

# Weatherly Weekly

April 7, 2024

2024 Edition, Number 14

## Striving Side By Side

Michael W. McLemore

Christians tend to accept the premise that “if only this or that weren’t in our way, the church would be better or more effective.” Paul said, “Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel,” *Philippians 1:27*. In this text he transitions from a discussion of his own life of undaunted commitment to that of the members of the Philippian church. The apostle doesn’t address their moral standing, which is axiomatic, but their willingness to unite and together advance the gospel in the face of adversity.

In the text that follows, Paul pleads for the same driving spirit in the local church as he had demonstrated in advancing the gospel, though embroiled with adverse circumstances and attacks from both without and within, *27-30*. Take note.

**Shared Perseverance** — “I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel,” *27*. The family of God is called to

“stand firm” against every device and inducement of the Devil, as Spartan warriors, shoulder to shoulder in battle, “for the faith.”

**United Courage** — “And not frightened in anything by your opponents,” *28*. Together they could resist the forces arrayed against them, whether from outside or inside the church. Their courage would send a signal of defeat into the ranks of the opposition.

**Mutual Suffering** — “For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake,” *29-30*. Paul calls upon the church to mimic his willingness to suffer for the gospel, bringing glory to him in their flesh.

The greatest blessing of fellowship is standing together in one spirit and uniting around one purpose. It requires God’s people to resist self-focus and to recognize the beauty of God’s plan to unite many different people in Christ to advance the faith of the gospel. □

## “If There is Any Excellence”

Michael W. McLemore

Plato’s “Republic” and Aristotle’s “Nicomachean Ethics” are dated in the 4th Century BC. Both works attribute the foundation of any advanced culture to cultivation of moral virtue and character. In both one Greek word holds a central place in philosophical discourse and ethical thought – ἀρετή, “Arete.” Roughly 400 years later another author used “arete,” pleading with his own community for such high habits and the pursuit of noble ideals – “Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence (arete), if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things,” *Philippians 4:8*.

**ARETE STRIVES FOR PERFECTION.** The ancient Greeks viewed “arete” as a dynamic concept, emphasizing the continuous pursuit of excellence rather than a static state of perfection. For the Greeks “arete” served as a driving force for self-improvement and personal growth, motivating individuals to constantly seek higher levels of achievement and fulfillment. The Holy Spirit in Paul’s pen chose precisely this word to plead with Christians to fulfill

their own spiritual perfection by thinking “about these” excellent (arete) “things.”

**ARETE SHAPES BEHAVIOR.** Plato emphasized the importance of education in cultivating “arete” among his “Guardians” in the Republic. He argued that rigorous education aimed at instilling virtues as wisdom, courage, moderation, and justice prepared the ruling class from a young age. Paul likewise argues that by directing our minds towards what is true, noble, right, pure, lovely, and admirable, we train ourselves to think and act in accordance with excellence. In a world filled with distractions and temptations, maintaining a virtuous mindset is crucial for living a life that honors God and blesses others.

Philippians 4:8-9

**ARETE STRENGTHENS POTENTIAL.** The Greeks failed. They had the right word, but failed in their pursuit of what is “true” about God and man’s ultimate potential in Him. Paul urged his Philippian readers, “What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you,” *9*. “Arete” in practice aspires to a life higher than this, a home with God. □

Watch LIVE!



# FAMILY MATTERS

News and Notes of Interest to Weatherly Members



2024 A Mind to Work — Together, Nurturing the Believers' Mindset  
April: The Excellent Mind, "Think on these things."

## Don & Lane Roberts Memorial

Please join the **Roberts family** this afternoon. A memorial service honoring **Hillery Lane & Don Roberts** will be held at 2:00 pm today in the Laughlin Funeral Home Chapel, 2320 Bob Wallace Avenue, Huntsville. The family will receive guests in the chapel from 1:00 to 2:00 pm.

## Family Updates

### Prayers:

We were happy to welcome **John Stokes** back to our assembly on Wednesday evening. John was shockingly diagnosed with pneumonia. He had no idea that he was sick. Thanks to some observant coworkers, he was quickly diagnosed and treated. John has proven himself an indispensable member in this family. Prayers of thanksgiving are in order.

**Ron Harmon** is back in room #598 at Huntsville Hospital after three days in the ICU. Your prayers for Ron are solicited. Thankfully **Phyllis Harmon** was released from Rehab on Thursday. Her sister **Jan**, and husband **Ken**, came down from Kentucky to help for a few days. Ron & Phyllis' son, **Tim**, was slated to arrive from Texas yesterday (Saturday). He plans to be here for a couple of weeks.

**Doyle & Janice Wray** have been dealing with respiratory illness recently. We are praying for a full recovery and much better days.

