

Students of the month



DeKalb West School has announced its Students of the Month for September. Selected for the honor are Pre-K student Riley Martin, Cash Hancock; Kindergarten, Abegayle Howard; first grade, Kira Wilbur; second grade, Peyton Blair; third grade, Kenadee Prichard; fourth grade, Xavier Floyd; fifth grade, Noah Shoffner; sixth grade, Chris Carroll; seventh grade, and Jamison Marlar; eighth grade. Teachers chose students based on their academic achievements, character and other traits that make them an excellent students.

Burying the dead

I have often wondered and thought about funerals and our customs for the dead. Maybe it's a morbid thought, but it is also a fact of life. Being a history buff, I have studied many customs in the ancient world for their funerary practices. The Egyptians mummified their dead and made provision for them to "travel" through the afterlife. Many cultures made funeral pyres, burying the bones of the dead afterwards. I remember when family would stay up with the dead throughout the night. And I couldn't even count the number of funerals I have attended. It has always seemed important to hold funeral traditions to say goodbye. Our treatment of the dead has always been important to us. In fact, we often treat people better when they're dead than we did while they lived.

That is why this passage has always puzzled me: "Then another of His disciples said to

Him, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father." But Jesus said to him, "Follow Me, and let the dead bury their own dead." (Matt 8:21-22) Doesn't this seem rather cold and callous? After all, most cultures take very careful steps in their funerary practices. So, why would Jesus tell this man to 'let the dead bury their own dead'?

Perhaps the key lies in 2 Sam 11:15-23. God was angry with David concerning Bathsheba, who found herself pregnant with David's child. After having Bathsheba's husband, Uriah, killed in battle, Nathan confronted King David with what he had done. After David repented,

God told him the child would not live. Just as God said, the child fell ill. As the child lay dying, David fasted and prayed constantly. He did not wash nor heed anyone's voice. When David found out the child had died, he anointed himself, washed and worshiped the Lord. His servants didn't under-

stand. They, too, were puzzled by the king's behavior. But David answered them, "While the child was alive, I fasted and wept; for I said, 'Who can tell whether the Lord will be gracious to me, that the child may live?' But now he is dead; why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me."

When our loved ones are gone, they are gone. We can't bring them back to us no matter what kind of funeral we give them. It doesn't matter how much we spend on a splendid coffin or how much we grieve - we cannot call them back. The only thing we can do is go to them when our time on earth is done.

Jesus wasn't being callous or unfeeling about this man's grief. Rather, He was teaching His disciples that His gospel wasn't for the dead, but for the living. We should not strive to remain in grief, but to believe in the resurrection and the living gospel.

Our time on this earth is limited, and we need to be about the Father's business - not grieving the past.



THE CRACKED POT
by GINGER EXUM

It's never too late to turn to Jesus

Smithville Church of God will be having a "Night of Praise" on Sunday night, September 30th, 2018 beginning at 6 p.m. Be sure to come on out for some beautiful songs of praise and worship to the Lord by a lot of our talented congregation. You will certainly be uplifted.

Also, there will be "Prayer on the Square" that will take place on Tuesday, October 2, 2018 at 6p.m. on the steps of the DeKalb County courthouse. You can bring a lawn chair to this event of prayer, praise, and worship.

Fall will be here before we know it. So many crops will be harvested as farmers scurry about to get their crops combined as they will be ready to harvest. As those fields to be harvested so are the fields ripe for the harvest of souls by the laborers for the Lord in what could be the last days before Christ's returning.

Time is so precious, but more precious are the lives of people whose fate is hanging in the balance for a destination of heaven or hell. We can all make a difference in our day to day living for the Lord by examples we set before others as to how we live our lives as Christians. We are different and set apart from all the worldliness of this world. There's a song that goes "This World is not my Home." The gospel group the "Kingsmen" had a hit song "I just stopped by on my way Home" that defines our journey here better. So glad we now have a purpose for living since we said yes to Jesus. It is so easy to be heaven bound, if you ask Jesus to forgive you of your sins thus saving your soul. Jesus give us the choice to

accept Him or reject Him. Rejecting Jesus would be the worse decision you could ever make. Being doomed to burn in hell for eternity I would certainly hope you would not prefer. After accepting Jesus, a person knows that if he or she should die they will be in the presence of Jesus. What a wonderful feeling it is to trust Jesus. He is the only One that truly loves us. Proof of this was Him being tortured and nailed to that ole rugged cross until He gave His life for our sins.

I have no earthly explanation as to why Jesus would love, us with a love like that. I'm just grateful I surrendered my life to Jesus years ago.

So many people being led astray today and so lost and are searching for something that is missing in their lives. What's missing is Jesus Christ. All they have to do is be sincere and just ask Him for forgiveness of their sins, and then they, too, will know that peace and contentment that only Jesus can give.

Please keep the family of Norman Warren, the family of Jonell Bratcher, the family of Paul Foster, those families in the Carolinas that have lost family members and the devastation of so much property, and also Charlie Mai Daniel, Edna Hooper, Bernie Braswell, John Carpenter, Joe Young, Faye Hale, and Sandy Johnson.

If you have any news for the column, just give me a call at 615-563-4429.

Have a great day!

Teach me good judgment and knowledge: for I have believed Thy commandments.

Psalms 119:66



NEWS FROM THE MOUNTAIN
by CAROL GUNTER

Welcoming Eloise Jean Hendrix

The most exciting news in the valley is the birth of little Miss Eloise Jean Hendrix on 9/14/2018. She is the fourth child born to Jared and Jennifer Hendrix, Dry Creek. We thank God for her and pray she grows

up healthy and strong to play with her two brothers, Sawyer and Liam, and big sis, Maggie Ann. The grandparents, Ricky and Kathy Hendrix and Lisa Wassom were there for her birth. Welcome to our

community and family little Eloise. I am sure she will get passed around by all the family on Sunday afternoons. It is good to add No. 27 to our energetic great grandchildren. She will be another blessing I get to

enjoy. Get well wishes go out to Mr. Doyle Smith who recently had surgery after a bad fall. Doyle served this county in the education profession for many years. We wish him good health.

Time is flying and October will soon be here. We already have a few pumpkins on our patio, along with two fall wreaths up on the doors. The season change always brings new colors and excitement. We look forward to October 25th Fall Senior Adult Trip to Murfreesboro for a Dry Creek Baptist Church outing. The annual church hayride and chili supper will be on the 27th at 5 pm. This is a wonderful, fun time for everyone. Many of the adults go on the hayride with the children. Come on down to the church at 7pm to eat some good home cooked chili and hot dogs.

Please take the time to read Psalm 121 titled The Lord OUR Protector

This psalm contains a word for those who are lonely: God is with you. He doesn't take breaks. He isn't busy elsewhere. He's watching over you and your life. He cares about you. He knows if even one foot is about to slip. There's no need to be afraid. Jesus likewise promised, "Surely I am with you always" (Matt. 28:20). Our help surely does come from the Lord. If you are in the valley, struggling with life, sickness, or the loss of a loved one, God holds every answer for you. Seek Him.

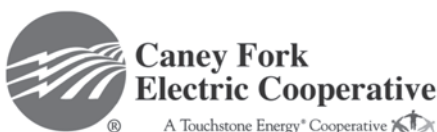


DRY CREEK FLASHES
by LOUISE FRAZIER



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