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Happy New Year 2019*

“THE PEOPLE’S PAPER”

THE ALABAMA

Gazette



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VOL. 19 ISSUE 2~ December 2018

alabamagazette@gmail.com

Online: www.alabamagazette.com

32 Pages – 4 Sections ©2018

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***What has changed regarding
Christmas Celebrations and
Governmental Entities?***



***Ronald A.
Holtsford***

Little has changed since earlier appellate cases and one will note slight subjective language in the subsequent decisions. These cases have arisen using the Establishment Clause of the Constitution of the United States to back up the adverse claims of individuals or groups in what they perceive as being unconstitutional.

The Establishment Clause is a part of the First Amendment and reads, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion," followed by the Free Exercise Clause, which states, "or prohibiting the free exercise thereof". The Establishment Clause is an oft-disputed issue, the Free Exercise Clause not so much. Until the Fourteenth Amendment was passed the United States Supreme Court considered the Establishment Clause as not applying to the states and local governments. It was not until 1940 that the Supreme Court held through the Fourteenth Amendment that the Establishment Clause applies to all levels of government. At the time of the formation of the country, six states had endorsed religious institutions so it seems that the eventual interpretive expansion to include governmental application at all levels was a move from the original intent. There have been additional arguments in school prayer cases where it has been argued that the use of certain religious rituals such as prayer in a state supported institution, such as a school, has an impression on the young and may create a peer pressure.

Since the 1980's it has seemed that the typical way to present anything that has a religious component is to present it in a historical context along with secular symbols.

A relatively recent Seventh Circuit case out of Indiana in 2015 was only decided this year, *Freedom From Religion Foundation, Inc. v. Concord Community Schools, No. 17-1591 (7th Cir. 2018)*. For 45 years through 2014 the Christmas Spectacular was presented at Concord High School in Elkhart, Indiana. In 2015, the Christmas Spectacular was challenged as being impermissibly religious. The District Court enjoined the school from presenting its version even after altered from what was presented in 2014. The show uses about 600 students who function as actors, set designers/ builders, costume makers and it includes a live nativity scene. The school then presented a second modification removing more of the religious content such as New Testament readings. It also added songs celebrating Hanukkah, Kwanza and included more secular songs. The former nativity scene was greatly reduced to using mannequins and only a single religious song. The 7th Circuit decided that Concord's changes from their 2014 Spectacular suggested to a reasonable person that the show was not just about Christianity even though the Plaintiffs continued to argue that point.

Even though it is understandable that parents do not want an influential activity that is adverse to the teachings of the parents to the child, it is unfortunate that a small minority of individuals in a community and outside organizations such as the Freedom from Religion Foundation can disrupt certain activities.

The teachings of parents to children and the beliefs of a majority within the community I am sure, continue to be held within the Concord Community Schools regardless of the disruption, even without the presented visualization of the nativity.

I do hope that each of you have a blessed celebration of your faith, from myself a Merry Christmas.

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ROBSERVATIONS...

by Robert Tate

The views of submitted editorials may not be the express views of The Alabama Gazette.

BITS AND PIECES; YET AGAIN

Hey, folks. Here we go again with another edition of “Bits and Pieces.” There is so much going on right now that I would like to address just a few of them now and then perhaps expand upon some of them at a later date. Here we go!

1. ALEXANDRIA OCASIO-CORTEZ: The woman is living, breathing proof that one can make it into politics with absolutely ZERO common sense. Before anyone goes Democrat on me, NO I am not slamming all politicians. Not even close. All I am saying is that she continually says some pretty stupid stuff and she is now a politician. I must admit that I do have a “love-hate” relationship with, as my friend calls her, “*From the First Brooklyn Soviet of New Rep., Leningradia Occasional-Cortex.*” I actually hate every, single thing she stands for yet I love it when she opens her mouth because every time she does, we get not



just an amusing soundbite but more importantly, we get a view into that vapid crevice between her ears. AND PEOPLE VOTED FOR HER????

Okay, this is hot off the press. Well, not-so hot by the time you guys read this but this remains pure gold nonetheless. Basic 5th - 6th grade stuff here, folks. The three branches of government are? Wait for it, wait for it. Got it. Executive (President), Legislative (Senate and the House of Representatives) and Judicial (Supreme and lower courts.) Done. Boom. Drop the mic!! Leningradia the other day said, and no I am not making this up, “If we work our butts off to make sure that we take back all three chambers of government: the presidency, the Senate and the House.” Yes she did. She did not “mis-speak” as some have posited but she clearly had no idea what the heck she was talking about. None and now she is going to exist in one of her “chambers” and get paid a lot of money to do so. Chambers? Whaaaaaat? Although she supposedly graduated cum laude from Boston University in 2011 with degrees in economics and international relations, she has never once given a cogent answer to how the US could possibly fund any of her socialist programs. Why? Because there is no answer.

I just don’t get it. She obviously has some brains (cum laude) but in order to profess her socialist ideology, for which there really is no defense, she appears stupid in trying to defend stupidity. Winston Churchill penned in 1939, “*I cannot forecast to you the action of Russia. It is a riddle, wrapped in a mystery, inside an enigma; but perhaps there is a key. That key is Russian national interest.*” In 2018, I pen, “*I cannot forecast to you the actions or thoughts of Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. She is a clueless riddle, wrapped inside a blanket of progressive, socialist delusion; but perhaps there is a key. That key is her own ideological self-interests at the expense of those she will be called upon to serve.*”

2. RED FLAG LAWS: Have you guys been keeping up with this? At the moment there are 12 states that have placed this law into practice. For those of you who may not know what this means, here is a short definition. “*A red flag law is a gun violence prevention law that permits police or family members, intimate partners and mental health providers to petition a state court to order the temporary removal of firearms from a person who may present a danger to others or themselves.*”



Did you guys get that? Pretty subjective stuff here. This is how this plays out in reality. Somebody tips off the police that “Joe” has guns and they think he is a danger. They report him, some sycophant judge writes a warrant, SS Stormtroopers (a.k.a. cops) show up at Joe’s house while he is playing with his kids in the pool and take his guns from him. No due process. No proof. Nothing but a phone call by someone who may actually just not like Joe. Does this bother anybody other than me? You know, there is this pesky thing called the Second Amendment hanging out there and yet some idiot judge is going to simply say, “Take his guns.” And what is worse is that there are a lot of testicularly

challenged police officers out there who should know better but are still going out and taking people’s guns. Wow. I never thought I would see the day when we are embracing the beginnings of a police state here in the USA.

Of course, the inevitable has already happened. In Maryland, since their red flag law was imposed in October, by mid-November there had already been 114 gun removal requests. During one seizure, the SS Stormtroopers from the Glen Burnie Police department, killed a 61-year-old man in his house. The police showed up at his house at 0517 in the morning to serve their “Extreme Risk Protective Order” and in the process killed a guy. A couple of things. 0517 in the morning? Really? Who in the heck, knowing they have done nothing wrong, is going to respond perfectly rational after being awakened with Nazi Stormtroopers at your door at the crack of dawn? Go online and read the police chief, SS Oberguppenfueher Timothy Altomore’s, defense of his hit team. Comical. He said, “Well, what did we prevent? Because we don’t know what we prevented or could’ve prevented. What would’ve happened if we didn’t go there at 5 a.m.?” Zieg Heil! I’ll tell you what you would have been prevented, the death of Mr. Gary Willis. Left alone, statistics tell us he would have done nothing to anybody and possibly died in his sleep 20 years from now. They are trying to justify his killing as proof of their National Socialist ideology of removing weapons from the citizenry.

I’m sorry but this whole thing stinks to high heaven. No due process at all. When President Trump threw Jim Acosta out of White House Press Corp, a judge ruled that he had to be reinstated because there was no “due process.” First, there is NO right for a member of the press to be in the White House. So now I cannot fire a jerk employee without due process but when taking away Second Amendment rights, this is somehow acceptable? What criteria do they use to determine whose guns get taken? If this was a Red Flag state, somebody who hated me because of Robservations could make such a call and I would have a bunch of Nazis at my front door. I do not use the term Nazi loosely like a lot people but the actions displayed by some police departments around the US today closely mirror the SS. This is one clear example.

Imagine the angry ex-wife. “Police, he’s a crazy man. He, he, he has guns. He points them at people. He threatened to kill my child.” No proof, no truth and the next thing you know you are face-planted in your living room, Stormtroopers are wrecking your house and some, undetermined time in the future you will have to stand before a judge, at your expense and prove your innocence in order to get your lawfully obtained weapons back. Does anybody see anything wrong here? There are those out there who say this law saves lives. Uhhhhh, not proven folks. To us who see the writing on the wall, this is nothing more than another step in the progressive left’s agenda to steal all weapons. I am sure there will be more on this as time passes on. But those 2nd Amendment cretins out there, like me, let’s keep a close eye on this. I will try to write on incidents like this as they appear in the news.

On the bright side, in Republic, Washington, Police Chief Loren Culp said that his agency would not enforce the state’s Initiative 1639. Although only a small town with Culp and one deputy, we are going to need a heck of a lot more people in law enforcement to stand up and crush these little Nazis everywhere they raise their ugly heads.

3. HUNTING HITLER: Real quick. Just watched the final episode in Season 3. Excellent show. I watched every episode, some twice. Interesting to watch. My thoughts: 1. The guy did get away at the end of WWII. 2. If he didn’t, thousands of Nazis in fact did. Not doubt, no question. They found Josef Mengele’s marriage certificate from 1958 for crying out loud. 3. They set up shop in South America and in Uruguay alone, they had some 754 camps, run by escaped Nazis, through the early 1970s. 4. Declassified documents prove that the Vatican, FBI, CIA, MI6, and other intelligence organizations knew a lot of this and did nothing. Shameful.



filmweb.pl

4. BIZAARO WORLD NEWS: Got this one the other day. “United States Air Force to Announce New Thunderbird Lead. Air Force spokesman, Joe Bag godonuts, announced that critical selection for the next Air Force Thunderbird lead has been concluded. ‘As usual, competition for this prized assignment has been tough but we made our selection. Admittedly, it is a selection not without



Hans Marseille: Egypt, September 1942 and posing for his new uniform.

controversy, but we feel this pilot will make an outstanding contribution to the Thunderbirds’ storied history.” It appears that former Luftwaffe fighter pilot, Hans-Joachim Marseille was selected for this coveted position. Although killed in combat in September 1942 after 158 aerial victories, there has been no acknowledgment from the Air Force how they plan on getting young “Jochen” back into the air. When asked, Air Force Lt. General, Buck Rogers, said, “Yeah, but the kid could fly. Don’t we all want to see that?” Marseille has not been available for comment.



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Montgomery, AL 36104

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The Alabama
Gazette
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Published by: Alabama Gazette Publishing, LLC
Volume 20 - Issue 3 Copyright 2018
The Alabama Gazette 32 pages- 4 Sections

The Gazette, (*now The Alabama Gazette*) was created in year 2000 for the people of Central Alabama with the intent of being a thought-provoking, non-partisan publication reaching over 20,000 readers monthly. Written comments, stories, advertisements, social and church events, as well as classifieds are always welcome. The publisher is not responsible for errors in text reprinted from other sources. Furthermore, this publication does not establish due diligence on authors or advertisers and cannot guarantee that their offerings or writings are correct or suitable. We assume no responsibility for errors or omissions. We reserve the right to print, edit or condense any and all contents submitted. The publisher reserves the right to refuse advertising and submissions at its own discretion. All articles, ads and photographs may be subject to copyright.

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Inside the Statehouse with Steve Flowers

Steve Flowers is Alabama's leading political columnist.
His weekly column on Alabama politics appears in over 60 Alabama newspapers.
He served 16 years in the state legislature.
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Alabama vs. Auburn Game

The only sport that Alabamians enjoy more than Alabama politics is college football. We especially love the Alabama vs. Auburn football game. Folks, this is Alabama/Auburn week in Alabama. The Alabama vs. Auburn annual event is one of the fiercest of college football rivalries. It is the game of the year. It is a state civil war that divides friends and even families. It is bragging rights for the entire year. The loser has to live with his boasting next door neighbor for 364 days. It seems that one must choose a side no matter if you despise college football and could care less who wins. Newcomers to our state are bewildered on this fall day each year. They cannot comprehend the madness that surrounds this epic war. It is truly that, a war. It is the game of the year.

Young boys all over Alabama grow up playing football in their front yards and dream of playing in this big game. It is said that when these two rivals meet one can throw out the record books. However, that is not necessarily true. In fact, in 90 percent of the games the favorite has won. A lot of SEC championships and bowl games have been decided in the game. It has made many Alabamians' Thanksgiving holiday either joyous or sad. I liked the rivalry better when it was played at Legion Field, but I am an old-timer in heart and age.

The game was not played for 40-years between 1908 and 1948. Myth has it that the game was halted because of the intense rivalry. That is not the case. The true history of the ceasing and renewal is that after the 1907 games, the schools could not agree on the terms of the contract. The dispute involved meal money, lodging, officials and how many players each side could bring. Football was not the passion it is today so the two schools let the matter rest and the fans did not seem to care.

That began to change as college football grew to a major sport in the 1940s. When the series resumed, a popular myth was that the Alabama Legislature called a special meeting and forced the teams to play. This never happened, but the Alabama House of Representatives did pass a resolution in 1947 to encourage, not force, the schools to meet in football, and the officials at Alabama and Auburn agreed. The Presidents of Auburn and Alabama simply talked with each other and decided it would be in the best interest of the schools to start playing again on an annual basis.

The contract was drawn up, the papers signed and the rivals literally buried the hatchet. On the morning of December 4, 1948, the president of each school's student bodies dug a hole at Birmingham's Woodrow Wilson Park, tossed the hatchet in and buried it. The series began again in 1948 with a 55-0 Alabama victory and the teams have squared off every season since.

Alabama leads the series 45-36-1. This record reveals that Alabama has not dominated the series, like it has against other SEC rivals and other national powerhouse programs.

In the political arena, the University of Alabama alumni have dominated the Alabama political scene. During the 60-year period from 1910 through the 1970s, almost every Alabama Governor, U. S. Senator, and Congressman was a graduate of the University of Alabama, either undergraduate, Law school, or both.

Currently, our state's most prominent and powerful political figure, Richard Shelby, is a graduate as an undergraduate and the Law School at the University.

A couple of Auburn men broke through the ice to grab the brass ring of Alabama politics, the Governor's office, Gordon Persons won in 1950 and Fob James, a former Auburn halfback won in 1978 as a Democrat and came back and won a second term as a Republican in 1994. In recent years, since 1982, Governors George Wallace, Don Siegelman, Bob Riley and Robert Bentley have all been Alabama Alumni.

However, our current Governor, Kay Ivey, is an Auburn girl through and through. She and her best friend, Jimmy Rane, became political allies at Auburn. They both have turned out fairly well.

Newly elected State Representative, Wes Allen of Pike County, was a walk-on wideout on one of Alabama's National Championship teams. He was coached by Gene Stallings and Dabo Swinney. Wes's father is State Senator Gerald Allen of Tuscaloosa. This is a first in Alabama political history, a father and a son tandem serving in the Alabama Legislature together.

November 21, 2018

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## Analysis of General Election

A few last thoughts and observations on our November 6 General Election in Alabama.

Our new 55th Governor looked and sounded more like the old Kay Ivey, than the one we have seen the past few years and during the campaign. She was vibrant, succinct to the point, had a perfectly timed and unscripted victory speech. Her green jacket was becoming. She will be a good governor. She will tackle the tough issues the state must face in the next four years, especially our infrastructure needs.

She is extremely qualified and ready to be governor. She is a real Republican with a real Republican super majority State Legislature. There are 27 Republicans and eight Democrats in the Senate. The numbers are 77 Republicans and 28 Democrats in the House.

Kay also has a unique and advantageous relationship with all of the Alabama Senate. She was the presiding officer of the Senate the last six years and was considered fair and impartial. She worked with and developed a very good working relationship with the GOP leadership. The three primary leaders of the Senate, Del Marsh, Jabo Waggoner and Greg Reed, have a close knit, trusting bond with Kay.

Kay not only becomes the 55th Governor, she is the first Republican female elected as governor and the second female governor in our state history. Ironically, Kay cut her teeth in politics working in our first female governor, Lurleen Wallace's campaign for governor. Kay was a student at Auburn University. Little did she know that 52-years later she would be the second female governor of our State.

The more things change, the more they stay the same in Alabama politics. The Alabama that Kay Ivey and I grew up in and knew 50 years ago was totally Democratic. In fact, the word tantamount was used continually to describe the dominance of the Democratic Party. It was an accurate statement. The dictionary describes tantamount as "the same as." Today I use the word tantamount when explaining winning the Republican Primary in Alabama. We were a one-party state 50 years ago and we are a one-party state in statewide politics, today. The difference is we changed parties. We are now a Republican state, yesteryear we were a Democratic state.

Winning the Republican nomination for statewide office in Alabama is tantamount to election. The proof is in the pudding. We have 29 elected statewide offices in Alabama, all 29 are held by Republicans. I'm not prophetic, but allow me to share a short passage with you from my column the week before the election. "In bygone days the Democratic Primary nomination was tantamount to election. Today, it is just the other way around. Nowadays, winning the Republican Primary is tantamount to election in the good ol' Heart of Dixie. The more things change the more they stay the same in Alabama politics. Boy, when we change, we really change. We were a one-party state then and we are a one-party state now. When Kay Ivey won the GOP mantle back in June, she essentially won the Governor's race." That was my statement Wednesday before the election. My belief was overwhelmingly confirmed on Tuesday, November 6th. We are a Republican state and I don't see it changing anytime soon. That was my foremost takeaway from the election.

