

Mt Zion Christian Church Newsletter-JUNE 2018

(Published in memory of Miss Lillian Sharpe)

What the Father Says About Fathers

(by Paige---dayspring.com)

I was well into my 30s when I learned to love my dad for who he is; not for who I thought he *should* be. He's always been a good man – a hard worker, volunteer, churchgoer, encourager. But growing up, I thought I needed more from him – more hugs, more tenderness, more lets-sit-down-and-talk-about-our-feelings. I was angry, compared him to others, blamed some of my life choices on my perception that he wasn't "there" enough.

But the truth is, **God knew long before we showed up on this earth that we'd be family.** He knew that my dad's strengths and struggles would come together with my own to create a relationship, and it would be a journey, and if we allowed it (which we have!) He would use those things to grow us more and more into the people He created us to be.

Through the years, I've come to realize that my Dad did the best he could with what he had at the time as a father. And I've discovered how deeply he cares for me (quirks and all!) even if he shows it in different ways than I do. In fact, today I can truly say that he is one of my very best friends.

There are all kinds of fathers, and yours may be a whole different story. But there is one thing they all share: No matter what their personalities, gifts, struggles, circumstances... **every one of them is called to live God's way.** And when they do, their families are blessed, communities are strengthened, and a ripple effect of goodness happens in the world.

Our Heavenly Father has much to say about fatherhood:

As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him. Psalm 103:13 NIV

When our fathers show compassion, they give us a glimpse into the heart of God. Strong -- yet tender, deeply understanding, fiercely loyal, and always ready to help us through the toughest of times.

Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord. Ephesians 6:4 NIV
Bringing up a child with healthy boundaries and godly discipline is no easy task. But even in the most frustrating moments, a loving father is called to be like Jesus – standing firm in the truth, yet grace-filled; never critical and demanding.

The righteous lead blameless lives; blessed are their children after them. Proverbs 20:7 NIV

The actions of a father speak volumes to his children. Even if they can't articulate it when they're young, they're watching and learning. And even if they won't admit it when they're older, there's a strong pull to follow in his footsteps. When a father chooses the right path, his family is blessed.

He will turn the hearts of the parents to their children, and the hearts of the children to their parents... Malachi 4:6 NIV

A father's deep affection offers a sense of security and assurance that nothing else can give. The heart of a child is beautifully designed to respond to that love; it's a connection strong enough to last a lifetime.

As you reflect on God's Word about fathers, what thoughts come to mind about your dad or father figure? Maybe he's been a great example of service to others; Maybe he spent time with you as a child, helping you learn to navigate life; Maybe he showed a spirit of grace in a moment when you just knew he'd had it with you.

Will you join me this Father's Day, and **consider writing a card to that father in your life?** Let him know something you appreciate about him, something specific you remember; some way he has helped to shape the person you've become. Share one of the Scriptures above and show him how his life has been a reflection of God's truth.

And if your dad is no longer with you, there is surely another dad in your life – a husband, a relative, a friend - who'd be so blessed to receive a thank-you note of encouragement.

We all know that no earthly father is perfect, but we can choose to focus on their life-giving ways and trust that God is always working to bring out the very best in them....**being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.** *Philippians 1:6NIV*

The men in our lives need to be lifted up, to be reminded that we are strengthened by their presence, that we see the love of our Heavenly Father reflected in theirs, that we honor who they are and who - by His grace - they are becoming.

The Mt Zion Support Group met on May 2 @Cracker Barrel in Mebane. We had 7 in attendance to enjoy good food and fellowship. On June 5, Wednesday we meet @Western Steak House at 11:30am.

Hope to see you there.
Libby Atkins

On May 26th the Men's Prayer Breakfast was held with an attendance of 13 men. A delicious breakfast and great fellowship was enjoyed by all who attended. Many concerns regarding family, friends and the community were discussed and many prayers went up for the sick and hurting. Those attending were: Lewis Baker, Doug Atkins, Robert Bridges, Gary Moran, Max Thompson, Cecil Shue, Haywood Shue, Johnnie Parker, Jerry Lane, Jim Stephenson, Pete Enroughty, Rick Webster and Anthony Cole. Our next prayer breakfast will be on June 30th.

