

# The Ripley Reminder



**RIPLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**1300 HALL DRIVE-RIPLEY, MS 38663**

**PHONE:662-837-9011**

**WEBSITE: [www.rmschurchofchrist.com](http://www.rmschurchofchrist.com)**

## **Service Times**

**Sunday Bible Study..... 9:30 AM**

**Sunday Morning ..... 10:20 AM**

**Sunday Evening ..... 5:00 PM**

**Wednesday Evening..... 7:00 PM**

## **MINISTERS**

**Dr. Donnie DeBord**

**Cole Chapman**

**Tucker Shapley**

## **ELDERS**

**David Cook**

**Michael Harrison**

**Mark Martindale**

## **DEACONS**

**Ronald Chapman**

**Rob Elliott**

**Shane Green**

**David Hudson**

**Sonny Meeks**

**Brad Pounders**

**Nathan Robertson**

**Kenny Schmitz**

**Justin Thompson**

**Benny Wallis**

**Bruce Wallis**

## **BULLETIN**

**Announcements ..... 662-837-9011**

**E-mail.....[rmschurchofchrist@gmail.com](mailto:rmschurchofchrist@gmail.com)**

**Reservations**

**[rcocreservations@gmail.com](mailto:rcocreservations@gmail.com)**

## **BLOOD DRIVE**

### **Ripley Church of Christ**

**Place: Fellowship Hall**

**Date: Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup>**

**Time: 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM**

**Open to ages 17 and up. No limit of senior age. Will accept 16 year olds with signed parental consent.**

**Persons who have had cancer within the last year are not eligible. If cancer free for one year, you can donate.**

**Persons who have had blood cancer are not eligible to donate.**

**Test will be done on each donor and if disqualifying conditions are discovered, the donor will not be able to donate at that time.**

**Drinks and snacks will be provided.**

**If you cannot donate, we can still use your help with baking cookies and clean up.**

**This drive not only helps us, but also helps our community.**

**Sign up now and let's make this event a  
HUGE SUCCESS!**

LET'S TAKE A MINUTE. . .

## “IT GETS DARKEST JUST BEFORE DAWN”

*“The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is Thy faithfulness. “The LORD is my portion,” says my soul, “Therefore I will hope in Him.” (Lamentations 3:22)*

Our eyes and hearts have been riveted to the reports on television as we witnessed the devastation left behind in the state of Florida, and upward along the east coast, as the result of Hurricane IAN! As a result of the massive damage, people have lost their homes, businesses, and even their lives!

Those who survived the storm will be emotionally distraught for years to come due to their lifechanging experience!

The English theologian, Alexander Pope (1688-1744) is credited with the title of this article: “It gets darkest just before the dawn.” The meaning of the phrase is to provide hope to someone in considering their future as they go through the hardships of life. Designed to help pull the dishearten through tough times and to help dispel negative attitudes such as “Things will not get any better,”

The saying reminds us of another of Pope’s famous phrases: “”Hope springs eternal in the human breast.” This appeared in his, “An Essay on Man.” Most people will always be optimistic and believe that something better is coming! It is human nature to be hopeful. While there is life, there is hope!

The emotional pain many experience, or the anxiety they feel, will not last forever! Such sayings as the two cited encourages those suffering to open themselves up to the possibilities and opportunities which will eventually come their way.

Remember the wisdom of Paul, who suffered greatly while serving his Lord: ‘And we KNOW that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to His purpose.’ (Rom. 8:28) If you are living in the darkness of suffering and disappointment, cheer up! Things WILL get better! Remember, “It gets darkest just before the dawn!” Or, as God put it: “. . .weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning!” (Ps. 30:5)

My minute’s up!

James A. Horton

# Shed Some Light on the Situation

Good news! Finally, we get to hear some good news! We need the Gospel because bad news surrounds us. We are so surrounded by darkness that we might mistake the darkness for light. The “domain of darkness” is all we know until we are brought into the Kingdom of God (Col. 1:13). In fact, God says we “were darkness” (Eph. 5:8).

Our hope is in the light of the Gospel. Just as God broke the dark nothingness when he spoke light into existence (Gen. 1), so now he has brought light into the darkness of the world through his Son and his word. 2 Corinthians 4:6 says, “For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.”