My second observation is akin to my first, we are so Republican that folks are just voting a straight ticket. We have joined the rest of the Nation in that we simply vote straight Republican or straight Democratic. Our voting has become nationalized. Over 65 percent of Alabamians voted a straight lever ticket. It is primarily along racial lines. Alabamians are essentially African American Democrats or Caucasian Republicans. Therefore, Alabama is a red Republican state for statewide politics. However, just the opposite is true for the metropolitan counties of Jefferson and Montgomery. If you are going to win a county-wide office in these locales, you must run as a Democrat.

The third takeaway was the tremendous turnout at the polls. A record-breaking 50 percent of Alabamians voted on November 6th. Again, this was driven by national politics. Folks are either hardcore, conservative Republicans or hardcore liberal Democrats. There are few in between. Alabamians voted the national party brand. It is apparent that more Alabamians like and agree with Donald Trump than they do with Nancy Pelosi, Hillary Clinton, or Barack Obama.

November 28, 2018

## MILLENNIAL MUSINGS (Or, the Terror of Climate Change)



Ethan A. Wilkinson

We would like to enjoy the world after you're gone, please. And spare me the "well, it's cold right here, right now, so it couldn't possibly be warming in general" spiel. (By the way, this is the exact same argument that leads to people continuing to spank their children despite literally every single medical, psychological, and children's group that has studied it saying it is terrible.

The planet is getting hotter, and we are the cause. In the words of the report commissioned by the United States government, "Earth's climate is now changing faster than at any point in the history of modern civilization, primarily as a result of human activities." Our president may not believe it, but most of us

(and almost all of the rest of the world) does. We believe it because it is true, because it is supported by verifiable fact, and because the failure to do so would represent an existentially threatening amount of willful ignorance. Moreover, attempting to downplay this report as nothing more than "partisan" or "liberal fearmongering" is plain wrong. It was first commissioned in the 1980s (hey, most of you folks like Reagan and George Sr., right?), and it is the product of 13 separate Trump administration agencies.

In the face of overwhelming evidence (there is no "both sides" in the scientific community outside of BP's and Exxon's leaking change purse), I we all must

accept that we must do something, or else. To the more economically-conservative of you, I would point out that the costs of combating it only go up every year it is not addressed. Additionally, the argument against—that it would harm the profits of companies that trade in greenhouse gas emitting industries (and the paychecks of those they employ—is short-sighted to a fault given our already diminishing reliance on fossil fuels in the post-green technology world. To the more religiously-minded, how could you believe the world is a gift from God but not believe that you would need to keep it as pristine as possible?

Regardless, the potential payoff if the deniers happen to be right (they're not, we may just get lucky and be able to adapt) is nowhere near the risk if they are not. Assessing the impact of more frequent and stronger hurricanes, longer and more severe droughts, harsher wildfires, unpredictable winter storms, less diverse ecosystems on land and at sea, shifting ocean currents, and a never-ending march of more species to the trash bin of history, to name a few, is far more complex than the pages of this opinion column would allow. Suffice it to say, though, that these outcomes represent real and tangible threats to our very existence. Meanwhile, California (among several other states) and Europe have proven that we can address our problems head-on without devolving into anarchy or rushing headlong into abject poverty. Quite the opposite, in fact. And, even if after we invest the effort we find out the science was wrong all along, would it really be so bad to have spent our time and invested our best efforts to make sure that the only place in the entire universe we know we can survive is as nice as possible for as long as possible? We would like to enjoy the world after you're gone, after all.

*The views of submitted editorial may not be the express views of The Alabama Gazette.*





# The Chambliss Commentary

Marcia Chambliss



## Salt and Light

Marcia Chambliss has been involved in grassroots conservative politics since 2009 and has contributed opinion articles pertaining to politics and cultural issues to The Alabama Gazette since 2010.

*The views of submitted editorials may not be the express views of The Alabama Gazette.*

It was Tuesday evening, one week prior to the November mid-term elections, and I was in attendance at the annual His Vessel Ministries Celebration Dinner listening to the featured speaker, former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee. Admittedly, I wasn’t a supporter of Gov. Huckabee during his most recent presidential campaign, my lack of enthusiasm due largely to how he had embraced the Common Core State Standards Initiative back in 2013 while numerous conservatives were fighting tooth and nail to stop it.

But this event wasn’t political, and this women’s ministry has become such an integral part of my spiritual walk, so I checked my political bias, knowing the only purpose of this dinner was to celebrate 17 years of ministry and generate much-needed funding to continue women’s discipleship teaching in the River Region, as well as sharing the love of Christ with those present.

As Gov. Huckabee spoke, his first calling as a minister was overwhelmingly apparent, and as I listened to his message of the necessity for Christ followers to be “salt and light” to penetrate the darkness of our fallen world, I was reminded yet again how much darkness surrounds our culture. But instead of being overcome by a feeling of gloom, I heard encouragement in his words that night.

We know that salt in Biblical times served two purposes: to preserve and season food. As keeping rot and decay out of foods stored without modern refrigeration was likely the primary purpose, the analogous lesson from Jesus then and now is that Christians should be the salt by which we prevent the rot and decay of our culture. And, just as it was for His disciples in the days of Christ, being that salt and light isn’t easy or popular. Just ask University of California at Berkeley student Isabella Chow how difficult her life on campus is right now.

Ms. Chow is a student government senator who abstained from a largely symbolic vote brought by the LGBTQ+ campus community condemning the Trump administration for its proposed changes to Title IX to define gender as biological, unchangeable, and determined at birth. She explained that voting for the bill would compromise her Christian values and belief “that God created male and female at the beginning of time, and designed sex for marriage between one man and one woman.”\*

In Ms. Chow’s opinion, the bill would “promote a choice of identities” of which she does not agree to be right or of benefit for individuals, and would also promote organizations that do not uphold the values of her community. For the detailed reasons that she articulated without anger or malice towards those

with whom she disagrees, and even condemning anyone using Christianity to harass or discriminate against others, she abstained from the vote. In short, Chow’s explanation completely reflected Christ as she acknowledged that all individuals deserve Christian love and respect regardless of their opinions.

Protests of angry outrage from students and organizations were as expected when opinions are in disagreement with leftist ideology, and UC-Berkeley, home of the 1964 Free Speech Movement, now ironically only welcomes free speech when it is of a liberal persuasion. Ms. Chow has been disassociated from her campus political party with calls to resign, and publicly denigrated by vicious personal attacks. Yet, she has not resigned her senate position, and has not retracted her statement of Christian beliefs, a display of courage so desperately needed on our college campuses and across our nation. Ms. Chow is an example to all as we attempt to be salt and light, not with combative and demeaning social media posting in which the desire to win an argument is greater than the way we treat each other, but reflective instead of grace AND truth.

After reading about Ms. Chow, I was reminded of Gov. Huckabee’s comments of our responsibility as Christ followers to be the salt and light of the world, and that while it is incredibly easy to cast blame on Hollywood or the politics of Washington, DC for our cultural decline, Huckabee correctly stated the real problem has been the failure of so many Christians to speak up and stand firm for Biblical truth. Unfortunately, it’s been much easier in our American and even Christian culture to be of the world as well as in it, and we then wonder why we are experiencing such chaos and rebellion in so many areas of life.

I am so encouraged by Isabella Chow, and her willingness to be salt and light in such a hostile environment for conservative Christians. How many of us of any age have that conviction in similar adverse conditions? Further, how many Christians are preparing their children and grandchildren to speak truth with grace, even when the cost of doing so can be enormous in worldly measure?

This is the month we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, the One who came to bring light into a dark world, and the only One who can redeem us from our sins to restore us to a relationship with Father God. May His light shine over your family and our nation, and may we all demonstrate more courage, regardless of the backlash, to be salt and light such as Isabella Chow.

\*Ms. Chow’s full statement is available on her Facebook page, Office of ASUC Senator Isabella Chow.

Marcia Chambliss has been involved in grassroots conservative politics since 2009 and has contributed opinion articles pertaining to politics and cultural issues to The Alabama Gazette since 2010.



# The Day of Infamy

By John Martin

*The views of this editorial may not express the views of The Alabama Gazette.*

In the 1920’s and ‘30’s, we the people of the United States still retained vivid memories of the horrors of World War I—“The War to End all Wars.” Two decades later, when WWII erupted in Europe, we held a strict non-interventionist attitude to getting entangled into another one. A Gallup poll revealed that 88 percent were solidly against it.

In a 1940 election year speech, our notorious President Franklin Delano Roosevelt announced a campaign promise, “I have said this before, but I shall say it again and again and again: Your boys are not going to be sent into any foreign wars.”

But FDR had other ideas. He was salivating for a war. But how could he do it? He knew that neither the people nor Congress would approve a war. It could never happen—unless the other side shot first and did terrible slaughter and destruction.

After the beginning of WWII in Europe, FDR attempted to provoke Germany by freezing its assets, sending destroyers to Britain, and even depth-charging U-Boats. But Germany was wise enough not to respond; they wanted no entanglement with the United States after being decisively defeated in WWI.

FDR switched his focus to Japan. Lieutenant Commander Arthur H. McCollum offered him eight provocative options, “If by these means Japan could be led to commit an overt act of war, so much the better.”

FDR quickly implemented them. He blocked Japan from using the Panama Canal, froze its assets in America, embargoed oil and other vital needs, sent warships close to its homeland, demanded it withdraw from China and Indochina, and offered various military threats.

FDR’s bait was our Pacific Fleet. Over the objections of Admiral J.O. Richardson, FDR moved it from our West Coast to Pearl Harbor, which was vulnerable to attack from all directions. Richardson said, “I came away with the impression that, despite his spoken word, the President was fully determined to put the United States into the war if Great Britain could hold out until he was reelected.” FDR quickly relieved Richardson of his command.

In 1940, America cracked Japan’s “Purple” code and was able to intercept and read its secret diplomatic messages. The War Department in Washington knew every action Japan was up to, but this information was withheld from America’s servicemen and, of course, Admiral Kimmel and General Walter C. Short in Hawaii.

In January, 1941, right at the beginning of his third term, FDR sent his advisor Harry Hopkins to see Winston Churchill. Hopkins told him, “The President is determined that we shall win the war together. Make no

mistake about it. He has sent me here to tell you that at all costs and by all means, he will carry you through, no matter what happens to him—there is nothing he will not do so far as he has human power.” Soon afterward, British-American staff talks began under “utmost secrecy.”

Robert Sherwood, FDR’s biographer, said: “If the isolationists had known the full extent of the secret alliance between the United States and Britain, their demands for impeachment would have rumbled like thunder throughout the land.”

This almost happened when code clerk Tyler Kent discovered the secret plot. He smuggled documents out of the US Embassy in London to show to the American people. But he was caught, tried, and imprisoned until the end of the war.

By November, 1941, Japan’s Purple code messages revealed its military actions were heating up while diplomatic deadlines were being pushed forward.

On November 25, the U.S. Navy forbade all US and Allied shipping in the North Pacific and diverted it into the South Pacific. This prevented any accidental observation of Japanese ships, carriers, and planes and the subsequent alerting of people at Pearl Harbor.


Finally, on December 7, FDR got his wish—carnage and devastation—4000 casualties (2400 deaths) in less than 90 minutes and every ship in the harbor sunk. FDR announced it was a sneak attack by the Empire of Japan. Sneak attack? Really?

But it was “a date that will live in infamy”—created and covered up by a President who will live in infamy—a contemptible liar who proclaimed, “I hate war,” and then did everything in his power to condemn our people to engage in one.

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THINK

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# The Scourge of 'Straight Ticketers'



Straight-ticket voting enables a voter to cast all their votes for one party with a single mark at the top of the ballot. This duopoly party enhancing practice finally died in most States. Little surprise it remains in uncompetitive/ballot access blocked Alabama which will be among the last of seven States still suffering this practice when Texas (increasingly more a *'battleground'* State) abolishes it for the 2020 election cycle. Texas will become the 15th State since 1994 to end this scourge, removing one weapon from the duopoly's arsenal against more thoughtful and non-partisan voters, proven **most** distortive at lower level contests on the ballot - **i.e.**, smaller more local races. In fact, our neighbor to the east, Georgia, eliminated *straight-ticketing* in 1994. Only Indiana, Kentucky, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina and Utah will share this shameful stage with us. Some lawmakers in Utah [2016] had the courage to introduce legislation to abolish straight ticket voting but it failed to pass. One of the more notable recent successes was observed in heavily Democratic Rhode Island; businessman Ken Block, who lost his gubernatorial bid in 2010, spearheaded the drive to eliminate *straight-ticketing* from the ballot in 2014.

Leaders of Alabama's Democratic and Republican Parties sing their duet claiming they hear no calls for ending the practice. Of course they don't hear... surrounded by sycophant political prostitutes and hacks who benefit as they further promulgate disregard (aided and abetted by poor jurists like Myron Thompson) for **non**-duopoly candidates' and voters' civil rights. About half of the voters who actually participated in Alabama's prior gubernatorial general elections [Bentley victories] cast a straight-ticket vote. Secretary of State general election reports for 2010 show 48% of the approximately 1.5 million Alabama voters used the straight-ticket bubble, where *straight-ticketers* about 'cancelled each other out' with 357,525 straight-ticket Democrat votes and 353,037 Republican. The 2014 general election data showed 50% of eligible voters who participated used the straight-ticket bubble; 316,551 Republican to 273,655 Democratic.

Lower turnout results were no surprise, where Democrats put inferior candidates (some in bed with Felon Hubbard, et al) on the ballot which didn't allow non-duopoly party candidates to be printed on the ballot to increase voter participation. Increasingly more difficult for elections to communicate citizens want someone **OTHER** than the Democrat, who was **NOT** necessarily the Republican, some incumbents were reinstalled with small [in the teens] percentages of eligible voters. Then Speaker Hubbard welcoming the worst of the incumbent Democrats (finding themselves in trouble by the Blue to Red Kool-Aid flavor poison switch) exacerbated the problem. If more expedient to keep them in their current party instead of *'Dial Time'* party switches and use the big govt. Democrat sycophant to introduce legislation for his desired redistributions from those least able to afford it, provide help with jury selection to avoid conviction, etc. was easily 'dialed in' and gerrymandered by Felon Hubbard to keep Republicrats in power. Does it really matter if the harm imposed by corrupt and/or incompetent incumbent extremists reelected (like State Sen. Dial or US Sen. Shelby these past decades) wear the Donkey or Elephant moniker? - the damage done is the same to productive citizens who bear the burden.

Understandably more (esp. those who are **not** recipients of the political theft) are losing respect for public servants determined by an increasingly more rigged system. Little mystery why big govt. swamp monster Trump howled for abolishing the Electoral College when it gave him the [Bush v. Gore] result he and his Hillary, et al friends did not like; even less mystery how the monster now shills for the Electoral College after giving him the desired result. Political swamplers stand for no consistent principle - empowering govt. to advance their specific interest is their overwhelming motivation. Entertaining to watch how much this reality-star showman enjoys not having to deal with the political middlemen he used to purchase. I anger and frustrate most of my duopoly friends and associates openly showing lack of interest *w.r.t.* which party is installed under the current process. Get rid of protective ballot access laws, hyper-gerrymandering, 435 limit, straight ticket voting, etc. rigged system and I'll start to care again about a result worthy of my efforts to fight for and preserve.

I've observed no one this past election cycle who has been a greater soldier in this regard than Frank Dillman. Frank is a Vietnam veteran who served us well and took his oath and duty seriously. In return, he expects his public servants to do their jobs well and not shirk their duty - Dillman has undoubtedly lived up to his side of the contract by any measure. As one of the **non**-duopoly candidates who suffered the scourge of *straight-ticketers*, I asked for his comments on the matter. "I did not lose to my recent opponent; I was sucker punched by Straight Party or Straight Ticket voting," he said, "by those with the ability to color in one bubble and walk out of the polling center proudly wearing 'I voted' badge of honor and not know who or why you voted as you did."

Elaborating on the 'sucker punch' description, candidate Dillman provided the following data to show his results exceeded most Statewide contested **victors** in the recent election in his county. Dillman earned 16% of Macon county participants' Nov. 6th vote; Attorney General Steve Marshall (**R**) 14.95%, Chief Justice Tom Parker (**R**) 15.53%, Assoc. Justice Jay Mitchell (**R**) 15.85%, PSC Place 1 Jeremy Oden (**R**) 15.81%, PSC Place 2 Chip Beeker (**R**) 15.77%. The remaining Statewide victors were also close in exceeding Dillman's 16%; Lt. Gov. Will Ainsworth (**R**) 16.33%, 3rd Dist. Congress Mike Rogers (**R**) 17.14%, Sec. of State John Merrill (**R**) 16.32%, Auditor Jim Zeigler (**R**) 16.46%. Dillman summarized with, "Very probably, me being the first Libertarian candidate in Macon County history we did pretty darn good and the future is much brighter. This should give cause to my county's 'political fraternity' that a good candidate at the right time would penetrate their control."

I found Macon County's 99.56% approval of unopposed candidates most revealing of the scourge of *straight-ticketers* **non**-duopoly candidates must overcome. 7,274 ballots cast was a better than expected turnout, but reported 89.46% Democrat *straight-ticketers* added to 10.50% Republican *straight-ticketers* conveyed more information on the preferred duopoly party than preferences on any individual candidate(s). Still most (about 60%) registered voters in the county decided **not** to participate in this rigged system; I see no efforts on Goat Hill to increase competition to get more of these voters to participate and communicate specific non-duopoly preferences. No wonder why potential candidates for local/lower races don't even bother to run and give non-participating registered voters someone else to consider.

