
The Crossroads

Philadelphia Presbyterian Church
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May 2008

MAY



BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Alvin Mullins
- 3 Parveen Yusufji
- 4 Anita DeBey
- 7 Rusty Taylor
- 8 Diane Banke
- 12 Annelle Maxwell
- 17 Tye Bryant
- 18 Carol Dobbs
- 18 Kaif Nevrekar
- 19 Don Fleming
- 25 Kathy Banke
- 30 Dinah Bingham
- 31 Jackie Hill
- 31 Sheryl Etheridge



ANNIVERSARIES

We extend the congratulations of the congregation to *Grover & Angie Tharp*, who will be celebrating their wedding anniversary on May 17.

The Lord protects those of childlike faith.
— from *Psalm 116:6 NLT*

Our 14-year-old dog, Abbey, died last month. The day after she died, my 4-year-old daughter, Meredith, was crying and talking about how much she missed Abbey. She asked if we could write a letter to God so that when Abbey got to heaven, God would recognize her. She dictated and I wrote:

Dear God,

Will you please take special care of our dog, Abbey? She died yesterday and is in heaven. We miss

her very much. We are happy that you let us have her as our dog even though she got sick. I hope that you will play with her. She liked to play with balls and swim before she got sick. I am sending some pictures of her so that when you see her in heaven you will know she is our special dog. But I really do miss her. Love, *Meredith*



We put the letter in an envelope with two pictures of Abbey and addressed it to God in heaven. We put our return address on it. Then Meredith stuck some stamps on the front (because, as she said, it may take lots of stamps to get a letter all the way to heaven), and that afternoon I let her drop it into the letter box at the post office. For a few days, she would ask if God had gotten the letter yet. I told her that I thought He had.

Yesterday, there was a package wrapped in gold paper on our front porch. Curious, I went to look at it. It had a gold star card on the front that said “To Meredith” in an unfamiliar hand. Meredith took it in and opened it.

Inside was a book by Mr. Rogers, *When a Pet Dies*. Taped to the inside front cover was the letter we had written to God, in its opened envelope. On the opposite page, one of the pictures of Abbey was taped under the words “For Meredith.” We turned to the back cover, and there was the other picture of Abbey, and this handwritten note on pink paper:

Dear Meredith,

I know that you will be happy to know that Abbey arrived safely and soundly in heaven! Having the pictures you sent to me was such a big help. I recognized Abbey right away.

You know, Meredith, she isn't sick anymore. Her

spirit is here with me – just like she stays in your heart – young and running and playing. Abbey loved being your dog, you know. Since we don't need our bodies in heaven, I don't have any pockets! So I can't keep your beautiful letter. I am sending it to you with the pictures so that you will have this book to keep and remember Abbey. One of my angels is taking care of this for me. I hope the little book helps.



Thank you for the beautiful letter. Thank your mother for sending it. What a wonderful mother you have! I picked her especially for you. I send my blessings every day. Remember that I love you very much. By the way, I am in heaven, but wherever there is love I am there also. Love, *God*

From Christian-Cyber-Ministries.



MESSAGES TO OUR MEMBERS



Beth Moore called to update us on her parents: “They aren't doing well at all. Dad doesn't know anything, and dialysis is really taking its toll on Mom. The kids and I are headed to Pennsylvania during Spring Break to visit them.”



Passover is just around the corner, a fruitful and busy time of year. Chosen People Ministries always hosts a posh “seder” at the Yale Club, near Grand Central Station. It's great for Israeli contacts. A couple of years ago, we met a lady who sells buildings in Manhattan. Our friendship grew, and we witnessed to her during her battle with cancer last year. Thank you for praying for her. Thank God, her cancer is in remission, but she still has no relationship with the Messiah.

What an amazing home Bible study in February! People conversed in five languages: Uzbek, Russian, Hebrew, American Sign, and English. One Muslim neighbor asked lots of questions about Israel and God's time clock. Meanwhile, our Israeli friend,

usually “ho-hum” about the Bible, sat at attention, seeing this Muslim lady's intense interest in the End Times and Israel. This Muslim neighbor worked in Uzbekistan as a high-level accountant and manager. In the United States, she starts from scratch, struggling with basic English. Hopefully, a breakthrough is coming: we started English classes again in February. Thanks for praying!

Please pray for our Messianic Camp in Pennsylvania the last weekend of May. Five to eight nonbelieving adults and several children want to go. Camp and the long car ride give a chance to explain principles like *korban* (sacrifice). Jesus became the Passover sacrifice; the Lamb of God gave forgiveness for all people for all time. Last year, right after camp, one of our retired friends confessed faith in the Messiah!

