*****PREPARE COMMUNION*****

July - Mike and Judy Duley August - Sonny and Pat Ingle

NURSERY ATTENDANTS

TODAY - Pat Cooper* August 5 - Marietta Reams

CHILDREN'S HOME NEEDS

Bottled fruit juice * HE (High Efficiency) Laundry Detergent * Dill Pickles * Thirst Ouenchers (such as Gatorade) * Clorox Wand Refills * Light Bulbs

OUR RECORD FOR LAST WEEK

Attendance 141 Contribution \$4169

FOOD PANTRY

JULY ITEMS: VIENNA SAUSAGES OTHER NEEDS: Saltine crackers * chicken noodle soup

Happy Birthday:

Happy Anniversary

July 30 - Marty Young August 2 - Matt Mayberry

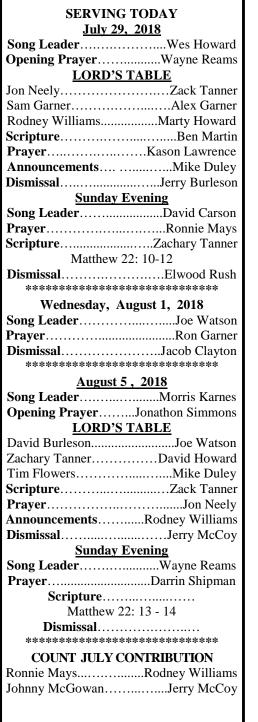
August 4 - Ronnie and Gloria Moore August 5 - Jon and Leslie Neely

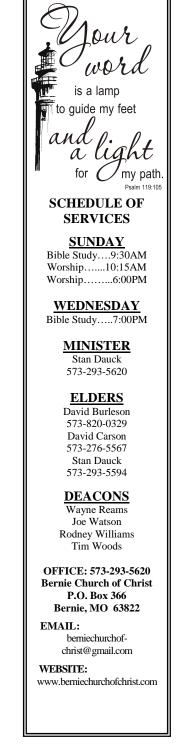
Bible Trivia:

In what book of the Bible does God tell a certain man not to cover his mustache?

Last Week's Answer:

Timaeus was the name of Blind Bartimaeus' father (Mark 10:46)





TRUE LIGHT

July 29, 2018

THE DIRT. THE HOLE. THE TREE AND THE QUESTION

It's hard to believe that it's been 30 years. I can still remember getting out of the family car at the cemetery. I don't remember much else. I can't tell you about the casket or the spray of flowers we had purchased for my father's funeral. I just remember the dirt, the hole, the free and the question.

The dirt was piled in clods and put under that green carpet to hide the reality that we all knew was taking place - dust to dust. The hole sat there ready to take the physical presence of my father away from me forever. The tree, a live oak, furnished a bit of shade and made the location of this hard moment a little more bearable on the hot. September day.

Yet what loomed largest for me was the question I had asked myself all the way from the church building to the graveside: "Do I really believe this stuff?" Do I really believe the stuff I've preached? Do I believe the stuff I've confessed? Do I believe the stuff I've sung? Do I believe this stuff that I had said to others facing their own dirt, hole, tree and question?

The undeniable reality of life is that we will all face the dirt, the hole, the tree, and the question. How we have answered the faith question before we get to the dirt, the tree and the hole will determine how we walk away from that moment and face the tomorrows that follow.

Ironically, as I looked back recently at the gritty-sweet telling of Abraham's burial of his wife Sarah (Gen. 23: 1-20), I was struck by the eerie parallels. Abraham had to bargain for a place to bury his wife in the land God promised to give him. And if you put yourself in the story, you see the dirt, the hole, the trees and the question!

We view Abraham from this side of thousands of years of history that has proven his faith was well invested in God's promise. The Bible repeatedly proclaims Abraham's faith as an example we should follow. Yet when Abraham had to pay for this plot of ground (the dirt) with the cave at Macpelah (the hole) and the Oaks of Mamre (the tree), he still had to face the guestion: "Do I really believe this stuff?"

We know he did believe, but think how tough it must have been. As he negotiated for a place to bury his dead wife. Abraham didn't have descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and grains of sand on the seashore (Genesis 22:17). He wasn't the father of a great nation in the Promised Land (Genesis 12:1-3). He only had two boys. They didn't get along. They were from two different mothers, one a concubine.

Abraham never owned property in the land promised to him, except for this plot of ground to bury his wife. He was old and alone. He had taken his wife and they had left everything we count as home - land, family, culture, language, business, respect, and familiarity - and wandered in tents all of their lives. And when it came time to bury his wife. Abraham had to buy the dirt, the hole, and the trees, and was left with the question!

