

**From the Preacher's Pen...** Are you thankful? Do have blessings? Are you a blessing? The first two questions seem perfectly normal to all of us. But that last question about *being* a blessing is both a bit more challenging and a bit more important. Let's do a bit more study as we...

## Bless the Lord

The dictionary says that the word *bless* primarily means a religious term to confer (give to someone else) or invoke (request from someone else) the favor of God. We pretty well understand that we can ask God's blessing on ourselves, or we can ask God to bless someone else. God, after all, IS God and His blessing really means something.

The power of God's people when faithfully doing His will is nothing short of amazing! Jesus taught us that as we go out to share the Gospel that we are to give our blessing of peace to others. It's not really our power, our gift to give because we are human, but rather the power and authority of God's commissioned "light of the world" that can extend God's own peace as a blessing to this world.

Likewise, James (James 5:15) reminds us of the awesome power of prayer possessed by the faithful. The prayers of God's people have the power to bring God's healing to the sick and forgive sins! Certainly in all these ways we ARE a powerful blessing to this world.

But let's go back to the dictionary and look a bit further down at a third (in my dictionary, at least) and therefore somewhat lesser meaning. There it says that bless also can mean to express or feel gratitude to, to thank.

It may well come as a bit of a surprise to us to realize that we can actually bless God! Yes, when we actually DO God's will and live as His faithful children on this earth we have great blessings to give to this world. And yes, we can also by that righteous living cause others to turn to God and thus we are a blessing to Him.

But we also have the ability, the power, the right, the honor to extend to God our own blessing as thanksgiving. In so doing we bless the Lord both by living as His faithful family members here on earth and by being appreciative of the great honor and power He has given to us.

The Bible uses the specific words "bless the Lord" or refers to blessing God more than two dozen times. Consider just a few of those:

Moses, in some of his final words, reminded God's people that as they entered and lived in the Land that God had promised them to eat and be filled and then to bless the Lord their God (Deuteronomy 8:10).

Deborah, the Judge, and her general, Barak, sang of God's deliverance and that the people blessed the Lord as Godly leadership served God (Judges 5:2). [Note that the NKJV and others correct the KJV's erroneous translation of "praise the Lord" to "bless the Lord" since the Hebrew is not *hālal* but *bārak*, not praise God but bless God.]

As David crowned Solomon as king to succeed him, he directed the nation to "bless the Lord" (1 Chronicles 29:20). In the Psalms, David and the other writers frequently reminded themselves and all the faithful to bless the Lord (Psalm 16:7; 26:12; 34:1; 103:1; 104:1; 115:18; et.al.).

The concept of blessing the Lord is also seen in Jewish prayers. The blessing for bread is: *Blessed are You, Lord our God, King of the Universe, Who brings forth bread from the earth.* Various foods have similar blessings including this one: *Blessed are You, Lord our God, King of the Universe, Who creates the fruit of the vine.* There's even a generic blessing for all other foods: *Blessed are You, Lord our God, King of the Universe, by Whose word all things came to be.*

What we really need to see, appreciate and imitate is the lesson that God's people have a responsibility to bless God. In the things we say and do in this world, in the way we deal with our fellow saints, in the way we are faithful, in the way that we respect and appreciate our God we must always BE a blessing.

— Lester P. Bagley

### Opportunities to worship, study & serve:

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY ..... 10 AM

WORSHIP ..... 11 AM

EVENING WORSHIP ..... 6 PM

WEDNESDAY ..... 7 PM

THURSDAY LADIES' BIBLE CLASS ..... 10 AM

Congregational Potluck 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday  
each month after morning worship  
(except June, July & August)

**Welcome to all!**  
**We are glad you are here!**

**Enter to Worship...**  
**Leave to Serve**



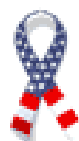
**Welcome to our visitors today!** We hope & pray you'll be blessed by your time with us & will join us again soon!