The Son of God is the “radiance of the glory of God” (Heb. 1:3), so he is perfect for destroying spiritual darkness. Jesus said “I AM the Light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness” (Jn. 8:12).

Christians are in this struggle against “this present darkness” (Eph. 6:12). We are not to have any fellowship with darkness (1 Cor. 6:14). Instead, we are to “walk in the light as he is in the light” (1 Jn. 1:7). As we walk in the light, we are forgiven and enjoy our walk with God as the abundant life (Jn. 10:10).

We still need to focus on the light. We need to make the most of every opportunity—like worship and special Gospel Meetings—to focus on the Light. When we focus on the light of God, we 1) turn away from the despair in darkness; 2) find nourishment from the Light; and 3) find the darkness in ourselves that still needs to be removed. As we focus on the Light, we will find that we want to share the blessings we enjoy. We know how sad it is to walk in darkness and we want our friends to be saved. So, we do not hide our light. Instead we reflect the divine Light before others so they too want to glorify our God.

Donnie DeBord

**PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS**

- Clay Crawford is doing better and is home again. Remember him and his family in your prayers.
- Bonnie Martindale is recovering at home. Remember her and her family in your prayers.
- Peggy Wallis has moved back home . She is doing well. Pray that she continues to improve.
- Chuck Ellis, Charles Ellis’s son, had surgery last week. Pray for a speedy recovery.
- Please pray for Tina Blades Sanford, a friend of Benny and Regina Wallis, who has cancer.
- Shan Grisham, Vicki Crawford’s brother, passed away. Pray for his family at this difficult time.

**Please keep these in your thoughts and prayers:**

Susan Ainsworth, Ann Akins, Ali Rae Barkley, Pattie Box, Annette Brooks, Dianne Butler, Wade Carmichael, Cora Chills, Clay Crawford, Alice Cross, Paula Dowty, Roger Cunningham, Grevil Flores, Chris Grisham, Jamers Horton, Ann IZard, Kenny James, James Johnston, James Allen Johnston, Vince Jordan, Johnnie Jumper, David Lipe, Bonnie Martindale, Billy Hugh McBryde, Donald McTizi, Sharon Monson, Savanah Orman, Steve Robinson, Jan Rooker, Brandie Rutgers, Tina Sanford, Carol Smith, Trey Smith, Anna Hearn Thompson, Peggy Wallis, Austin Wentz, Jimmy Willingham, Betty Stubblefeild, Dennis Woods

**Diversicare:** Terri Barkley C-9, Cindy Holly D-8

**NEWS & NOTES**

- Remember our weekly fellowship meal on Wednesday night at 6:00.
- Ladies Day at Strickland Church of Christ, March 7. See flyer in foyer for details.
- We will sponsor a Blood Drive April 18, 2026. See the information posted in the foyer and sign-up sheet to volunteer to donate or help in other ways.
- There will be a bridal shower for Kate Harrison April 19th. She is registered on Amazon and at Ripley Drug, Co.
- We will have a 5th Sunday Friends and Family on March 29th.
- We are currently trying to change our communication app over to Light Post. See Cole or Tucker if you are having issues with it.
- Nathan Stanford and Sam Green will be going on a mission trip to Alaska in March. If you would like to aid them in doing this good work, donations can be given to one of our Elders. Please pray that they have a safe and successful trip.
- Brittany and Emry Stephens will be keeping the nursery this Sunday.

Worship Service March 8, 2026

Welcome.....	Michael Harrison
Song Leader AM.....	Dan Shappley
Opening Prayer AM.....	Justin Thompson
Read Scripture.....	Noah Robertson
Lord’ Supper AM.....	Kenny Schmitz
Assisting at the Lord’s Table AM.....	Robert Elliott, Patrick Ginn, Stephen Wallace
.....	Benny Wallis, Rodney Chapman, Billy Morton
Closing Prayer AM.....	David Hudson
Song Leader PM.....	Anderson Thompson
Opening Prayer PM.....	Rob Elliott
Lord’s Supper PM.....	Nathan Robertson
Closing Prayer PM.....	Ronald Chapman