Most cite Richard Winger as 'the' expert historian on issues of this sort. "Straight-ticket devices are very harmful to the nominees of minor parties and independent candidates," said Winger, publisher and editor of *Ballot Access News*, "Sentiment is running against the device." Kay Stimson, Director of Communications for the **National Association of Secretaries of State** said, "The overall trend by state lawmakers in recent years has been to abolish it." Alabama is a relative newcomer to the Republicrat two-step, letting the corrupt Republican party back into our State without firing a shot instead of replacing the similarly corrupt (although different theft recipients) modern Democrats. It has become yet another backward State which flip-flops between the duopoly parties instead of replacing one of them. In spite of Stimson's and Winger's observations, Alabama saw **1.1** million straight-ticketers (about two-thirds) of the **1.7** million votes cast on Nov. 6th. This increase suggests things will continue to decay at the local level as results get more skewed to one party, about 66(**R**) to 45(**D**) *straight-ticketers* and politicians face even less discipline from Bentley's/BCA's 'incumbent' Republicrat reinstalled as our corrupt AG. The ballot box shows little promise to remove Arrington, Butts, Felon Hubbard, Hammond, Langford, McClain, Robinson, Siegelman, Spicer, et al type political hacks who will simply do the 'Shelby two-step' to the other party when the corruption is ripe.

Understanding the disproportionate impact straight-tickers impose on lower level/local office contests, Indiana recently made an unexpected procedural change on their ballot requiring an individual vote in partisan at-large offices. Floyd County Clerk Christy Eurtion asserted this compels voters to review the ballot for their candidate. Clark County Republican Party Treasurer Matt Owen said the best way to have settled any confusion was to "move-away from straight-party voting in the first place." Some Alabamians argue for the convenience and time savings of *straight-ticketing* most notably in overburdened polling places like the Clarion box in my home county. Perhaps it is time to increase access to early voting so those who care more about their party can turn in their ballots to cancel out the other duopolist, still accomplishing their end of killing competition at the local level, but then are **OUT OF THE WAY** for other voters more likely to matter and communicate more information in the election result. Obviously no reason for *straight-ticketers* to wait till Election Day to gather the most updated info on the choices; nothing any candidate says will make a difference to these robotic voters. This will allow less wait time and better access for the thinking voters who may make a difference on the margin - esp. at the lower levels which often make a bigger difference to the quality of one's quality life than DC and Goat Hill swampers.

One of the more interesting **non**-duopoly races this election was Craig Ford's State Senate (Dist. 10) run as an independent. Ford earned a respectable 39% but was also plagued by easily duped straight-tickers lied to by the duopoly if a voter bubbled in for his candidacy (there was no Democrat printed on the ballot for this race) it removed their straight-ticket votes on the remainder of the ballot. This propaganda campaign was successful throughout Alabama in spite of Sect. of State Merrill's best efforts to educate voters that in fact ALL the other straight-ticket votes are counted unless marked otherwise. Others have noted Sen. Stutts - **R**, Dist. 6 (considered by many political watchers among the most corrupt and reviled 'public servants' in the Alabama Senate) narrowly held seat with 50.85% on Nov. 6th; arguably a beneficiary of the straight-ticketer scourge currently skewed to red tics.

Incumbent John Andrew Harris' late write in campaign for Lee County Commission (Dist. 5) was another one looked to for some relief in an uncontested race. Commissioner Harris (wisely it seems in retrospect) ran for Rep. Bandy's vacated seat. Harris was among the first to put me on notice of OPS accounting fictions to hide Fuller's *giggin' for dollars* addressed in my last two November *Alabama Gazette* columns. Candidate Harris made this an issue running against Mayor Fuller last election cycle to be *'steamrolled'* and vilified by the Hubbard machine. I applaud Harris' run for State Rep. 83 which diluted an Opelika city council member (who enabled *Fuller's Folly*) **and** another machine candidate. This paved the way for a promising bright young candidate entrepreneur, Rep. Elect Jeremy Gray, who actually knows/understands how the real world works to win the run-off and later win in the General Election. This left Commissioner Harris as the **incumbent** in a *write-in* campaign against the Fuller machine candidate (his friend Richard LaGrand) who was the only name **printed** on the ballot for Lee County Commission District 5. Also, a victim of the duopoly's misinformation campaign that a write-in vote would remove all other straight ticket votes **and** it seems some wrote the name and didn't mark the bubble it is an amazing feat he did this well. If Commissioner Harris had won as a write-in, it would've been one of only **four** victories of this sort in recent memory.

Before closing, I must include some of the best quotes from soldier candidate Dillman. "Ask those voters who they voted for Governor or local county commission and watch for their blank stare trying to remember a candidate's name. Furthermore, ask them what was most impressive about the particular candidate and now watch their facial and body language! Partisan voting is chocking Macon County, state, and nation. Candidates refuse to attend forums for citizens to hear and ask questions but they are handsomely re-elected, the majority of the time with Straight Party Voting. Change never comes about with straight party voting, which is designed to favor the incumbent and is a disgrace to opponents who are honestly trying to toss out complacent career-minded public servants. The two major parties prefer SPV [Straight Party Voting] for their selfishness, tenure, power, and control. Reform is needed to ensure the best candidate is elected to office. I do not believe the best candidates are in office. Those among us who live the reality of taxation, zoning laws, governmental obstacles to establish small businesses, etc. are most often more qualified but are pushed aside because of ballot access laws and SPV."

So if you want to continue being one of the many Republicrat *straight-ticketers*... at least take the additional seconds to mark each bubble to dilute votes of the dwindling thoughtful participant(s) who took the endeavour seriously enough to devote some time in finding the name of each candidate and learn a little about them. Consider it the price you must pay to protect your duopoly and keep destroying the meaning and Spirit of the ballot along with what it was designed to communicate. If it seems a high price, please remember all who died and sacrificed to make it happen - e.g. non-duopoly candidates like Mr. Dillman trying to bring some honest competition to this rigged system. This righteous man and the few courageous candidates like him in our State have earned your taking the effort to reject him specifically.

**Postscript:** many thanks for all the positive comments about Fuller's Folly in Opelika. As I type another column during the Thanksgiving holiday celebration of our blessings, I'm again reminded of the courage and wisdom recorded by Gov. Bradford in the Plymouth colony. Imagine if they'd **not** given up on their failed common storehouse generating the famine and misery they endured to assign property rights to one's own harvest; we'd likely never know of their success overcoming more public interest rhetoric and theory to actually prosper in reality, securing God's blessings for themselves and their posterity. Liberty and property have a history of being a fertile environment to bring out the best in societies.

The rational forecast for our State in the years to come is we're about to witness unbridled corruption like we've not observed since reconstruction with big govt./traditional Republicans now completely in power and undisciplined by a corrupt AG. Hold onto God's Truth and Light as you celebrate the beginning of Jesus Christ's path in this world during the Christmas season, understand the magnitude of the mission His Father set Him upon. If you truly believe and adhere to His teachings, it destroys the power of death and darkness in this world. Without this fear Rome's (and the many leviathans to follow) ability to advance their despotic ends is thwarted. Jesus showed us the way - it is up to us to have the courage, faith and wisdom to follow. If we do not stand well against evil and corruption in our everyday lives, we are failing Him and the righteous efforts many suffered so mankind may not be compelled to endure the agony of Roman despotism again.





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Thank you Ed for 16 years of great writing for the Alabama Gazette!



Ed Jones

Football Writer

## Perfection in Crimson?

The views of this editorial may not express the views of The Alabama Gazette.

Alabama has had a special season so far, even measured by Alabama standards. They started the season ranked number one and have maintained the ranking every week of the 2018 season. If the Tide can beat Georgia in the SEC Championship Game, win two games in the four team national championship playoff, it will accomplish a feat that not many teams have been able to do. They will have gone through the entire season from start to finish ranked number one. They also will be 15-0, a record that has only been reached by Alabama, Ohio State and Clemson. Speaking of Clemson, the purple and orange Tigers could be the biggest stumbling block in Alabama’s quest for the national title. With Alabama finishing at number one and Clemson finishing at number two, they would both be forced to win their first round games in order to meet, regardless who their opponents are. Incidentally, Alabama and Clemson were favored in every game of the 2018 season. If Clemson meets Alabama for the championship, Alabama will be favored by a touchdown.



Jalen Hurts took Alabama to two national championship games as a freshman and as a sophomore. His willingness to take a backseat to Tagovailoa showed the leadership qualities of a champion.

A little mentioned fact is that Coach Nick Saban has only had one undefeated team at Alabama. That team was the 2009 “BCS” National Championship winning team, finishing 14-0. Oddly, Bama’s last four national championship teams each had one loss 2011 (12-1), 2012 (13-1), 2015(14-1), 2017 (13-1). Since Nick Saban’s first year at Alabama in 2007, only eight FBS teams have ended a season undefeated.



Tua Tagovailoa showed his prowesss in last years championship game. His passing instincts are amazing. This year he showed that he was an excellent runner as well.

There is no real “secret” to Alabama’s success under Saban. Their unbelievable domination of college football is a combination of factors. One is that Coach Saban expects his team to be of championship caliber. That expectation is no “pie in the sky” attitude. He teaches his players and his coaches to expect perfection from every player. Of course this is not humanly possible but it creates almost perfect execution from Saban’s players. It was the great NFL coach, Vince Lombardi of the Green Bay Packers who coined a phrase that is copied by great coaches today. When Lombardi took over the Packers in 1958, they were as bad as a professional team could be. At the Packers first team meeting, Lombardi empathetically declared, “We will relentlessly strive for perfection, and in doing so we shall achieve excellence.” The Packers won several NFL titles and won the first two Super Bowls in 1967 and 1968.

No one is privy to what Nick Saban says in his team meetings, but whatever he says, it must be similar to the message used by Vince Lombardi sixty years ago. Formations change, rules change, players change... but football never really changes. Success comes in the pursuit of perfection.

The second reason for Nick Saban’s success is the fact that he is by far the

greatest recruiter in the history of college football. Saban will never put a team on the field where his players are not superior to the opponents players. He knows how to recruit nation-wide, which obviously includes Hawaii. He has a system that is just superior to the systems of other coaches. If I knew what it was, I would not be writing this article. When you have the “best” players and you coach them to pursue perfection you get excellence. Excellence = Alabama Football. How long can it last? Who knows? In his late sixtys (67), Saban looks like a man in his late fortys. He can’t coach forever but the “quittin’ place” is up to him. He certainly does not need the money. He is already the richest football coach of all time.

The third reason for Saban’s success is an approach where he gets the coaches and the players focused completely on the success of “The Team.” In his world, nothing can get in the way of the team. If a coach or a player is not in the program for the team, Saban drops him, as in Lane Kiffin just before the 2016 championship game that Alabama lost to Clemson. In his mind it was a decision he had to make because of his “team concept.” I believe that his decision cost Alabama the championship. Yet, I applaud the decision. Saban is on the brink of winning two national championships since that decision.

All great coaches apply the three principles mentioned above. Some are just better at doing it than others. I just can’t resist telling the story of a great friend, Coach Vince Dooley. In 1979, Dooley printed T-shirts that read “There is no I in team.” This was the first time that I had seen a college coach make his players wear a motivational message at practice and under their pads in games. “Dooley’s Dogs” won the national championship for Georgia the next year (1980). Saban would have been a young assistant coach at the time. I’ll bet he had heard the story. Saban has surpassed Dooley, Bowden, Paterno, Bryant and Rockne. He knows how to teach “team” better than all of them.

Alabama’s 19 seniors can go out in a blaze of glory with three more wins. This group is now 53-3 with three college football playoff appearances, two SEC championships and two national championships. The three wins required of these seniors to win a third national championship will give them a record that will probably not be broken, 56-3.

## ROLL TIDE!



Coach Nick Saban may have learned to drink Coca Cola on TV from Coach Paul “Bear” Bryant. As focused as he is on the task at hand, he can have fun with the media - sometimes.



Damion Harris could be playing on an NFL team today, making millions, but he wanted to come back for his senior year and provide leadership for this team. That kind of dedication is a mark of Alabama’s success.



**Steve Long**

# Woods & Waters with Steve



## *Lets Build A Positive Image*

I know a lot of you folks have deer on the brain for just about every waking moment, and I can say that I'm no different. I'm always thinking about all the different things that go with it, and with my work at QDMA, I'm also looking at what hunting means to us as both individuals and as members of society at large. Ultimately, I'm also thinking about what will lead to maintaining deer hunting as one of our great heritages that we can proudly pass down to the next generation.

For starters, we need to always obey the law. Those laws are put into place for good reason, and we need to ensure that we always strive to follow them. It's not just about putting a deer on the ground at all costs; we're ultimately responsible for the deer population and the public's perception of hunters. Each of us is an ambassador for deer hunting, and our individual actions each reflect upon us all. The law, and good ethics, is what separates the good hunters from the ones that bring down the public on our heads. While we shouldn't hide the fact that we are hunters, waltzing up to the local diner covered in blood isn't really appropriate, either, nor is acting a fool in public while wearing camo and hunter's orange. I can't tell you how to live your life, but I do ask you to think about how your image affects the rest of us deer hunters. So, in addition to providing better hunting for ourselves and future generations and maintaining a good public image, obeying the law also promotes safety. So please, take some time before this season kicks off, and review your local guidelines for deer hunting.

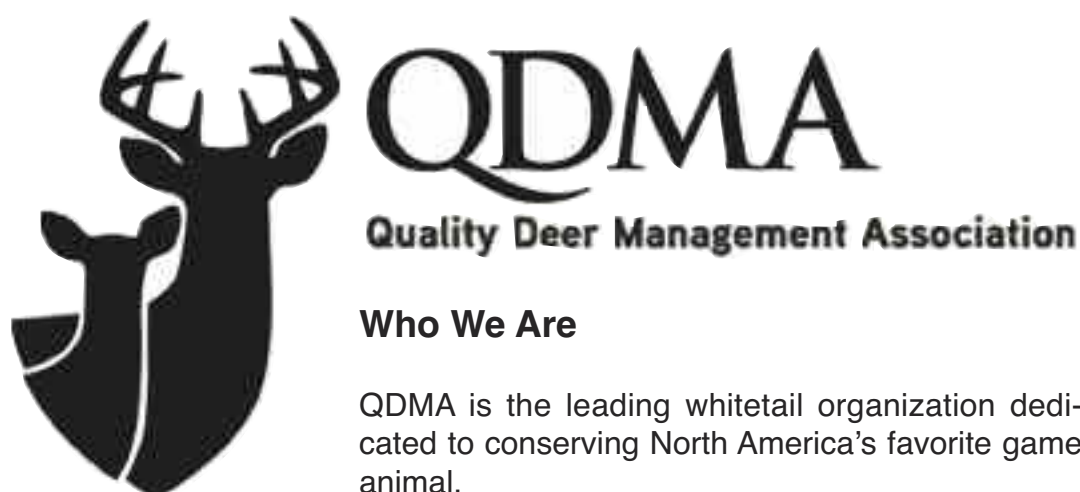
My next point is about deer hunters sticking together. We're blessed to have such a diverse array of options for communication, what with the boom of social media. However, the Internet is a huge double-edged sword; people, who are perfectly normal in person, can lose their minds and argue over the most childish of things. Public perception is pretty darn important to deer hunting, and things like Facebook are how other people are learning about who we are. So before you hit submit on that response, make sure you really mean what you're saying. Ultimately, hunters only make up about 6% of the US population, so while there's a lot of us, we're still a minority, so we've gotta stick together. Disagreements

happen, but let's be respectful, both in person and online, especially if the other hunter is still following the law and hunting ethically.

If we're going to help ensure the future of deer hunting, then we need to get involved in its future. I love what I do as a hunter, and ultimately that's what lead me to working for QDMA. Now, you don't have to quit your day job to get involved, but being a part of a larger organization does help with lobbying our government to ensure favorable laws for deer hunters and hunting in general. The more hunters we have, the more pull we can throw for hunting. Responsible land management is another simple way to get involved, and QDMA has all kinds of tools to assist you with that. And of course, education is a great way to get involved, both self-education and teaching new hunters about deer hunting.

This brings me to the final point; introducing new hunters. As I mentioned earlier, hunters make up only 6% of the US population. That's not as big a number as I thought, myself, but it does show a trend that less and less people are getting out there. Each one of us, being the ambassadors that we are, can introduce someone to the joys of the outdoors and hunting every year, and I strongly encourage you to do so. It not only promotes hunting as a whole, but safe, legal, and ethical practices that help making deer hunting what it is. It's the kind of gift that not everyone can give; only 6% of the US has that skill and knowledge. So if your neighbors have a kid or two that's always wondered why you're leaving at 5 in the morning wearing all that camouflage, or if a buddy at work says they've never been, try and find a way to get them involved. Deer hunting is the great sport it is today because of how easy it is to get hooked, and we can only make that better with effort.

My time with QDMA makes me realize how lucky we are to have deer hunting, and the impact we can have on something that simple, as well as the impact it has on us. We can always make our mark on it, and improve it for the following generations of hunters. So get out there, get educated, be united, stand firm, and go get'em!



### Who We Are

QDMA is the leading whitetail organization dedicated to conserving North America's favorite game animal.