**Our Prayer List:** Keep the following in prayer this week as you "pray without ceasing" (1 Thess. 5:17): Nora McNeil, Matthew Odom, Heather Ries, Hunter Shirley, Rene Turner, Ruth West, Everett Martin, Anna Mae Hardin, the Najera family, Bill Hall, Reta Wallace, Jim Holder, Kristi Martin, Wally Myers, Cindy Turpin, Millie Cunningham and...

**Our Missionaries:** Jack Farber and Aaron Knotts and families; Cesario Espinosa, Jr. (Philippines).

**Previously Announced Family & Friends:** Robin & Marc Estabrook (Julie Evan's sister & nephew), David Reffner (Flora Doster's grandson with MS), Art Stoneking & wife (friends of Carl Catozzi, cancer), Jeremiah Haller (Flora Doster's grandson), Annette (Cindy Turpin's sister), Cole Myers (grandson of friend of Myers), Sheila Simpson, Lillian Wilhite & Mirlene Smith (relatives of Lynn Shirley), Teresa Acosta, Rosemary Glasier (Crystal Mora-Landroth's mother), John Hoover's relatives with personal difficulties, Shelly Cooper (friend of Carl Catozzi), Lucas Espinoza (Brian Campbell's friend), Kaesha Raffterfer (Gene Pinkston's cousin, cancer), Chuck Keels (friend of Grubbs with cancer), Terri Fillipski (cancer, Julie Evans' cousin).

**Special Requests:** WBS & WEI Bible study students; Kevin & Nancy Chambers & World Christian Broadcasting; Judy Hagner, son Preston, daughter Angela & son James. Brandi Schroeder (Flora Doster's granddaughter with MS); Dallas Purcella's mother; Paulina's father (Arnold); Julie's father; Laurel's father.



**OUR MILITARY PERSONNEL:** Nate Panka (Cleo Wise's grandson); Javier Najera; Fernando Najera, Frank Torres (Javier's brother & cousin); Eric Shirley; Trevor Farrow (Allen's son); Scott Hoover (John's son); Ariel Gomez; Paul Sipes & April Belovedstone (Sue Wolfe's son & daughter); Ismael Lopez; Robinson Goldman (Cindy Turpin's son-in-law); Nathan Bagley.

**New:** Jason: son of Carl Catozzi in need of prayers; Michael Lighthouse: son-in-law of Flora Doster, health problems; Jimmy Handtegen: friend of David Davis following a stroke; Derwin Jackson & family: with his job; Sean & Vickie: Carl Catozzi's friends with struggles in their lives; Terri Hoover: John's daughter-in-law with serious health issues; Monica Lopez: George Mora's aunt with breast cancer; Jacob Shirley: struggles; Ray Stephenson family: youngest son's cancer has spread; John Mark: in Afghanistan in danger for his faith; Jimmy Davis: friend of Mike Evans with melanoma; Adele Fink: recovering from colon cancer; George Ponter: Brian Campbell's cousin with multiple struggles; Amy Vestal: lupus and intestinal problems; Anna Price: via Kimberlee Myers; Chuck Hedrick family: with multiple health problems; Kathy Gonzalez: grandmother of Heavyn & Tatum with cancer; LaVerne Jackson's mother; Sandra Watson, Sue Shepperd & Elzie Shirley: Lynn's family with illnesses; Ray Stephenson;

Delbert White's Granddaughter Jessica; Tom Hoover: (John's brother); Jerry Odom; Barbara Harrison.

Steve McDonald: Jean Grubbs granddaughter's husband, tests.

Donald Helton: on dialysis until he has a kidney transplant.

Kirrin Kerby: (Jean Grubbs grandson).

Bob Harrod: with cancer

Carolyn Fisher: multiple health issues (via Cleo Wise).

Dena Lara: Myers' niece with complications of Valley Fever.

Larry West: is home.

