

Prayer Updates

JOY & BLESSING

Toby & Patricia Eckles welcome into their hearts and home their son, **Daniel Adrian Eckles**, born March 20.

HOSPITALIZED & SURGERIES this past week...

August "Bob" Gubser – back surgery 3/19

Bill Romme – surgery at UCSF 3/23

Celia Brown – surgery 3/26 for benign thyroid tumor

Irvin Smith – long-term recovery, hit by a car as a pedestrian

Joseph Carota – surgery at Sutter 3/26

Karla Bogard – long-term recovery, major cancer surgery

Kimberly Mills – moved to RCU, broken leg

Nancy Bittinger – recovering from a fall, going to RCU

Trudi Jackson – emphysema

Recent hospitalizations / surgeries: Irene Kester, Linda Johnson, Margie Bishop, Stan Stewart, Jennifer Gieseler

Hospice care: Dorothy Thrash

HOME WITH THE LORD

One of our dear shut-ins, **Warren O'Dell**, passed peacefully into the presence of His Lord. He was preceded two years ago by his beloved wife, Maxine, both members of our TLC family.

Remember Karen Vann in the recent loss of her mother. Karen has flown back to Boston to help with family arrangements. Monty and Karen's son, Nehemiah (age 2, has Kawasaki disease); pray for healing of the arteries swollen around his heart.

Heartfelt prayer is extended to Toni Jones and family grieving the loss of her beloved husband, **Robert Jones**. Toni lovingly cared for Robert with a devotion that truly honored him and the Lord. In her own words, "He was my hero and my inspiration."

We want to provide pastoral support...

Please call 465-3395 when someone is hospitalized, scheduled for surgery, becomes a shut-in, or in special need. Prayer support is available through our pastors and numerous prayer groups — call 689-9400. Please pick up a Prayer Update at the Information Desk or Welcome Center.

GETTING READY FOR EASTER ^{WEEK} 2

THE { POWER } OF Jesus IN YOU

John 15:1-11 (NSRV)

What does the vine illustrate?

1. The _____ of Jesus in me.

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you." John 15:1-2

2. The _____ of Jesus in me.

"Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned." John 15:3-6

3. The _____ of Jesus in me.

"If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete." John 15:7-11

What does fruitfulness look like in my life?

My prayers are more _____	v7
My life is more _____	v8
My focus is more on _____	v9-10
My life is more of a _____	v11

How do I have Jesus in my life?

"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. . . Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory." Galatians 2:20 & Colossians 3:1-4 (NIV)

Daily Meditations

Brief daily devotions based on this week's topic

Monday

Read John 15:1-2. What did you learn about this passage in last weekend's sermon?

Every one of us is attached to something that we think gives us life. Be honest – what “vine” are you seeking life from?

What are the short- and long-term effects of pruning a plant? How does this help you understand these verses?

How have you felt “pruned” lately? How has that revealed God's purpose for you?

Thank God today that sustaining your life doesn't depend on you. Thank Him for His love for you. Thank Him for the pruning He has done in your life. Talk to Him about the areas of your life that are lacking life. Ask Him to give you the desire to stay connected to Him and the faith to trust His faithful, loving pruning.

Tuesday

Read John 15:3-6. The word “abide” (also translated “remain” or “live”) appears four times in four verses! It's an interesting word: it's both active and passive. What did you learn about “abiding” last weekend? How will you apply that to your life this week?

How have you seen God's power in your life recently?

In verse 5 Jesus says that, “apart from me you can do nothing.” This is so counter-culture! When is it most difficult for you to believe the truth of that verse? When does it come naturally?

Thank God today for the power He supplies you with each moment of the day. Thank Him for the opportunity to abide in Him and not have to face life in your own strength. Talk to God about any area of your life where you're feeling self-sufficient. Pray that you'll learn to rely on Him and fall in love with the fact that He is your source of power.

Wednesday

Read John 15:7-11. Now the rubber meets the road! Think about the last week of your life. What kind of “fruit” has God been producing in you?

Think about the people in your life. Who is a role model for you when it comes to bearing godly fruit? How have they impacted your life?

Wednesday (continued)

What kind of fruit would you like to see produced in you? How would this impact your relationships?

Thank God today for the opportunity to grow and bear fruit. Thank God for those in your life whose fruit you have benefited from. Pray that God will use your life and fruit to encourage others.

Thursday

Reread John 15:7-11 and Galatians 5:16-26. Between these two passages write down what type of fruit should be evident in a Christian's life.

Both Jesus and Paul say that your life's fruit will ultimately reveal your heart. It can seem overwhelming to think you have to produce all these “fruits” in your life. However, if you are the branch and Jesus is the vine, who actually produces the fruit? How does this demonstrate God's grace towards you?

Thank God today for His amazing grace, not just to save you but also to help you live and grow each day. Pray that as you focus on abiding in Christ your life will bear much fruit that points the people around you to God and gives Him the glory.

Friday

Read Galatians 2:20 and Colossians 3:1-4. Write down three things these verses teach you about abiding in Christ.

How does what you've studied this week about abiding in Christ help you prepare your heart to celebrate Easter?

Reread Colossians 3:2. How do you live this out in your daily life? How does this help you abide in Christ?

Thank God today for His forgiveness of your sins. Thank Him for the hope and purpose He gives you. Pray that as you go through today, no matter what you encounter, you'll “set your mind on things above.”

Saturday

Please be sure you've memorized this week's Bible verse and finished the devotions. Pray for the Palm Sunday services this weekend and the Easter services next weekend! Pray that our church will be a place that many people will come to celebrate our Savior's resurrection!



Memory Verse

“I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.” John 15: 5

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