Truly, we are excited about God working in Queens! We are changing our work schedules to prepare for more work and more harvest; more about that next month. Thank you so much for your prayers and your friendship. Yours in Messiah's love,
Randall, Luda & Eliana Ford



A note to say thanks for *The Crossroads*. It keeps me up to date with happenings at the church. I look forward to receiving the news each month.

Regards to all – God bless, *Sam Collier*



My daughter-in-law's (Dawn Smith's) sister, *Debbie Gurley*, was diagnosed with breast cancer several months ago and has been on our prayer list since that time. She had a lumpectomy followed by four months of chemotherapy. She recently underwent a double mastectomy and is doing very well. Debbie appreciates all of the prayers that have been offered for her during this difficult time in her life and feels that she can now be removed from the prayer list.
Frances Youngblood



Take the opportunity on May Friendship Day (*Friday, May 2*) to let a friend know just how much he or she has meant to you. It will make your day!



**In honor of
OLDER ADULT WEEK
(which begins Sunday, May 4):**

PARENTS' PRAYER

To our dear child:

On the day when you see us old, weak and weary, have patience and try to understand us.

If we get dirty when eating, if we cannot dress on our own, please bear with us and remember the times we spent feeding you and dressing you up.

If, when we speak to you, we repeat the same things over and over again, do not interrupt us. Listen to us. When you were small, we had to read to you the same story a thousand and one times until you went to sleep.

When we do not want to have a shower, neither shame nor scold us. Remember when we had to chase you with your thousand excuses to get you in the tub.

When you see our ignorance of new technologies, help us navigate our way through those worldwide webs.

We taught you how to do so many things – to eat the right foods, to dress appropriately, to fight for your rights.

When at some moments we lose the memory of the thread of our conversation, let us have the necessary time to remember. And if we cannot, do not become nervous, since the most important thing is not our conversation, but surely to be with you and to have you listening to us.

If ever we do not feel like eating, do not force us. We know well when we need to and when not to eat.

When our tired legs give way and do not allow us to walk without a cane, lend us your hand the same way we did when you tried your first faltering steps.

And when someday we say to you that we do not want to live anymore, that we want to die, do not get angry. Someday you will understand.

Try to understand that our age is not just lived but survived.

Someday you will understand that despite our mistakes, we always wanted the best for you and we tried to prepare the way for you.

You must not feel sad, angry nor shamed for having us near you. Instead, try to understand us and help us like we did when you were young.

Help us to walk. Help us to live the rest of our life with love and dignity. We will pay you with a smile and by the immense love we have always had for you in our hearts.

We love you, child,
Mom & Dad

**NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER
*Thursday, May 1***

*Prayer! America's Strength & Shield
The Lord is my strength and shield;
my heart trusts in him, and I am helped.*

– Psalm 28:7

As both the National Day of Prayer and Election Day draw nearer, let's continue raising our voices to heaven, asking the Almighty to hear our pleas and provide godly representatives at all government levels who will courageously lead and defend us as we navigate these tumultuous times. May they be the Lord's instruments by which He blesses, strengthens and shields us. *Shirley Dobson, NDP Task Force Chairman*



Women of the Church

Ladies of all ages, mark your calendars and plan to join us for a double celebration on *Saturday, May 10* at 10:00am. We will be honoring mothers and celebrating the birthday of Presbyterian Women with a brunch in the fellowship hall.

So bring your favorite brunch-type food (fruit, muffins, breakfast casseroles, etc.). Drinks will be provided, and there will be birthday cake for dessert.

Come alone; adopt a mother or daughter; bring your own mother, daughter or granddaughter, your mother-in-law or just a friend. But don't miss what will prove to be a most lovely time together!

NOTE: **Mary & Martha** circle will *not* gather for their monthly meeting prior to the PW brunch. Instead, they will meet *Saturday, May 17* at 10:30am at the home of Debbie Bray. Scheduled to lead Bible study is Pat Randolph.



**Session Budget Meeting
Sunday, May 4
1:00pm**

ODDS & ENDS

OGHS UPDATE – A total of \$611.00 was contributed for One Great Hour of Sharing to support Presbyterian Hunger Program, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, and Self-Development of People. Thanks for helping us meet our pledge and helping people in need worldwide!

CHANGE IN DEADLINE – Per new procedure, so that *The Crossroads* can be in the narthex the last two Sundays of the month, all articles and info should be in the church office by the 15th of the month. You may leave the info in the secretary's Session room mailbox, phone 404-366-1851, fax 404-366-6117 or e-mail secyppc@bellsouth.net.

WE ARE SO HAPPY TO WELCOME *Valerie Gill* as a new member of our church through profession of faith and baptism. Valerie can be contacted at 438 Sylvia Drive, Apt. F-5, Forest Park, GA 30297; phone 404-361-4069. PPC members, be sure and give Valerie a warm PPC welcome, and extend a personal invitation for her participation in upcoming events.