We would love for you to join us.
Jerry Lane

Happy Birthday

- 6/3 Joy Toellen
- 6/4 Nelda May, Derek Shue
- 6/5 Jackie Younger, Rob Crawford, Mike Powell,
Keith Wilkerson
- 6/7 Lewis Baker
- 6/8 Gary Shafer
- 6/10 Braedon Byrd
- 6/11 Ashley Singleton, Mark Schnell
- 6/12 Debbie Byrd
- 6/14 Jimmie Ferrell, William Oates, Roger Tate
- 6/15 Tom Bradley, Matt Chilton
- 6/16 Brandon Wilkerson, Rachel Monk, Paula Mullis,
Rev Dave Gilbert
- 6/18 Madison Yeatts
- 6/20 Johnnie Parker, Junior Kernodle
- 6/22 Rev Donnie Thompson, Stan Cole
- 6/24 Jackie Byrd, Danny Webster
- 6/25 Harper Wilkerson, Charles Bradley
- 6/26 Taylor Johnson
- 6/27 Bobby Williams
- 6/28 Stephanie Patterson
- 6/29 Sarah Younger, Kathy Oakley
- 6/30 Kimberly Jones

Happy Anniversary

- 6/5 Max & Donnie Thompson
- 6/10 Matt & Olivia Chilton
- 6/11 John & Jackie Byrd
- 6/14 Harry & Peggy James
- 6/15 Rick & Cathy Webster
- 6/16 Brandon & Jennifer Wilkerson
- 6/21 Wayne & Sally Greenstock
- 6/22 Dean & Janet Lynch Thompson
- 6/25 Sammy & Melissa Singleton
- 6/29 Buddy & Beth Danford
- 6/30 Jim & Debby Stephenson, Jon & Jenny Day,
Rev Donnie & Faye Thompson

**"BUT BLESSED IS THE MAN WHO TRUSTS IN
THE LORD , WHOSE CONFIDENCE IS IN HIM.
Jeremiah 17:7 NIV**

Feelings between God and His children

S H I E L D T R E A S U R E V
H R O T C E T O R P Y O J N E
E D I V O R P S U P P O R T C
L U S E E N C O U R A G E C A
T T N E L O V E N E B G O C R
E I O F C B E T C C N M C O B
R F U W A U A A N I P E C N M
N U R O Y I R D V A P E A F E
I L I N T G L E N T T T R E D
A R S D I N I I A E Y S I S I
T O H E L L O N N P P E N S U
R N O R E N C E P G R E G O G
E O P B D E T A C I D E D R C
C H E R I S H E D E V O T E D
R O V A F C R E S U S T A I N

Acceptance, Appreciate, Believing,
Benevolent, Caring, Certain,
Cherish, Companion, Confessor,
Constant, Dedicated, Dependable,
Devoted, Dutiful, Embrace,
Encourage, Enjoy, Esteem, Favor,
Fidelity, Grace, Guide, Happy,
Honor, Hope, Nourish, Protector,
Provide, Secure, Shelter, Shield,
Support, Sustain, Treasure,
Unfailing, Wonder

After you have found all the words, click the leftover
letters in the correct order to form the *mystery answer*.
Last month's answer: RESPECTED

Activities for JUNE 2018
Each Wednesday Night
Youth & Adult Bible Study @ 6:30PM
Choir Practice @ 7:30PM

- 6/3 Flower Fund--Sunday School
- 6/4 Ladies Circle @ 6:30PM (Hosts: Annette & Melissa)
- 6/6 Mt Zion Support Group @11:30AM
Western Steak House
- 6/11 BOCE @ 7PM--Deacons/Deaconesses follow
- 6/17 Happy Father's Day
- 6/24 Deacon's Fund Collection
- 6/30 Men's Prayer Breakfast @ 7AM

From the Pastor's Desk---MAY 2018

Greetings Everyone,
Where did the month of May go?
Even though it whizzed by, we had a lot of excitement
and love here at Mt. Zion.

The first Sunday of the month was Homecoming
2018. Everyone had such fun as we enjoyed the
Gospel Bluegrass Music from the Moore Family, Salt
and Light! Then we had a delicious covered dish
meal together as a family.

The next Sunday was Mothers Day. Boy, were Cathy
and I ever surprised and shocked to discover she was
chosen as Mother of the Year. The entire time Denise
was reading Danny's comments....Cathy was
punching him and saying...now, that's a boy who
loves his momma! It was wonderful.

The next week was Graduation Sunday as we
celebrated with Andrew Chilton. Andrew has grown
up in Mt. Zion and has become a remarkable young
man with a very bright future both in God and in his
education.

Last Sunday was Memorial Sunday as we reflected
upon all the brave men and women of our Armed
Forces who paid the ultimate price for all of us. We
also paid our respects to the families of our church,
our extended families and our community who have
seen loved ones go on to Glory before us this year.
It was a time to look back and remember the One
who died for us, for the remission of our sins and the
promise Jesus made.....Because He lives...we too
shall live. Eternal life with Him and our Heavenly
Father...and an abundant life for us here on earth.
Who could ask for anything more?
May flew by...but it was so very wonderful!

God Loves you and so do I,
Pastor Rick