We are hunters from all walks of life who share a passion for white-tailed deer. We believe it is our responsibility to ensure the future of white-tailed deer, wildlife habitat and our hunting heritage. As the authority on all things whitetail, we blend the art of hunting with the science of management to create better deer and better deer hunting.

### QDMA — Where Deer Hunters Belong

# Kritter Korner

## Elephants

Elephants are the largest land animals on Earth and are also known to be extremely intelligent. They have characteristic long noses, or trunks; large, floppy ears; and wide, thick legs. A group of elephants is called a herd. The herd is led by a matriarch, which is the oldest female. Females, as well as young and old elephants, stick together in a herd. Adult males tend to wander. Elephants also have certain rules. For example, when they are meeting each other, they expect the other elephant to extend its trunk in greeting. The matriarch will often teach young elephants in her

herd how to act properly. Male elephants are called bulls and females are called cows. After mating, the cow will be pregnant for around 22 months. When the baby elephant is finally born, it can weigh around 200 lbs and stand about 3 feet tall. A baby elephant is called a calf. As the calf grows, it will gain 2 to 3 lbs. every day until its first birthday. By the time they are 2 or 3 years old, calves are ready to be weaned. Male calves will wander off on their own, while females

will stay with their mothers. When they are 13 to 20 years old, they will be mature enough to have their own young. Elephants live 30 to 70 years in the wild. Those elephants that do have a good environment to live in can do so for 50 to 70 years. Many of the very old elephants die due to their teeth grinding away over the years. Then they starve to death as they aren't able to chew food anymore. Elephants are known to form very strong emotional bonds. They are excellent with their offspring and they seem to get along in their herds for the most part. They have been seen displaying signs of distress and sorrow when one in their herd is injured or that it

has died. The typical size of a herd is about 20. Elephants are in danger though of surviving in the wild due to the destruction of their natural habitat. This is a major concern as we don't want to see these wonderful creatures being destroyed. Many of them live in zoos or they are part of circus acts. Since they are gentle for the most part, smart, and can move heavy items you will often find elephants helping to put up the tent at the circus. They are also used in many countries to carry logs and other heavy items. There are two species of elephants remaining in the world – the African and the Asian. They range in color from light to dark gray, with the most distinct features being their huge ears and tusks. These

**Ron VanHerwyn**

tusks though have resulted in the deaths of thousands of elephants though. That is because they are made from ivory. Even though it is now illegal to trade or sell ivory it continues to be profitable on the black market. These beautiful majestic animals are a family for life, they never leave each other. It is our responsibility to protect the animals. Elephants are being poached for their tusks illegally we must do something to stop this, studies show in 10 years they will be extinct because of man.

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# Honoring Our Heroes

## WWII Prisoner of War Survivor: Roy McGinnis

Roy McGinnis, was held as a Prisoner of War (POW) in Stalag 17 for 19 months during World War II. On his fourth combat flight as a gunner, Roy's B-17 bomber was shot down over Schweinfurt, an industrial city on the Main River in the German State of Bavaria. Roy survived the crash along with his 10 member crew of airmen, and they were taken to Stalag 17 for imprisonment until Allies liberated Austria and Germany.



In 1943, as American air attacks against Germany increased, the Nazis moved the growing number of captured American airmen into prisoner of war camps, called Stalags. Over 4,000 airmen ended up in Stalag 17-B, just outside of Krems, Austria. On October 13, 1943, 1350 non-commissioned officers of the Air Force were transferred from Stalag 7A to Stalag 17B, which already contained POWs from France, Italy, Russia, Yugoslavia and various smaller nations. From then until the last days of the war, a constant stream of NCOs arrived, and strength reached 4237 in spite of protestations concerning the over crowded conditions. The entire camp contained 29,794 prisoners of war of various nations.

The Americans occupied five compounds, each of which measured 175 yards by 75 yards and contained four double barracks 100 by 240 feet. The barracks were built to accommodate 2000 men, but at least 4000 men were crowded into them after the first three months of occupancy. Each double barrack contained a washroom of six basins in the center of the building. The beds in the barracks were triple decked, and each tier had four compartments with one man to a compartment, making a total of 12 men in each group. Each single barrack had a stove to supply heat and cooking facilities for approximately 200 men. The fuel ration for the week was 54 pounds of coal. Because of the lack of heating and an insufficient number of blankets, the men slept two to a bunk for added warmth. Lighting facilities were very poor, and many light bulbs were missing at all times.

The five compounds occupied by the American Pow's had been previously occupied by Russian POW's. The barracks were filthy. The thin straw mattresses in the bunks were full of bed bugs and lice. It was only in the summer time that POW's were able to their mattresses out in the sun to get rid of as many bugs as possible. The Russian POW's were the most harshly treated of all Allied prisoners. Four additional barracks were added in early 1944, but two other barracks were torn down because they were considered by the Germans to be too close to the fence, thus making it possible for POWs to build tunnels for escape purposes. Latrines were open pit type and were situated away from the barracks. The latrine pits were emptied every two or three weeks. There was a very bad smell partly due to the fact that the men burned the lids as fuel. The outside latrines were not used at night because guards with dogs roamed around the areas.

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Two separate wire fences charged with electricity surrounded the area, and four watchtowers equipped with machine guns were placed at strategic points in addition to the searchlights from the guard towers to illuminate the area. There were 24 cold water taps per wash room. Insufficient water was available from 6:30 to 8:00 AM and 10:30 to 12:00 and 4:00 to 6:00 PM. No hot water was available. Only one hot shower was available during the last two months.

The treatment at Stalag 17B was never considered good, and was at times even brutal. An example of extreme brutality occurred in early 1944. Two men attempting to escape were discovered in an out-of-bounds area adjoining the compound. As soon as they were discovered, they threw up their to surrender but were shot. One of the men died instantly, but the other was only injured in the leg. After he fell, a guard ran to within 20 feet of him and fired again. The guards then turned toward the barracks and fired wild shots int that direction. One shot entered a barrack and seriously wounded an American who was lying in his bunk. Permission was denied the Americans by the Germans to bring the body of the dead man into the compound for burial, and medical treatment for the injured man in the outer zone was delayed several hours.

One POW was mentally sick when he was taken to the hospital where no provisions were made to handle cases of this type. In a moment of insanity, the

POW jumped from a window and ran to the fence, followed by a French doctor and orderlies who shouted to the guard not to shoot him. He was dressed in hospital pajamas which should have indicated to the guard that he was mentally unbalanced even if the doctor had not called the warning. As the patient climbed over the fence, the guard shot him in the heart.

Roy said, "We were forced to stand outside in extremely cold weather for long periods of time while German agents searched prisoners and their barracks and confiscated any food, tobacco or personnel belongings which prisoners may have possessed in excess of limits allowed. Red Cross parcels were issued to prisoners sporadically, but a large percentage of the parcel contents was confiscated by the Germans. The Red Cross parcels contained five packages of American cigarettes, powdered milk, a bar of cheese and a can of coffee. Prisoners bartered cigarettes for other desired merchandise and luxuries such as eggs or blankets with the Germans. The delay in receiving mail was considerable with incoming mail sometimes taking five months for delivery."



On April 8, 1945, Roy was among 4000 of the PWs at Stalag 17B who began an 18-day march of 281 miles to Braunau, Austria. The remaining 900 men were too ill to make the march and were left behind in the hospitals. These men were liberated on May 9, 1945, by the Russians. The marching column was divided into eight groups of 500 with an American leader in charge of each group, guarded by about 20 German Volkssturm guards and two dogs. Red Gross parcels were issued to each man in sufficient amounts to last about seven days. During the 18-day march, the column averaged 20 kilometers each day. At the end of the day, they were forced to bivouac in open fields, regardless of the weather. On three occasions, the men were quartered in cow barns. The only food furnished to POWs by the German authorities was barley soup and bread. The baked black bread was made from a mixture of rye, sugar beets, sawdust, leaves and straw. Trading with the German and Austrian civilians became the main source of sustenance after the Red Cross parcel supplies were exhausted. The destination of the column was a Russian prison camp four kilometers north of Braunau. Upon arrival, the POWs cut down pine trees and made small huts since there was no housing available. Roaming guards patrolled the area and the woods surrounding the area, but no escape attempts were made because it was apparent that the liberation forces were in the immediate vicinity. The day after their arrival at the new site, Red Cross parcels were issued to every POW. A second issue of one parcel for every fifth man was made a few days later.

All POW's were technically liberated on May 2, 1945, by a tank unit from General Patton's Army; however, the POW's had to wait several days for the infantry to arrive and to physically take the German guards into custody. A few days later, the POW's were all deloused and flown to U.S. camps in France that had been especially prepared for released American POW's.

Roy said, "I never did pray much before I arrived at Stalag 17, but I started to pray a lot while I was a prisoner there. I have been blessed with Christian wives. My first wife passed away from cancer, my second wife suffered fatal injuries in an automobile wreck, and I met my third wife, Hilde, at a grief counseling class at Frazer in June, 1993." Roy and his wife have been members at Frazer for 19 years.

Roy will celebrate his 96th birthday in January, 18, 2019. He was born at Sylacauga, Alabama, where he lived until he was fourteen. His family moved to Mississippi for a few years returning to Alabama to settle at Prattville where he attended high school. He joined the AL National Guard in 1940, and his unit was called to active duty where he served in the infantry. He switched branches of the US Armed Forces by serving in the Air Corps and attended the Aircrafts Mechanics School learning the skills as a gunner. After WWII was over and he was discharged, he married and had one child. In 1947, Roy reenlisted in the US Air Force and served a total of 27 years before retirement in 1968. After retirement from military service, he worked with the Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs and became its Director retiring in 1983. This remarkable American military hero is to be saluted for his military service and especially for his bravery during long, difficult months at Stalag 17.



## Honoring Veterans

## Happy Birthday



Robert Harper ~ 93  
December 18th



Al Barnes ~ 95  
December 27th



Lamar Smith ~ 95  
December 19th





# The Education Station... *By Bobbie Ames*

Bobbie Ames writes from The Hoffman Education Center for the Family, where the ministry promotes Christian Education that is foundational to the Historic Biblical Principle Approach. Consulting services are available through the Hoffman Research Library. She can be reached at P. O. Box 241405, Montgomery, AL 36124, or at *bobbiehames@gmail.com*.

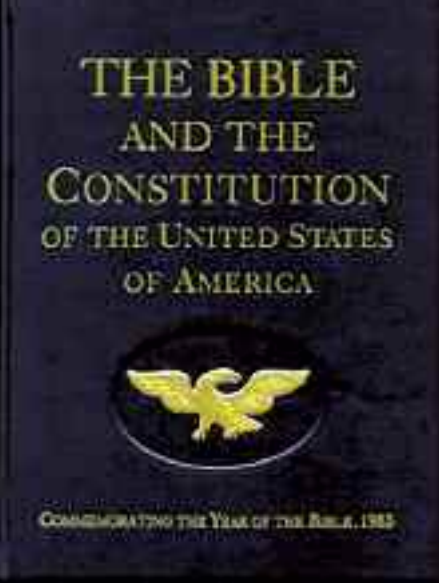
## GOD AND COUNTRY:

### Christian Self-Government with Union: The Birth of American Federalism



President Ronald Reagan and both Houses of Congress were united in Proclaiming 1983 as The Year of The Bible. The President and the Joint Resolution of the Congress had the dynamic purpose of embracing the influence of the Bible in the founding of our nation. It was the Biblical teachings which inspired our Founders to establish Christian Self-Government with Union, and a Nation of American Federalism. Its very foundation is based on The Bible and The Constitution.

The Foundation for American Christian Education has published the best book of all, on The Bible and The Constitution of the United States of America.



Regarding America and the Bible, I quote from the book: "The history of the Bible and the history of American Liberty are inseparable. The Bible is the source of individual liberty: salvation from sin through Jesus Christ. It is also the basis for external or civil government. As Noah Webster wrote: 'It is extremely important to our nation, in a political as well as religious view, that all possible authority and influence should be given to the Scriptures; for these furnish the best principles of civil liberty, and the most effectual support of republican government.'"

American Federalism would not have been possible without the Bible. The history of the Pilgrims, the Puritans, all of our early settlers lived out Christian

self-government and organized their homes, their communities, their villages, in a Biblical order. The virtue of character produced inspiring volunteerism. Having taught History for nearly a half-century, I can assure the reader that American Federalism is unique in the history of world governments. It is unique by the manner in which local self-government is primary but combined with Union. The presence and the power of the States and the Nation must be kept in balance.

So, how do we make sure that this Constitutional form of Government will work? It is in grave danger today, as we know. When we are Biblically educated and practising the two great Commandments: to Love God and Love our fellow man, then our founding form of government will work.

It is so interesting to read about John Wyclif (1320-1384) and his translation of the Bible into English. He was a leading theologian and member of Parliament, and saw the need for this translation because of the spiritual decay around him. His translation began a movement toward individual liberty, both civil and religious.

The American Home must be the center for building Christian character. Today, the majority of American families have relinquished that responsibility to government schools which have not embraced our heritage of American Federalism, The Bible and the Constitution.

The failure to embrace our civil and spiritual heritage was evident throughout the mid and later 1900s. J. Edgar Hoover spoke frequently to national conventions about "American's Challenge." A long time director of the FBI, Hoover

said, with great passion: "What has happened to the time honored precepts of hard work and fair play which influenced the American scene during the all important formative years of this great Republic? Where is the faith in GOD which fortified us through the past trials? Have our national pride, our moral conscience, our sensitivity to filth and degradation, grown so weak that that they no longer react to assaults upon our proud heritage of freedom?



*J. Edgar Hoover*

In speaking of the Communists influence in America, Hoover stated, "Foremost among their targets have been America's young people, for the aim of Communism is world youth, and the capture and corruption of that youth." Hoover was speaking in 1962 in Las Vegas for The American Legion. At the end of a passionate speech, he concluded, "We are a God Loving People. The is our Greatest Strength. Let our national motto Always be, IN GOD WE TRUST."

Today in our beloved nation, there is an attack that we can name as **Postmodernism**. At the heart of this attack can be identified as against Biblical Christianity. Postmodernism is widely accepted in colleges, universities, and it certainly dominates modern politics and media. Immorality is a target for the PostModern culture, and our young people must be prepared to face it in the schools of learning and the open market places. We must prepare our children to resist immorality as it is integral to postmodernism.

As Christians, we know that the absolute Truths of the Bible are unchanged. The God of the Bible is unchanged. HE is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Post Modern followers believe that every person constructs his own story or narrative. The PM term appeared in the 1970s. Right and wrong is a matter of personal opinion in their eyes. Many see the results of PM in the break up of families, divorce rates, and over crowded prisons. Some have identified these aspects:

- 1. Deconstruction:** a tearing down of our past heritage, spiritual and religious.
- 2. Moral Relativism:** the Destruction of all moral absolutes.
- 3. Pluralism:** no absolutes, and tolerance prevails toward all.
- 4. Existentialism:** in which feelings rule. "It is what I FEEL that is right for me."

Dear Reader,

*Let us stand against the attacks by affirming our Christian Faith, and living out our fellowship with the God of the Bible. Let us stand against the attacks on our Christian Constitutional Republic by being informed and active in the public square. Let us be passionate in our prayer life, loving our family and friends, and reaching out to our neighbors.*

*The decline of the family life in America is a national crisis. Let us pray that strong Christian women and men, with dedicated family life, will be on course again.*

“The United States in Congress assembled...think it their indispensable duty to call upon the several states, to set apart the last Thursday in April next, as a day of fasting, humiliation and prayer, that our joint supplications may then ascend to the throne of the Ruler of the Universe...that the religion of our Divine Redeemer, with all its benign influences, may cover the earth as the waters cover the seas.”

- Continental Congress, March 19, 1782

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START MONTH





Judge  
Peggy Givhan

Southern Gardening

Potpourri for December

by Peggy Givhan

December is always a busy month being with friends and family, cooking, buying and wrapping gifts, trimming the tree, decorating the home...and finally, eating all the treats that come in for the season. This is why we have New Year's resolutions-- to purge the extra calories from the Holidays, so eat, drink and be merry.

I was at a presentation recently where lecturer shared a delightful idea for teaching gardening techniques to some very young grandchildren ages three and four, visiting during the Christmas season. She took them out into her flower beds and had them dig about 6 holes. She then had them "plant" a piece of striped peppermint candy in each of the holes. The candy was then covered with dirt, and the children took the watering can and watered the plantings. A few days later when the children were out, she went to the garden, dug up the candy and stuck large peppermint sticks over the holes. And when the children returned, they were just amazed how well there "peppermints" grew. Use your imagination as to how to protect the candy from the dirt. I would just rinse it off like to do carrots and other vegetables. Your call.

The month of December does not bring the weeding, planting, and sowing of seed we see in other months, but we do have other garden chores to get done. One of the best tasks we can perform for our garden is spraying with a dormant spray after a hard freeze. Thus the term, dormant spraying. I hate to keep repeating myself year after year, but there are some who have not gotten the message. If you do not want white flies swarming in spring and summer, ruining gardenias, cannas, and other flowers, we must to spray our trees, shrubs and plants with a dormant winter oil. I use the brand Volk Oil, but there are others readily available in Montgomery and surrounding garden centers and nurseries. The purpose of the oil is to smother the eggs which the white fly has lain under the leaves of these plants. Volk Oil also kills other insect eggs such as flea, roach, tick and other unwanted pests. In our area we do not have a wide window of opportunity, perhaps only a couple of months of really cold weather, to accomplish this task.. Now is the time to purchase the oil, plus a hose end sprayer which can spray up to 30 feet in order to cover under magnolia tree leaves and other taller trees. Depending on your yard, you will probably make several applications to get the job done. Be prepared early, so when the hard freeze occurs, you will not be scrambling to make the purchases. If you own a hose end sprayer, this would be a good time to test out your equipment. Sometimes if the sprayer sits up, the siphon tube gets clogged, so test it. I use food coloring in the bottom of the jar or something like blue windex. When the water from the hose mixes with it, a pale colored water is sprayed out. Now you know your sprayer works.

