

## PRAYERS

**Butch and Chris** (Anita's son and daughter in law) – Chris was diagnosed with stage 3 cancer and is now receiving treatment prior to surgery.

**Connie LaRocque** – Waiting for results from her CAT scan

**Mark** (Linda's family) – Dealing with a severe head injury. They are hoping to go to rehab soon.

**Nancy Meyer** (Don's Sister) – recovery from surgery last week

**Church in Pierre** – Several members with medical issues

## Congregation News

Potluck is next Sunday. Please bring a dish and enjoy the fellowship. Also, plan to stay for the afternoon singing that follows.

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:** Nothing is more responsible for the "good old days" than a poor memory!

### Those Privileged to Serve

#### **Sunday Morning Service:**

**1/14/18**

Bible Class Tom Bright  
Announcements Tom Bright  
Song Leader Tom Bright  
Opening Prayer Tom Bright  
Lord's Supper Colby Crawford  
Scripture Reading Colby Crawford  
Sermon Colby Crawford

**1/21/18**

Colby Crawford  
Colby Crawford  
Tom Bright  
Colby Crawford  
Tom Bright  
Paul Darling  
Paul Darling

#### **Bible Classes**

Adult Tom Bright  
Children Colby Crawford  
Toddlers Cindy Bright  
Babies Anissa Crawford

#### **Wednesday Evening**

Tom Bright  
Linda McBrayer

#### **Birthdays & Anniversaries**

#### **Building Cleanup**

Bright

#### **Aberdeen church of Christ**

**1801 S. Lincoln St.**

**Aberdeen, SD 57401**

**605-225-3621**

**[www.aberdeenchurchofchrist.net](http://www.aberdeenchurchofchrist.net)**

#### **Bulletin Submissions**

If you would like anything added to the bulletin such as prayer requests, news, or events, please make submissions by

Friday night to: [tlbj@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tlbj@sbcglobal.net)

# Aberdeen church of Christ

January 14, 2018

## **You've got a Friend**

Most sports fans are well aware that Jackie Robinson was the first black to play major league baseball. It is sad to know that it was not until 1947 that the "color barrier" was broken. While all of this was taking place, Jackie Robinson was facing jeering crowds in every stadium in the National League. While playing one day in his home park in Brooklyn, Jackie committed an error. His own home town fans began to ridicule him. He stood at second base, humiliated, while the fans jeered. Shortstop "Pee Wee" Reese came over and put his arm around Jackie Robinson while standing next to him. They then faced the crowd in the stands. The fans grew quiet. Jackie Robinson later said that Reese's arm around his shoulder saved his career.

Isn't that a great story? We've all been there, I suppose--standing in need of someone to face our problems with us. And I also believe that we've all been there for that one who needed the encouraging arm around his shoulder. In a sense, that is very much like what the Lord has done for each of us. We were humiliated and ready to give up because of our sins. Jesus came to our side and became our Deliverer and Friend. *"Ye are my friends, if ye do the things which I command you"* (**John 15:14**).

I hope we are as grateful to Him as we should be. Our eternal security rests on that Friend's encouragement and constant support even now. He does not leave us on the field of life, but goes with us even through the storms and dark places. We need Him so much!

But, there are those who need us! Paul said, *"Brethren, even if a man be overtaken in any trespass, ye who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; looking to thyself, lest thou also be tempted. Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ"* (**Gal. 6:2**). Those caught up in sin or weakness need us and we need one another. Our Father is depending on us to provide the loving arm around the shoulder which says, "You can do it with the help of Christ." *"I can do all things in him that strengtheneth me"* (**Phil. 4:13**).

Will you reach out to someone this very day? There is someone standing on second base--needing a friend.

