 13 for the annual Palm Sunday processional! All of our children are encouraged to grab a palm branch for the processional, and our Sonshine Choir will sing a special song called "Look! Someone's Coming!" that will help us to reenact Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. We are aware that local schools will have started spring break by that weekend, but we hope you'll make plans to join us anyway. Later that day at 4:30, Stations of the Cross will help us to focus on the significance of Holy Week.

Soup & Sing (April 16)



In addition to all of the regular Holy Week services, you are invited to a Soup & Sing on April 16 (6:00) at Safe Harbor UMC. Our Sanctuary Choir is sure to represent us well at this annual event, sponsored by the North Jackson County Cluster. Come eat some great food and enjoy singing by choirs from all of our local Methodist churches.

MISSIONS AND EVANGELISM FEATURE

Our feature for April is a very familiar face to most of us, Mr. John Weldon Jackson. Although Mr. John was born in Prichard, Alabama, on August 29, 1936, to his parents Mr. Jim and Mrs. Alice Mae Jackson; he has become an adopted son of Wade, Mississippi. A sister who died at birth and his brother, Wayne, completed John's first family. He attended and graduated from Vigor High School where he continued developing his love for music of various kinds (especially Christian God praising music) and shared his talent by teaching the Steel Guitar to others.



His love and his God given talent for music became apparent early in life when at age twelve he became Assistant Music Director under a Mr. Dickerson at the 9th Street Baptist Church. His pastor was Rev. Brian Scott- not our Rev. Brian Scott though!! As the years passed he led music at Culbert Street Baptist Church until he starting directing music at Caswell Springs United Methodist Church under Brother Bearden.

The rest of the story is John married a Wade girl, Ella (Eloise) Louise Goff on May 19, 1961. John stayed at Caswell Springs about twenty years before the Pet Milk Company transferred him to Birmingham. Of course, Eloise went too. Along the way, God blessed John and Eloise with three children: Brenda, who became a Sartin, Randy (Pam), and Terry (Sharon). The Jackson family which has grown through the years includes four grandchildren: Ranzi (their adopted daughter), Bryce, Avery, and Brett. Additional, John and Eloise remain close to Amanda, the mother of Bryce and Avery.

In addition to music, through the years John worked for Mobile Cigar, Phillip's Brokerage, Jackson County Packing, and Conco Foods before owning Family Frozen and Krispy Mixes. In addition to these jobs, John continued in his first love, music, whenever and wherever the opportunity arose. One of those times happened when John had a chance to return from Birmingham. He was promoted with the Pet Milk Company and replaced his previous boss in Mobile. Once again he answered the call to become Music Director at Caswell Springs, working both with the Sanctuary Choir and the Youth Choir and once again if he received a salary, he gave it back to the church. John remained active in the music of our church until 2012 when his eyesight and health no longer permitted him to continue.

Wayne and Paula Goff probably know Mr. John better than anyone. Mr. John's and Paula's first meeting was at a revival at our church years ago. Mr. John, Eloise, and their children came by to visit them after a night service, and ended up staying three days!! "What fun we had as young couples raising our kids together."

As they shared music in the church (Mr. John leading the choir and Paula playing the piano), their friendship grew. Often they were asked to sing and play at funerals during the work days. Paula told me, "John called, picked me up, and we would fly 63 to the church, and then go back to work. We called it doing a funeral on our lunch hour. John always did a great job, even if we had to practice on the way to the church. We have been choir partners, director/pianist and members of our church orchestra together. No matter the type or the style of music we were into, John was always "trying" to keep me straight on how to play! Our families have enjoyed a very long-lasting and enduring friendship over the years and we have been blessed to call John and Eloise friends that last a lifetime."

Another person that knows Mr. John extremely well is Mrs. Ida Mae Cumbest, who's been young and around at Caswell Springs Church for awhile. Mrs. Ida Mae stated and I quote, "John was a valuable member of the choir as the director, which he did for many years. He has driven many miles getting back to the church from his work to sing for a funeral or some other function. He was always equal to the task and we've had some fun times at the church and with the choir which I treasure."