PLANT OF THE MONTH--POINSETTIA (*Euphorbia pulcherrima*)

This plant is closely associated with the Christmas season because of its traditional red and green leaves, which are actually, bracts and not the flowers. The flowers are the small yellow clusters in the center of the bracts. The plant is native to Mexico and is a member of the diverse spurge family. If given the proper treatment, they will last long after the ho ho ho's are no longer heard. Remember they hate the cold, even for a few minutes. The following are suggestions to keep the poinsettia healthy throughout the season:

1. Need indirect light about 6 hours per day.
2. High temps will shorten its life. Keep temperatures around 60-70.
3. Water only when soil is dry to the touch. If it is encased in foil, puncture the bottom for drainage.
4. Fertilize with a liquid fertilizer at least once during the Holidays.
5. Keep away from outside doors which may allow cold air to rush in on the plants.

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Another trend is the push for fermented foods. Kimchi, pickles, sauerkraut, and kefir have found their way into trendy eateries along with new items that will be fermented, cooked, and offered to customers. The aim is consuming the least processed food while increasing probiotics to improve the immune system. You do not have to go to a trendy eatery to experience the benefits of fermented foods and probiotics, dine at a Korean restaurant.

Remember when kale was the craze? Kale is losing it's shine and sorrel, dandelion greens, and amaranth are now in. I am still waiting for the return of Poke Salat. Hide your agave and honey. Sweetening from carrots, sweet potatoes, and golden beets byproducts are in the making. Sounds like food engineering and artificial sweetening to me. I will stick to my honey and agave.

There is still a push for so-called super foods. These vegetables and fruits are high in their nutritional qualities. Asparagus, beets, and Brussels sprouts

along with the fruits, apricots, papaya, and pears are becoming front center in restaurants and grocery stores. The last pear I ate was peeled, cored, out of a can and cut in half and sitting on a bed of lettuce. It had a dollop of mayonnaise and a sprinkle of shredded cheddar cheese on top. Brown rice, quinoa, walnuts, and flaxseeds are finding their way into other foods. You can have your sushi

with brown rice and the oatmeal I eat has flaxseeds in it. The focus on color is used to re-introduce some of these items into your diet and to pique the interest in children to try something different. They are finding or making veggies in not normal colors. Blue and purple are rare colors for most foods, so arriving in greater numbers are purple potatoes, and purple cauliflower.

You can be as trendy as you want, but you cannot find all of the items you want all year long. There are seasons and the items that are in season are plentiful, taste better, and usually more nutritious. When I was the Garde Manger at a banquet hotel, there were two times in the year when grapes were not available, or very expensive, or of poor quality. That was when the season for grapes was either just beginning or just ending in the United States and just the opposite in Chile. If you manage your menus according to what is plentiful at that time you get better quality and cheaper prices. If you take into account the seasons and what is trending right now, you can produce some great meals that will impress your family and friends.

December has a varied mix of seasonal vegetables and fruits. Apples and cranberries are what I see in most menus during this time but chestnuts, clementine's, passion fruit, pears, pineapple, pomegranate, satsumas, tangerines, and walnuts make welcomed alternatives. So are beets, Brussels sprouts, cauliflower, celery, leeks, parsnips, carrots, potatoes, pumpkin, red cabbage, and turnips. This does not need to be limited to fruits and vegetables. Meats, poultry, and fish have seasons with these being available; clams, duck, goose, haddock, halibut, lemon sole, monk fish, mussels, oysters, scallops, sea bass, squid, turbot, and of course the overused turkey.

If this is overwhelming for you to decide what to fix for dinner, get three darts and make three lists from the items mentioned. One marked VEGS, one marked FRUIT, and one labeled MEATS. Tape the list to a corkboard and use one dart for each list to find out what you will eat.

If you hit pineapple, squid, and turnips throw again!

At every potluck dinner party I attend, I see a store bought or at least an attempt to make an edible crudité platter. If you are going to make a vegetable platter, remember to look for and use the produce that is in season. Your platter should be the showcase of the buffet table. Not something just to fill up space. Do not make a list before hand of the vegetables you want to put on the platter, wait until you get to the produce section of your local grocery store and pick the best looking and most interesting produce. Go for different colors, shapes, and textures. That also goes for the platter itself. Try another shape than round. Arrange the vegetables in some other method than all of one vegetable goes in one pile and all of another vegetable goes in another pile. Try laying the produce in an "S" pattern and interlock each vegetable together in that same pattern. I have seen platters with the vegetables arranged to look like a Christmas tree. The greenery is broccoli with radishes, strawberries, and cherry tomatoes as ornaments. In addition, have more than one dip with the platter. Make it in some other color besides white. Depending of the vegetables, you may like to try one sweet and one savory dip. A cleaned out red or orange bell pepper will make a good substitute for a bowl for the dip.

If I have shamed you into not using that 2 pounds bag of baby carrots you just purchased for your next vegetable tray, I have a solution. I have seen this recipe floating around in newspapers and cookbooks, from Texas and Louisiana and from Paula Dean to Martha Stewart. It will be a change from the same old holiday meal side dish, sweet potatoes. This souffle will be firmer and denser than the normal souffle. It does not puff up like a normal souffle.

This year I spent Thanksgiving in Dallas. One of my favorite activities while here, is to dine at some of the new restaurants that opened since my last trip here. I am not writing this as a review but as a stimulant to get your brain going and coming up with different ideas on how to prepare a dish differently from the way you have always prepared it. This morning, we ate breakfast at a restaurant that only serves breakfast, SNOOZE, an a.m. eatery. I would say the Benedict's and pancakes are the most popular items on the menu. My choice this morning was the egg Benedict's. Every order has two Benedict's, but you can split the order to include one of any of the other choices. So you can have up to twelve different dishes to chose from. And they had a special holiday assortment of Benedict's. I picked a dish that had a base of sweet potatoes cubes, topped with a ancho coffee rubbed hanger steak topped with a poached egg and hollandaise with a pomegranate molasses and roasted asparagus. The other was green chili sauced tortillas and melted cheese with barbacoa, topped with poached cage free eggs, green chili hollandaise, pico de gallo, and cojita cheese.

# Southern Cuisine

Pundits of the food industry and marketing have released their food trends for the upcoming year. Much of which is the same as last year. Healthier food is always an up and coming trend. Some of the trends were trendy in the past, then lost some of their appeal, and are now becoming trendy again.

An example is tea. There are three cups of tea consumed in the world for every cup of coffee. Nevertheless, in the United States tea is making a comeback because of its health benefits. The health benefits are the rich antioxidants that fight inflammation and help prevent blood vessels from hardening. Tea is also known to boost brain health. A study in 1982 said drinking tea lowered the absorption of iron. However, with the addition to your diet of iron-rich plants and vitamin C rich foods will offset the impact. Foods like bell peppers, Brussels sprouts, kiwi, and strawberries. Tea also has lower caffeine levels then coffee. The main problem with tea, especially in the South, is sweet tea. We load it up with unwanted calories. But what else quenches your thirst on a heat muggy afternoon as much as a large glass of iced sweet tea.



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I included a picture of the steak and sweet potato Benedict to show that it does not have to be the same English muffin and Canadian bacon.

If you are having guests and family staying with you, surprise them with a creation of your own.

Use different meats, breads or no breads, and differently seasoned hollandaise for you brunch Benedict.

I have a recipe I have not made in a long time. It calls for clementines and my problem is that I peel and eat them so fast that by the time I am ready to bake and serve them as a dessert, there are none left. I also never make this recipe the same every time I make it. I used clementines but the topping changes, depending on what left over Christmas cookies I have.



## CARROT SOUFFLE

### INGREDIENTS

- 1 1/2 pounds carrots peeled and sliced
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- ¼ cup flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 2 tablespoons butter, melted
- 1/2 cup brown sugar, firmly packed
- ¼ cup granulated sugar
- ¼ cup sour cream
- 2 teaspoons cinnamon
- ¼ teaspoon nutmeg



- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 3 large eggs, whisked until fluffy
- powdered sugar for dusting

### PREPARATION

1. Preheat oven to 350.
2. Place carrots in a medium saucepan and cover with water. Add salt. Cook about 30-40 minutes or until very soft.
3. When carrots are soft, drained and slightly cooled (if using a blender), place in a large bowl and mash with a potato masher until smooth. As an alternative, puree carrots in a food processor or blender with the butter.
4. Add remaining ingredients and blend until smooth.
5. Pour mixture into a buttered 9 inch round (2 qt.) baking dish.
6. Bake in a 350 degree preheated oven for 45-50 minutes or until set.
7. Dust with powdered sugar before serving.

Serves about 6-8

## BAKED CLEMENTINE HALVES

### INGREDIENTS

- 8 clementines, peel and halved
- extra clementines to juice
- Graham crackers or leftover Christmas cookies crushed
- Finely chopped Pecans
- brown sugar
- hard chocolate for grating
- butter softened
- ice cream, optional and any favorite flavor
- The amounts for the cookies, pecans and brown sugar is to your taste. Use some juice to moisten the mixture and the butter for extra flavor.



### PREPARATION

1. Pre-heat oven to 400.
2. Crush the cookies in bowl, add brown sugar and pecans. Add juice to moisten.
3. Mix well and add enough butter so the mixture well hold together enough to stay on top of the clementines.
4. Place the Clementine halves snugly in a baking dish cut side up.
5. Cover each half with topping and bake until the topping is browned and slightly bubbling. About 10-12 minutes.
6. Remove from oven and sprinkled each half with grated chocolate.
7. Return to oven just long enough to melt the chocolate.
8. Serve warm with a scoop of ice cream on top.

Serves four



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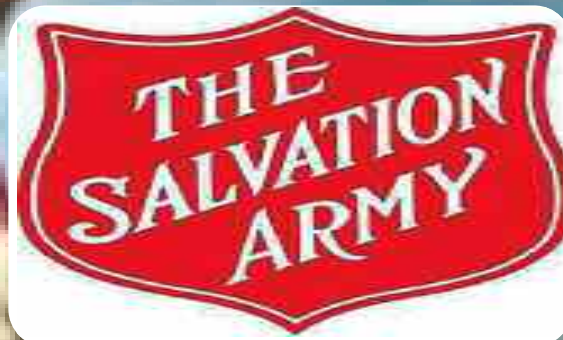
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Patricia Killough

Please send Patricia your family birthdays, anniversaries and weddings to [alabamagazette@gmail.com](mailto:alabamagazette@gmail.com)

The Alabama Gazette will make every effort to include your submissions as space permits.

# Home Town Community News



Happy Birthday JESUS and Merry Christmas to ALL!

## December Birthdays

- |    |                              |                           |
|----|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1  | Chris Hudson                 | Dorothy Kiser             |
|    | Emma Louise Wingard          | Deborah Kirk              |
| 2  | Faye Ann Mount               | Martha French             |
|    | Mike Northcutt               | 19 Brad Echols            |
|    | Skeeter Rhodes               | Ruth Cordle               |
| 3  | Jimmy Perdue (68th)          | 20 Maggie Mills           |
|    | Alison Lee Riley             | Susan Yost                |
|    | Cam Stanton                  | 21 Paula Marie Harsey     |
| 4  | Gail Cotney                  | Katherine(Kaki) Hines     |
| 5  | Don Byrd                     | Don Meadows (82nd)        |
| 6  | Dean Tyner (84th)            | 22 Austin Champion        |
| 7  | Jeannie Leigh Boyles         | Paul Harper               |
|    | Tobias Grant                 | Robert Harrington         |
|    | Wayne Henry Morris, IV (2nd) | Dennis Woodall            |
|    | Belle Sansom                 | 23 Kodee Harrison         |
|    | Carol Woodall                | Carla Johnson             |
| 8  | Meredith Sellars             | 24 Joyce Turnipseed       |
| 9  | Isabella Henderson           | Kaitlin Rowe              |
| 10 | George Jones (90th)          | 25 JESUS CHRIST           |
| 11 | Lauren Lane                  | Nancy Setzer              |
|    | Chad Roberson                | 27 Sandy Brown            |
|    | Justin Sessions              | Austin Yost               |
| 12 | Mollie Higgins               | 28 Andy Meadows           |
|    | Andruw Woods (16th)          | William Webb              |
| 13 | Anita Tylicki                | 29 Amy Boyd               |
|    | Jeanette Kinman              | Mallory McGough           |
|    | Landon Meadows               | Mary Pat Sikes            |
| 14 | Fred Crowe                   | 30 Tiffany Hammock        |
|    | Mark McCoy (50th)            | Scott Takacs              |
|    | Ken Stringer                 | Sarah Watkins             |
| 15 | Michelle Brezinski           | 31 Bethany Black Neubauer |
| 17 | Betty Armistead              | Addison Wise              |
|    | Travers Grant                | Tex Woodall (51st)        |

Belated Happy Birthday to Jack Hornady who celebrated his 90th on November 3, 2018

## Happy Anniversary

- |         |                            |                                    |
|---------|----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Dec. 1  | Troy & Kim Worrell         | Scott & Debbie Mills               |
| Dec. 4  | Rich & Jacque Takacs       | Dec. 16 Robert & Georgia Armstrong |
| Dec. 7  | Del & Prasertsj Atkinson   | Bill & Barbara Berg                |
| Dec. 8  | Buddy & Rhonda Black       | Branon & Haley King (1st)          |
| Dec. 9  | Perry & Nancy Butler       | Dec. 18 William (Windy) & Linda    |
|         | Danny & Kristie Richardson | Wingard (47th)                     |
| Dec. 10 | Heath & Dana Crowe         | Dec. 20 Wayne & Sarah Watkins      |
| Dec. 12 | Tom & Caroline Vocino      | Dec. 30 George & Jeannie Handey    |
| Dec. 14 | Ronnie & Michelle Blount   |                                    |

## Jennifer Payne Bridal Shower



From left to right: Melissa Deaton, Stacy Dickinson, Robin Mackey, Pam Lynch, bride to be Jennifer, Cindy Smith, Stacey Moseley and Paula Lansdon

A bridal shower honoring Jennifer Payne and Jesse Guffin was held on Sunday, November 11, 2018 in the Fellowship Hall of Woodland United Methodist Church in Pike Road.  
A December wedding is planned.  
Jesse is the youth minister at Woodland.

## Gazette's Sympathy to the families of...

Dagostin, Carol Ann (65) .....died October 24, 2018  
Woodall, Joe M. (88) .....died October 24, 2018  
Etheridge, Lucille Campbell Stephens (98) .....died October 26, 2018  
Brown, Carolyn Wood (81) .....died October 30, 2018  
LeFevers, Joseph Paul (89) .....died November 2, 2018  
Price, Mary Edith (77) .....died November 3, 2018  
Davis, Alyssa Brantley (9) .....died November 4, 2018  
Hartley, Dan M. (94) .....died November 5, 2018  
McLemore, Ruth Hill Cook (89) .....died November 5, 2018  
Godwin, James Edward "Buck" (83) .....died November 6, 2018

Bush, Sr., Wallace Clanton (92) .....died November 11, 2018  
Hall, Martha Christine (91) .....died November 13, 2018  
Armstead, Mackie "Ann" Cammellia Brooks (80) .....died November 14, 2018  
Edwards, Dr. Winston "Wink" Tacker (77) .....died November 14, 2018  
Norman, Claude Benjamin "Ben" (72) .....died November 15, 2018  
Ellis, Sara Thompson (81) .....died November 15, 2018  
Lamar, Tannie Thompson (68) .....died November 19, 2018  
Pittman, Michael Allen (74) .....died November 21, 2018  
Boyd, Robert Warner (82) .....died November 27, 2018

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## In Memory Of

Peggy Jean Harden - November 7, 2018  
Jack Ward - November 8, 2018  
Sara Carol Hester - November 8, 2018  
Clemmie Ruth White - November 9, 2018  
Earl Wingard - November 11, 2018  
Evie Nadean Holley - November 11, 2018  
Nancy Judith Meeks - November 11, 2018  
Tyler Waites Savage - November 12, 2018  
Blondine Johnson - November 13, 2018  
Willie Dean Hines, Sr. - November 13, 2018  
Dean Renfro - November 15, 2018  
Lester Paul - November 16, 2018  
Steven Michael Watkins - November 17, 201  
Sara Frances Bradley - November 19, 2018  
Nona Gail Price - November 21, 2018  
Marie Elsie Smith - November 22, 2018  
Gary Glenn Wells - November 22, 2018  
Rayford Smith, Jr. - November 24, 2018  
Richard Franklin Hill - November 25, 2018  
Marilyn Diane Mann - November 25, 2018  
Holman Augusta "Butch" Parker, Jr. - November 25, 2018



# TODAY’S WOMAN

*The Value of a Woman...*Be very careful if you make a woman cry – because God counts her tears.