Owen Doster: home and recovering from heart surgery.

Ken Price: friend of the Halls with kidney disease.

Cheryl Mince: knee replacement surgery July 9.

Jeanne Martin family: Jeanne's 8-year-old grandniece diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes.

Everett Martin: surgery Tuesday to replace his pacemaker battery.

**Also Our New Christians, those travelling and especially those with spiritual struggles.**

## 2018 Directory Update

Be sure to pick up your updates on the table in the foyer!

There is an updated sheet with a new address for Albert Bailey.

If you need a complete directory with or without a binder, please see Lester.

## Upcoming Events...

Men's Business Meeting: July 8 after evening worship.

Monthly Singing: July 29 at 2:30 in Coolidge.

5th Wednesday Prayer & Song Meeting: August 29.

Potluck: October 21 — Group #2 [Toni Pierce's group] set-up, serve & clean-up

## Monday with the Master

Ages 10 through college meet tomorrow at 6 pm for dinner & Bible study in the Fellowship Hall.

**See Lou Bagley THIS MORNING if you don't already know what to bring!**

Remember to be QUIET  
for our Pew Packers between  
Bible Study & Worship!

## Church TV Program Reminder

### In Search of the Lord's Way

Cox Cable channel 13 @ 7:30 am

Dish channel 239 @ 4 am

DirecTV channel 307 @ 4 am

[www.searchtv.org](http://www.searchtv.org)

### Getting to Know Your Bible

DirecTV channel 377 weeknights @ 7:30 pm

*Be  
Thankful*

## Last Week: 5+ Pew-Packers



**Be "in the picture" every week!**

✓ *Checkup* ✓  
*How are we doing?*

*Attendance Last Week:*

*Sunday Morning Bible Class = 65*

*Sunday Morning Worship = 111*

*Sunday Evening Worship = 63*

*Wednesday Evening = 54*

*Giving*

*2018 Weekly Budget = \$3,015.00*

*Contribution Last Week = \$3,426.77*

Church of Christ  
805 East Racine Place  
Casa Grande, AZ 85122

Postage

**TO:**

## Privileged to Serve

### Sunday Morning July 1

Adult Bible Class: • *Acts of the Apostles* ..... Lester Bagley  
Announcements: ..... Lester Bagley  
Song Leader:.....Allen Farrow  
Prayer:.....Derwin Jackson  
Serve Communion:....Brian Campbell, John Hoover, Curt Odom, Mike Evans, Max Compton  
Sermon: • *Mark 7* ..... Lester Bagley  
Closing Prayer: .....Frank Campbell

*Count Contribution: Tom Haney & John Hoover*

### Sunday Evening July 1

Song Leader:.....Allen Farrow  
Prayer:.....Chuck Hedrick  
Sermon: • *Parables of Jesus - 6* ..... Lester Bagley  
Serve Communion:..... Curt Odom  
Closing Prayer: .....Bill Hall

### Wednesday Evening July 4

Song Leader:..... George Mora  
Prayer:..... Jim Holder  
Devo:.....Jerry Odom  
Closing Prayer: .....John Hoover

## Anniversaries



July 3: *Michael & Clara Hill*  
July 4: *John & Ricki Hill*  
July 6: *Greg & Laurel Huffman*  
July 12: *Charlie & Shirley Stephenson*  
July 28: *Kim & Mary Ann Myers*  
July 30: *Tommy & Pat Cates*  
July 30: *Dennis & Cheryl Mince*

## Birthdays



July 3: *KC Deaton-Ochoa - Brett Myers*  
July 4: *Jessica Myers*  
July 5: *Trevor Didelotte - Rose Lee Wonsor*  
July 6: *Jazzmin Wilkerson*  
July 8: *Alexis Chavez - Isiah Chavez*  
July 10: *Derwin Jackson - Michael Roberts*  
July 12: *Beverly Hedrick*  
July 14: *L.Z. Shirley*