Do you see the light on the dark side of this mountain? Abraham's story of faith is a preglimpse of what later happened in Jesus. Of course Jesus would have his own battle with the dirt (hill of Golgotha), the hole (the borrowed tomb where his lifeless Continued on inside

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

TODAY - Fifth Sunday early service and potluck.
July 30 - Summer Youth Series at Dexter at 7 p.m.
August 1 - Brent Newton will be our Summer Series Speaker
August 4 - Wedding of Kayli Tanner and Kason Lawrence at 6 p.m. More information is posted on the bulletin board by the water fountain.
August 6 - Summer Youth Series at Green Forest at 7 p.m.

Looking Ahead

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Singing at Ridgeview Living in Malden August 12 at 2 p.m.

Ladies Lunch Out August 13 at 11:30 a.m. at Elderland Restaurant in Bloomfield

Mary and Martha August 20th at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Amy Thomason

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BYC 50th Anniversary Celebration August 25th at 10 a.m. at Bootheel Youth Camp

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Children's Home Homecoming/Fish Fry September 22

Annual Lectureship at Harding University September 30-Oct 3. More information is posted on the bulletin board by the nursery.

Ladies Retreat at Bootheel Youth Camp Oct. 5 and 6

Help wanted! Pam Claeys is moving one street over in Malden and needs lots of help moving Saturday, August 4. She is in particular need of strong men with trucks, but will gladly accept any and all help offered. Meet at her house (504 McDougal Dr) at 8 a.m. or as soon as you can get there. If you can help, please let Amy Thomason know. Lunch will be provided.



Continued from front:

body was placed), the tree (the cross of Calvary), and the question (Is this really the Son of God?).

Abraham had believed that God could bring life where there was death, and he believed that God would keep his promises (Romans 4:17; Hebrews 11:11-12). So did Jesus as he said, *"Father, into your hands I commit my spirit"* (Luke 22:37). And the faith of both was right ... despite all appearances to the contrary.

Their faith on the dark side of the mountain reminds us that our faith can furnish the light for us as we wallow through our own darkest valley, facing the shadow of death (Psalm 23:4) - whether that death is our own or the death of someone we love.

The undeniable reality of life is that we will all face the dirt, the hole, the tree, and the question. How we have answered the faith question before we get to the dirt, the tree, and the hole, will determine how we walk away from that moment and face the tomorrows that follow. Phil Ware, www.heartlight.com

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

"...I was sick and you visited me..." Matthew 25:36

Remember: Isaac Wheeler is back at Ridgeview Living after being hospitalized for pneumonia and a mild heart attack * Sonny Ingle's test results all came back good * Ruth Dauck (Stan's mom) will see a specialist August 7 about her back * Blanche Horseman (Millie's mom) * Tom Provance (Cathy's dad) has been moved to Malden Nursing and Rehab * Gene Karnes (Morris' brother) is improving * James Wood and Louella Akers as they continue treatments for cancer

Continue to remember these members of our church family: John David Barnett * Scott & Judy Flannery * Max Terrill * Elwood Rush * Sonja Mays * Grant Howard * Ida Roberts * Sue Flowers * Pam Claeys * Pansy Zimmerman * Bettie Thurston * Billie Cooper * Jeff McGowan * Jerry Burleson * David Terrill * Gayle Rodgers * Max Snyder * * Helen McGowan * Elwood Rush * Mary Burke * David Burleson * Darrell Zimmerman

CONTINUING PRAYERS

Marty Watson (cancer) Diann Wilder (cancer) (Joy Greer's sister) Roxanne Carson (cancer) Phil McKuin (cancer) Kevin Flowers (cancer) Beckie King (ms) Deanna Rogers (cancer) Jerel Jester (bladder removal) (Amy Thomason's dad)



Beaver Blocker (Alzheimer's) Traci Riley (poor health) Annette Lumsden (cancer) (friend of Beckie Tanner) Geraldine Tomah (poor health) (Cindy Williams' mother) Betty Nicholson (cancer) (Larry Summers' aunt) Hannah Guntert (high risk pregnancy) (Brian & Amy's daughter)

...Pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much...... James 5:16. Prayer is a special blessing. Help us keep our prayer list up to date by letting Amy know of any prayer requests or updates you would like to have in the bulletin

	OUR SHUT INS	
Ridgeview Living/Malden - Gideon Care Center - Winchester Place - Central Garden -	Bertha Skidgell #201 Isaac Wheeler Shirley Johnson Max Terrill #207 Sue Flowers #102 Travis Cooper #7 Lois McKuin #117 Mary Burke #303	AT HOME Judy & Scott Flannery Gayle Rodgers Pam Claeys