

Those to Serve This Week	
Announcements	Jim Rhodes
A.M. First Prayer	Brian Braxton
A.M. Closing Prayer	Ben Walker
P.M. Prayer	David Duty
P.M. Closing Prayer	Tracey Brantley
Lord's Table	* J. Rhodes, Chris Cook C. Gilbert, W. Hudson
Song Leader	Kent Everett
Greeters	Eddie & Pat Albritton
Nursery (Birth thru 3 years)	Betty Rhodes Kaia Read
Wednesday Devo & Invitation	Eddie Albritton (10-13-21)

The Record Speaks	
Date	October 10, 2021
Bible Class	53
A.M. Worship	94
P.M. Worship	53
Contribution	--
Date	October 13, 2021
Wed. Attendance	48

**Farmerville Church of Christ**  
**306 East Franklin Street**  
**Farmerville, Louisiana 71241**

Those to Serve Next Week	
Announcements	Jim Rhodes
A.M. Prayer	David Williams
A.M. Closing Prayer	Kent Everett
P.M. Prayer	Charlie Reeves
P.M. Closing Prayer	J.E. Albritton
Lord's Table	* Justin Preaus, D. Preaus E. Albritton, J.E. Albritton
Song Leader	Billy Anderson
Greeters	Mike & Connie Kerrigan
Nursery (Birth thru 3 years)	Carolyn Cobb
Wednesday Devo & Invitation	Ben Walker (10-27-21)

Schedule of Events	
<b>Oct. 17<sup>th</sup> thru Oct. 23<sup>rd</sup></b>	
<b>Oct. 17<sup>th</sup> 9:45 A.M.</b>	Bible Class
<b>10:45 A.M.</b>	Worship
<b>6:00 P.M.</b>	Evening Worship
<b>Oct. 20<sup>th</sup> 12:30 P.M.</b> Men's Prayer Group	
<b>7:00 P.M.</b>	Bible Classes
<b>Benevolence:</b> Ron Hudoba – 368-4886 Tracey Brantley – 368-9106	
<b>VBS</b> – Third week in June every year	

# Farmerville Messenger

*News and Information  
For the Family of God  
in Farmerville, Louisiana*

Volume 24, Issue 43

October 17, 2021

## Farmerville Church Of Christ

306 East Franklin  
Farmerville, LA. 71241  
318-368-8666  
farmervillechurchofchrist.org

### Elders

Eddie Albritton-680-8585  
Ron Hudoba-614-0950  
David Williams-517-7053

### Deacons

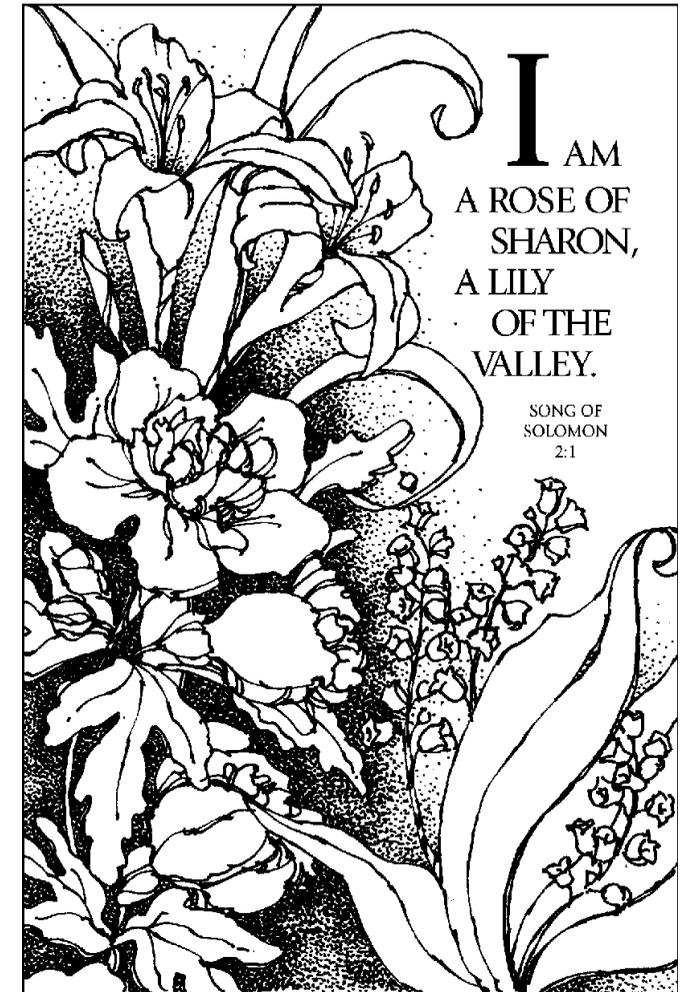
Brian Braxton  
Joe Preaus  
Chris Strickland

### Minister

Ben Walker  
318-738-1098  
bayougospel@gmail.com  
Office hours:  
Monday thru Thursday  
9 a.m. til 2 p.m.

