



# Memorial Messenger

Volume 64 February 2017



Greetings,

On January 1st of this year we did a study of the prayer life of Jesus based on His time

In the garden prior to His crucifixion. we saw that Jesus prayed regularly, humbly, intensively, and always got results. Our conclusion was that if we want an effective prayer life we need to pray like Jesus. I want to mention some things we need to pray about as Jesus prayed.

We must continue to pray faithfully for Pastor Search Committee. Pray that God will guide them every step of this journey. Pray that He will supply wisdom and strength as He leads them to the person He has called to become pastor of MBC. Pray that every one of us will be open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Pray like Jesus!

We need to pray for God to send a great revival to this church. April 2-5 Brother Brian Elliott, Jim and France's Shelly's son in law, his pastor Reverend Travis Farris, and some musicians will come from Kentucky to lead us in some special services. We need to pray now for preparation for them and for us that God will begin working and continue working to start revival. Pray like Jesus!

We must pray about every facet of the going work of God at MBC. We cannot just pray about the future. We need to pray that God will lead now and that we will follow. Pray like Jesus.

May God bless and guide.

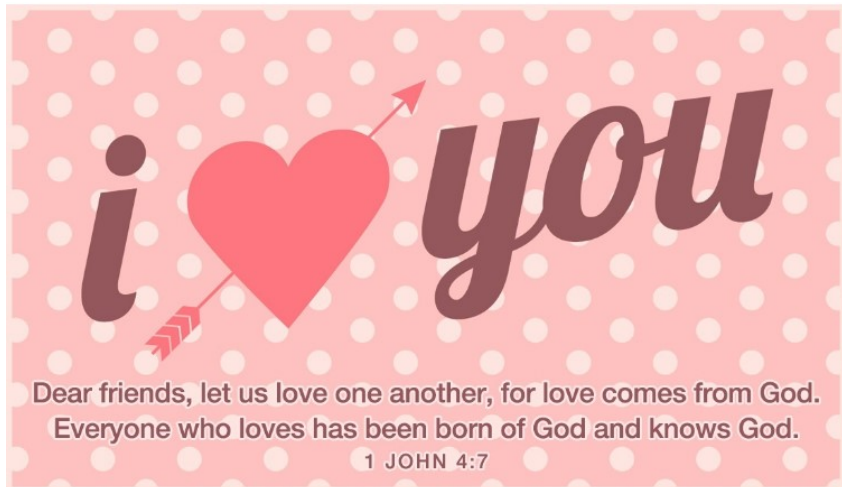
Pastor Ball

## Gods Amazing Canvas



*Hatred stirs up conflict, but love covers over all wrongs.*

*Proverbs 10:12*



# Donations

Jan

**2017 Designated Giving**

12/11/17 Patricia Whitehead

**Acct**  
Lottie Moon

**Memory**

**Honor**

12/25/16 Glen & Gail Bradley  
Leon & Nancy Bryant  
Daniel & Ashley Dudley  
Tracy & Charlene Jones  
Richard & Claire Baughman

Bldg Fund  
Bldg Fund  
Lottie Moon  
Lottie Moon  
Dominican Mission Trip

Paul Hux

Angie Gentry & Betty Hux  
Alvin & Jean Watts

Tracy Jones

01/01/17 Harold & Gerry Ball  
Gladys Goggins  
Barbara & Herbert Cureton  
Betty Harrison  
Janet Collins

TN Bapt. Fire Relief  
Bldg Fund  
Bldg Fund  
Bldg Fund  
GA's

01/08/17 No Church Service – Snow

01/15/17 Dr. Thomas Bolling  
YJ & Elizabeth Parks

Dominican Mission Trip  
Bldg Fund

01/22/17 Aaron & Susan McMahan  
Adult 3 Sunday School Class  
Jim & Frances Shelley  
Janet Collins

Bldg Fund  
Bldg Fund  
Mission Trip  
GA's

Eugene Lawson

Charles McNabb



*Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."*

**Luke 6:38**

# Criticize, Complain and Condemn... Oh My!

Dale Carnegie used these three words as one of the core principles of his leadership training which began over 100 years ago, but little did we know he was using directives from the Bible which was written thousands of years ago to teach these lessons under a different format... but the lessons remain the same; don't Criticize, Complain or Condemn. These are the three big "C"s that the devil uses to diminish our faith, damage our relationships (work and personal), and ultimately tear apart our jobs, our churches, and even our country.

