

ACTIVITIES FOR OCTOBER

- **Ladies Get Together**— Saturday Oct 19th—10 am to 2 pm at the building. We will be making blankets for our shut-ins and others. Please bring sewing scissors and join us for fellowship and fun. Lunch will be provided. Feel free to bring a snack to share. It takes 1-1/2 to 2 yards per blanket. Any question, please contact Cheryl Kelch at 304-677-1668
- Sunday October 20th— Children are invited to meet downstairs for a simple sewing project. Parents and Grandparents are encouraged to come and assist children with pins, needles, and scissors. Any questions, please see Lois Reed.
- **Pleasant Acres Ladies Meeting**—Tuesday October 22nd at 7 PM
- **Youth Rally @ Jackson's Mill**—October 25th and 26th

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **Mark Your Calendar:**
 - Gospel Meeting with Brent Gallagher—November 3-6
 - Ladies Christmas Party—Friday December 6th at 6 PM at the home of Evelyn Griffin
- We will start organizing activities for grade school children during Sunday evening sermon downstairs starting Tonight, October 13th. See Robbie Nichols for details.
- **Pleasant Acres Annual Turkey Dinner**— Friday November 8th— All tickets \$10.00
 - Take out Only— 3:30 PM to 5:00 PM
 - Dine In— 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM

Midge LeMaster's 90th birthday

Address for Cards:

1503 Oakview Circle SE

Winter Haven, FL 33880

Elders: Raymond Anderson, Lafe Hutcheson & Stan Williams

Deacons: Gene Wright, Don Riffle, Robbie Nichols, & Robbie Buffington

Minister: Mark Jones **Phone:** (304) 842-6738

Bridgeport Church of Christ

October 13, 2019

A Reprise on the Matter of Forgiveness



After writing last week's bulletin article, *Forgiveness According to Christ*, a few events took place that need to be addressed concerning Satan's assault on forgiveness. You may be aware of the recent killing of Botham Jean, a Dallas resident shot by Dallas police officer Amber Guyger. You might also know that Jean was a member of the church of Christ and a graduate of Harding University. You might also know that our nation currently has a great deal of turbulence between the police and the black community. Before I speak further on this case, I must bring to memory the church massacre of June 2015 in Charleston, SC.

At a Wednesday night bible study, Dylann Roof, a self-professed white supremacist killed nine members of the Emmanuel AME church in Charleston, SC. During the trial and sentencing of Roof, members of the Emmanuel AME church repeated said that they forgave him for his terrible deeds. I found that to be so refreshing for a world that desperately needs Christ and His forgiveness. If Christ is going to be emulated by the world when it comes to forgiveness, the world needs to see examples of forgiveness from His followers.

After seeing such an outpouring of love for a man, Roof, who had so much hatred, I had such hope for our nation that perhaps we would turn a new page in our racially divided past and look to Christ as our example for the future. How deflated I was the next day when I read the posts on my Facebook newsfeed where so many of my good Christian friends espoused not the love of Christ, ... *Continued*

Sunday Worship

Bible Study 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am

Evening Worship 6 pm

Wednesday Bible Study 7 pm

www.bptchurch.com

...Continued

but rather were engaged in arguments over the Confederate flag! I was so sad to see good people caught up in the arguments of the devil.

Now fast forward to last week. As the brother of the late Botham Jean spoke in the courtroom to former police officer Amber Guyger, he told her he loved her as a person, he did not want to see her go to jail, he wished only the best for her, and he was granted permission by the judge to give her a hug. That same judge, at the sentencing of Guyger, gave her a Bible and prayed she would start living for Christ. Once again I witnessed the power of the forgiveness of Jesus Christ just like in Charleston, SC. Also, once again I saw the very next day an enraged nation demonize Jean's brother and the judge for showing Christ and compassion on a broken and lost soul. Fortunately, only a few of my Facebook friends fell for Satan's ploy this time, but by-and-large our nation ignored Christ's forgiveness and indulged in Satan's hatred.

If, in these two obvious displays of the love of God and the forgiveness of Christ we quickly are caught up in the distractions of Satan's snares, how will we stand against Satan's more subtle advances? First, we must know the Good Shepherd. *"I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own."* (John 10:14) Second, we must know the wolves, that is, liars who claim to be concerned but are only interested in division. *"Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves."* (Matthew 10:16) And third, we must know the lion, that is, the devil. *"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour."* (1Peter 5:8)

The Amber Guyger murder trial, as well as the political and social movements surrounding it, is complicated. Love and forgiveness are simple. Thus when again you see the simple love of God displayed and the next day people are talking about a very complicated and divisive issue instead, consider the source of the conflict. Then consider the Source from whom your good and wise actions flow.

-Mark Jones

October Card Distributor: Cathy Hart

October Baptismal Garments: Lois Jenkins

October Greeters– 13–Karen Seyler 20–Need Greeter 27–Need Greeter

Our Record: October 6



Sunday Morning Assembly

75

Sunday Bible Class

53

Sunday Evening

48

Wednesday Bible Study

50

Contribution (Budget \$4,000)

\$3,955

October Birthdays & Anniversaries:



16– Larry & Karen Seyler (A) **17**-Allen Osborn **19**-Josh & Miranda Carpenter (A) **23**-Jessica Kerns **24**-Cindy Moore **25**-Leah Sleeth/Naomi Nichols **28**-Ed Jenkins **29**-Corbin Neill

Prayers– Those of Our Congregation

- **Our shut-in's: Helen Potts & Brenda Fortney**
- **Jackie Moore**
- **Debbie Mowbray-Health Issues**
- **Loverine Pigott**
- **Allen Osbourne-Cataract Surgery**
- **O'Connell Family**

Prayers– Family & Friends

- **Mike Yost**
- **Ester Lewis-home bound.**
- **Brandie Garner-Maintenance Medication**
- **Kay Burnett-metastatic breast cancer**
- **Delma Thompson**
- **Paula Garner (Valerie Neill's Aunt)**
- **Karen (Sharon Loy's Cousin)-Liver & Colon Cancer**
- **Mary Coffman (Brandie Garner's Grandmother)**
- **Faith Eagle-Had surgery Friday**
- **Sam & Daniel Aloï-In bad car wreck on July 4th**
- **Gary Blizzard's Parents**
- **Yvonne-Lymphoma**
- **Roberta (Raymond's Sister)**
- **Jones Family (Co-Worker of Jessica Kerns)**
- **Karen Seyler's Mom-Had surgery for pacemaker and shunts**
- **Marah Casey (Micah's Sister)-Pregnancy complications**
- **Family of Chuck Knapp**
- **Jay Bagwell-health complications from chemo**
- **Andrew Kelly**
- **Jerome Axton**
- **Ashleigh Shepherd-C-Section scheduled this month**

(If you have a prayer request or need to put something in the bulletin– Please email or write it down and give it to Jessica Kerns before Thursday of that week: bgptchurchofchrist@yahoo.com)