**Ciera Elledge, Will & Sarah Starks'** grand-

daughter, is wrestling with difficult news. Medication that she has been taking has not worked as well as it was hoped. Her options are limited and the path forward will surely be hard. Please pray for Ciera and her family.

**Peggy Childress** remains on our prayer list. She is home, on oxygen, and is being treated for an infection. Her appetite remains non-existent. Your earnest prayers are appreciated.

**Searcy Hall** continued to wait. Pray for Searcy & Evelyn.

**Silvia Henderson's** sister, **Kiki**, did not get the news for which she had hoped. She will continue Chemo. Pray for her.

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

## This Week at Weatherly

**SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE** class meets at 9:00. **Mike McLemore & Mel Ambrose** will begin a new study "Am I Brother's Keeper?" **BIBLE SKILZ** will meet afterward. **Hill Roberts** will lead today's **DEVOTION**. **SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP** follows at 10:10. **Mike McLemore's** lesson today is entitled, "Battlefield of the Mind." **WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY** begins at 7. **Hill** will begin his new class this week. We hope everyone will participate. ☐

## MARCH & APRIL BIRTHDAYS



APRIL 7, 2024

4-2	Silvia Henderson	4-5	Carolynn Barr
4-6	Jerry Mitchell	4-13	Sherrie Stovall
4-18	Peggy Monroe	4-20	John Stokes
4-21	Dianne Dill	4-21	Mechi Hunt
4-23	David Jacks	4-25	Sue Terry
4-27	Lauren Thompson	4-29	Harrison Smith

## "Accept the Best"

Michael W. McLemore

The following piece appeared in the January issue of Reader's Digest, 1992. Christians would well take its sentiment to heart as it well illustrates the stark difference in living and living with excellence.

"Joe Theismann enjoyed an illustrious 12-year career as quarterback of the Washington Redskins. He led the team to two Super Bowl appearances — winning in 1983 before losing the following year (84). When a leg injury forced him out of football in 1985, he was entrenched in the record books as Washington's all-time leading passer. Still, the tail end of Theismann's career taught him a bitter lesson. Theismann said, 'I got stagnant. I thought the team revolved around me. I should have known it was time to go when I didn't care whether a pass hit Art Monk in the 8 or the 1 on his uniform. When we went back to the Super Bowl, my approach had changed. I was griping about the weather, my shoes, practice times, everything. Today I wear my two rings--the winner's ring from Super Bowl XVII and the loser's ring from Super Bowl XVIII. The difference in those two rings lies in applying oneself and not accepting anything but the best.'"

Joe Theismann discovered the key to what Paul said long ago — "approve what is excellent," *Philippians 1:10*. ☐

## WEEKLY WALK

Weatherly Weekly



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**Weatherly Heights CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
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## TIMES OF SERVICES

Sunday Bible Classes	9:00 am
Sunday Devotion	9:35 am
Sunday Assembly	10:10 am
Wednesday Classes	7:00 pm

Stay informed and engaged online at [www.weatherlychurch.com](http://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.

	<b>Sunday, April 7th</b>	<b>Sunday, April 14th</b>
Welcome:	Tommy Hill	Will Starks
Song Leader:	Mel Ambrose	David Jacks

	<b>Devotion</b>	<b>Devotion</b>
Bible Skillz	Mike McLemore	Mike McLemore
Opening Prayer:	Will Starks	Phil Furlough
Devotion Leader:	Hill Roberts	Marty Hunt

	<b>Assembly Worship</b>	<b>Assembly Worship</b>
Opening Prayer:	Steve Hagewood	Ed Dill
Lord's Table Lead:	Bill Thompson <i>Philippians 1:3-11</i>	Phil Shaver <i>Philippians 2:1-30</i>
Sermon:	Mike McLemore <i>Battlefield of the Mind</i>	Mike McLemore <i>Our Greatest Tool</i>
Closing Prayer:	Doyle Wray	Mike Watson

	<b>Wednesday, April 10th</b>	<b>Wednesday, April 17th</b>
Songs Leader:	Collis Terry	Mel Ambrose
Invitation:	Mike McLemore	Mike McLemore
Closing Prayer:	Riley Monroe	Kirk Hatcher

## 2024 Weatherly Heights Lectures

**May 2-5, 2024**  
Buc Chumley, Jonathan Reeder  
Mitch Davis & Wilson Adams

## Quarterly Adult Classes

January — March 2024

**AUDITORIUM SUNDAY**  
"Am I My Brother's Keeper?"  
**Mike McLemore & Mel Ambrose**

**AUDITORIUM WEDNESDAY**  
The Big Picture Bible  
**Hill Roberts**

## Serving in April

Serving on the Lord's Table AM & PM  
\*\* Overseer  
**\*\* Bill Thompson (4-7), Phil Shaver (4-14), Marty Hunt (4-21), Phil Furlough (4-28)**

Building Lockup **Phil Furlough**