*"If he is going to work on that project I'm not helping."*

*"She thinks she runs this place."*

*"There are too many chiefs and not enough Indians."*

*"Why are they doing it that way? My way is better."*

*"Can you believe she wears those dresses so short?"*

*"They never volunteer to do anything."*

*"Nobody ask us how we want it to be, they just changed it."*

Have you heard, or even said, some of these comments before? Are you guilty? Am I? Yes and Yes! Our lives are very busy and on the go. First it's work, then grocery shopping, and then household maintenance, and then making dinner, and time with the kids, and homework, and then ball games, and time with your spouse, taking care of elderly parents, and more importantly time with God. Let's face it; our lives are jam-packed full of things to do and all of that can create serious stress at times. In those times of stress how do you conduct yourself? Do you allow the circumstances to dictate your reaction, or do you rise above them? We all have probably fallen prey to criticizing, complaining and condemning at one time or another, and to be completely honest, it is really summed up in four words, "it's all about me". People criticize, complain and condemn because they aren't feeling the way they want or things aren't happening the way they want. Let's take a look at some Bible passages and see what it says about criticizing, complaining and condemning.

*James 5:9 – "Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door."*

*Philippians 2:14-16 – "Do all things without grumbling or disputing; so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world, holding fast the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I will have reason to glory because I did not run in vain nor toil in vain."*

*Luke 6:37-42 - "Do not judge, and you will not be judged; and do not condemn, and you will not be condemned; pardon, and you will be pardoned. "Give, and it will be given to you. They will pour into your lap a good measure--pressed down, shaken together, and running over. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return." And He also spoke a parable to them: "A blind man cannot guide a blind man, can he? Will they not both fall into a pit? "A pupil is not above his teacher; but everyone, after he has been fully trained, will be like his teacher. "Why do you look at the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? "Or how can you say to your brother, 'Brother, let me take out the speck that is in your eye,' when you yourself do not see the log that is in your own eye?"*

*"Or how can you say to your brother, 'Brother, let me take out the speck that is in your eye,' when you yourself do not see the log that is in You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take out the speck that is in your brother's eye.*

The Judge is standing at the door and He is listening. These acts are sinful to God and He will not tolerate sin in any circumstance. Look at God's reaction to the people of Israel in the Old Testament. *"And the people complained in the hearing of the Lord about their misfortunes, and when the Lord heard it, his anger was kindled, and the fire of the Lord burned among them and consumed some outlying parts of the camp."* (Numbers 11:1). The Lord hates sin, and unless repentance is made you will be on very rocky soil. There is no grey area in the passage above. God calls us to rise above our stresses and trials without criticizing, complaining or condemning.

Is it ok to feel emotions of discouragement, disappointment, anger, sadness and loss? Absolutely yes, but even in the emotional chaos we need to act on truth and not on our feelings. Feelings come and go, but truth will always remain. Remember words spoken cannot be retrieved; once said the damage is done. And let's think about how we, and our church, are perceived through a visitors' eyes when such comments or actions are made.

*1 Thessalonians 5:18 – "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."*

There is no room for debate here. God wants us all to be thankful in every single circumstance we face. I'm not saying this is always easy because it isn't. But, with Christ as our foundation we can overcome the trials and stresses of each day. *"So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in Him, 'If you abide in My word, you are truly My disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.'" (John 8:31-32).* The truth sets us free from the bondage of sin and gives us a new life in Christ. With the truth of the Word of God, you and I can be proactive instead of reactive. You and I have the choice to either criticize, complain or condemn... or make the best of things. So, why not show God honor by living a life that loves instead of a life that grumbles?