WORD OF PRAISE to *Chyanne Patterson* for once again bringing *Doris Ellis* out of a severe diabetic reaction when Doris' blood sugar dropped to an extremely dangerous level.

PLEASE CHANGE our address of record to 2582 Jamie Lane, Blairsville, GA 30512. Our telephone number remains the same (770-961-1264) for the time being. *Henry & Betty Brock*

GRADUATION CELEBRATION LUNCHEON is *Sunday, May 18*. It's a complete covered-dish occasion. So bring your favorite entrées, casseroles, side dishes, breads and desserts. The church will provide the beverages.

Of course we want to congratulate all those who have completed degree requirements and to celebrate these important milestones. So if you or any of your family members are graduating, please notify the church office (404-366-1851).

E-MAIL ADDRESS UPDATES:

Andrew Durden: gapower97@yahoo.com

Lynn Vandiver: lynn_vandiver@bellsouth.net

MEMORIAL DAY is *the last Monday of the month (May 26)*. In recognition of this national holiday, the church office will be closed.

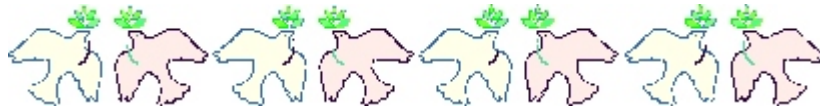


We extend our love and deepest Christian sympathy to Paul Lyle at the death of his grandmother, Jeanette Pelot; to Barbara Barlow at the death of her sister-in-law, Polly Koester; and to Nancy Maxwell at the death of her aunt, Dot King.

GOOD NEWS TO SHARE

*Keep up those prayers!
They really do make a difference.*

- Although still in a coma, *Abby Blackburn* no longer has pneumonia and there is no bleeding.
- *Porter Cartledge*, the tiny premature newborn, was able to go home from the hospital on Easter.
- *Ed Duffy* and *Rebecca Jackman*, Jackie Hill's brother-in-law and sister-in-law, are both doing well following bypass surgery and rehab.
- *Loretta Wilson* spent a wonderful Easter with family, including grandkids and great-grandkids.
- *Nella Ree Dunn's* most recent trip to the ER did not require hospitalization.
- *James Ray's* hospitalization required only an overnight stay, and he had special visitors since his daughters were in town for his birthday.
- After a Thursday-to-Saturday hospital stay caused by high potassium, *Herbert Etheridge* was still able to make it to church on Sunday.
- We hear that *Mary Jordan* is up walking, is using her injured arm and is no longer in the intense pain she was previously experiencing.
- *Jackson Randolph's* staph infection outbreak has healed for the time being.



TO BE REMEMBERED IN PRAYER AND WITH CARDS

Please notify us concerning updates. Inquiring minds – and prayerful hearts – want to know!

[**New info** (since the previous issue of *The Crossroads*) is in bold.]

Paul Lyle and the family of Jeanette Pelot

Barbara Barlow and the family of Polly Koester

Nancy Maxwell and the family of Dot King

Lee Allen (prostate cancer)

Melanie Barnes (wife of Keith at Berean - multiple sclerosis)

Abby Blackburn (Barbara Gibson's friend's daughter - fell; severe head injury; **stroke; coma**)

Jamie Brady (Joyce Smith's niece - has Cushing's disease in spite of brain tumor surgery)

Tammy Burroughs (Jennifer Rohrbach's principal - stage 2 cancer of breast/lymph nodes)

George Carter (friend of Bob & Becky Huie - prostate cancer)

David Chapman (friend of Emory Pearce - deployed to Iraq)

Douglas Chapman (Serena Staats' father - cannot have another bone marrow transplant)

Beryl Chown (friend of Jim & Nancy Phillips - ovarian cancer; chemo)

Betty Clayton (Katie & Elizabeth Clayton's grandmother - stomach cancer; **chemo to reduce mass at aorta before surgery**; 71 Berkeley Rd., Avondale Estates, GA 30002)

Rex Coplen (**Emory Eastside, Rm. 225; passing out; has fallen; pneumonia**)

Nora Cordova (friend of the Fries - breast cancer; radical mastectomy)

Don Curlee (friend of Karen Kelly-Nelson - hospitalized; blood clot & infection)

Gail Downing (Judy Baird's sister - pulmonary fibrosis; **recently hospitalized for blood/fluids**)

Freddie Dunn (Nella Ree Dunn's daughter-in-law - cancer has returned)

Nella Ree Dunn (**in-home nursing care twice a week**)