Mr. John has been a mentor to many of our young people and two come to mind: Jody Goff and Kevin Dearman. When asked to comment on Mr. John's influence, Jody Goff said, "Mr. John's dedication and love for the choir was inspirational. I learned so much from his vast knowledge of music. He was such a cheerful person, always with a funny story and never to busy to help when asked."

Kevin remembers when he first joined the choir how nervous he was because of never having sung in an organized group and because of his inability to read music. But through the patient teaching and constant encouragement of Mr. John, along with Mr. Harold Morris, the Music Director at that time, Kevin advanced to Plus One (our men's singing group) where he starting singing lead and tenor. "Mr. John and I share a passionate love of music and praising God through song. His knowledge and willingness to help me as a young man new in the faith many years ago, helped me grow into the person I am today. I am forever grateful for John's positive influence, faithful witness, and love shown to me and my family through the years."

Never forget this thought: Mr. John still has music and the words of many songs in his memory and heart. And if you go by to visit, you might find him singing a song, humming a tune, or even leading the choir from his favorite recliner! Mr. John, you are missed. You are loved.

April 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 His Way Ed. Com	2 Supper & Activity	3	4	5
6 Easter Egg Hunt	7	8 His Way	9 Supper & Activity	10	11	12
13 Stations of Cross	14 Mem. Service Rosedale	15 His Way	16 Soup & Sing	17 Maundy Thursday	18 Good Friday	19
20 EASTER	21	22 His Way	23 Supper & Activity	24	25	26
27 Confirmation Youth-Led Worship Board Mtg.	28	29 His Way	30			

Birthdays

3 Jessie Dale
3 Ashleigh Jones
3 Duce Miles
4 Anna Grace Crump
4 Shannon Goff
4 Casey Goff
5 Gary Cumbest, Jr.
5 Don Cumbest
5 Jay Hamrick
5 Crystal Rose Fisher
6 Wendy Hadley
7 Ella Scarbrough
8 Paul Thornton
9 Dylan Pierce
10 Halsey Cumbest
10 Glenda Stewart

10 Vickie Greenough
10 Hayden Johnson
10 Gracia Easley
10 Rachel Parker
11 Billie Smith
11 Bert Garriga
12 George Stewart
13 Gay Rudolf
14 April Parker
15 Jaelyn Golson
15 Jerald Goff
15 Jim Fisher
18 Lowrey Smith
20 Henry Savage
20 Gray Cumbest
21 Ben Howell

21 Janey Cumbest
23 Sheila Hall
23 Peggy Davis
24 Gerri Pierce
24 Hope Gerrish
25 Ella Marie Noland
26 Sharon Jackson
26 Hunter Ratliff
26 Ommie Cumbest
27 Vinson Adkison
27 Emma Taylor
28 Mimi Cumbest
28 Brittany Allen
28 Morgan Taylor
29 Kurt Pedersen
29 Joey Cumbest
30 Ryane Rawls
30 Baleigh Holder

Caswell Springs UMC

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*Filling up and overflowing
with Christ's Love.*

Education Committee News:

Graduation dates are quickly approaching! If you have a pre-school, high school, or college graduate in your family, please let us know by calling the church office at 588-6546 or Chris Watkins at 623-1733. Preschool graduation recognition will be Sunday, May 11th and high school/ college recognition will be Sunday, May 18th, both at the 10:50 service. Thank you!



Upcoming Children's Events :

Our Church-wide Easter Egg Hunt will be at 4:30 pm April 6 on the church grounds. We are asking everyone to bring a finger food to share.

Stations of the Cross will be at 4:30 pm April 13. We will need many volunteers to help this be a successful event. Please contact Crystal Long if you feel led to be a part of this wonderful experience.

Camp Wesley Pines older elementary camp date has been set for July 21-25. If you have a child entering 4th - 6th grades and they would like to attend please contact Crystal Long for details: 218-6302.