## *Years and Laughter:* The ghost of dentistry’s past...

By Amanda Walker

I cracked-up in the middle of a root canal a few days ago. I didn’t just giggle. No. I went all out. I laughed until the dental assistant, the dentist, and an assistant in training who was just observing this fine spectacle all laughed too. This of course from my perspective and angle – at that moment – was hilarious. Things have sure changed. When I was a kid, my mom came home from work one day and announced that there was a new dentist in Grove Hill and she had made us appointments. My brother was always more agreeable about literally everything than I was, so he wasn’t bothered by the idea, but I was leery from the start. The office was not an office in the way anyone would ever think an office would look, mainly because it was not an office building. It was an old house. Somebody had done a terrible job of converting a portion of it to function as a dentist office. It had an old haunted dental museum feel to it. It would have made an ideal setting for a horror movie. We were waiting in a room that was once a parlor, I was flipping through the blue hardcover Bible story book found in every dentist and doctor’s office everywhere since forever, when a girl in the other room, the room where the dentist was, started screaming. Not just a single scream, but long torturous screams with intermittent crying...and there I was on deck to be next – counting all the little pairs of animals with faith enough to load up on the ark with Noah. I haven’t been overly comfortable with dentists since. That is why I go to a dentist who advertises using the key words gentle, understanding, and most importantly, sedation. This means that if one of the friendly office associates sees any of their patients pacing around outside in the parking lot looking like they may get back in their car and drive away, then they will go out and extend a polite invitation to lure them inside the office – which is an actual office. They say things like, “Come on,” and they offer coffee and water and they have several magazines and one of those blue hardcover Bible story books. It’s nice. Plus they can administer medication that will help people like me, who could potentially break and run, become agreeable to procedures like root canals within minutes. The dentist asked afterwards if I could remember what I had been laughing about, and I did. I was laughing at the realization that I was laughing. I guess I’ve come a long way. Dentistry has too. And just think about the lasting positive impression we may have made if there was a young kid out in the waiting room listening.



Trisston Wright Burrows  
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## Trisston’s Tidbits...

### “The True Meaning of Christmas”

By: Trisston Wright Burrows  
[www.trisstonwrightburrows.com](http://www.trisstonwrightburrows.com)

With the most popular holiday just around the corner, it seems like everyone is trying to get into the Christmas spirit. Stores are lining their aisles with Christmas goodies and decor, TV shows have switched to the theme of giving and love, and Santas are starting to float about. And why shouldn't they, after all it is that time, the meaning of the season, right?

Yet, the very first Christmas seemed to do without all of these. The very first Christmas somehow started a frenzy without the power of TV, without Candy Canes, without Santa, and without Christmas sales. Even more amazingly, the very first Christmas involved a poor couple, nobodies, who would lay the most precious child of all in a manger.

*“And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.” Luke 2:13-14*

Looking back on Black Friday, I am constantly reminded how far we have come from the true meaning of Christmas. Christmas wasn't just about giving, or feeling loved, but it was about true love. Christmas is the celebration of the birth of Christ, the Savior who came into this world to die... for everyone, even those who killed him. Jesus was God's gift not to the deserving, not to the Jews, but to everyone.

Yet on Black Friday, a Walmart worker was killed because people couldn't wait to save a few dollars here and there. Another person was killed over a toy. And just a few years back, the Tickle Me Elmo frinzy brought out the worst in people. People who seem to have forgot that love isn't hurting another to give your child what they want, but rather to do what is right and moral. And they seem to have forgotten that Christmas isn't just about showing love for those you care for, but for those who are undeserving, and those you do not even know. Just as God came to die, for those who were undeserving, and those who He did not know in a spiritual relationship.

Today, let us remember the true meaning of Christmas... Peace on Earth, Good will toward Men, for the Savior has come to show us how to love, and to give us the greatest gift of love. Instead of buying fancy toys, think of how you can give to those who would normally go without. Ask yourself how you can help others who are not as fortunate as you. Show them the true meaning of Christmas, the gift of God's love, and love others as God first loved you.

Merry Christmas & Many Blessings!



# Honoring Our Heroes

## Helen Lattal

Helen Lattal is a veteran of the Women’s Army Corps (WAC) having served with 8th Air Force Headquarters at High Wycombe, England. Her three years of service were 1942-1945 during WWII. Not only was she active in the Selma, AL, community for many years, but she also served three terms as the Commander of American Legion Post 20. She is well known in the veteran community and is a very passionate patriot. A special article about Helen was published by the Selma Times-Journal on Wednesday, January 14, 2004. Helen was born in Norwalk, Connecticut, December 28, 1919. She was adopted at age two and lived there until she went into the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps at age 22. After WWII was over, she was discharged in October,1945.



Having learned the secretarial skills of bookkeeping, verbatim shorthand and typing at Moody’s Secretarial School in Connecticut where she won ribbons for her speed and accuracy in typing and taking shorthand, she was well prepared to handle such work. Helen worked for the draft board in Connecticut, and after Pearl Harbor, many volunteers came to the office where she interviewed them. In May,1942, the Women’s Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC) were started. Helen volunteered to serve because of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. She went to Ft. Devens, MA, to be assigned secretarial duties. She reported for active duty January 9, 1943, at Ft. Des Moines, Iowa, followed by basic training. She attended the Army Administrative School at Natchitoches, TX. Helen reported to Camp Shanks, New York, a staging area for overseas duty. She trained in water survival there because ships were being torpedoed. The Red Cross had coffee and donuts for the military as they boarded the ship for Europe. On July 4, 1943, Helen sailed to ports at Ireland, Scotland and England to the 8th Air Force Headquarters at High Wycombe, England, commanded by General James Doolittle; Congress approved women going into the regular Army in July 1, 1943, and Helen became member of the Women’s Army Corps (WAC). Helen worked in the areas of personnel and maintenance and served

as the private secretary for Col. Elliot Roosevelt, the commander of the 8th Air Force Reconnaissance Wing. She also had temporary duty with General James Hill in the Army at Cheddington, England. In addition, she served as a courier. Living in quonset huts, she was issued a bicycle to get to work. Not only was she grateful for the opportunity, but also, she enjoyed going to the Service Clubs operated by the Red Cross in England. German bombers flew over High Wycombe where she lived and worked.

When WWII was over, she flew to Paris, where in October, 1945, Helen served at Orly, France, and Berlin and Frankfurt, Germany. She worked on pretrial investigations prior to the Nuremberg Trials. After being discharged, she returned to Connecticut and worked with servicemen at the Veterans’ Service Center for two years. For three years, she was married to Col. Gerald E. Whaley whom she met at a conference at England where she was taking notes, and he was an attendee. They had one son, Paul Whaley, II, and one grandson. During the marriage, she came to live at Craig AFB. She refreshed her secretarial skills and worked at Selma as an office manager. Helen then worked at Craig Air Force Base until it closed. She was selected to be the Seminar Coordinator at the Air War College at Maxwell Air Force Base where she worked until retirement in 1980. Her second husband, Judge Hugh Mallory, passed away after nine years.

Helen married Col. Anton (Tony) Lattal and they were married 16.5 years. The couple volunteered with the Black Belt American Red Cross. He worked in the pharmacy, and she worked in obstetrics at the Maxwell AFB hospital. She made calls overseas to military husbands providing notification of the birth of their babies. After a flood in Selma, she volunteered at a shelter for the American Red Cross (ARC) there. During 1982-1993, she served as a historian for the ARC at Selma retiring at age 82, and she was named the American Red Cross Volunteer of the Year.

One of the most memorable war experience was typing the awards for Clark Gable and Jimmy Stewart who served during WWII. Reflecting upon her WWII experiences, Helen said, “We took everything in stride. I was so proud to serve. If Queen Elizabeth could drive an ambulance, I could serve. My family was very patriotic. I had top secret clearance at the rank of corporal. I was grateful that I could do the job of shorthand for which I was trained. I think it is great that women have come so far in the military. We were called the Trail Blazers. Women already had skills and were qualified for the jobs. I feel proud that I served. Our country was very good to the veterans after WWII. We could get our job back because that was the law. I think that it is great that women can do the jobs if they are capable.”

Helen Celebrates her  
99th Birthday, December 18th.  
Thanks you Helen for your service!









THE ALABAMA

# Gazette

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## Community Lifestyles



“THE PEOPLES PAPER”

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**Dr. Lester Spencer**  
*Lead Pastor*  
**St. James United Methodist Church**  
**9045 Vaughn Road**  
**Montgomery, Al**



## (Grace to the Third Power) A Wesleyan View of Grace “Sanctifying Grace”

Part Three in a Series

“For you are saved by grace through faith...” [Paul, Ephesians 2:8]  
“Be perfect, as your Father in heaven is perfect.” [Jesus, Matthew 5:48]  
  
“I’m just an old lump of coal, dear Lord, but I’ll be a diamond one day.”  
[Johnny cash]

### Sanctifying Grace

Sanctify – (Sank’ tə Fī) – To set apart as holy, to consecrate, to make holy, to purify.

In this article, I’m going to be talking about sanctifying grace. Over the last two months, we’ve covered two other kinds of grace that John Wesley taught us about. John Wesley (the founder of the Methodist movement) gave the church a great gift. He explained to the church throughout his many 40,000 plus sermons that grace could be experienced in three different ways. I’m going to give a review up to this point:

“Prevenient grace”, as we talked about in the October issue of the Gazette, is the grace that goes before us, the grace that goes before we ever even know or believe there is a God. He is wooing us to Him! He is finding ways to inject himself into our lives, to draw us to Him!

In the November issue, we talked about “Justifying grace”. To justify means to “make right”, and we experience God’s justifying grace when we accept Jesus Christ’s death on the cross and believe that His blood was shed for us as an atonement for our sins. Once we pray that prayer and accept what Jesus did for us on the cross, and once we invite Him into our lives and repent for our sins, then God’s justifying grace takes place immediately in our lives and makes us right with God. We are justified (made right with God) by his justifying grace!

Remember, as Paul explained in Ephesians 2:8-9, “We are saved by grace through faith, not by works so that no one can boast.” It’s not anything that we’ve done, but it’s by God’s grace that we are saved. Then we experience His justifying grace, and we are made right through Christ with God. That’s what justifying grace is all about!

The third way we can experience the power of God’s grace is “sanctifying grace”.

To sanctify something means – “to set it apart as holy, to consecrate it, to make it holy, to purify”.

Read what Jesus said in Matthew 5:48: **“But you are to be perfect, even as your Father in Heaven is perfect.”** John Wesley took this verse very seriously and peached on it all the time.

That verse has always bothered me, because it seems contradictory to the Bible. Why? Because the Bible tells us that all of us are sinners, and we’ve all fallen short of God’s glory. Right? We all know that we’re sinners. The Bible tells us, in fact, that if we don’t admit that we are sinners, we’re liars; so, we know that we are sinners saved by grace. So how can we ever be perfect?

Let me go back to the original meaning of the word “perfect” as Jesus is using it here. Jesus is actually quoting an Old Testament text in Deuteronomy 18:13, and the word “perfect” is actually the Hebrew word “tamim”, which means “to serve God wholeheartedly, to be totally devoted.”

That changes the meaning of the word “perfect”; because, when we think of perfect, we think of somebody that is sinless, that is flawless, or that makes no mistakes, and we know that that’s not us (or anybody else for that matter). The Bible clearly tells us that we will always be struggling with our sinful nature.

If Jesus is saying, **“you are to serve God wholeheartedly, totally devoted to Him just as He is totally devoted to you”**, that changes the meaning a lot, doesn’t it?

We all know that we make mistakes. (By the way, if you are already sinless and never make mistakes you can skip this part. You have already been totally sanctified!) Sometimes we make big mistakes, like the girl from Georgia made when she broke up with her fiancée and later wrote him this letter. She said:

*“Dear John, I made a big mistake. Words cannot express the deep regret I feel at having broken off our engagement. Will you take me back? Your absence leaves me empty, and no one else will ever fill the void. Please forgive me and let us start again. I love you. I love you. I love you. Your adoring fiancée, Amy.  
P.S. Congratulations on winning the biggest Georgia State Lottery ever.”*

We might question her motives a little bit, right?

Needless to say, we all know that we make mistakes. And most of us will admit that we are sinners, too. Yet, we also see (from the Bible) that God takes holiness very seriously. In fact, John Wesley preached on sanctification and holiness his entire ministry. We are called to be holy!

But that doesn’t mean that God saves us by His justifying grace and then throws us out into the ocean and says, “Okay, it’s time for you to sink or swim; you’ve got to go out there and live the rest of your life and live up to these high standards of Jesus and be perfect.” That’s not what God does or says!

That’s what sanctifying grace is all about. It’s the work of the Holy Spirit in us sanctifying us by God’s grace, making us more and more into the image of Christ. John Wesley put it this way. “When we are born again, then our sanctification, our reward and our outward holiness begins; it’s at this point that God puts His Holy Spirit in us to be with us forever!”

Jesus encourages his disciples in John 14 when he says, **“I will ask the Father.”** He’s talking about when He dies and is resurrected.

“I will ask the Father, and the Father will give you another, an advocate who will never leave you. He is the Holy Spirit who leads you into all truth. The world cannot receive Him, because it isn’t looking for Him and doesn’t recognize Him. But you know Him because He lives with you and later will be in you.” John 14:16-17 NLT

Jesus is promising us right there that he is not leaving us - you and me - alone. **“I’m going to ask the Father and He is going to send the Holy Spirit.”** That’s what He did in Acts 2 on the day of Pentecost. God sent His Holy Spirit not just, so people could feel the goose bumps and feel His presence, but that the Holy Spirit would actually come into them, live in them and never leave them. It’s the Holy Spirit’s work in us that perfects us for the rest of our journey in the Christian walk. It’s by His sanctifying grace that He makes us holy, that He makes us more and more into the image of Christ. That’s what Jesus was talking about.

Wesley used this image when he preached a lot of times. He would paint a mental picture of a house. He would say (I’m paraphrasing here): Repentance is when you invite God onto your front porch. Justification is when you invite Christ into your heart, that’s like opening the front door and inviting Jesus inside your house, inside your heart and your life. Sanctification is when you invite the Holy Spirit to go into every room in your heart, your life - every dark closet - every spot in the corner of the attic - every single square foot of space in your heart, soul, life! It’s a lifelong process where the Holy Spirit is invited by you to go into every place in your life and begin to perfect you and make you more and more like Jesus.

Prevenient grace is what God does to us. Justifying grace is what God does for us. And sanctifying grace is what God does in us through the power of God’s Holy Spirit!

As we celebrate this Christmas season, may we give praise to God for sending Jesus Christ to offer us His grace! My prayer for you is that you will discover the three ways you can experience the power of God’s grace!

# Merry Christmas



## Jesus is The Reason for The Season







Sheriff Derrick Cunningham



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Chief Deputy  
Kevin J. Murphy



### Christmas Angel Tree

We would like to thank the community for stepping up and helping those in need this holiday season!

Our Christmas Angel Tree was a huge success and made many wishes come true for Friendship Mission and the Children Specialty Center.

We couldn't make this happen without you, our community!

*Merry Christmas and  
Happy New Year  
from all of us at the  
Montgomery County Sheriffs  
Office*



### Firearms Familiarization Course

**Register NOW for our final class of 2018 to be held on  
Saturday, December 8th!!**

We know that learning how to protect yourself is very important in today's world. The class is held at our newly dedicated Sheriff D.T. Marshall Firearms Training Center and is FREE to Montgomery County citizens! The morning session is classroom instruction on firearm safety and firearm laws. The afternoon session allows citizens to practice shooting on our Firing Range for the remainder of the class (if you would like). All classes are under the instruction of the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office Range Master.

#### Course Requirements:

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- Complete an Application for the Course



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Course Questions or to Obtain an Application?

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### Sheriff's Office APP

The Montgomery County Sheriff's Office has a new phone app called "Montgomery County AL Sheriff" that can be accessed through your phone's app store. Once you have added this app to your phone, you can easily set your phone up to receive important push notifications. Push notifications are quick, important messages that can notify you of road closure(s), blocked road(s), anything pertinent to your travel, escapee, etc.

While our app can help you with many things including checking to see if someone is in the county jail, it is most helpful to receive push notifications. After you have downloaded the app, go through the follow steps to make sure your phone is set up to receive the push notifications:

- Go to your phone's setting icon
- Scroll down and click "Applications"
- Scroll down to "MCSO" or "Montgomery County Sheriff" OR
- Click "Application Manager", if it doesn't take you directly to the location
- Click "Notifications"
- Turn 'on' "Allow Notifications" and "Previews in pop-ups"

**You should be all set to receive the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office push notifications!**



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Sheriff Joe Sedinger

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Realtor ~ Brenda Herbaugh

Office Manager ~ Cindy Little

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*Merry Christmas*

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Directed by Joey Fine

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By Hannah Wilkinson Johnson, Founder LIFT Ministries

# Seasonal Reasoning

*To everything there is a season,  
A time for every purpose under Heaven.  
Ecclesiastes 3:1*

## Getting In The Corner

in the midst of The King. But wait, future? How can you even think of the the future if you’ve ignored the past?  
Ignoring the past makes for an uncertain future.  
**Luke 2:19** *“But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.”*

Can you imagine the relationship Mary must’ve had with God? In **Luke 1:38** Mary spoke to the angel Gabriel in response to the future God had planned for her. *“I am the Lord’s servant,”* Mary answered. *“May it be to me as you have said.”* Then the angel left her.

**Luke 2:19** “But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.” So, in this moment of recognition and submission her past relationship with Christ came to fruition. She would follow the path for the future God had destined for her. She would bear The Christ Child because of her great faith in God the Father. His grace. His infinite grace and mercy fell upon her as she wed Joseph. I wonder. I wonder what it would have been like if Mary hadn’t bore the sweet baby boy? What it would’ve been like if Joseph decided to split. What it would’ve been like if Mary decided to hide this glorious gift, whether self-ishly, because she didn’t have faith or out of shame?