### Spanish Missions

Larry White  
keruxljw@bellsouth.net  
318-680-7240



## Reflections

It happened again last week. As one by one the rest of the family drifted off to bed, I put a couple more logs on the fire, slid into my favorite chair, and read for well over an hour. I came across a few thoughts put together by Ed Dayton, a longtime leader in the World Vision ministry. His words sent me back many, many years when he mentioned watching a short film called *The Giving Tree*, a simple fanciful piece about a tree that loved a boy.

When the boy was young, he swung from the tree's branches, climbed all over her, ate her apples, slept in her shade. Such happy, carefree days. The tree loved those years.

But as the boy grew, he spent less and less time with the tree. "Come on, let's play," invited the tree on one occasion, but the young man was interested only in money. "Take my apples and sell them said the tree." He did, and the tree was happy.

He didn't return for a long time, but the tree smiled when he passed by one day. "Come on, let's play!" But the man was older and tired of his world. He wanted to get away from it all. "Cut me down. Take my large trunk and make yourself a boat. Then you can sail away," said the tree. The man did and the tree was happy.

Many seasons passed—summers and winters, windy days and lonely nights—and the tree waited. Finally, the old man returned, too old and tired to play, to pursue riches, or to sail the seas. "I have a pretty good stump left, my friend. Why don't you just sit down here and rest?" said the tree. He did, and the tree was happy.

I stared into the fire, watching my life pass in review as I grew older with the tree and the boy. I identified with both—and it hurt.

How many Giving Trees have there been in my life? How many have released part of themselves so I might grow, accomplish my goals, find wholeness and satisfaction? So, so many. Thank you Lord, for each one. Their names could fill this page.

The fire died into glowing embers. It was late as I crawled into bed. I had wept, but now I was smiling. "Good night, Lord," I said. I was a thankful man.

Thankful I had taken time to reflect.

--Copied

## You Need to Know

### *Birthdays this week:*

**Monday, October 18 – Shannon Futch**

**Friday, October 22—Wyatt Chapman**

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There are several people who are having surgery soon. We need to start praying for them, that everything will go well. Canaan & Chloe Gates will both be having procedures done on Oct. 26<sup>th</sup>. Donny Ray, Tracey's father-in-law will have back surgery, and so will Eloyce Everett.

Food is being served on Wednesday nights from 6:15 until 6:45 p.m. That should be enough time for everyone to eat and get to their classes.

### **Reminder**

If you like to sing, there is a group meeting together here at the building after the Sunday night worship service to practice old songs and learn new ones.

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### **The King of Kings**

Cecil B. DeMille once told me that his picture *The King of Kings*, made during the silent-movie era, was seen by an estimated 800,000,000 people.

I asked him why he did not reproduce *The King of Kings* with sound and color. He replied, "I will never be able to do it, because if I gave Jesus a southern accent, the northerners would not think of Him as their Christ. If I gave him a foreign accent, the Americans and the British would not think of Him as their Christ. He said, as it is, people of all nations, from every race, creed, clan, can accept Him as their Christ." --Copied

## Those in Need of Special Prayer

Letsy Everett	Doris Roller
Mattie Gray Bird	Joe Albritton
"Bee" Stewart	"Hoss" Brantley
Ashley Harrison	Pam Denton
Sherry Taylor	Cooter Anderson
Lane Denton	Amie Smith
Bobby Fletcher	Elaine Brantley
Fred Futch	William Wilson
Roxanna Gill	Meade Phelps-leukemia
Betty Perot	Asa Duty
Cathy Nall	William Colvin
Rita Huffstutter	Richard Farrar
Bonnie Phillips Simpson	Christy Fine-cancer

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### **Rosebushes**

Rosebushes add a touch of elegance and beauty to any home's landscaping. If you've ever tried to plant one, though, you know all that loveliness comes at a cost. Rosebushes need constant attention, and insects seem to adore them. But that's not the worst part. When you decide to put one of those beauties in your front yard, you'll likely feel the pain of thorns. But what if the real beauty of the rose is the combination of bloom and thorn?

Given an option, most people would choose beauty without pain. But trials, pain, and loss are to be expected in this world. We hear a sermon on grace in the midst of suffering, and we leave the church building praying that it never happens to us. We want the beauty of the rose without the pain of them. But what if the real beauty of the rose is the combination of bloom and thorn?

When Paul wrote his letter to the Philippians, he referred to suffering as something being granted or given to them. He wanted them to understand that to suffer for Christ was as much a gift as believing in Him. Our goal as Christ followers is to resemble Him. Could it be that the beauty of the Christian life is the combination of believing and suffering --the rose and the thorn?

-- Copied