From the Preacher's Desk....

Again, we find ourselves reminded of the uncertainty of life and fragile nature of our existence in this fallen world. David Gordon Blankenship passed from this life last Sunday, February 26. He was 59 years of age. He and his family had been a part of the Jackson Park family for many years. His father, Paul Gordon Blankenship was the original President of the Board of the Jackson Park Christian Home. He was an attorney and was a member of the original Metropolitan City Council in Nashville, Tennessee. He served from the time of the merger of the old city of Nashville and Davidson County governments until his death in 1990.

David was a graduate of the Isaac Litton High School in 1970. He had been a part of the famous Marching 100+ Band of Litton. He played first chair trumpet and was offered a scholarship to one of our state universities. He worked as an ambulance attendant for Phillips-Robinson and later went to work as an EMT for Metro Nashville in 1975. He advanced his career by studying and achieving paramedic certification and was eventually promoted to EMS District Chief for the Metro Fire Department where he served until his death. David was a loyal and good friend to many people as was evidenced by the large attendance at his funeral at Jackson Park last Wednesday. David was a beautiful singer who could harmonize with almost anyone and make a performance come out better. He often sang for youth groups at Jackson Park when he was working as a paramedic and would spend his free time with his church family.

His Celebration of Life service was planned under the leadership of his brother, John Blankenship of Murfreesboro. His children, Dustin Paul and Jessica Lynn were very important in his life and they consulted with John on the service. Two of his friends from throughout his life led very beautiful prayers at the service and one of his fellow EMS District Chiefs spoke with remembrances of his years with the Metropolitan Nashville Fire Department. A number of people who were in attendance commented that it was one of the most moving Celebration of Life services that they had ever attended.

One of the reasons that the service was so meaningful is because there was a great deal of music connected with the service because it was such a part of his life. There were three videos that were used in the service that were of David singing and playing or David and Johnny singing together.

It is always good to reflect upon people who began their lives as part of the Jackson Park congregation and went on to accomplish great things in their lives and serve their communities. David had lived in Smyrna for a number of years and was continuing to work in Metro with the Fire Department. One of the things that we are reminded of is the importance of remembering how fragile life is. David only had a couple of weeks to know that he had cancer and that there was nothing that could be done. The doctors and staff at Baptist Hospital and at Alive Hospice were very kind and caring toward the Blankenship family and toward David. May all of us be encouraged to tell our family members every day that we love them and show them our love and concern. We never know when we will have said our last good byes.

We extend our sympathy to his family and especially to Mary Ann Nicholson and her family and to Paula Lay and John Blankenship. May God Bless you all.
Encourage One Another

Bob & Mildred Kuchta,
868-0655,
708 Allen Pass,
Madison, TN 37115

Mary & Shirley Wooden,
262-9921,
1423 Norvell Avenue,
Nashville, TN 37216

We extend our sympathy to...
Mary Ann Nicholson and her family at the death of her brother,
David Blankenship.

Thank You Notes Received

Hope & Allan Welch Family

Remember in Prayer…

Nancy Rosso, Alene McClure, Robbie Deacon, Willie & Judy Jones, Martha Kinkade, Randy, Patty & Katie Freytag, Roy & Ellen Frizzell, Bruce & Janet Orndorff, Carryington & Tanner Seay, Joe Matty, Micki Bess, May Derryberry, Estella Dowell, Alendra Rodriguez (City of Children), Frances Gwinn, Jere Taylor, Sharon Gilliam, Mary Hall, Loni Johnson

