

# THE REMINDER

BELLAIRE CHURCH OF CHRIST, 14 JANUARY 2018

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Note these great opportunities to get together!
  - We will be **potluck today** at the Bellaire Community Center down the street for a potluck! Everyone is welcome!
  - There is a **Men's Retreat** planned for **January 26-27** in Trinity. See Alex Morolez for more details.
  - The **Ladies' Retreat** will be **Saturday, February 10th** at the Pharris' beach house in Surfside. All ladies are invited, see Shannon Morolez or Linda Pharris for more details!
- **Class Update:** The Parables of Jesus class (back classroom) will be concluding today. Starting Wednesday, Mark Mann and Harrison Banks will be teaching a class on 1&2 Peter!
- **Deb Haley** will be having a procedure this Friday to install a permanent pain pump. Pray for her strength, and that the procedure goes smoothly and is successful!
- **Bob Stark** continues to recover from his heart transplant, and is doing well. Keep praying for his recovery and strength!
- **David and Josie Haley** have announced that they are expecting! Add Josie to the prayer list of expectant mothers, along with **Bethany Moon** and (former member) **Lauren Underwood**.

(Announcements continued on back.)

## SCHEDULE

### Sunday:

9:30 AM Worship  
11:00 AM Bible Study

### Wednesday:

7:30 PM Bible Study

## SERVICE

**Welcome** - H. Banks  
**Song Leader** - R. McDonald  
**Opening Prayer** - B. Ward  
**Lesson** - S. Garrett  
**Communion Talk** - I. Davies  
**Announcements** - M. Pharris  
**Closing Prayer** - S. Clanton

## BIBLE CLASSES

### Isaiah (Auditorium)

- Daniel Broadwell

### Parables (Back Room)

- Alex Morolez
- Justin Seale

### Classes for children

## WHO ARE WE?

A group of God's children, striving to maintain the organization, doctrine and worship as taught in the New Testament

## ELDERS

Brian Haley  
Mark Mann  
Mike Pharris

## DEACONS

Scott Clanton  
David Haley  
Mitchell Howell  
Dan Kimbrough  
Jesse Knapp  
John Moon  
Alex Morolez  
Gregory Williams

## EVANGELISTS

Daniel Broadwell  
Steve Garrett

## CONTACT US

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## DIRECTORY UPDATES

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- **Johnny Martinez** continues to struggle with his health and is receiving regular dialysis treatments. Pray for him and **Dora!**
- Don't forget those rebuilding and recovering from Harvey: **Banks, Benthalls, Haleys, Starks, Stechs, and Washington.** The **Benthalls** have moved back in to their home, but still have a lot of work in front of them!
- Keep praying for those with on-going health concerns: **Pat Butler, Laura Claburn, Jan and Richard Cooper, Mike Flinn, Deb Haley, Janice Kimbrough, Johnny Martinez, Anna Miekle, Bob Stark, and Curby Stech.**
- **Sermon Title: Everlasting Father (Isaiah 9)**

## That Weird Wife/Sister Story

Perhaps you are currently reading through Genesis to kick off a year-long reading plan. As you do, you'll notice an odd story that keeps popping up. On three separate occasions (twice involving Abraham, and once his son, Isaac), the same situation arises and the same action is taken. The three accounts are found in Genesis 12, 20, and 26, and they all go like this:

The man travels to a foreign land with his beautiful wife. Fearful that he might be disposed of, he tells the people that she is a relative (which is true) and conceals the fact that they are married. The ruler of the land takes the woman and blesses the man, until finding out the truth, at which point he rebukes the man and sends the couple away.

Two questions come up after reading this story over and over in Genesis: **1) Why does this keep happening?** and **2) Why are we told about it three times?** Allow me to attempt some answers.

Self-preservation is the strongest of all innate human tendencies. Abraham and Isaac felt threatened, and reacted accordingly. Never mind that God had promised that He was going to preserve and prosper them. Never mind that they had seen the situation unfold before and knew God had responded with displeasure. In the moment, 'common sense' said that these foreigners could not be trusted and that if they knew the woman was married they would kill her husband. Since their wives were also relatives, it made for a convenient solution that was not technically a lie. And, while the three accounts read so similarly to us, each situation surely seemed different to these men, making it easy to fall back on that strong, instinctive reaction of self-preservation.

Stories are told to us in the Bible so that we might see ourselves in them. Like the patriarchs, we often face a conflict between self-preservation and trusting in God. In fact, the gospel is the antithesis of self-preservation, which is why Jesus says **"Whoever wishes to save his life will lose it; but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it."** (Matthew 16:25) But in difficult circumstances, 'common sense' and self-preservation often guide our decision making. *If I don't go to this social function, I won't be able to advance my career—plus it's not a sin to go. If I spend too much money on other people, I may suffer financially down the road—plus it's not a sin to save.* To live by faith, however, is to actively surrender our life and our will to the promises and purposes of God. **"Trust in the Lord with all your heart,"** Solomon said, **"and lean not on your own understanding."**