

Weatherly Weekly

September 17, 2023

2023 Edition, Number 38

Laying it on the Altar

Michael W. McLemore

Solomon challenged believers, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths,” *Proverbs 3:5-6*. He called us to lay our desire on His altar then assured that He will guide us as we live and walk by faith.

It is a great challenge to place everything on the altar to be sure. One weighty test is living in the contentment that it is not necessary for us to comprehend the precise manner in which God will fulfill His own promise. Rejecting God’s guidance due to an initial desire for understanding only obstructs our own progress. Whereas saying “yes” to His will, we open ourselves up to His abundant blessings and spiritual rewards for our obedience.

The wise author calls us to a remarkable act of surrender. The mighty patriarch Abraham lived in unwavering faith in God’s reliability. His complete trust in God enabled him to

obey and offer up what was most dear to him — his son Isaac. Remember, that promised son, was a gift from God. Consequently, the Lord provided a substitute sacrifice on that day and also pledged to bless Abraham with numerous descendants, including the Savior, Jesus, who saved us.

God should not be mistaken for a parent who withholds rewards until a child obeys. Instead, our obedience positions us to receive what He is already eager to bestow upon us and to fulfill His promised care. Thus, when we falter in trusting God enough to follow His will, we may inadvertently deprive ourselves of His abundant blessings. Choosing the path of our desire leads to ruin.

What has the Lord instructed you to do? Have you only partially complied, or have you relinquished your need for complete understanding and followed His guidance wholeheartedly? What the Lord calls you to give on His altar of sacrifice, rest assured that you can place your trust in Him to provide. □

Rebecca Shaw

In Memory of a Stalwart Servant

Overshadowing the gentle green slopes outside the city of ancient Bethel stood for unknown centuries a Terebinth (oak) tree. Beneath that notable oak lay the mortal remains of a stalwart servant named Deborah. The shade of the lonely oak is not the resting place of the great judge and deliverer of Israel. Instead, in that isolated parcel was the prostrate body of “first Deborah,” nurse of Jacob’s beloved Rebekah, interred. Moses said, “And Deborah, Rebekah’s nurse, died, and she was buried under an oak below Bethel. So he called its name *Allon-bacuth*,” *Genesis 35:8*. Jacob called the tree *Allon-bacuth*, “mourning oak,” and forever was the name of that great tree.

Few are aware of this Deborah in the Genesis “book of beginnings.” Still the Holy Spirit of God held space for her. One may ask, as have many scholars, why include this perplexing credit to an “ordinary nurse” among the great records of the creation, global deluge or of the deaths of the nobles? One’s assumption is that she was “ordinary.” She was far from it. At her death the whole household of Israel stood still and mourned her passing. So great was the mourning and the weeping at Deborah’s funeral that the oak under which she was buried forevermore bore the name that immortalized the sadness that overtook God’s family.

So it is as the family of God mourns the death of another of God’s stalwart servants, our beloved Becky Shaw. Were she to be laid beneath a mighty oak those who loved her in life could fittingly memorialize the loss we feel today by naming it with the Hebrew name, *Allon-bacuth*.

The range of adjectives that might be ascribed

to Becky Shaw would surely be long — Brilliant, empathetic, selfless, ingenious, altruistic, devoted, inspirational, wise, and visionary. Those who knew and loved Miss Becky have witnessed greatness and are enriched for the observation. Her service was never for notoriety or for credit. She lent her hand to countless projects, classes, studies and other services over her more than 27 year association with the Weatherly Heights church of Christ. Long hours and toil from day into night was certainly required to meet a myriad of needs of which she became aware. Like a nursing mother, she has served and nourished us for no other reason than her abiding love and devotion both to God and to His people.

Becky Shaw was part of our family and we were part of hers. The brilliance with which she approached life and even the most casual of conversations left us amazed. We loved being in her presence. In each setting she was like a master of ceremony, and never was there a dull moment. Miss Becky was loved in life and is mourned in death. Her memory will live on for us and her empty seat among our ranks can never be adequately filled. Still, though we sorrow, we sorrow not as others who have no hope. We long to see her face again in the morning of joy.

“The Oak of Weeping” that once graced the slopes outside Bethel has ago long passed and gone the way of all the earth, but the living Bible book of God reminds its readers of the legacy of one of His stalwart servants in the family of God’s people. A woman that an unknowing world might describe as an “ordinary servant” is ascribed greatness and regarded as stalwart by those who knew her best. □

Watch LIVE!



FAMILY MATTERS

News and Notes of Interest to Weatherly Members



In Memory of Becky Shaw



Our dear **Becky Shaw** departed this life to be with Christ ten minutes after nine on Wednesday morning, September 14th. She attained 94 long years in this life and lived faithfully to the end. Becky had a more than 27 year association with Weatherly Heights. She was loved in life and will be mourned in death. A memorial will be held here at the meeting house today at 2:00 p.m. Please pray for Becky's family and for all those who love her.

Family Updates

Prayers:

We are still reeling from the news that our sister **Peggy Childress** is in the hospital at Vanderbilt. She continues her slow decline. To attempt to help her build strength they have put in a feeding tube and have given her blood. **Terry** is understandably very concerned for her. Our most earnest prayers are solicited for Peggy and those who are attending to her care at Vandy. Please pray for Terry, also.