Doris Ellis (**recent severe diabetic reaction; also fell recently**)

Louise Etheridge (awaiting test results)

Mary Lou Fuller (friend of the Dunaways - cancer in remission; pain & mobility problems)

Larry Greene (Nell Cates' nephew - recurring colon cancer; also in lungs & liver; not doing well)

Kim Harpe (Diane LaFoy's co-worker/friend - cancer has spread)

Dorothy Harris (Dot Pearce's sister-in-law - lumpectomy for breast cancer)

Ed Henry (Beth Moore's father - **severe effects of Alzheimer's**)

Pat Henry (Beth Moore's mother - **dialysis taking its toll**)

Elizabeth Hollandsworth (friend of Judy Baird - inoperable liver cancer)

Cindy Hopkins (Pam Langley's close friend - incurable lung cancer; radiation, then chemo)

Mary Jordan (Carestone, 7493 Mt. Zion Blvd., Jonesboro, GA 30236; Phone: 678-610-2200)

Corine Knight (James Ray's sister - cancer has returned)

Nina Kyle (Serena Staats' grandmother - in a coma; family debating life support removal)

Robert & Jean Makarevich (parents of Andrew Durden's roommate - laid off from his job)

Janine Montgomery (friend of Gwen Steele - ICU; final stages of emphysema)

Greg & Scott Montgomery (friends of Gwen Steele - accept God's decision for their mom)

Ray Morgan (recovering from shoulder surgery)

Cathy Morris (horseback riding accident; large bruises; sprained foot & ankle)

Carmen Orr (Tom & Joyce Smith's neighbor in her 90s - back surgery; rehab)

Lisa Page (acting administrator for The Good Shepherd Clinic - double mastectomy)

Regina Page (friend of Dot Dunn - awaiting a liver transplant)

Rory Patrick (Barbara Barlow request - has regained some hearing lost by Iraqi IED)

Lucius Power (the Fries' friend with 2 little boys - inoperable brain cancer)

Erin Randolph (facial spasms with severe pain)

James Ray (home now; recovering slowly from upper respiratory problems)

Nevaeh Robinson (Christine Jefferson's granddaughter - feeding tube surgery to come)

Opal Seeby (retaining fluid again; beginning injections in knees)

June Shannon (Ashbury Acres, E-14, 2648 Sevierville Road, Maryville, TN 37804)

Lou Smith (Karen Kelly-Nelson request - treatment for ovarian cancer)

Dr. Herman Spivey (friend of Clyde & Nancy Maxwell - surgery for cancer)

Aurora Staats (hydrocephaly - spinal fluid pooling; postponing shunt as long as possible)

Sandra Staats (Guy Staats' mother - fell; broke hip; surgery; at rehab facility now)

Ron Taylor (Sherri Frye request - post polio syndrome; severe muscular degeneration; in wheelchair)

Elijah Thompson (Doris Ellis' great-grandson - injured spleen; **months of bed rest required**)

Arlene Tolleson (friend of Nella Ree Dunn - colon cancer)

Jim Turner (Joyce Smith's brother-in-law - bypass surgery)

Jerry Tomasello (pulmonary fibrosis progressively worse; confined to a wheelchair)

Blanche Vandiver (Lynn Vandiver's mother-in-law - foot wound won't heal; **pneumonia**)

Debbie Weems (Dot Lenderman's daughter-in-law - very serious spinal operation)

Harold Westbrook (liver cancer; P.O. Box 1324, Villa Rica, GA 30180)

Hal White (friend of Bob Huie - leukemia)

Mollie Whitehead (Linda Harvey Shepherd's niece - home from rehab; chemo)

Loretta Wilson (Janice Lockhart's cousin - cancer; no more chemo; at-home hospice)

L.M. York (friend of the Morgans & Ralph Kelly - lymphoma; completed radiation treatments)

Our Homebound:

Virginia Billington (The Heritage, Rm. 229, 3039 Sandy Plains Rd., Marietta, GA 30066; Phone: 770-321-1499)

Joan Cushing (6184 San Juan Street, Forest Park, GA 30297; Phone: 404-361-5514)

Martin Ebbesen (Jonesboro Assisted Living, Rm. 116, 2620 Hwy. 138 SE, Jonesboro, GA 30236)

Ed Huie (**Crawford Long, ICU; bacterial infection; diverticulitis; low blood pressure**)

Belle Lawrence (1210 Lochshyre Way, Lawrenceville, GA 30043; Phone: 678-376-9807)

JoAnn Tatzel (Lafayette Nursing Home, Rm. 404, 110 Brandywine Blvd., Fayetteville, GA 30214)

Grover Tharp (275 N. Victoria Court, Ellenwood, GA 30294; Phone: 770-981-5732)