Jim Rollins (brother of Baxter Rollins), Susan Keller (Friend of Rick Grimes), Gayle Clark (Sister of Mary Garrett), Ryan Williams (Son of Danny and Kay Williams), Gale Woods (Father of Cindy Thurman), Wanda Branch (friend of Debbie Jackson), Mary Robinson Dent (Friend of Minerva Arnold), James Bridgegan (Uncle of Tom Herrod), Blake Rader (Parents, Michael & Connie Rader members at Lebanon Rd.), Helen & Donnie Burgess (Cousin of Ronnie Burton), Mark Brooks (son of Evelyn Beech), Frances Brown (mother of Sherry Daniels), Claude Christian (Step-father of Ron Queen), Mary Lou Hornbuckle (Aunt of Ron Queen), Charles Miles (friend of Cody Bradley), Kari Boone, Joe Garnett, Alexa Holt (Submitted by Beth Jones), Lisa Conquest (Granddaughter of Ruth Duke), Joan Temple (Mother of Kevin Temple), Jenny Hilt (Submitted by Darla Douglas), Kristi McIntyre (Daughter of Gayle Hymer), Tony Folden (Nephew in law of Evelyn Beech), Billie Brady (mother of Sally Yegi), Barbara Hartley (Sister-in-law of Lisa Wilson), Bill Jeons (Son-in-law of Mary Watson), Anna Audas (Friend of Ronnie Douglas), John Youngar (Submitted by Budford Putman), Marie Craft (Daughter of Nellie Kimber), Gary Burton (Son of Ronnie Burton), Cindy Lenon (Friend of Emily Lawrence), Billie Kay Atwood (Friend of Cody Bradley), Sandy Fretter (sister of Judy King), Naomi Hicks (Friend of Lee Jones), Ruth Meador, Bobby Lee, Vernon & Lynne McRillie (Parents of Linda Bumpus), Peggy Thomas (Friend of Sharon & Sylvia Bradley), Betty Sclame, Alfred Williams (Cousin of Cody Bradley), Brendan March (Friend of Nancy Rosso and Susan Polk), Justine Duke (Sister of Mary Grissom), Pat Warren (Aunt of Robin King), Don Hawkins (Uncle of Chuck Hawkins)

Wednesday Morning Ladies’ Class

Since class was cancelled last week due to the Blankenship funeral, we will have the same assignment this week: Read (and write!) James 4:1-12, and come ready to discuss how the world can get in the way of our ability to submit to God. We meet at 9:30 in Classroom #3.

Bridal Tea

The ladies of the congregation are invited to a Bridal Tea in honor of Laura Robinson, daughter of Gale and Nancy Robinson, Sunday, March 11, from 1-3 in the JP Reception Room. Laura and her fiancé, Brian Murphy, are registered at Macy’s and Bed, Bath, and Beyond.

Baptism: Robbie Deacon, 5625 CCU

Centennial: Jim Rollins, brother of Baxter Rollins

Skyline: Frances Gwinn, 419
From Heath’s Hand...

Sometimes the world of preaching is rather a befuddling thing. As I was taught from a mentor a while back, a preacher usually speaks 3 different sermons every time he speaks. There’s the sermon that is spoken, the sermon that could have been spoken, and the sermon that the congregation chooses to hear. That’s just the way it is. I know there have been times when I think I’ve been right on the money with the text and application only to learn that many people were utterly confused or disinterested. Other times, I believe that I sound like an old radio out of tune, completely rackety and unpleasant to the listeners only to find out that it’s ‘a watershed moment’ in terms of my preaching career. I’ll spare those of you who couldn’t stand the belief, but I’ve often solved such discrepancy by accepting how the Spirit works in our midst when the Word of God is spoken.

I said all of that to say that I don’t know what you heard last Sunday, but I want to make very clear at least one thing I think I said: As God’s people, we have to do a better job of abiding in the truth of Jesus Christ. Charles Spurgeon once said, “A sacred regard to the authority of God ought to lead us to reject an error, however old, sanctioned by whatever authority, or however generally practiced.” That means that no truth altering tradition, no self-induced notion of truth is suitable for the people of God. There is no telling how many churches ultimately fail because the churchgoers therein become far too entrenched with what they (over time mind you) choose to accept as truth. The truth of it is (did you like that?) that many churchgoers probably rarely ever dig deep enough into what they ‘by default’ believe. Only a strong desire to know the truth that Jesus referenced in John 8 & 18 will put you on the right path toward being set free.

