

INDEPENDENCE CHURCH OF CHRIST~  
JANUARY 3, 2021

**SYMPATHY:** **Tom Gordon** (Cody Hadley's great-uncle) passed away last Sunday; he was a great part of the church at Looxahoma and beyond! Please also pray for the **Hounshells'** neighbor **Richard Diamond** who tragically lost his brother who lived in Florida.

**SICK/TEMPORARY:** **Kim Arrington**, **Joey Hadley**, and **Shelby** and **Mark Peyton** were all under the weather this past week. **Shelly Cates** is still sore from her epidural block; it is hoped that some of her hip pain will begin to be alleviated. **Marie Crockett** is recovering from a recent fall. **Sonny Stewart** had successful cataract surgery. **Crystal Brown**, niece of **Paul** and **Suzanne Brown**, has been suffering from flesh-eating bacteria.

**PROTRACTED:** **Janice Bailey**—Alzheimers; **Scooter Birmingham** (friend of **Destiny Clayton**); **Brian Brown** (**Paul Brown's** nephew)—epilepsy; **Shelly Cates**—fibromyalgia; **Gladys Marie Elrod** (**Mary Ray's** son-in-law's mother)—congestive heart failure; **Addliae Farrow** (**Tabatha Clayton's** great niece)—heart; **Bubba Farrow** (**Emma Farrow's** son)—Alzheimer's; **Jimmy Ferguson** (former preacher here)—heart rhythm; **Kaylie Hadley**—UCTD; **Paula Harrison**—Meniere's Disease; **Wanda Jackson**—a-fib; **Monica La Rock** (granddaughter of **Orelia Ferguson** and mother of **Noah**); **Garrett Lentz** (son of a co-worker of **Cody Hadley**)—seizures; **Sheila Massey**—Bell's palsy; **Easton McCullough** (**Grayson Hadley's** best friend)—Bell's Palsy; **Becky Munns** (**Tabatha Clayton's** aunt)—heart problems, Crohn's Disease; **Shelby Peyton**—knee; **Robert Rawson** (preacher at **Crockett**)—diabetes; **Ray Reynold's** (**Sheila Massey** and **Mary West's** dad)—memory trouble; **Brett Rutherford** (**Dan Cates's** friend)—MS; **Tammy Turner** (a preacher's wife whom we support)—dementia; **Francis Wallace** (friend of **Mary Ray**).

**CANCER:** **Clifton Angel** (preacher at **Coldwater**)—thyroid; **Sherry Brown** (retired MSOP secretary); **Alicia Busby** (from the community); **Gary Darnell** (**Ella Darnell's** son)—leukemia as well as diabetes; **Brenda Davis** (a grandmother of **Edra** and **Ryan Farrow**); **Nathan Jones** (the **Hounshells's** neighbors' 16 year old family member)—brain; **Sara Kiestler** (an **FHU** student)—Hodgkin's; **Wade Loggins** (member of congregation in **Elkmont, AL**); **Dorothy Mosher** (wife of an MSOP instructor); **Carol Ogelsby** (family of **Sonny Stewart** and the **Browns**)—stomach; **Tommy Pierce** (the **Browns's** friend); **John Riley** (member of the church who lives in this community)—lung; **Tiffany Taylor** (the **Browns's** friend); and **Tabby Waters** (**Tabatha Clayton's** sister-in-law)—leukemia.

**SHUT-IN:** **Marie Crockett** (home), **Emma Farrow** (in a care facility in **Sardis**), **Orelia Ferguson** (home), and **Annette Cates** (**Dan Cates's** mother who is at home in **Pensacola, FL**).

**SERVING:** **Dylan** and **Maggie Cooper** (**Air Force**, **Offut AFB, Neb.**), **Cameron Hadley** (**Grayson Hadley's** dad—**Marines**, **Hawaii**), **Jacob Petrowski** (grandson of former members here—**Marines**, soon to be let out). Also, please continue to pray for **Kyle Embrey** (**Syble Embrey's** grandson—**policeman**) and all other military [especially who are going or remain abroad] and for all those in authority that we might live "quiet and peaceable" lives (I Timothy 2:1,2).

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*Independence Church of Christ*  
8543 Highway 305  
Coldwater, MS 38618

# INDEPENDENCE CHURCH OF CHRIST

## The Informer



8543 Highway 305

Coldwater, MS 38618

662-560-8045

[www.independencechurchofchrist.org](http://www.independencechurchofchrist.org)

**Services:** Sunday 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 4:45 p.m. (pew-packers), 5 p.m.  
Wednesday 7:15 p.m.

