

**Building Better Relationships:
Two Ways to Get Things Right**

- I. Do the right thing whether anyone else does it or not. Do it first without waiting for anyone else to do it. Do it even if it is not fair.
 - A. We tend to do the opposite, and that is what makes us unsuccessful in our lives and relationships.
 - B. We need to learn **proactive** living. John 13:1ff
- II. Act better than we feel.

Actions

CHANGING LIVES

Feelings

Thoughts

- A. "It is easier to act yourself into a better way of feeling than to feel yourself into a better way of acting." O H Mowrer
- B. "Anyone, then who knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, commits sin." James 4:17
- C. "Fake it until you make it." AA
- D. "We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit." Aristotle
- E. "Love your enemies and pray for them...." Jesus (Matt. 5:43ff)



Messenger

Welcome! We are glad you chose to worship with us.

Spiritual Gardening

One of the things that I love to do is garden vegetables. Over the years that I have been gardening, I have made just about every mistake you could imagine. I could write a book of what NOT to do. Have I planted without any kind of fertilizer? Yes. Planted a sun loving plant in the shade? Yep. Planted onions in hard clay? Shaking my head, yes. Planted perennial herbs right in the middle of an annual bed? Check. Planted vegetables too close to a tree? Uh huh. Planted during the wrong growing season? Looking down and nodding. And the list goes on. As you can see, I have had my fair share of gardening misfortunes. Thankfully, I have at least learned that if I want to take a plant and get what I want from it, then I better consider the needs of the plant. The plant is not going to succeed and produce quality fruits or vegetables, if I do not provide it with what it needs. There is a spiritual application to make here. We are compared to a plant and instructed to bear good fruits.

Romans 7:4

"Likewise, my brothers, you also have died to the law through the body of Christ, so that you may belong to another, to him who has been raised from the dead, in order that we may bear fruit for God."

John 15:7-8

"If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples."

Just like a plant has certain needs that must be met to provide fruit, we also have needs that must be met, if we are to show "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control" (Galatians 5:22- 23).

- We need light. John 8:12 "Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."
- We need water. John 3:5, "Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God."
- We need nutrients. 1 Peter 2:2 "Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation." 2 Timothy 3:16-17 "All scripture is breathed out by God, and is profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."

Wednesday Evening Services

With COVID cases rapidly dropping in our county, in-person services will begin again on Wednesday evenings at the church building on March 3. There will be no Zoom class on Wednesday, February 24. Some kind of online broadcasting will be in place for the Wednesday evening services.

While COVID is on the decline in our county, the disease has not been conquered or even brought under control yet. Masking and social distancing (no matter how little we like it!) will still be the rule in the auditorium.

Gordon Gower, for the elders

Things to Know

REJOICE

Tuesday February 16 the Hurrell family: Kevin, Sarah, Jaida & Jace were all baptized and added to the Kingdom. Please take a moment to welcome them!

FISHERS OF MEN

DEVOTIONAL AND RECREATION

Sat Feb. 27th Noon at Mountain Valley Park. Bring prepared finger-foods and your favorite side dish. There will be fun activities.

To our beloved Prescott church family

Sadly, life has thrown us another curve ball. We helped our son here in CA financially to move back into his home resulting in our being unable to return to Prescott. Roger's 95 1/2-year-old mom, Anna, is deteriorating mentally but staying physically strong. This has created more challenges for us than what we had expected. It is with heavy hearts that we say goodbye to a church family we love and care about deeply.

Love In Christ,
Roger and Denise Derda

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Before a plant gets to maturity, it must survive windy days, cold snaps, pounding rain, and times of drought and heat. For us, we will face times of discouragement, sin, disease, loss, and persecution. But God promises to be with us and help us grow stronger during these times.