Today, Jim and I will together discuss the contrast between merely professing to know the truth and authenticating the truth by our lives that closely resemble Jesus. I pray that God will give each of us a refreshed desire to know exactly who He’s called each of us to be.

**COMING UP…**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Youth Devo @ the Welch’s</td>
<td>March 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Double Nickel Dinner</td>
<td>March 24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring Retreat</td>
<td>April 13, 14, 15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Happy Anniversary**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Names</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>S/6</td>
<td>Buford &amp; Peggy Putman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S/11</td>
<td>Billy &amp; Lisa Wilson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ronnie &amp; Sandra Francis</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Happy Birthday**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Names</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>S/8</td>
<td>Danny Ray Martin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S/10</td>
<td>Emma Shoaf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S/11</td>
<td>Robert Long</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S/16</td>
<td>Frances Hayes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Families of Faith Spring Retreat**

“Together We Are One.”

April 13th - 15th @ Short Mt.

Sign-up today in the FLC hallway.

**Pantry Needs**

luncheon meat, jelly, spaghetti
pancake mix & syrup
Pray for Those Serving in Our Military...

Brian Acuff  
Anthony Centonze (Nephew of Lisa Wilson)
Chad L. Cunningham (Son of Ron Fitzgerald)
William Frazier (Nephew of June Grimes)
Garrett Hinnors
Brandon Mantor, (Grandson-in-law of Leland & Janice Glasscock)
Jeffrey Mitchell (Friend of Bonnie Douglas)
John Moralee (Friend of Welch Family)
Kerry Nicholson (Son of Mary Ann Nicholson)
Ben Pommer (Friend of del Mazo Family)
Chase Wells (Friends of Hinnors’)
Trey Wood (Grandson of James & Carol Wood)
James Young (Friend of Rick Grimes)

Jackson Park Pre-School

Abby Brizzolara, Lindy Carps, Madison Cervantes, 
Lila & Ruby Cotten, Jaden Day, Ava Doolittle, 
Vanessa Eden, Ty Fleak, Franklin Hawk, 
Kindall Hawk, Cardin Le, 
Henry Miller, Cameron Osborne, Fatima Roque, 
Cheona Shively, Tahirah Smith, 
Abigail Sutherland, Sophia Steunebrink, 
Amiyah Tomes, and Jayden Troupe

We encourage everyone to take full advantage of the opportunities we have each Sunday morning to praise God, encourage one another, and study God's Word. To God be the Glory.

~ Randy

80th Anniversary Homecoming Celebration

Shepherd's Message...

Sunday morning worship is special. It is something that we should not feel “rushed” to accomplish. Singing, praying, reading scripture, observing the Lord’s Supper, hearing God’s Word preached boldly, the collection for God’s people, witnessing baptisms, praying/supporting those who respond publicly, are all important things we do when we assemble as the church. The elders also feel that our Bible Classes are very important and require an adequate amount of time for the classes to complete lesson plans each week. With that in mind, starting next Sunday 03/11/12, our Sunday morning classes will start at 10:30am and end at 11:15am on a regular basis. The new class time should allow plenty of time for worship, fellowship, and Bible Class.

Bible Trivia...

What two men, who had previously successfully interceded for Israel, did God tell Jeremiah could not persuade Him now to look favorably on His people?

Answer to last week’s question – God told Jeremiah to hide the sash in a rock at what place that was a symbol of captivity and exile to His people? – The Euphrates (Jeremiah 13:4)

Jackson Park Church of Christ  
4103 Gallatin Pike 
Nashville, TN 37216

Teachers: Mrs. Sharon, Mrs. Connie, 
Mrs. Melanie, Miss Ginger