

In Need of Prayers

Please pray for the following: **Louise Pulliam** has returned to the Villages at Jackson Creek for rehabilitation, 3980 Jackson Drive, Independence, MO 64057; **Kimberly Kennedy** is experiencing breathing difficulties; **Doris Bouldin** is now home recovering from pneumonia; Andy and Fleta's brother-in-law, **Wayne Smith**, passed away last week. Please keep their sister, Doris Smith, in your prayers.

Please Note

Going forward, Sunday evening services at the building will begin at 5:00 p.m. instead of 6:00 p.m.

Liz Church has been contacted by someone in need of a crib and mattress. If you have one or know of someone willing to donate or loan these items, please see Liz.

Many thanks for all the prayers, cards, and concern in the passing of my brother, Ray. **Bill Fuhr**

Upcoming Events

Teen Bible Study

January 18 (Monday) The Bible study/devo will be held at the building for the month of January from 7 to 9:00 PM. Come and invite your friends!

Small Groups

Over the next few weeks, you will be hearing some testimony in the worship service about the value of small groups. We are beginning new small groups here at Blue River in February. Sign-ups for the groups will be available in the coming weeks.

Contributions to Haiti

If you would like to contribute to the relief effort through the churches of Christ in Haiti, you can give your money to Howard, Darren, Darin, or one of the elders.

Secret Sisters

Anyone who would like to be a part of Secret Sisters, please meet at the front **today** after service to draw names.

abuse, and racism, and “people of faith” act worse than if they had never believed at all, then I would be very tempted (maybe even found it necessary) to not believe in that god, or any god at all. There are many times in the Bible when people outside the citizenship of faith act better than people who are members of God’s family. These are always times of shame and humiliation, where God is glorified by punishing His own people for their inexcusable hypocrisy. The unfaithfulness of God’s people actually puts the other nations in greater spiritual danger than ever, as they are able to praise Dagon (Philistia) or Marduk (Babylon) or the idols of superstitious sailors (those accompanying Jonah) or atheism (Christopher Hitchens), as if their gods are better than Yahweh. Israel’s or the church’s unholy behavior can drive people right into the arms of another god or no god at all.

Let’s face the difficulty square in the face. We haven’t got the video of a man who acted in supernatural ways by showing other-worldly compassion and humility, sacrifice and resurrection. And flannelgraph is not going to help the presentation to be more visual, and therefore more truthful. The only way sight becomes faith is for there to be a demonstration of supernatural compassion and humility, sacrifice and resurrection in the followers of Jesus. Living proof is achieved when the follower of the Crucified One “takes up his cross daily and follows” him, when the children of God protect children, when the ambassadors to the world actually love everyone in the world, and when the lips that bless the Prince of Peace also produce peace.

—Darin Kennedy

Birthdays: Jan. 17 - 23

John Owens 1/17

James Bledsoe & Marcella Hedges 1/19

Joe Bledsoe 1/22

5th Sunday Unity Service

January 31 (Sunday evening) We will worship with area congregations at the Downtown Church of Christ at 6:00 PM.

Sunday Morning Nursery Attendants

Jan. 17

Virginia Page, Tammy & Seth Walker

Jan. 24

Brenda Petersen, Denise & Shannon Fultz