



The Cross & Steeple

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October 2015

From John

It is that time of year. Football season. And that means that once again Charlie Brown will be lying on his back. Looking up at Lucy.

Growing up, I read the newspaper the same way every day. Look at the front page for anything I cared about. Look through the news stories, slowing down on the editorial/letters to the editor page. Skip classifieds and any recipes or flower or society stories. Go to the Sports section and read it carefully. This time of the year I would be looking closely at the baseball results and standings. How were the Nashville Vols doing. I would carefully look at the box scores – who had hits, who pitched. And football stories would be similar. Look at the stats – rushing, passing, first downs. Then read the stories about the games to be sure the Tennessee Vols were still the best team anywhere. After the sports came my dessert. The comics. I always read them last and in the same order.



The climax of the entire paper? The *Peanuts* strip. The last thing I read every day (I wish it was still in the local papers every day). My favorite character is Linus. The thinker and theologian of the strip, security blanket and all.

After him it was good ol' Charlie Brown. His battles in the spring with the kite eating tree. His failures in the summer on the baseball diamond where he always ended up on his back on the pitcher's mound after someone from the other team hit a ball right at him. Even his inability to get treats on Halloween or cards at Valentine's.

And, of course, there was the great battle with Lucy every Fall over kicking the football. Every year the same basic thing. Lucy assuring Charlie she will hold the ball and let him kick it. It will be different this year, she assures him. Charlie Brown finally deciding that this year will be different. This year he will kick the ball. Running hard. And just as he swings his leg to kick the ball, Lucy pulls it back. And he ends up on his back looking up at Lucy who says something to him like – “you will never learn. And you will never kick it.”

Nothing deters Lucy. Or Charlie Brown. Year after year. The year she sounded real sincere. The year she had a signed contract saying she would not pull it back (turned out it was not notarized). The year she wore a blind fold. Every year Charlie on his back, Lucy standing over him with the unkicked football.

It is a story that resonates with all of us. We all have Lucys in our life. And we all have failures. We all have footballs that we want to kick. Want to kick to the moon. But we seem to always fail.

I think that most of us would still rather be Charlie Brown. We admire his persistence. And his ability to hope again. To believe again. To try again. That can be really hard to do. The person who had a failed marriage. The person who was hurt in church. The person who loses jobs. The person who lost a fight to addiction. It can be hard to try again.

To hope again. But Charlie Brown does.



For us, the way to that hope may have been hinted at in one the annual failures of Charlie Brown. Look at this:

And that is pretty much what God told Isaiah who had just volunteered to be God's messenger – “Here am I, send me.” Isaiah then learns that this will not be a health and wealth message. It will not be a positive thinking message. It will be a message of coming judgment and the

people will ignore him. No wonder Isaiah asks God how long. God only tells Isaiah that it will be a long time. Which is essentially what Jeremiah is told as he begins his ministry.

Kind of depressing? Not for Christians. We have the advice of another of God's preachers. Paul says that we should rejoice in the Lord always. Not be anxious about anything but give everything to God. Then we will find a peace that will guard us. We will be able to be content in all circumstances. We will know that we can do everything through him. He will give us his strength. All of this is in Philippians 4.

Impractical? No, no, no. Give Lucy and the football to God. Then whatever happens will be fine. Seems pretty practical. Even if you are on your back. Yet again. Your job is to try to kick the ball. God will work out when you will succeed. If ever. Just keep believing. And kicking.



Operation Christmas Child October 11 – November 15

Although this month's items are hard candy and gum, there are still a few past items we need in order to build our boxes.

Bars of soap	Most of these items are available
Toothpaste	at Dollar Tree.
Washcloths	Toothpaste can be purchased at
Pencils	Collinsville Drugs for \$1.00 for
Notepads	a large tube.
GIRLS' toys	Washcloths, 18 for \$5 available
Coloring Books	at Walmart.

If you want to help but don't have time or can't go shopping, see Symphony Graves, Mamie Moore or Deborah Redditt. They will be happy to shop for you.

National Collection Week November 16-23

Fall Offerings

World Hunger Relief Offering –
September 13 – October 11

October 11 is Observed as World Hunger Sunday by Many Denominations

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering November
22 – January 3
Week of Prayer Nov 29-Dec 6

2016 Has An Early Easter – March 27
That Means Lent Will Begin Wednesday,
February 10 **Annie Armstrong Offering** Will
Begin on Sunday, February 7 or 14

Congratulations!

Breckin Dine Bradley was born on Aug 20 weighing 7 lbs, 2 ozs and was 22 inches long. Proud great grandparent is Jerrie Alexander, Grandparents Lori and Mike Daniel and Karen Bradley, Parents Kristen and Bron Bradley.

