



PRAYER REQUESTS

- **Mark McCollum, Pam Richard's Parents, Sasha Tompkins & La Donna Gammill** all need your prayers as they continue to seek great results.
- **Bobbye Wright** is doing better.
- Beverly and Clifford Gunn, Judy Roybal, JO Vick, Dick and Judy Bird, Belle Yokum, Willie Johnson, Larry Reeder, Koben Puckett, are all in need of prayers.

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Announcements

- Next **Sunday** will be our **Potluck Sunday**, so bring a dish to share and plan and staying for a great time and visiting.
- **Helen Shaw** is making good improvement.
- **Beverly Overton** is continuing to heal from her accident.
- Keep the **Paul family, Kathy Reagan, and Beverly Carter** in your prayers since they are all adjusting to the death of loved ones.
- On **Wednesday** evening we will meet at **7:00 PM for our Bible Class. Please join us.**
- **Pam Richard's** father is not doing well in his battle against cancer and could use some extra prayers. He had a stroke and is recovering well at home.
- School starts on Wednesday for our students, so please keep the children, parents and staff in your prayers for a blessed school year. Our college students will be heading off this week and next and they need prayers during this time of transition as well. Time to really go to the throne of God on behalf of our young people.
- Check the back table and box for our donation items this month for the **Portales Christian Children's' Home**. We are collecting **flour and sugar** for the children.

Silas Shotwell will bring the lesson today

Men Serving this Month

- **Announcements:** Les Miller
- **Scripture:** Bob Addison
- **Song Service:** GA Gunn

Happy Birthday

August 28—Willie Johnson

August 31—Beverly Anne Overton

Anniversaries—

None this week

Calendar of Events

September 2— Potluck Sunday

September 14-16— High School Retreat at Ruidoso

September 19— Working for the Master at 6 PM

October 7— Potluck Sunday

October 17— Working for the Master at 6 PM

OF ALL THE STUPID THINGS! by Russ Lawson

When was the last time you did something really stupid? My wife was sick with the flu a couple of days this week and I was acting caregiver. Things went pretty well in general, and I was able to keep on top of just about everything with her while also keeping up with my job requirements. Tuesday evening I fixed supper, was doing the wash, and working on some things on the computer in the office. We finished supper and I noticed our dog cleaning my plate (I had carelessly set it too near the floor), so I carried it to the kitchen and placed it on the counter. I put the wash into the dryer, then moved on to the office and took care of a couple of things. On the way back through the kitchen, I thought I'd have another dollop of food; so I spooned it out on the clean plate on the counter, ate about half of it and realized the plate was clean because the dog had "cleaned it"! I thought, "Oh well, too late to worry about it now!" Of course the next day I came down with the flu ... at least I think it was the flu!

Again, when was the last time you did something stupid, dopey, dorky or dumb? For most of us, it would be more often than we like to admit. Of course most of the time we do something stupid, we look around quickly to make sure no one saw us. This time, however, I shared my stupid act with my wife. She laughed way too hard and then shared my dumb move with her sister, and now the list goes on and on.

What about the stupid things we do spiritually? Do we treat them in the same way as we treat the other dumb things we do? Do we try to hide them or deny them? What about the unkind words, the angry actions, the failure to reference God or put him first in our lives? How do we view our interaction with our family, friends, neighbors or co-workers -- do we ever do dumb things in those relationships, acting in an unintelligent, insensitive, or careless manner?

If you answer, "No," then you are an exceptional human being. All of us mess up in our lives and our relationships on a regular basis; it's what we do afterwards that makes the difference. God's word tells us that we all sin, and there no real exceptions:

If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth. But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness ([1 John 1:8-9](#) NLT).

As the saying goes, "When you mess up, fess up!" Confession is where change of the heart begins. That's where we begin to recognize and acknowledge the "stupid spiritual things" we have done, and then commit that with God's help, we will stop ourselves before we do them again.

I don't think I ever ate off the dog's plate before and I doubt I will do so again. I do know, however, that I will probably continue to do other dumb things in my life and relationships. I also know that if I confess my sins, God is faithful to forgive them and I can then confess them to those I hurt or offended and begin to repair the relationships!

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Check out our web site for electronic versions of the newsletter and other resources to support your walk with Jesus—

<http://fortsumnerchurchofchrist.com>