# Rogers Chapel United Methodist Church

The Messenger



Growing Friends, Family, & Faith

September 2015 Volume 1 Issue 11

# Rogers Chapel nited Methodist Church 9430 Highway 17 Florence, AL 35634

### Our Prayer Needs:

Susan Erwin Jo Roden Serena's Dad Jimmy Wear Linda Lovelace Susan Mann Lisa Wear Iretha Wynn Dennis Wilson

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." – Philippians 4:6



www.RogersChapelUMC.com

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"Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom." -- James 3:13

#### September Birthdays:

September 10 – Sandra Pruitt

#### September Anniversaries:

September 13 – James & Thelma Riley

We are accepting donations of men's gently used or new clothes and toiletry items for the homeless of our community. Please contact us if you would like to make a donation. "Little is much when God is in it."

#### **No Looking Back**

Yet another said, "I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home." Jesus said to him, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God." (Luke 9:61-62 ESV)

One of the greatest challenges for every Christian is to follow Jesus, and to pursue His purpose for our lives without looking back. Imagine trying to drive a car on the highway while looking in only the rearview mirror; you'd be challenged to stay in your lane and avoid a collision. Jesus' illustration of plowing a field would have made perfect sense to his listeners living in an agricultural context. If a farmer did not focus on what is ahead but was distracted by what was behind or on the periphery, it would be impossible to plow in a straight line. The ox and plow would certainly veer off course.

Both positive and negative aspects of our lives have the potential to become distractions:

Past successes, past failures, internal insecurities, external circumstances, comfort & security, relationships, and careers.

It's interesting that the man who wants to follow Jesus is distracted by something that we would consider a positive: his home and family. Jesus is letting us know that even something that's a huge blessing in our lives can become a distraction if it becomes more important than pursuing Jesus and His purpose. As we continue to seek Jesus, we must constantly be aware of the potential distractions in our rear view mirror of life. There can often be a tendency to look back and remember the good, instead of the great in front of you with Jesus.

How can you look ahead and refocus on Jesus and His purpose for you?

## Kids' Korner:



Adam and Eve knew not to eat of the tree of knowledge. The enemy (Satan) came and tricked them so they would disobey what God said. They had to live with the discipline God gave them. God still loved them – but they still had to live with the choices they made. And it is the same for us. If you never learn to obey when you're young, when you're older you will find it hard to obey your teachers, your coach (if you play sports), people you work for, the laws of the land and God. It is hard to get along with someone that has not learned to obey. They often won't listen and want to do everything their own way. Maybe you know someone like that! They end up hurting themselves – and God. It makes God sad when we don't obey. Obedience need's to (Next Page)

start in the home with Mom & Dad. If we learn to obey Mom & Dad, we will know how to obey when we're older. This is one of the most important lessons to learn, and maybe the hardest. God has given us all a free will – which means we are free to make our own choices. We can choose to obey or not. It's our choice. But we need to remember what happened to Adam and Eve. There is a price to pay! Jesus is our example. He obeyed His parents. If you find it hard to obey – tell Jesus. He understands and will help you. Remember, He was a kid Himself once! (Read Genesis 3:1-19 with your parents)

# **Upcoming Events & Reminders!**

September 13, 2015 - Board Meeting following evening service.

September 20, 2015 - Community Singing at Pisgah, 5:00pm

September 15, 2015 - Ladies Bible Study. This group meets at 11:00am in the Fellowship Hall.

#### **Worship Opportunities:**

Sunday School – 9:45am
Sunday Morning Worship – 10:55am
Sunday Evening Worship – 5:00pm
Wednesday Bible Study – 6:30pm
Worship Choir Practice – Sundays 3:30pm
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And his righteous well.

Tighteous well.