So how do we change our hearts and minds to stop criticizing, complaining and condemning? Well, Romans 12:2 says, *"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."* You have to accept the new life you have been given in Christ. Criticizing, complaining and condemning all stem from a poor attitude and you need to have the transformation of your mind to stop living in the flesh. Remember, acting this way is all about "me". It is self-serving and completely the opposite of what we are called to do. We are to show love and serve others, not serve our own flesh. One of the best verses to memorize to fight the temptation to criticize, complain, or condemn is Philippians 4:8 which says, *"Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things."* All of these "things" put your focus off of you and onto other things. Do you have a spouse? Thinking about how lovely/handsome they are is one great way to deter the negative thoughts. Do you have children? Think about how much joy they bring to your life! Do you love Jesus? Think about His love for you on the cross! The more you focus on others, the less time you will focus on your own desires.

Criticizing, complaining and condemning is an easy trap to fall into when we aren't spending time with God. Less of God means more of "me". We all need to approach the throne in humility and acknowledge our need for Jesus. When you spend time with God, whether its acts of service, prayer, or Bible time, He will fill your cup to overflowing through the Spirit! So, I encourage you all, as I must do as well, to pray every single day. Read your Bible every single day. Share the Gospel every single day! God bless you all as you continue to live a life worthy of the calling!

#### References:

Carnegie, Dale, *How to Win Friends and Influence People*, pub. Simon & Shuster (1936)reprint 2014.

Hill, Derek, <http://www.whatchristianswanttoknow.com/what-does-the-bible-say-about-complaining-a-christian-study/>

## Summary of January 2017 Church Council Meeting

Attending:  
Harold Ball  
Deacons: Charles McNabb  
Music: Angie Gentry  
WMU: Amanda Holt  
Finance: Herb Cureton  
Personnel: Betty Whitson  
Children Ministry: Barbara Williamson  
Building: Jim Shelley  
Communications: Bob Nash, Vicky Turner  
Young @ Heart: Bud White

### Approved Church Schedule

February  
05 Deacons Meeting 5pm  
11 9:00am Setup for YAH Luncheon  
12 Young @ Heart Luncheon – Chili Pile-On  
19 Business Meeting PM

March  
05 Deacons Meeting  
18 Estate Planning Seminar 11:30 AM  
19 Church Council Meeting 5pm  
Business Meeting PM

April  
02 Deacons Meeting  
02-05 Revival (Sunday AM/PM, Mon-Wed. 6pm)  
07 Easter Egg Hunt for MBC children 6pm  
09 Lords Supper  
16 Easter – No Evening Service  
22 ETBA Women's Conference  
23 Business Meeting PM  
30 Song Service PM

The communications group discussed a sound team schedule has been put into place and will be posted in the weekly bulletins. They also requested all content needed for the Sunday morning presentations (lyrics, slides, pictures, videos, etc.) to be sent to the sound team via email [mbcavtech@gmail.com](mailto:mbcavtech@gmail.com) by no later than Thursday prior to the Sunday morning to allow time for preparation. All youth working/learning in the sound/light booth must be accompanied by a sound team member. Sound team members are: Kim Wilson, Bob Nash, Julie Munsey, Charles Slagle and Ray Anthony.

Vicky Turner informed the group she would not be able to direct the nativity event this year due to work commitments that conflict at the same time, and asked the church find someone else to take on this role.

There was a brief discussion of changes to the overseeing of the building. Jim Shelley will now be responsible for the maintenance of the building only. Charles McNabb will approve events to be held at the church and once approved he will meet with the person requesting to use the church to go through the facility use agreement and terms with them in detail and grant approval for the event to be placed on the MBC event calendar.