**Ministers:** Every Christian

**Elders:** Dan Cates (662-560-8045)

Carl Hounshell (812-653-2358)

**Evangelist:** Dan Cates (662-560-8045; [dsmccates@yahoo.com](mailto:dsmccates@yahoo.com))

**Missions** [the latest reports from these works are on the bulletin board in the foyer]

*Independence Mission Fund (next: tbd)*

*Memphis School of Preaching (Jonathan Jenkins)*

*Brown Trail School of Preaching (Spanish Department)*

*Jim and Tammy Turner (Fairfield, North Carolina)*

*Trent Kennedy family (Four Seas Bible College, Singapore)*

*Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh, India [Providing Bibles]*

*Netcasters and Fishers of Men (Tim Wilkes, II)*

*Tennessee Children's Home, West*

*Pablo Horna (Panama) [Overseeing funds]*

*Many one-time, domestic and overseas, mission efforts*

# "NEAR TO THE HEART OF GOD"

Clifton Angel

Cleland Boyd McAfee penned the song "Near to the Heart of God" in 1903. Resources say two of his infant nieces died from diphtheria, which event motivated the writing of this hymn. Diphtheria is a bacterial infection that is rare today because of immunization. According to the Mayo Clinic, "Diphtheria typically causes a sore throat, fever, swollen glands and weakness. But the hallmark sign is a sheet of thick, gray material covering the back of your throat, which can block your airway, causing you to struggle for breath" ([www.mayoclinic.org](http://www.mayoclinic.org)). Two places come to mind when I think of being near to the heart of God: (1) Heaven; (2) The church. According to the hymn, "near to the heart of God" are several blessings.

**"A place of quiet rest."** Jesus said, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28). Now that I know the history behind the song, I cannot help but to think of the loud and restless nights that may have ensued while these two young girls suffered diphtheria.

**"A place where sin cannot molest."** This may be my favorite line in the entire song. I am reminded that death, decay, and disease are all results of sin (Romans 5:12). In Revelation 21, we are given a glimpse of the church in Heaven, when "God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away" (Revelation 21:4). Furthermore, if today we are walking in the light, Jesus' blood continually cleanses our sins and we remain "near to the heart of God" (cf. 1 John 1:7).

**"A place of comfort sweet."** When our children are sick or hurting, our first priority is often to seek comfort for them. Furthermore, true comfort is only found "near to the heart of God." Paul wrote, "Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God" (2 Corinthians 1:3-4).

**"A place where we our Savior meet."** In another hymn, we sing: "What a day that will be, when my Jesus I shall see; When I look upon His face, the One who saved me by His grace; When He takes me by the hand, And leads me to the Promise Land; What a day, glorious day that will be."

**"A place of full release."** "He that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new" (Rev. 21:5). We can rest assured those two baby girls no longer have diphtheria. And, while it pains us to imagine what the parents endured in their loss, it comforts us that the baby girls obtained full relief from their suffering.

**"A place where all is joy and peace."** Paul wrote, "Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice. Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand. Be anxious for nothing; But in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:4-7; cf. Revelation 21:2-4).

The refrain reads: "O Jesus, blest Redeemer, sent from the heart of God, hold us, who wait before Thee, near to the heart of God." Is Jesus your Savior? Is Jesus your Redeemer? Have you made arrangements to be "near to the heart of God"?

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*"That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:" (Ephesians 4:14,15)*

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## BIBLE QUESTION:

This week's question: Where was Timothy to have abode when Paul "went into Macedonia"?

Last week's question: Who said, "Silver and gold have I none"?

Last week's answer: Peter (*Acts 3:6*)

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**SERMONS:** "A Charge to Keep I Have" (*1 Timothy 5:7*)

"All the Counsel of God": Church Government

## DAILY BIBLE READING (January 4-10):

	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.
<b>Genesis</b>	10-11	12-15	16-19	20-22	23-26	27-29	30-32

**SCRIPTURE READING (JANUARY):** Carl Hounshell (1 Timothy 1:18,19)

*(FEBRUARY): Dan Cates*

**PRESIDE LORD'S SUPPER MORNING (JANUARY):** Dan Cates

*(FEBRUARY): Cody Hadley*

**ASSIST LORD'S SUPPER (JANUARY):** Conor Cates and Cody Hadley

*(FEBRUARY): Ray Stanford and Mark Peyton*

**CLEAN BUILDING (JANUARY):** Suzanne and Katie Brown

*(FEBRUARY): The Hounshells*

**PREPARE COMMUNION (JANUARY):** Tabatha Clayton

*(FEBRUARY): Kim Arrington*

**PANTRY NEEDS:** Imperishables

**UPCOMING EVENTS (For particular details, check the bulletin board for flyers):**

January 31

There are five Sundays this month; please be thinking about a potential **potluck**.

June 6-9

**Gospel meeting** with Brian Stewart.

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## WELCOME VISITORS!

We are honored to have you with us today. Please take a few minutes and fill out an attendance card for us so that we can have a record of your attendance.