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# Northside Church of Christ

6329 Dr. MLK Jr. St. North, St. Petersburg, FL 33702, (727) 525-6912 ~ [www.cocnorthside.com](http://www.cocnorthside.com)

January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018

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## Remember in Prayer

**Northside Congregation:** Family of John Elliott; Frances Greer; Pat Ledford; Bob Hadsock (medical tests); Janie Owens; Rebecca Creger; Charles Williams; Carla Murray; Rosemary Fairchild; Donna Smith; Teddy Jacobs; Harvey Ray

**Shut-Ins:** Betty Gay (Shore Acres, Rm 10B); Susan Jacobs; George Smith; Cherrie Bour; Ginger Matusovich; Chiquita Brown

**Friends and Family:** Mark Galuppo (Ann Patee's son, brain aneurism); Family of Cindy Royal (Donna-Marie's friend, passed away); Family of Ned Finnegan (Donna-Marie's friend, passed away); George Hanis (Alma's brother); Janet Roberge (friend of Carol's); Rick Buonaguro; Jenny Baldwin (Rick's sister, medical tests); Elissa Holleran (stepmom of Kayla and Matthew); Heather Reeves (Rebecca's granddaughter, cancer); Henry Nobles; Matthew Holleran (Marine Corp.); Dominic Clements (All Children's, terminally ill); Mary (friend of Pat's, terminal cancer); Jim Terrasco (neighbor of Fairchild's, stroke); Wilma Green; Debbie Walters (skin cancer); Sandy Anderson (Ron Fairchild's sister); Jack Jenkins (kidney disease, myeloma); Lupercio Green (Molly's brother); John Andrix; Lee Brewer (Don Greer's father-in-law); Henry Hair (uncle of Don Greer); Kennedy Fortnier (Molly's 6 yr. old niece, recovering from liver transplant); Grace Pontone (chemo); Rebecca Creger's family; Tony (Karen Hale's brother-in-law); Don Bailey (Tom's father); C.J. McKinney; Pamela Lowry (Ted's cousin, Parkinson's); Kevin Penick (Paul's brother-in-law); Louis Green (Molly's nephew, cancer); Tom Chaffin (Pat Ledford's brother); Angela Thomas (Lori Williams' cousin, cancer); Alana Williams;

Tim Bulu (Greer's neighbor); Cody Gano; Kenny Headley (Kadie's nephew); Edna (Janie Owen's sister); Julie Wilson (Kadie's friend, on chemo); Caroline Gallagher (2 yr-old with leukemia); Charlie Surprenant (Donna-Marie's brother); Gus Stranch (7 yr. old – cancer)

## Announcements

**January 20<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 a.m.** - Ladies Bible class & breakfast

**Pantry item:** Canned green beans and peas

**Cleaning the building:** Molly, Pat & Beverly

**New address:** Ginger Elliott, 5963 81<sup>st</sup> Ave N, Pinellas Park, FL 33781 (727) 592-4972

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*Start the new year by spending time each day committing the Word of God to heart. Keep working on being a centurion of scripture by setting a goal to memorize 100 verses.*

## Memory Verses for This Week:

***Ephesians 4:1-3 KJV*** - 1 I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, 2 With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; 3 Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

## Roadblocks To Our Prayers

Consider these passages: *And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them. And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and*

*immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed. (Acts 16:25-26) Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit. (James 5:17-18) Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. (Philippians 4:6)*

Indeed, these illustrate the great power of prayer, yet relatively few seem to experience that power. We have been invited to pray (Matt. 7:7). Why then do so few experience the true power that is available to them in going to God in prayer. The answer, in part, lies in the roadblocks that can hinder a Christian's prayers. They hinder their prayers being heard and being answered.

### **Roadblock #1: Marital Problems**

*Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered. (1 Peter 3:7)*

Marital problems dampen one's enthusiasm for prayer and discourage God's answering our prayers. Christians need to follow God's instruction regarding marriage and most marital problems will be cured. *Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband. (Ephesians 5:33)*

### **Roadblock #2: Lack of Faith**

*If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. A double minded man is unstable in all his*

*ways. (James 1:5-8)*

We need to believe not only in God but also believe that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him diligently (Heb. 11:6). Admittedly, sometimes we do not know what is best for us in every area and circumstance of our lives, however, we must believe that God knows and that He will do what is best. Paul thought it best that his "thorn in the flesh" be removed. God, however, knew what was best for him and the "thorn" remained. *And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. (2 Corinthians 12:7-9)*

### **Roadblock #3: Selfishness**

*Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts. (James 4:3)*

Often people look at God as a benevolent grandfather that is always reaching into his pocket to dole out spare change to his grandchildren. Like grandfathers often do, God overlooks our selfishness and childishness and just delights Himself in doling out blessings according to our every whim and fancy. Of course this is nothing but a fiction and is not based upon what we know of God from the Scriptures. Our desire should be for God's rule and reign in our life. Our prayers should reflect this in saying with Jesus "...not as I will, but as Thou wilt." (Matt 26:39).

Let us see to it that we lay hold of the great power in prayer and that nothing hinders our prayers through marital disunity, selfishness or a lack of faith.

*...Paul*