Elaine Dorris continues to get better. Her goal is to be able to walk with her walker without help. It's taking her a while but she is making progress and we are thankful. We love seeing **Gordon & Elaine**. Keep lifting them up in prayer.

Edith Turner sends her love and good wishes. She looks and sounds much stronger than she has in some time. She is always with us online. Wave at her! Well, maybe not at the

same time. Ha. All kidding aside please, especially keep her in your prayers.

Bill McCord's continues at home undergoing physical therapy. Pray for Bill.

Jackie Taft, Betty Dubose's son-in-law, remains on our prayer list as he wrestles with his serious illness.

Guy McDaniel, former Weatherly evangelist, remains in our thoughts and prayers.

Will & Sarah Stark, granddaughter, **Ciera Elledge** is anticipating another scan. Remember her and her family to the Lord daily.

Susan Watson's mother, **Janie Cheatham** remains on our prayer list. Say her name to the Lord as you pray daily.

Zoila Herring, Mechi Hunt's sister continues to have an interest in our prayers.

Please be mindful of those in our family who struggle with chronic illness or the effects of aging — **Peggy Monroe, Lane Roberts, Glenda Cavender, Edith Turner, Melvin Godette, Maragem Harbin,Carolynn Barr, Betty Dubose, Ron Harmon, Jim Risner & Harold Smith.**

This Week at Weatherly

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE class meets at 9:30. **Tommy Hill** will continue his study: **Building Strong Homes**. We hope to see you all.

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP follows at 10. **Mike's** lesson today is titled "When Religion Has No Authority" from **Judges 17-18**.

SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP begins at 6. **Mike** will lead us in a devotion. We hope you will plan to gather with us.

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY begins at 7. **Mike** will continue his Mark study. ☐

SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS



9-20 Sophia Hunt 9-25 LaNelle Patrick
9-28 Doris DeCelles

SEPTEMBER 17, 2023

Rapture & Cars

Don Blackwell

A popular bumper sticker says, "Caution: In case of rapture this care will be unmanned..." This is a popular doctrine taught by many religious groups. But would you be surprised to learn that neither the word "rapture" nor the commonly taught doctrine of the rapture even occurs in the Bible?

It is said that this event will be a "secret rapture," when the Lord will appear and take away his faithful saints secretly, leaving the rest of the world searching for an explanation of what has happened. The Bible, however, says that the second coming of the Lord will be a secret, but rather that "every eye shall see him," *Revelation 1:7*. Paul describes Christ's coming this way — "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God," *1 Thessalonians 4:16*.

Friends, the second coming of the Lord will be anything but a secret. (*editor's note: I have appreciated brother Blackwell's work for many years. I pray you profit from it.*) ☐

WEEKLY WALK

Weatherly Weekly



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Weatherly Heights CHURCH OF CHRIST
930 Weatherly Road SE
Huntsville, Alabama 35803

Mailing:
P.O. Box 4619
Huntsville, Alabama 35815
Phone: 256 881-9535
Email: contactus@weatherlychurch.com

TIMES OF SERVICES

Sunday Bible Classes 9:30 am
Sunday AM Assembly 10:00 am
Sunday PM Assembly 6:00 pm
Wednesday Classes 7:00 pm

Stay informed and engaged online at
www.weatherlychurch.com

WATCH:

LIVE Sermon archive or live stream during all Weatherly services



Weatherly's Shepherds

Tommy Hill 256 883-0010
Will Starks 256 883-5273

Evangelist

Michael W. McLemore 256 698-5941
Email: mmclmore@weatherlychurch.com

Weatherly's Deacons

Phil Furlough **Steve Hagewood**
Kirk Hatcher **David Jacks**
Hill Roberts **Collis Terry**
Bobby Wright

Weatherly at Work

These are asked to assist in our labor.

Sunday, September 17th Sunday, September 24th

Welcome:	Tommy Hill	Will Starks
Song Leader:	David Jacks	Hill Roberts
Opening Prayer:	Collis Terry	Phil Furlough
Lord's Table Lead:	Tommy Hill	Bill Thompson
	Judges 17-18	Psalm 139
Sermon:	Mike McLemore	Mike McLemore
	When Religion Has No Authority	How God Sees You
Closing Prayer:	Searcy Hall	Kirk Hatcher

Evening Worship

Bible Skillz	Mike McLemore	Mike McLemore
Songs Leader:	David Jacks	Mel Ambrose
Opening Prayer:	Alex Thompson	Will Starks
Closing Prayer:	Phil Shaver	Marty Hunt

Wednesday, September 20th

Songs Leader: **Hill Roberts**
Invitation: **John Patrick**
Closing Prayer: **Ed Dill**

Wednesday, September 27th

Phillip Dill
Mike McLemore
John Patrick

Weatherly Heights Singing 2024 Lectures

May 2-5, 2024
Speakers TBA

Quarterly Adult Classes July – September 2023

AUDITORIUM SUNDAY
Building Strong Homes
Tommy Hill

AUDITORIUM WEDNESDAY
The Gospel of Mark
Mike McLemore

Serving in September

Serving on the Lord's Table AM & PM
** **Ed Dill (9-3), Steve Hagewood (9-10), Tommy Hill (9-17), Bill Thompson (9-24)**
** **Overseer**

Communion Prep
Building Lockup

Lynn Franklin