Mary understood her destiny. She had great faith and she walked righteously along the narrowness of the winding path, whether it be to Bethlehem, the busy temple or to the foot of the cross.

Fast forward, oh ya know 2000 years or so. I have been so crazy in this season. This holiday season. This season of Christmas. Let’s think about the life of a woman during Christmas versus the life of a man! Women decorate, men do a chore or two on their honey do list. Men hunt(for fun I might add), women cook(because we must eat)! Women shop with intention. Intention to buy, intention to watch people, intention to enjoy the mall and the fast paced life of a manic shopper on Christmas Eve! Most men shop in misery and out of obligation. Women watch people and absorb the latest fads. Men watch football. Women clean in anticipation of future hostessing opportunities. Men, well they loathe dressing up for a dinner party (for the most part). Then there is the ever present duty of ‘churching it up’ during the Christmas season. The cute little Christmas plays where Joseph accidentally trips over the staff and knocks the live baby Jesus out of the manger. The crying. Oh, the incessant crying as the broken hearts of the little fellas whose mamas made them sing in the angel choir. Do screams of brattiness count as making a joyful noise?

Does this sound like a reality to you? Are you completely exhausted? Is the thing you look forward to the most during the Christmas season December 26th? Bah humbug! Has Christmas lost the luster it had when you were a child? Do you want it back? Do you want to hear the bells chiming again, as the angel gets her wings? There’s just too much to do and way too much to buy to enjoy any of it. I mean we still have to eat in January right!? I have found it so hard to enjoy the many things I long to enjoy. The tree, the shopping, the music, the family, the scripture. I can’t tell you how many December 26th’s I’ve awoken and thought, “can I just have a redo? I didn’t get to savor it.” Lord, I cry out to you! I desire to have these quiet moments! I desire to watch my children in awe of the magic of Christmas. In all fairness, I don’t deserve them though. I don’t deserve any of the gifts He has given me thus far, nor the ones I’ll receive in the future. My past hasn’t been that squeaky clean slate we strive for. Has anybody’s? Well, deemed worthy enough for a King anyways?

Luke 2:21-39  
21 On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise the child, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he was conceived.22 When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord23 (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord”) 24 and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: “a pair of doves or two young pigeons.”25 Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. 26 It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. 27 Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required,

28 Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying: 29 “Sovereign Lord, as you have promised,you may now dismiss your servant in peace.30 For my eyes have seen your salvation,31 which you have prepared in the sight of all nations:32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel.”33 The child’s father and mother marveled at what was said about him. 34 Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: “This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, 35 so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.” 36 There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, 37 and then was a widow until she was eighty-four.Shenever left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying.38 Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem. 39 When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth.

I read this scripture the other day and it was like an epiphany from The Lord. “Wake up and get in the corner!” I long to be in the corner. I long to talk to Him. To be still. To just wait on Him. Simeon and Anna waited. They knew they would see the Christ Child in their lifetime. They knew they would see their Savior one day. Verse 25 tells us that the “The Holy Spirit was on Him,” in reference to Simeon. They were both old but able. They were devout followers of God. They were patient and above all else they had great faith. Faith in our God that He will deliver all of His promises. When Mary and Joesph entered the busy temple, the busiest place in its time, they weren’t recognized by the Pharisees. The Pharisees were too busy following the rituals of the law. They were busy waiting on their Messiah to come to redeem them than to see Him. So busy, they missed the blessing of the Lord in front of them. Not Simeon and Anna though. They immediately knew the Lord. Like the other followers, they weren’t lost in the mix of the crowd. Much like the malls we frequent in this busy season, the temple became a place of consumerism and obligation. The sacrifices never ended. The rituals never ceased and the people never realized the life they were missing because they were so caught up in doing everything for the Lord out of obligation. Relate that today. The shopping is never finished. The time to relish in the thought of knowing exactly what to gift someone is lost in that busy mall. It’s lost in the lack of time, the amount of money and sheer misery of buying out of obligation.

They followed the law of Moses. Jesus was circumcised and they left. The significance of the preverbal “shutting of the door” as they left the temple is astounding to me. How many times have we shut the door on a life altering blessing? Something that is so good and so important, yet we are so busy waiting on that exact blessing that we miss it! So we wait. Not really on the Lord, but on what He can do for us. Not really on how we can serve Him better, but how He can serve us and make our circumstance better. So I will make the same statement I made earlier, “Ignoring the past makes for an uncertain future.” Do we ignore the past of the Pharisees and what they missed? Do we ignore the past when it’s written plainly for us to read? If we don’t believe in God’s promises for our lives, those words He wrote for us to understand in The Bible, then we are essentially calling Him a liar. (Pretty sure no one wants to call God a liar, so quit ignoring the past!!) How do we not take those mistakes and make them right? How do we not understand that those things, in which we should’ve learned from, are blessings in and of themselves as well? So in this Christmas season, I challenge you to take the time to run to the corner. Run as fast as you can and wait. Wait patiently on Him. I assure you, He’s coming. Matthew 24:44 “Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”



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**SCAN FOR APPT.**



# Gazette Seniors...

*Dr. John Bitter, Editor  
Senior Section*

## Remembering Senior Citizens at Christmas

As we enter the Christmas season and our homes begin to fill with joy and cheer we look forward to the time spent with family and friends. For some senior citizens though, the holidays can bring about unwanted feelings of anxiousness and depression. The idea of Christmas morning that once brought them so much joy as young children now brings them deep sadness. According to The Telegraph a staggering "half a million elderly people will spend Christmas alone." The change of season brings about cold weather and higher heat bills on top of already high medical and prescription bills on a limited fixed income. Most oftentimes the elderly do not want to be a burden to others, when in reality our hearts should be burdened and breaking for them. So this year instead of forgetting about those that are alone, remember to make a conscious effort in visiting them. Just go share a meal and an hour and be the hands and feet of Christ. Visit your local nursing home or reach out to the local senior citizen center. Serve your elderly community. Love your elderly community.



*The Alabama Gazette wishes  
all the seniors  
in the river region a very  
Merry Christmas  
and a Blessed New Year!*



*By* **Kylle' D. McKinney**  
*kylle.mckinney@ssa.gov.*  
**(334) 479-1242--Cell**  
**(334) 272-7630--Fax**

*Alabama Public Affairs Specialist, Social Security Administration*  
*4344 Carmichael Road, Suite 100*  
*Montgomery, Alabama 36116*



## SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS TO INCREASE IN 2019

Each year we announce the annual cost-of-living adjustment (COLA). Usually, there is an increase in the Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefit amount people receive each month, starting the following January. Law requires that federal benefit rates increase when the cost of living rises, as measured by the Department of Labor's Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W).

The CPI-W rises when prices increase for the things the average consumer buys. This means that when prices for goods and services we purchase become more expensive, on average, the COLA increases benefits and helps beneficiaries keep up with the changing cost of living.

More than 67 million Americans will see a 2.8 percent increase in their Social Security and SSI benefits in 2019.

January 2019 marks other changes based on the increase in the national average wage index. For example, the maximum amount of earnings subject to Social Security payroll tax, as well as the retirement earnings test exempt amount, will change in 2019.

Want to know your new benefit amount as soon as possible? In December 2018, we will post Social Security COLA notices online for retirement, survivors, and disability beneficiaries who have a my Social Security account. You will be able to view and save these COLA notices securely via the Message Center inside my Social Security.

Be the first to know! Sign up for or log in to your personal my Social Security account today at [www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount). Choose email or text under "Message Center Preferences" to receive courtesy notifications so you won't miss your electronic COLA notice!

This year, even if you access your COLA notice online, you will still receive your COLA notice by mail. In the future, you will be able to choose whether you receive your notice online instead of on paper. Online notices will not be available to representative payees, individuals with foreign mailing addresses, or those who pay higher Medicare premiums due to their income. We plan to expand the availability of COLA notices to additional online customers in the future.

More information about the 2019 COLA is available at [www.socialsecurity.gov/cola](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/cola).

You can also read our publication about the annual cost-of-living adjustment at [www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/EN-05-10526.pdf](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/EN-05-10526.pdf).



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**November 30th 0- December 9th**

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a family event and  
receive a special blessing.**



Long ago there were two villages in a distant land. One was in a valley, and one was on a mountaintop. The people in the mountain village wanted to give each person in the valley a Christmas gift.

So the mountain townspeople formed a committee to think of something special. Money was limited, and each gift had to be of equal value to each person. After much time and discussion a decision was finally reached. The town's candy maker, an elderly gentleman who had loved Jesus for many years, came up with an idea—the candy cane.

Now, you may be thinking, what is so special about a candy cane—and how can it ever be tied in with the real meaning of Christmas? Continue reading to find out how and why!

**1** The candy cane is in the shape of a shepherd's staff. Jesus is our Shepherd, and we are his flock. A sheep follows his own shepherd, knows his voice, trusts him, and knows that he is totally safe with him. The sheep will follow no other shepherd than their own. In the same way, if we belong to Jesus, we are to follow only him. (John 10:11; Psalm 23:1; Isaiah 40:11)

**2** The candy cane has a "J" shape—the first letter of Jesus's name. In the Bible, an angel came to Mary, the mother of Jesus, and said, "'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus'" (Luke 1:30–31).

**3** The wide red stripes on the candy cane represent the blood Jesus shed on the cross for each one of us so that we can have eternal life through him. He restores us and cleans us with his shed blood—the only thing that can wash away our sin (Ephesians 2:13).

**4** The white stripes on the candy cane represent Jesus's virgin birth and his pure, sinless life. He is the only human being who never committed a single sin, even though he was tempted just as we are. "He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth" (1 Peter 2:22).

**5** The narrow red stripes on candy canes symbolize Jesus's stripes, or scars, which he got when he was arrested and whipped. The Bible says we are healed (of sin) because he took those wounds (Isaiah 53:5; 1 Peter 2:24).

**6** The flavoring in the candy cane is peppermint, which is similar to hyssop. Hyssop is of the mint family and was used in Old Testament times for purification and sacrifice (John 19:29; Psalm 51:7).

**7** Candy canes are made of hard candy to remind us that Christ is the "rock" of our salvation. "He [Christ] alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be greatly shaken" (Psalm 62:2).

**8** AND, if we share our candy cane with someone else because we love that person, we are sharing the love of Jesus (1 John 4:7–8).

God gave himself to us when he sent Jesus to earth to save us. He loves us so much that he wants us to spend eternity with him. We are assured of that eternity when we trust and believe in Jesus as our Savior (John 1:12; John 3:3,16).



# *Tallassee Quarterly*

*Tallassee, Alabama ~ Southgate to Lake Martin  
The Treasure on the Tallapoosa!*



*Winter 2018*

*Snowfall of January 16 - 17, 2018*

Photo by Michael Bird

*Happy New Year  
2019*



## 2018 BBQ EVENTS

2018 - 19 Executive Officers

President Brad Davis  
Vice Melissa Hill & Laura Leigh Peters  
Treasurer Alan Taunton  
Secretary Michelle Cole

## 2019 SCHEDULED EVENTS

~ Annual daddy daughter dance  
February

~ Talisi Riverfest  
June

~ Summer concert series  
in Bell Park June

The Tallassee Community Development Corporation (CDC) makes it possible for groups to raise money for worthwhile projects through its "Tailgate Partners" program.

Teaming with local organizations, CDC provides equipment, up-front financing, and manpower help with, with proceeds going to help meet the groups' funding needs.

CDC's Tailgate Partners have received almost \$230,000 over the course of the project.

Contact us  
to see how you  
can become  
involved in the  
CDC.

This calendar year, our Tailgate BBQ events have benefitted the following groups. Partnering with CDC, they have sold over \$65,000 worth of BBQ, for a total profit of over \$30,000 for those organizations.

Tallassee High School Prom Committee  
Reeltown Volunteer Fire Department  
Wall Street Community Improvement  
Organization  
Reeltown High School Cheerleaders  
Tallassee Armory Guards

Tallassee Community Outreach  
Mt. Zion Baptist Church  
Tallassee High School Softball  
Reeltown High School Band  
Scouts—Pack, Troop, and Crew 59  
Living Waters Church



**Boston Butt--\$35**

**Thick-end of brisket-- \$35**

**Small-end brisket--\$25**

**Rib rack--\$25**

**Camp stew--\$12/qt**

**Brisket & pork sandwiches--\$5 each**

**Website:**  
**Tallasseecdc.business.site**



10 South Ann Avenue  
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Office: 334-283-5151

## TALLASSEE CHAMBER EVENTS

**Tallassee Christmas Parade – Saturday, December 1 10:00 am**

Entry forms are due Monday, November 26

You may register online [www.tallasseechamber.com](http://www.tallasseechamber.com)

**Chamber Chat – Monday, December 3 5:30-6:30**

House of Seven Gables

Carolers will be entertaining and refreshments will be provided  
All are welcome, you do not have to be a chamber member to attend

**Annual Hospital Luncheon – Thursday, December 6 11:45am**

Tallassee Community Hospital

Please RSVP by December 3 – 283-5151 or  
[chamber@tallasseechamber.com](mailto:chamber@tallasseechamber.com)

**Tallassee Chamber of Commerce Banquet**  
**Thursday, February 7, 2019**







# Tallassee Government

Johnny Hammock, Mayor • Tallassee City Hall  
3 Freeman Avenue, Tallassee, Alabama 36078 • 334-283-6571



**Front Row Left to Right -**  
**Bill Godwin, Commissioner District 6**  
**Johnny Hammock, Mayor**  
**Barbara Garnett, City Clerk**

**Back Row Left to Right -**  
**Commissioners:**

|                                   |                                   |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Sarah Hill, District 2</b>     | <b>Terrell Brown, District 5</b>  |
| <b>David Stough, District 7</b>   | <b>Jeremy Taunton, District 1</b> |
| <b>Darrell Wilson, District 4</b> | <b>Damian Carr, District 3</b>    |



**Tallassee Planning Commission Board of Directors**  
Mayor Johnny Hammock, Councilman Jeremy Taunton, Pres.,  
Willie Smith, Chairman, Andy Coker, Bldg. Inspector,  
Herbert Mason, Beth Turner, Joey Scarborough, Joyce Villa

## TALLASSEE CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS:

**Council meetings are held on the**  
**2nd and 4th TUESDAYS**  
**beginning at 6 p.m. at City Hall.**  
**Work session at 5:00 p.m.**  
**All meetings are open to the public.**



## Tallassee Redevelopment Authority Board of Directors

**Mayor Johnny Hammock, Hank Golden,**  
**Marilyn Durham, Steve Burak, David Lawrence,**  
**Holcombe Kerns, Jim Davis, Deborah Pruitt**

## IMPORTANT COMMUNITY MEETINGS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

**Board of Education Meeting**  
3rd Tuesday at 6:00 pm. at  
Technology Center

**Tallassee Redevelopment Authority Meeting**  
4th Tuesday at 5:30 pm at City Hall.

**Tallassee Planning Commission Meeting**  
1st Tuesday at 6:00 pm.

**Tallassee Library Board Meeting**  
2nd Monday at the Library

**Industrial Development Meeting**  
1st Tuesday at 6:30 at the IDV office.

**Tallassee Recreation Board Meeting as needed.**

## TALLASSEE FIRE DEPARTMENT



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*Seated left to right; Suzanne McElroy, Executive Assistant;*  
*Richard Dorley, Chairman; Ann Christian, Secretary;*  
*Standing left to right; Ronald Cullars;*  
*Steve Beasley, Treasurer;*  
*Darryl Pendergrass; Tim Timmerman;*  
*Don Heacock, Vice Chairman.*



**Tallassee Community Library**  
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**Hannah Johnson**  
**334-328-1513**  
**Tallassee Quarterly**  
**Marketing Manager**

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## Tallassee Quarterly

is published by  
The Alabama Gazette Publishing, LLC,  
12 E. Jefferson Street,  
Montgomery, Alabama 36104

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**Loretta Grant & Sam Adams**

**12 E. Jefferson Street**  
**Montgomery, AL 36104**  
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## Tallassee Police Department

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**Chief of Police Matthew E. Higgins**  
**334-283-6586**

The mission of the Tallassee Police Department is to enhance the quality of life in the city of Tallassee by working cooperatively with the public to prevent crime, enforce the laws, preserve the peace and provide a safe environment.



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**Jahazel Hooks,**  
Senior Center Manager

The Tallasse Quarterly and Alabama Gazette would like to wish Jahazel Hooks a Happy Retirement! She has faithfully served our Senior Community well.

**The Senior Center located at  
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## McCraney-Cottle ARTS COUNCIL

If you are interested in being a part of the Arts Council, contact Betty Segrest (283-5713) or Jerry Cunningham (chamber@tallasseechamber.com).

**Become a Patron!**  
For Information call  
McCraney-Cottle Arts Council  
P. O. Box 780551,  
Tallassee, AL 36078  
Please call  
Jerry Cunningham at (334) 312-2679.

*The McCraney-Cottle Arts Council will once again bring the Missoula Children's Theatre (MCT) to town in January. This is a great opportunity for students K-12 to take part in a professionally-directed production---learning and presenting the play, all in one week. It is a perennial favorite of the students and families alike.*

*Auditions for this year's production (The Pied Piper) will be held at 3:30 Monday afternoon, January 14, in the Tallassee High School auditorium. Rehearsals will be at 3:30 each afternoon that week, and the performance will be at 5:00PM, Saturday, January 19, all in the THS auditorium.*

*MCT personnel will also be conducting workshops for students in the schools during the week.*

*Watch local media for details on workshop times and how to purchase tickets for the Saturday performance.*



## Upcoming Events

LIFT Ministries Presents....  
**The Polar Express**  
with live interactive audience to benefit Community Christmas!  
Dec 2 @ 2 pm  
\$10 Hot cocoa and popcorn included in price. Wear your pajamas and join us! A special guest appearance by the big guy! Photo opportunities available.