Music used for weddings – this was discussed and it was brought up that a committee should be put together to prior approve all music to be used for weddings prior to the wedding. No committee was selected at this time.

Process to use the church for events:

- Get an application from Frances Shelley in the church office. She can tell you if the date is OPEN on the facility calendar – it will NOT be placed on the calendar until the event is approved. THIS DOES NOT CONFIRM YOUR EVENT! Do Not Make Plans for your event until you have met with Charles McNabb for approval.
- Read thoroughly, complete and return the application to Charles McNabb and then contact Charles to schedule a time to meet at the church to discuss the facility use agreement in detail and get approval for your event. Once approved it will be placed on the events calendar.

Next Church Council Meeting is scheduled for March 19<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm in the library

## What's Happening at MBC



### Chili Pile-On Luncheon



Sunday, Feb. 12<sup>th</sup> Noon  
in Family Life Center  
- sign up sheet in  
vestibule

Saturday, March 18<sup>th</sup>  
11:30am in the Family  
Life Center  
Everyone Welcome to  
attend.

Estate Planning Seminar  
Speaker: Vida Bell,  
Attorney at Law

### Estate Planning:

- Advance Directives
- Guardianship
- Wills
- Trusts
- Power of Attorney



For Adults Only

Sponsored by:



Sunday – Wednesday, April 2-5<sup>th</sup> Sunday AM & PM, Mon-Wed. 6pm  
Travis Ferris and Elliott Family from Walnut Memorial Church in Kentucky

February		2017		Go		February 2017						Previous		Next	
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
			1 6:00 pm WMU, Prayer, GROW, RA's & GA's ----- 7:00pm Choir	2	3	4									
5 Melinda Hudson Birthday ----- 5:00pm Deacon Mtg	6 Sherrie Smith Birthday	7	8 6:00 pm WMU, Prayer, GROW, RA's & GA's ----- 7:00pm Choir	9	10 Hallie Myers Birthday	11 YAH - Setup for Luncheon 9:00AM									
12 No Evening Service ----- YAH - Chili Pile-On Luncheon @ Noon	13	14 Steve Hudson Birthday ----- Charles McNabb Birthday	15 6:00 pm WMU, Prayer, GROW, RA's & GA's ----- 7:00pm Choir	16	17	18									
19 Cindy Pace Birthday ----- Jayden Hall Birthday ----- MBC Business Meeting 6:00pm	20	21 Vickie Vassar Birthday	22 6:00 pm WMU, Prayer, GROW, RA's & GA's ----- 7:00pm Choir	23	24	25 Herb Cureton Birthday ----- Rae & Karen Massey Anniversary ----- Misty Myers Birthday									
26	27	28													

### Nursery

February

05 Amber Shelton & Celeste Collins  
12 Amanda Holt & Wanda Ball  
19 Sara Morrow & Debbie Vick  
26 Ashley & Justin Ball

### Children's Church

February

05 Vicky & Mitch Turner  
12 Frances & Jim Shelley  
19 Barbara Williamson & Tommy Medford  
26 Janet & Jack Collins

### Bunny's Kids

February

05-Vickie Belcher  
12-Vicky Wilson Turner  
19-Amanda Holt  
26-Terry Ball

### Journaling

February

05 Sherrie Smith  
12 Vickie Belcher  
19 Charlene Jones  
26 Barbara Williamson

### Sunday Night Worship

February

05 Nick/Charles  
12 No Evening Service  
19 Mathers  
26 Angie/Wendy

### Sound Team

February

05 Kim Wilson  
12 Bob Nash  
19 Julie Munsey  
26 Charles Slagle

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To put items in the newsletter, bulletins, website or Facebook page—or to get on our call and/or email list please contact Vicky Wilson Turner 423-237-8322 call or text or email [vwilson62@gmail.com](mailto:vwilson62@gmail.com)