

August 8, 2021



FLORENCE BOULEVARD CHURCH OF CHRIST

Elders

Steve Clark
Bill Hames
Ken Vanhorn
Mark Willingham

Deacons

Greg Allen
Justin Beckman
Kevin Clemons
Jeffrey Cox
Myron Crunk
Mike Davidson
Kyle Dickson
Gregg Elrod
Nate Fulmer
AJ Gooch
Jamey Medley
Ronnie Putnam
Dave Schmidt
Mark Vanhorn
Matt Warner
Don Williams

Minister

Austin Johnson

Youth Minister

John Birdwell

Secretary

Sonya Cox

The Great Mystery: New Birth

How can someone be born again when they are all grown up? That doesn't make sense! Does the adult return into their mother's belly and go through all of *that* again?!? This, in essence, is what Nicodemus asked Jesus in their nighttime meeting. Jesus said in John 3:5, "*unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.*" In our church tradition we are going to assume that "*born of water*" refers to baptism, but is that a correct assumption?

I believe Jesus is teaching Nicodemus about the need for transformation to a new life. This new life is one where the Spirit is the source of regeneration and life. Jesus even said in verse 6, "*That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.*" For this reason, we call it the "new" birth. A "born again" birth. This birth is fundamentally different from the original birth of the flesh, where the mother is the source of life. The new birth is one where God through the Spirit is the source of life.

Peter said in Acts 2:38, "*Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*" What is the gift the Spirit provides in baptism? The gift is transformation from a flesh-born existence into a Spirit-born existence. This happens as an individual is buried in baptism, "*not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ*" (1 Peter 3:21), receiving the forgiveness of sins and Spirit within. 1 Corinthians 3:16, "*Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you [all]?*"

So as Jesus called Nicodemus to consider being born again, he was at the same time calling Nicodemus to acknowledge the source of New Kingdom power through the Spirit of God. The Spirit would be part of the fulfillment of the Old Law that Nicodemus was very familiar with (*John 3:10*). So for us today, each time we witness others take part in the new birth, we witness the power of the Spirit to transform a life from flesh to Spirit and take a soul from death to life Praise God for such transforming power!

Austin Johnson

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Worship: Sunday 9:00 am & 5:00 pm; Bible Class 10:15 am

Wednesday: 6:30 pm

NEW OFFICE HOURS AND MEETINGS

The church office will be open Monday-Thursday, from 8am-4 pm.

Also, if you would like to meet with Austin or John, please call the office to set up a day and time.

SICK/PRAYER LIST

Lane Baker, Colton Clifton (deployed overseas), Marjorie Cox, Rayford & Rhoda Gist, Mary Garrett, Eleanor Martin, Helen Parker, Larry Phillips, Paul Richardson, Shelby Wade

FAMILY/FRIENDS: Brian Allen (son of Dwight & Linda Allen), Willie Bird (brother of Mary Garrett), June Jones (mother of Kaye Holderfield), Larry Martin (son of Leo & Hazel Martin-brother of Deb Harrington), Brian Miller (former member at Flo Blvd, attends Sherrod Ave now) has COVID & Pneumonia; Vance Pitts (husband of Patsy Pitts), Dale Thigpen (nephew of Carolyn Poole), has cancer; Brett Wyatt (10 year old son of friend of Amy Dickson-has leukemia)

CEDAR VIEW ASSISTED LIVING: Doug Webster, Room 111

LAUDERDALE CHRISTIAN NURSING HOME:

Mary Nix, Room 6

Continue to pray for everyone that has lost loved ones

WIDOWS & WIDOWERS

You will be having a brief meeting **TONIGHT**, following services, in the 49er's Classroom.

WEDNESDAY SUMMER SERIES

August 11th: "Tents in the Bible," (Genesis 18:1-12; Genesis 13:12); Speaker: Austin Swinea

MEDIA/SOUND ROOM

During the month of August we will be training those interested in helping with the multi-media/streaming responsibilities during worship. Please see Justin Beckman if you are interested in helping with this ministry.

AUGUST MISSIONARY OF THE MONTH

Demar Elam
Open Door Ministry
18755 Moyers Road
Athens, AL 35611
demar@open-door-ministry.org

WELCOME BIRDWELL FAMILY

TONIGHT, everyone is invited to a "Welcome Meal" honoring John, Hope, & Joseph Birdwell. Everyone is asked to bring finger foods, drinks, and desserts. Also, there will be a table where cards/gift cards to restaurants can be placed if you would like to do so.



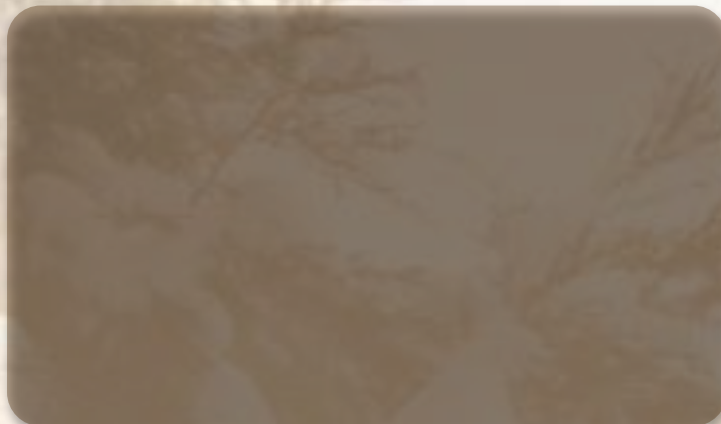
THANK YOU

Thank you for your continued support, for the Ronald McDonald House Charities in Memphis, TN, by collecting coke tabs for me. We made a delivery of tabs in July and will be making another trip November 10th. Please continue to keep the kids at St. Jude in your prayers as they fight cancer and other diseases.

Love, Mack Weatherford

FOR THE RECORD

Sunday AM: 247 / On Line Views: 285
Sunday School: 197 / On Line Views: N/A
Sunday PM: 192 / On Line Views: 630
Wednesday: 165 / On Line Views: 150 t7
Budget: \$13,300
Contribution: \$ 13,498



Sermon Titles:

AM:

PM:

Assignments

Morning Worship

Scripture Reader:

Evening Worship

Scripture Reader:

Leading in Communion:

Prayers

First –

Last –

Prayers

First –

Last –

Youth Led: (4:55pm)

Song:

Scripture:

Prayer:

Sermon Notes

Key Words:

Outline: