

The Riverchase Family

Volume XXXVIVI

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No. 32

Focus

It's almost here! Are you counting down the days? Are you ready for some football?

My Packers have their first pre-season game Thursday night. Auburn and Alabama kick off their season on Saturday, September 5. The players are already working hard in practice to get ready. They have been working hard all off season.

Don't you hope the players on your team are focused? Don't you hope they maintain their focus all season long? If they lose focus they have no chance for the ultimate goal at the end of the season.

Focus. We get it when it comes to a game. A game that has become far too important to many of us. So important that it has caused us to lose our focus.

Our focus is important to God.

Following the hall of fame chapter of faith, God tells us this.

Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

² fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

³ For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. (Heb. 12:1-3 NAU)

Eyes fixed on Jesus, the focus God demands.

-Dewayne

Upcoming Events:

Adventure Club /Pre-Teen

- **Tell a Tale Banquet:** Saturday, August 22, at 6:00 p.m.
- **Sign up Sundays for Fall Calendar:** August 23 and 30.

Teen

- **Teen Supper:** September 2
- **R.U.S.H. @ Freed Hardeman University;** September 18-20; cost: \$45

College

- **Devo in the Family Life Center:** Tuesday, August 11, 6:30 p.m.

Goodbye Sam

WOW! As soon as it started, it is now over. The summer has come and gone in a flash. It has been a tremendously successful and fruitful summer. Thanks to all of you for making this summer great for our children.

This is also the week that we say goodbye to our intern, Sam Boshell. Sam has been a huge part of why our summer has been so awesome. Sam and I talked before the summer began, and I told him that second year interns get treated different. I told him to expect a ton more responsibility and more decision making opportunities. He would have the reins for 11 weeks. Sam took the challenge head on and flourished every day. This time next year Sam will be a graduate of Harding Universtiy with a degree in Children's Ministry. I can't wait to see what great things God has in store for this fine young man. Thank you Sam for using your talents to glorify God through the RCOG Children's Ministry!!

A Note From Sam

I would like to thank Riverchase for the opportunity that you have given me over the past two summers. These have been some of the best and most memorable summers that I have had and I am so thankful for all of the fun times and the relationships that I have made. You have helped prepare me in so many ways for a career in ministry after my final year at school. I appreciate all of you more than you know for all of the encouragement and love shown to me. Thank you!



PRE-TEENS / LIVEWIRES

TELL-A-TALE BANQUET

SATURDAY, AUGUST 22, 6:00 P.M.

Lower Your Shields...David Brown

American Culture pushes the notion to "trust no one" and "everyone has an angle." So often that mindset causes us to be untrusting of people. Science fiction enthusiasts call that "raising your shields."

I found myself doing this very thing on our recent mission trip to Honduras. While I was not being untrusting visiting the orphanage and school, I initially found myself being standoffish during introductions. I don't know if it was a case of being timid in a new environment or trying to determine if the situation was as I had imagined it to be, but regardless of any of those things my attitude swiftly changed to one of pure joy by the unconditional love shown by the children and the house parents. The kids had no idea who I was but they hugged me and wanted me to play chase with them. This reminded me of the verse in **1 John 3:1** that says: **See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God, and so we are...** In His glorious way he reminded me that no matter where I go in the world He has given the gift of love and those who accept it are ALL His children.

Of course my human weaknesses kicked in when we visited the home of a former Honduran school teacher who cares for special-needs children who have been given up by the world and have little hope for life. Before we visited the children, the caretaker, Carlos, was telling us about the children and how he found them. His desire was to show the children God's love. He started to talk about how the Honduran government did not fund his operation, and then it happened...my shields went up. Without much thought the notion of "here it comes, he's about to ask for money" popped into my head. Once again I had let the world's influence place doubt and skepticism into my thoughts; and once again it quickly changed because Carlos' next sentence was not about how he needed money, but rather that he does not worry about money because it always seemed to come when it was needed. He referenced the birds in **Mathew 6:25-26: Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life...Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?** When I heard him say this I looked into his eyes and knew this was truly a man striving for righteousness through Christ; and my shields went down.

My favorite song we sing as God's family is "The Greatest Commands" and the bass part repeats **1 Corinthians 13:7 Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.** Sometimes it takes a good dose of unconditional love to make us (me in this case) realize that we can lower our shields and revel in God's gifts.



Church Wide Ministry Fair

Sunday, August 23, after evening service.

Pizza will be provided.

The church needs you! We need your talents in the church. Make plans to attend and sign up for the ministries close to your heart.

Sympathy

Our sympathy is extended to **Bob & Liz Winter** in the death of **Bob's** niece, Margie Winter.

Ministry Fair

There will be a church wide **Ministry Fair** on Sunday, August 23, after evening service. Pizza will be served. The church needs you! We need your talents in the church. Make plans to attend and sign up for the ministries close to your heart.

Pre-Teen / LiveWires! Tell-A-Tale Banquet

LiveWires! be sure to sign up for the Tell-A-Tale banquet! Sign up sheet is located on the LiveWires! bulletin board in the west wing foyer. The banquet will be Saturday, August 22, at 6:00 p.m.

TOTS

The ladies of TOTS are in need of 100% cotton Christmas material. If you have any questions please contact Helen Haskew.

Socks Needed

Do you have clean socks to wear everyday? The homeless don't. They wear their socks day in and day out! Because of this, they get infections and foot diseases and these can spread. They love new socks more than just about anything! You can help by donating **NEW** socks. A container will be available for these in the West Wing.

Family Time Fellowship

Family Time Groups #2 & #7 will be having a fellowship dinner after evening service on Sunday, August 16, in the Family Life Center. Please bring your favorite finger food to share.

College Students

Many of our young people will be leaving for college in the next week. We pray God's blessings on them as they begin a new chapter in their lives.

We will be happy to email our bulletin to them if you will turn their email address in to the office. You may call the office, write it on your attendance card or email it to rcocoffice@bellsouth.net.

Por Los Ninos Coin Banks

The Por Los Ninos Coin Banks are due back the end of August. You may leave them on the shelf by the gift room.



For the Record

Sunday, August 9, 2015

Bible Study	479
Early Worship	241
Late Worship	475
Total Sunday Morning	716
Sunday Night	402
Contribution	\$34,680.36
YTD Average	\$33,257.88
Budget	\$32,500.00

Adventure Club, Pre-Teen and Teen Sign up Sunday

Sign up for Fall Calendar
Sunday, August 23 & 30



We rejoice with **Gabriel Yaeger**, who was baptized last week. Gabriel, a fourth grader, is the son of Tim & Katie Yaeger.

Upcoming Events

- **FTG #2 & #7 Fellowship:** Sunday, August 16, 7:00 p.m. in the Family Life Center.
- **LiveWires! Tell a Tale Banquet:** Saturday, August 22, at 6:00 p.m. in the reception room.
- **Ministry Fair:** Sunday, August 23, 7:00 p.m. in the Family Life Center.
- **Bridal Tea for Katie Morris**, bride-elect of Dustin Pate, August 30, 1:30-3:00 pm in the reception room. They are registered at Bed, Bath & Beyond, and Pottery Barn.
- **Teen Supper:** Wednesday, September 2, 6:00 p.m. in the Family Life Center.
- **Men's Prayer Breakfast:** Saturday, September 5, 8:00 a.m. in the Family Life Center.

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This week at Riverchase:

Sunday, August 16

- FTG # 2 & #7 Fellowship in Family Life Center

Friday, August 21

- Volleyball in Family Life Center 5:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Saturday, August 22

- *LiveWires!* Tell a Tale Banquet 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, August 23

- Ministry Fair in the Family Life Center

Please continue to remember in prayer:

Patricia Anderson (former member), **Sherry Cardwell** (Lynda Cardwell's mother), **Tommie Cleghorn** (Jay's mother), **Bonnie Daniels** (Turner's friend), **L.D. & Mini S. Davis** (D. Bronte's parents), **Celia Dorantes** (David's mom) **Pat Driskell** (David's mother), **Ruth Hare** (David Hare's mother), **Joan Harris** (Betz's friend), **Jennifer Henderson** (friend of Masoner's) **Richard Howe** (Steve's dad), **Butch Johnson** (Dana Jones' brother), **Sharon Lawley** (Brandy Tuech's mother-in-law), **Kate Kirk** (Greg Coker's cousin), **Dot Mandle** (Kelley's friend), **Nancy Marlo** (Tami Picantine's sister), **Ralph Martin** (Kristi Sibert's dad), **Charles Mills** (Robert and Michelle's father). **Dell Moody** (Jane Windam's cousin), **Thelma Moon** (Diana Barnes' mother), **Barbara Stetler** (Sandy Sims and Lydia Howe's mother), **Maxine Mount** (Darrell's mother), **Julie Peltier** (Lillies' friend), **Kristy Tatum** (Rardin's neighbor).

Please continue to remember our military in prayer :

Thomas Balentine (Rejetta Balentine son)
Michael Epperson (Kevin and Amber Henderson's brother-in-law)
Jim Hendley (Jim and Peggy's son)
Dewayne Hester (Bill and Jan's son)
Alan Smith (Bates' grandson)
Brad Walker (Tommy's son)
Kirk Walker (Tommy's son)

Riverchase Family:

Becky Carter (#3) in Aspire room 113.

Susan Rose (#6) surgery on her toe, Thursday, August 13, at St. Vincent's.

Rodney Morris (#7) heart procedure, Thursday, August 13, at UAB.

Weston Howe (#4) surgery on his knee, Tuesday, August 18, at Shelby Baptist.

Continue to remember these members:

Shirley Bailey (#3), **John Bearden (#2)**, **Lynda Cardwell (#1)**, **Jake Cole (#5)**, **Henry & Vonda Cook (#2)**, **Michelle Diciara (#6)**, **David Driskell Jr. (#3)**, **Elaine Evans (#4)**, **John Gibson (#6)**, **Don & Jan Haefner (#7)**, **Charles Harris (#5)**, **Alan Jackson (#4)**, **Grover Jackson (#6)**, **Bill Johnson (#5)**, **Ray Johnston (#3)** **Debra Jones (#2)**, **Bill Lovell (#1)**, **Steward Masoner (#4)**, **Rodney Morris (#7)**, **Norma Nabors (#5)**, **Norma Thomas (#4)**, **Ed & Nina Pitchford (#2)**, **Peggy Rogers (#4)**, **Ollie Scott (#6)**, **Matt Snow (#4)**, **Jo Wamack (#2)**, **Michelle Whitaker (#1)**, **Shirley Wilson (#5)**, **Linda Yerby (#4)**.

Add to your prayer list our friends and relatives:

Noreen Anderson (Jina O'Clair's mother) health issues.

Bernard Bradford (Diane Snow's father) under hospice care.

Jessica Brown (Glenda's daughter in law) breast cancer.

Gloria Campbell (The Campbell's sister in law) cancer has returned will start chemo treatment.

Dottie Carpenter (Jan Snider's sister in law) has cellulitis.

Becky Carr (friend of Hill's) liver cirrhosis, transplant needed.

Hubert Conner (Ellen Davis' father) bladder cancer.

Camden Creamer (Terry Pruitt's great nephew) rare blood condition.

Jim Dillinger (Jana's dad) cancer has returned.

Lee Dawkins (Jane Snider's cousin) cancer has returned.

Mary Dubose (Kelly Watts' mother) Parkinson's.

Marie Echols (Judy Ingram's sister) heart problems.

Walburga Giguere (Karen Owen's mother) health problems.

Stephanie Hodge (David & Donna Jones' daughter) health problems.

Kim Horne (Kim Ledingham's coworker) lung cancer.

Robert Howe (Carol Ingram's father) chemo and radiation.

Kent Ingram (Anthony Dotson's uncle) colon cancer.

Jan Johnson (daughter-in-law of Bill and Wanda) chemo .

Vivian Ledingham (mother of P Ledingham) poor pulse in legs.

Lindsey Long (Jacob Long's sister in law) pregnancy induced heart problems.

Whit McMath (friend of Rardin's) complications from brain tumor.

Wayne Miller (Snow's friend) cancer.

Jay Odom (Kevin Arvin's brother-in-law) recovering from a stroke.

Cecil Parker (Rhonda Ball's grandfather) in the rehab facility.

John Pierce (Rebecca Hill's father) heart problems.

Teresa Ragland (Becky Steen's sister) cancer treatments.

Teresa Richards (friend of the Hills) breast cancer.

Eric Ritchie (Pitchford's friend) chemo.

Amy Roebuck (Lindsay Handley's cousin) cancer, 682 Shirey Rd, Henagar, AL 35978.

Marie Seals (friend of the Snow's) thyroid cancer.

John Sehon (Helen Haskew's uncle) improving.

Billy Shikle (Helen Haskew's brother in law) chemo.

Pam Snider (Bob & Jane Snider 's niece) under hospice care.

Donna Somerville (friend of the Ball's) acute leukemia.

Roger Thomas (uncle to Fabray Turner) chemo & radiation.

Havanna Tyree (family member of Diana Kelley) 8 year old recovering from surgery.

Cindy Van Beck (friend of Posey's) cancer.

Olen Vickery (Kim Ledingham's brother in law) memory impairments.

Linda Vines (Brenda Griffith's sister) lung problems.

Darryl Waid (friend of Handleys) health issues. 2524 Comache Drive, Birmingham, Al 35244.

Cambrie Walker (friend of Rardin's) cancer.

Carol Watson (Fred Langdon's sister) lymphoma.

Don Watson (Fred Langdon's brother in law) dementia.

Burt Wheeler (Debra Jones' father) possible Alzheimer's.