

## Remember in Prayer:

### The Bereaved:

Mary Patrick, Aunt of Joyce Dodson, passed away and was buried last week in Alabama. Our sympathy is extended to Joyce and Debbie and their family.

### The Sick:

Xenna Gooch is improving at home after another hospitalization due to blood pressure problems.

Billie Keller is at home after undergoing a hernia repair last week.

Berry Luther injured his knee at work, and is being evaluated by a specialist due to infection.

Larry Neville has been experiencing some heart problems and back pain.

Also, continue to remember those who continue to struggle with physical infirmity, including: Ronald Miller, Larry's father, Burton Brown, Bettye's brother, James Tanksley, Carolyn Lowder, Pansy Hensley and Lucille Hall, Ethel Wohlrabe's mother.

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*“Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interest, but also for the interests of others” (Phil 2:3-4)*

## News & Notes:

--Group 3 will meet today in the Library after the morning service.



--The “Flower Fund”, used to send flowers to those who have lost loved ones, is running low, so if you are interested in making an individual contribution, please see Ann Estile.

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### Blessed is the Giver

It is in loving - not in being loved -

The Heart is blest:

It is in giving - not in seeking gifts -

We find our quest.

If thou art hungry, lacking heavenly food,

Give hope and cheer.

If thou art sad and wouldst be comforted,

Stay sorrow's tear.

Whatever be thy longing and thy need,

That do thou give;

So shall thy soul be fed, and thou, indeed,

Shall truly live.

--Anonymous

ELDERS: Doug Driver  
Johnny Felker

DEACONS: Ralph Brown  
Mark Claypool



### Service Times

SUNDAY

Bible Study—9:00 am

Worship—9:55 am & 6:00 pm

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study 7:00 pm

# Perry Heights Weekly Bulletin

Perry Heights church of Christ  
423 Donelson Pike  
Nashville, TN 37214  
(615) 883-3118

“...let us consider how we may encourage one another”  
Heb. 10:24

August 23, 2009

## Broken Vows, Broken Hearts, Broken Homes

Picture a wedding, maybe your own, with all the beauty and love expected from such an occasion. Now picture a courtroom. Two who formerly looked into one another's eyes with the most intense love, two who formerly planned together, ate together, worked together, played together, slept together and went to church together are now at separate tables, lawyers between them, a judge deciding their futures and the futures of their children.

Could anything be more wrong. The final decree is spoken matter-of-factly, “Divorce granted.” The judge walks away with other matters on his mind. The participants, feeling empty, rejected and lonely, sit stunned. It is over so quickly.

**Broken Vows.** In divorce, a covenant is violated, vows are broken, God is involved and God is saddened. *“Walk prudently when you go to the house of God; and draw near to hear rather than to give the sacrifice of fools, for they do not know that they do evil. Do not be rash with your mouth, and let not your heart utter anything hastily before God. For God is in heaven, and you on earth; Therefore, let your words be few. For a dream comes through much activity, and a fool's voice is known by his many words. When you make a vow to God, do not delay to pay it; for He has no pleasure in fools. Pay what you have vowed. Better not to vow than to vow and not pay. Do not let your mouth cause your flesh to sin, nor say before the messenger of God that is was an error”* (Ecclesiastes 5:1-6; see Psalm 15:4). Consider the vows you made: “I Colly, take thee Lynda, to be my lawful wife. . . “ In the 1992 election, Ross Perot said, “If I cannot trust a man to tell the truth to his wife when he vows in a church to be faithful, I cannot trust him in business.”

**Broken Hearts.** In divorce, the wife/husband of our youth, is caused indescribable pain. Feelings of rejection, insecurity and failure are inevitable. Self-confidence is destroyed, mistrust is promoted, faith is unsettled. Divorce ranks second only to death in causing trauma in a spouse.