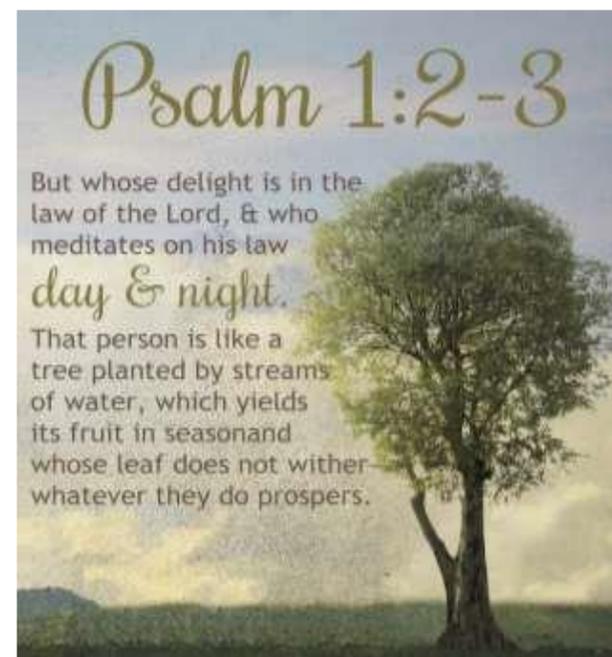
James 1:2-4 "Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds. For you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing."

During the growth process, there are a lot of important lessons for us to learn. We learn to value the importance of tending to our garden, so the cares and weeds of this world do not take over. We humbly rely on God and his care and provision to protect us from the elements of life. We learn patience, as growth is often a slow process and does not happen as quickly as we would like. We learn trust as we look to God to establish us and to use us for His purpose. We learn to experience setbacks, but we know that we are not defined by them. We learn to give God the glory, because positive change is never the result of our efforts alone. We learn how sweet it is to bear the fruits of the spirit! May each of us be encouraged to seek growth that comes from the Lord so we may bear much fruit!

Lettuce do good, squash the bad, and turnip to where we need to be.

Psalm 1:1-3 "Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers."

By Derek Anderson --- Cedar Park church of Christ



PRAYER REQUESTS

Eddie & Judy Redman as they care for Eddie's sister Bev.

Suzanne Lacey (friend of Gowers) has brain cancer, doctors think they removed all of the cancer, but she will be having radiation and chemo in the near future.

Benny Barber (Nina Wester's brother) passed away on Feb 18th after a long and difficult battle with multiple health problems.

Syble Mann recovering from COVID. *Thank you to everyone for your prayers. We are blessed to have our family here at Mt Vernon.*

Brandy Aquafedda (Denise Miller's niece) had her surgery on Feb 17th.

Continual Prayers Health Reasons/Treatment

~ **Jane Gifford** healing from concussion.

~ **Michael Gregory** treatment for cancer.

~ **Avery Adkins (Betty Hanna's great-granddaughter)** cancer treatment.

~ **Ruthie Jarrett (Marcia Serrano's cousin)** cancer

~ **Hallie Adams (Maxine Dillahunty's sister)** terminal condition.

~ **Carolyn Fields (friend of Larry Miller)** has terminal cancer.

~ **Marilyn Lara (Marcia Serrano's friend)** stage 4 breast cancer. Will have double mastectomy on March 15th.

~ **Daniel Tillman** brain tumor

~ **Allen Till (Dolores Buehler's son-in-law)** cancer has spread

~ **Rita Bowden (friend of Sally Guest)** stage 4 cancer.

Our Shut-ins

Marjorie Trammell Ravenell Young

Betty McInnes (Syble Mann's mother)

Schedule of Services

Bible Class	9:30 am
Morning Worship	10:30 am
Evening Worship	6:00 pm
Wed. Ladies Class	11:00 am
(via Zoom)	
Wed. Evening Study	7:00 pm

Minister Dennis Baker

Shepherds

Gordon Gower Morris Guest
Larry Miller

Deacons

Don Dillahunty Rick Pinney
Spencer Guest Troy Trammell

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OFFICE HOURS: M-Th 8am to noon

ATTENDANCE

Bible Class	50
AM Worship	69
PM Worship	20

FINANCES

Weekly Budget	\$3995
Weekly Contribution	\$4687