## Boxing with God

Boxing is not as popular as it was in the last century. Great pugilists such as Casius Clay (Mohammed Ali), Joe Lewis, and George Foreman were as well-known as popular baseball greats or football heroes of today. Old men often talk of the “fight of the century,” or the “match at Madison Square Garden that would go down in history.” As great as some of those boxing contests might have been, they pale in comparison to the TKO that God gave Pharaoh as recorded in Exodus chapter 14. In order to appreciate the points we will make, let me encourage you to take just a moment and read Exodus 14:15-31, for it is in that chapter that we read of Pharaoh’s final attempt to thwart the purpose and plan of God. The very words thrill our soul and encourage us! What must it have been like for those who were there? What impression did it leave on their hearts and minds? This passage might very well be divided into the following homiletic outline: (1) Pharaoh’s Fist, 14:5-10; (2) Israel’s Fear, 14:11-12; (3) Moses’ Faith, 14:13-14; (4) God’s Fight, 14:15-21; (5) Pharaoh’s Foolishness, 14:23-28; and (5) Israel’s Faith, 14:22 and 29-31. It is the fourth point where we find Pharaoh boxing with God.

It has been at least four decades since I heard a sermon titled, “Boxing with God.” Today I could not give you the details of that sermon, or the date when I heard it. But the title of that sermon made a lasting impression upon me at that time, so much so that I find myself often thinking of the foolishness of men who have found themselves “boxing with God.” Pharaoh had “climbed into the ring” with God, and that arrogant and rebellious king would soon realize that he was “boxing with God.” God would knock Pharaoh out in three swift punches. First, God opened a way for Israel’s deliverance and the means of Pharaoh’s destruction. “Stretch out thine hand over the sea, and divide it: and the children of Israel shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea” (14:16). That same open sea and dry ground, would tempt Pharaoh to “follow them,” but this to his ultimate destruction. Second, God stood between Pharaoh and Israel, providing a fire of light to Israel, and a cloud of darkness to their enemies (14:19-20). God protected Israel while fighting Pharaoh, “so that the one came not near the other all night” (14:20). Third, God “troubled the host of the Egyptians” (14:24). The Hebrew *‘hamam’* means “to put in commotion,

to disturb, crush, discomfit, or vex” (Strong). This would be followed by the complete destruction of Pharaoh’s army with the flood waters of the Red Sea as they returned upon these enemies of God. With a one-two-three punch, God rescued Israel and destroyed their enemies so that they would “see them again no more forever” (14:13).

There is an important truth that emerges from this incident. Pharaoh is an example of the masses of humanity who have, in their persistent rebellion against God, passed the point of no return in their rebellion and opposition to the Almighty. They will, on that final Judgment Day, find themselves the recipients of God’s knockout blow to all of His enemies. There is a day coming, when all of the enemies of God shall be cast into the lake of fire (Rev. 19:20). The atheists and agnostics, the greedy and the godless, the enemies and enraged antagonists of God Almighty shall meet their Maker as did Pharaoh of old. In that day the abortionist will know that life began at conception. In that day every evolutionist (theistic evolutionists included) will know that the Biblical account is precisely how it all began. In that day every Senator and Representative in Washington will know you cannot govern a nation without the aid and blessing of Jehovah God. In that day, when we, as God’s people, are received into heaven and the arrogant and antagonistic enemies of God are overwhelmed in the fiery flood that shall come upon them, we will realize that our struggles have been worth it all. When time gives way to eternity, and this world and all therein is burned up (2 Peter 3:10-12), you and I will sit at the feet of the God who has redeemed us. We will not only sing the song of Moses - we will sing the song of Moses and the Lamb for all eternity! Won't that be a grand day?

### Welcome to our Assembly. . .

Whether you are a first time visitor or a long time member of this congregation, we are happy to have you with us this morning. For those visiting, please make yourself comfortable. A good deal of information about this church and its activities can be found on this sheet. We encourage and invite anyone interested to participate in the activities offered throughout the week. If you have any questions about the facilities, our worship service, or want more information about the church, feel free to ask anyone present. Someone will be glad to help you!