Many, perhaps most, can handle the death of any family member easier than divorce according to recent studies (see Normon M. Caplan, M.D., Prevent Your Heart Attack, pp142-43). Destroying marriage by divorce may be the single most injurious thing one person can do to another. God called it “treacherous” and violent” (Malachi 2:13-17).

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## Preacher's Pen points

## Taming the Storms of Life (Divorce)



**Though little is said in the Bible about coping with divorce, a lot is said about preventing it. God's attitude is clear:**

*For this cause a man shall leave his father and his mother, and shall \_\_\_\_\_ to his wife; and they shall become one flesh. (Gen. 2:24)*

*Take heed then, to your spirit, and let no one deal treacherously against the wife of your youth. "For I \_\_\_\_\_ divorce," says the Lord, the God of Israel, "and him who covers his garment with wrong," says the Lord of hosts. "(Mal. 2:15-16)*

### The special challenges of divorce

Acute emotional \_\_\_\_\_: A \_\_\_\_\_; S \_\_\_\_\_; G \_\_\_\_\_; D \_\_\_\_\_

Difficulty in finding \_\_\_\_\_

Emotional effects on \_\_\_\_\_

Lack of \_\_\_\_\_ on the part of others

### Dealing with divorce

*Divorce teaches us that you can't make others do right; but you can control \_\_\_\_\_.*

Be \_\_\_\_\_ to the Lord (Heb. 10:24-25)

Allow yourself to \_\_\_\_\_ the loss (Gal. 6:2) , but don't get \_\_\_\_\_ in the past.

\_\_\_\_\_ from your mistakes and \_\_\_\_\_ of the past (Phil. 3:13-14)

\_\_\_\_\_ the wrongs of the divorced mate (Lk. 23:34)

Rely upon the \_\_\_\_\_ for spiritual strength to endure (1 Pet. 5:6-7)

Focus on continuing to give your children the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ they need (Eph. 6:4)

Use your experiences to \_\_\_\_\_ and help others (2 Cor. 1:3-4)

\_\_\_\_\_ on to other relationships (1 Cor. 7:27-28)

**Do what you can to protect your marriage. And if you must pass through the storm of divorce, remember: "He still calms storms."**

*--continued from front page*

Children are irreparably injured. Children see affection, family ties, and love displaced by tension, guilt and uncertainty.

We sometimes think that when older children leave home, it is okay for us to split. These children lose their home, sense of stability, and confidence in the adults they love most and look to as role models. Divorce represent abandonment of parental responsibility to them and affects their sense of responsibility, and studies show that young children are not insulated.

Lifelong drastic effects on even the youngest could occur. They often have academic problems, friendship problems, and other emotional problems.

The parents and grandparents of divorced partners are made heartbroken. They have lived to see their children safe and secure: spiritually, domestically, and emotionally. The lives of people never considered by selfish, separating persons are crushed forever.

**Broken Homes.** Divorce means "separation." The basic collective unit of society is dissolved. That impacts friends, other relatives, neighbors, all of society, and even our culture itself. By God's divine plan, the home should be the place of shelter and security, serenity and success, a blessing to all. He is right. He is always right. But God is disregarded and so are the resulting casualties. These are tragic consequences!

**Solutions for Those who See Value in Saving Marriages.** We must commit to our marriages. Making a marriage work is primarily a state of mind, a decision and a commitment. Men must take the lead in maintaining solid homes by being faithful and responsible, first to God and then to their mates. Wives and mothers must take care of the home and the children. And they must take care of their husbands. If they do not, someone else will! Avoid being in a hurry to make a marriage vow. Do not vow to anyone anything which is contrary to God's word.

We must make the best of circumstances beyond our control. Even the finest of Christians have difficulties. We must face them with faith and commitment to doing right.

We must teach our children the absolute standard of God on marriage, divorce and remarriage. While relaxing Divine standards may seem to be a kinder course for a hurting person, it is destructive to souls.

--Colly Caldwell

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***"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."***

**Isaiah 41:10**