All proceeds benefit  
Community Christmas.  
www.liftministriesal.com

**The Grinch Ballet**  
December 6 at 10:00 am  
field trips and  
general admission available \$8

**Tacky Sweater Party**  
December 8 at 7pm  
Christmas Vacation Movie. \$7  
Prize given for tackiest sweater  
\$2 to enter contest

Friends of Tuckabatchee  
Presents  
**The Magic of Christmas**  
a live performance  
December 15 @ 7:00  
December 16th @ 2:00

**The Miracles  
in Concert**  
Jan 2019 - TBA

LIFT Ministries hosts  
**Radical Relationships**  
Jan 12, 2019

A conference  
for men and women.  
4:00- 9:00pm

**Heartlinks Women's  
Conference**

February 22, 2019  
7:00 pm

Janeese Spencer, Special Guest  
Speaker  
Admission is Free

Contact us at (334) 328-1513 or [www.mtvernontheatre.net](http://www.mtvernontheatre.net)  
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This family-friendly lip-synch event is a major fundraiser for the Tallassee Music Boosters, produced and directed by Ms. Pat Merrett. Watch for details in the coming months.

## 22nd Annual Fabulous Follies

Admission \$5.00 (6 and under FREE)

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## Class of 2019 Homecoming



*Ivory Russell, Kennede White, Emma Coyle, Miriam Bird, Iayana Parker and Madison Grice*



## Tallassee Parks and Recreation Center

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- The cost for a membership is \$75 per year.
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- Call (334) 283-4726 for more questions or check out our website at [www.tallasseerecreation.com](http://www.tallasseerecreation.com). or you can always like us on our Facebook page: City of Tallassee Parks and Recreation.





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# Thanksgiving in December

December is upon us. Christmas is coming soon. You’ll probably be extra busy and feel some extra stress as you try to get everything done. Maybe I’m only telling on myself, but it could be true about you, too.

May I suggest a way to make December better by reminding us of something we thought about last month? Remember the fourth Thursday of November? That’s right. It was Thanksgiving. I love Thanksgiving Day. Since I was a pudgy little boy, it’s been one of my favorite holidays. I have sweet memories of Thanksgivings past.

But I also think everyday should be like Thanksgiving, as much as possible. I know our families can’t get together all that often. Most of us can’t afford to eat every day like we tend to do that day. But that spirit of gratitude should not be confined to a day. We shouldn’t lose our thankful hearts when we turn the calendar to December.

I like that little three word sentence at the end of Colossians 3:15: "And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful." And be thankful. It's imperative, not optional. It points us to attitudes and behaviors that glorify God, bless the people around us and improve our own disposition. I certainly have room for improvement in all three areas. "And be thankful." It's added onto what's already in the verse.

Let’s think about thanksgiving as an additive (something put with what’s already there) for December and every other month. Thanksgiving needs to be something added to our routines, our relationships and our requests year-round.

Let's think about our busy routines. We might use our crowded schedule as an excuse to hurry past being thankful to God and one another for the blessings and gifts we receive in a day. But whatever the agenda, we will do better when we add some thanksgiving to the day. If we're in too big a hurry to acknowledge kindnesses shown us with genuine thanks, we need to slow down. Do what the day's list demands, "and be thankful."

Holidays put extra stress on relationships. Shouldn't your relationships use some added heartfelt expressions of gratitude from you? Paul knew it was important to express thanks for the people in his life. He told the Philippians, "I thank my God in all my remembrance of you” (Philippians 1:3). How many husbands and wives, parents and children and even co-workers fail to give and receive thanks for each other’s efforts? When you say "thanks" out loud, it blesses the ones you tell and it speaks to your own heart, too. "And be thankful."

Making requests to our heavenly Father is a high privilege of being His child. We should never be too busy to pray, asking God's blessings. And when we pray, we ought to grow beyond recitation and listing our requests to genuine, worshipful thanksgiving. Remember, thanksgiving is the appropriate accompaniment to requests: "in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God" (Philippians 4:6). God is exalted and we are humbled when we acknowledge and give thanks to him. Fight anxiety by exercising your privilege. Ask in faith, "and be thankful."

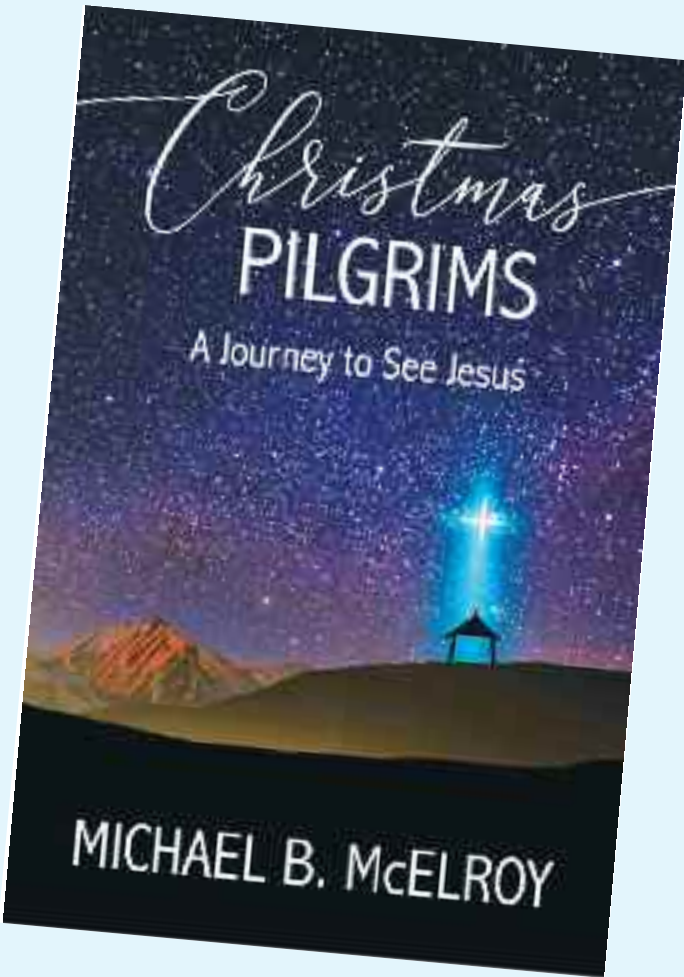
Some additives are not helpful. A whole industry produces and markets all-natural foods without additives. But thanksgiving is one of the good additives. So, let’s enjoy these active days, cherish our relationships, say our prayers, "and be thankful."



**Mike McElroy**  
Pastor  
**East Tallassee Church of Christ**  
501 Central Blvd.  
Tallassee, AL 36078  
334-283-2533

## Christmas Pilgrims—A Journey to See Jesus

by Tallassee’s Mike McElroy  
Christmas Pilgrims is a collection of stories based on the people and events in the Bible narratives of Jesus’ birth. It’s an ideal devotional for the busy days before Christmas, or any other time you need to refresh your sense of wonder. Mike is also the author of The Abiding Companion—A Friendly Guide for Your Journey Through the New Testament. Christmas Pilgrims and The Abiding Companion are available locally from the author by email ([ChristmasPilgrims@gmail.com](mailto:ChristmasPilgrims@gmail.com)) or from [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com).



## Seasonal Reasoning: Manna From Heaven

Provision. Verb. supply with food, drink, or equipment, especially for a journey.  
**Exodus 16:2-5** *In the desert the whole community grumbled against Moses and Aaron. 3 The Israelites said to them, “If only we had died by the Lord’s hand in Egypt! There we sat around pots of meat and ate all the food we wanted, but you have brought us out into this desert to starve this entire assembly to death.”Then the Lord said to Moses, “I will rain down bread from heaven for you. The people are to go out each day and gather enough for that day. In this way I will test them and see whether they will follow my instructions. 5 On the sixth day they are to prepare what they bring in, and that is to be twice as much as they gather on the other days.”*

Traditionally today we are thankful, a bit sentimental and gracious for the meal and family before us. Sometimes though our thankfulness becomes ungratefulness so quickly we don’t even see the wreckage the way. I think one of the greatest instances in the Bible of ungratefulness came from the mighty trek to the Promised Land.

The end of the year is quickly approaching and with the new year brings new seasons. New journeys down unexpected paths with new provisions made. The Israelites needed provisions. As the labored through their journey, the groaning started. The reminiscing of times past became the object of their focus. The memory of what used to be. In reality the Israelites should’ve been happy they were fleeing from the past. They were fleeing from death.

You see the Israelites, as we do even as we enter a season of Thanksgiving and Christmas, grumbled. They couldn’t see the blessings because they were too focused on the past. They were too focused on the provisions that had once been laid out before them, the tastiness of the meat, the splendor of the enslavement. Wait! Yes, I said it. They must’ve gotten their memories entangled with their current situation and not their past. Who wishes back enslavement when you’ve tasted freedom? Enslavement was easy for them though, they knew their role and the provisions were provided to them.

The Lord heard their complaints just as He hears us still, groaning and moaning and in a state of ungratefulness, yet He still brings provisions even when we don’t deserve it. My prayer today is that you wouldn’t do as the Israelites did, don’t go out gathering provisions because you don’t have faith in the Lord enough that He will provide it day in and day out. He has given you what you need. Rest on the days He commands. Be thankful for what you have. Be thankful for what He has given you. Take more from the day than just the physical provision, thank Him for the lesson the Israelites gave us. Thank Him for the food before you and that even though you gathered it and prepared it in the same somewhat manner as the Israelites did, you don’t have to grumble over it. Sometimes the things we get so tired of tasting, the same job, the same family prob-

lems, the same poverty are the things that in the end sustain us for a greater future. He has given and will continue to give you every provision you need. Do not look back reminiscing of the past that once held you in chains, look upward expectant of what the future will bring. What He will so graciously give you.



[www.liftministriesal.com](http://www.liftministriesal.com) Hannah Johnson, LIFT Ministries (334)328-1513

### Community Christmas

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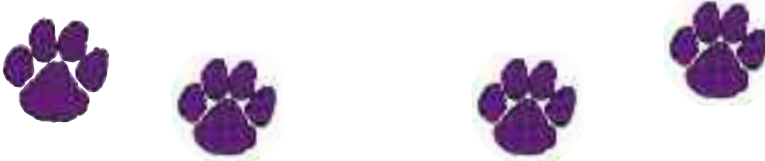
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### Mission:

*The mission of the Tallassee City School District is to provide a quality education, providing the basis for students to become lifelong learners as well as moral, ethical and compassionate people. A partnership of staff, students, parents and the community will prepare students to become responsible citizens and productive member of the communities in which they live.*



# TALLASSEE CITY SCHOOLS

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## 18,654,977 And Counting



**Wade Shipman**  
*Superintendent  
of Education*

That’s right 18,654,977 words being read... and counting. That is the total number of words read through the Accelerated Reader program at Southside Middle School according to Media Specialist Angie Miller. Those are the numbers for just Southside and AR, however there is much more reading going on in all of our schools. This is part of a district effort begun by Curriculum Director, Tessie Williams and a group of educator s wanting to promote a love of reading. April Powell, Katie Jackson, Jennifer Miller, Angel Miller, Heather Earnest, Laura Lott, and Courtney Branch met with Ms. Williams numerous times and through those meetings, their goal was to find a way to promote reading in our schools and community. Last year Tallassee’s Leadership group read the book, “The Book Whisperer,” further inspiring Ms. Williams and this group. The ‘Tallassee Reads’ idea was initiated at the beginning of this school year and has been successful in encouraging everyone of all ages to read for enjoyment. We hope that this initiative continues to flourish and as a result our students develop a lifetime love for reading.

A second initiative is ‘Attendance Matters.’ Our country is fighting an epidemic of chronic student absenteeism. Chronic absenteeism represents students who miss 15 days or more in a school year. It is now a criteria included

on our state report card. Our emphasis has been to encourage all students to be in school. In most cases, there is an adult that is directly responsible for their child getting to school and on time. We want to provide you with the best education possible for your children. It is nearly impossible to do if they are chronically absent. Please do your part in helping us having a great school year.

### What is Accelerated Reader?

"The Accelerated Reader System provides K-12 schools with computerized learning information systems. Its reading software is used in more than 37,500 schools, or approximately 30 percent of the schools in the United States and Canada. The company's flagship reading product, the Accelerated Reader program, is the most popular reading software in K-12 schools, with quizzes covering more than 19,000 literature books for readers of all ability levels."



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**Matt Coker**  
High School  
Principal



### Tallassee High School Presented GUYS AND DOLLS for four performances November 13-14-15

The story of “Guys and Dolls” comes from the pen of Damon Runyon, whose short stories Blood Pressure and The Idyll of Miss Sarah Brown inspired the writing of this musical. Songwriter Frank Loesser came up with the songs, while Jo Swerling and Abe Burrows wrote the book.

The characters are living in the Times Square area of New York City in the 1920s-1930s period. They represent an underworld known only unto themselves – gangsters, gamblers, street preachers, and nightclub dancers.

Nathan Detroit, who was played by John Burgess in our production, runs a floating crap game in every nook and cranny of New York City, it seems; his fiancée of 14 years, Miss Adelaide, was played by Grace Coker. Adelaide is the main attraction at the Hot Box Club, where she dances every night. Adelaide is so desperate to get Nathan to go straight that she has told her mother that she’s been married to Nathan for 12 years, and that they have six children.

Sarah Brown is a minister at the Save-a-Soul Mission, a storefront church. She was played by Mallory Nichols in our version. Sarah is tightly wound and has a zealous devotion to her missionary work, trying to eliminate the gambling and drinking going on around her. Sky Masterson, who was played in our production by Trace Bush, is a smooth talker and the most successful gambler in the play. Sky bets Nathan he can convince Sarah to go on a date with him – and succeeds, in that the rogue gambler actually falls for the buttoned-down preacher!

You’ve heard the songs your whole life – “Luck Be A Lady,” “Sit Down, You’re Rockin’ the Boat,” “A Bushel and a Peck” – and they were all heard in the THS production.

Along with our four main leads, there were around 70 other students who worked tirelessly on the musical over the past few weeks alongside participation in band, cross country, cheerleading, dance team, football, and everything else that has been going on along with their academic classes. They painted, built, and moved; they learned lines and choreography to go with the songs they had to memorize.

**At Tallassee High School, we begin our announcements each day with our motto:  
“Tradition, Honor, Family, Success.”**





# Southside Middle School



**Southside Middle School Principal Micah Cook**



**Southside Middle School  
901 East B Payne Sr Dr., Tallassee, AL 36078  
334-283-2151**



**Southside Middle School Asst. Principal Kevin O'Rear and Family**

## World Day and Veterans Day Programs

As the end of the semester approaches I wanted to take time to recognize the part of Southside Middle School that is by far the most important; our students. Students and teachers have been extremely busy representing our schools in various activities, and we are proud of their achievements. Recently our students have participated in World Day, Veterans Day program, volleyball, football, cheerleading, dance team, robotics, reading celebration, and many other clubs and activities. These programs and activities only portray a portion of the excellent character and pride instilled in our students. We are extremely proud and honored to have such a wonderful group of kids who dedicate their time



*World Day*



*Reading Celebration*



*Dance Team*

and efforts to their peers and their school. The 2018 SMS football team, coached by Adam Clayton, Josh Taylor and Jacob Gibson, had one of the better seasons in the last decade. The team, led by 23 eighth graders, went 6-0 on the season defeating Dadeville, Holtville, and Eclectic twice. We are extremely proud of our students achievements throughout this semester and look forward to celebrating many more this school year!



**Shanikka Beacher Principal**



**850 Friendship Road, Tallassee, AL 36078, 334-283-5001**



**Bruce Dean Assistant Principal and Assistant Transportation Coordinator**

## Artists in the Making

Students at Tallassee Elementary School explore a wide variety of art mediums and artists from all over the world as well as create their own artistic ideas and artwork. Students can integrate and retain what they are learning in all areas when they have opportunities to create relevant artifacts. For example, when studying geometric shapes, students illustrated various architecture that contained geometric shapes. In the content area of science, students made models of a flower to better understand each of its parts. Throughout the year, students have the opportunity to attend afterschool art sessions with Mrs. Battles. In these make and take sessions, students complete specific art projects geared toward their grade level. For example, fourth grade created a chalk pastel mandala. A mandala design was drawn with pencil on a 12X12 black piece of paper. The pencil design was traced with liquid glue and then given time to dry. Students used chalk pastels to color inside the mandala designs. It was a lovely project that they were able to take home with them that day.



## S.T.E.M. at Tallassee Elementary School

Tallassee Elementary School is providing students with an educational opportunity through its new Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) lab. Students are immersed in engineering design skills, coding and computer programming, circuitry and power circuit basics, and robotics. Under the guidance of Mrs. Moore, students are learning the design thinking approach to where they are understanding the problem, creating a solution, and testing their theory. While in the STEM lab, students are engineers building structures that require determination and persistence. On occasions, students create circuits that power multiple objects at the same time. When students develop their student driven project, they have a great sense of accomplishment.





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Mon.-Wed. 11 am- 8:30 pm  
Thurs. & Fri. 11 am - 9 pm  
Sat. 7 am - 8:30 pm