DeKalb County Fair

September 28-October 3

Sunday, October 4

Blessing of Animals

Remembering the Witness of Francis of Assisi

Collinsville High School Homecoming

Friday, October 9 - Against Ider

Watch for the Parade in the Afternoon and the Game that Night

Covered Dish Dinner and Quarterly Ministry Meeting

Sunday, October 11 at Noon



Adult Fellowship Chili Cook Off

Adult Scavenger Hunt at 3:00 pm

Saturday, October 17 at 5:00 pm

Fall in the Park

Sunday, November 1

International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church

Sunday, November 1

Turkey Trot

November 7 10-3

Orphan Sunday – Defend the Cause of the Fatherless

Sunday, November 8

Community Thanksgiving Service

Sunday, November 22

Hosted by First Methodist

Speaker – Don Jones, Pastor, Vernon Baptist

Community Christmas Service

Sunday, December 6 or 13

Hosted by Harvest Center Church of God of Prophecy

Sympathy is expressed to the family of Teresa Jordan whose funeral is this afternoon at 2:00. Her three children – Nakia, Diego and Kelli – all were active in our church as they grew up here. Her husband Taco was an RA leader. He has also passed away.

~ October 2015 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Wednesday Night Schedule 5:40 Supper 6:00 Children's Choirs 7:00 Adult Choir				1 Anniversary Craig & Rebecca Fields	2 Birthdays Allora Perkins Avery Burke	3
4 Flowers Marilyn Borntrager Birthdays Astrid Roberts	5	6	7 W.O.W. 6:00 p.m.	8 Birthdays Martha Barksdale Sarah Jones Chris Mancill Karen Smith Frank Wardrup	9 Birthdays Symphony Graves	10 Birthdays Shawn Ross
11 Lord's Supper J.R. & Donzella Bobo Birthdays Gloria Morgan Oliver Hall III	12 Birthdays Tonya Wessels Carol Zulker	13 Birthdays Jerry Delk	14 Birthdays John Hamiter, Jr. Anniversary Mark & Glenda Morgan Prayer Meeting/ Bible Study 7:00 PM	15 Anniversary Justin & Allison Foster	16 Birthdays Brad Barksdale Grant Jones	17 Birthdays Raven Stevens
18 Flowers The McReynolds Birthdays Savannah Bishop John Edwards Ethan Wessels Anniversary Chris & Jess De La O	19 Birthdays Lynn Abernathy Kevin Siniard	20 Birthdays Dean Patton	21 Birthdays Lily Justice DEACONS MEETING 6:00 pm Prayer Meeting/ Bible Study 7:00 PM	22 Birthdays Wesley Hamiter Cagney Buchanan	23 Birthdays Dale McKee Drew Bobo	24
25 Flowers Terri Bobo Birthdays Susan Nelson	26	27 Birthdays Jon Helms	28 Birthdays Donnie Myers Johnny Patton Prayer Meeting/ Bible Study 7:00 PM	29 Birthdays Carl Clayton Sarah Buchanan	30	31 Birthdays Jade Burke Anniversary Jeff & Tonie Mathis



Daylight Savings Time Ends

Sunday, November 1 - Set Your Clocks **Back** One Hour

Collinsville Baptist Church
P. O. Box 558
Collinsville, AL 35961

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Permit Number 2
Fort Payne, AL 35967

Church Gossip – James 3: 1-9

Mildred, the church gossip and self-appointed monitor of the church's morals, kept sticking her nose into other people's business.

Several members did not approve of her extra-curricular activities, but they feared her enough to maintain their silence.

She made a mistake however when she accused George, a new member, of being an alcoholic after she saw his old pickup parked in front of the town's only bar one afternoon.

She emphatically told George, and several others, that everyone seeing it there would know what he was doing.

George, a man of few words, stared at her for a moment and just turned and walked away. He didn't explain, defend or deny. He said nothing.

Later that evening, George quietly parked his pickup in front of Mildred's house...walked home...and left it there all night.

Sunday Mornings in October

October 4 – James 4:1-10 Fights and Quarrels
October 11 – James 4:11-12 Illegal Slander
Lord's Supper and World Hunger Sunday
October 18 – James 4:13-17 Predicting the Future
October 25 – James 5:1-6 Learning to Live with
Money
November 1 – James 5:7-12 Patience Waiting for
Him
All Saints Day



Thanks to all those who helped with the meal for the football team and to all those who provided supper to CBC Kids and CBC Youth.

To all those who made the Choir Enrollment Party possible.

And to those who helped with the inoculations.

Thanks to all those who worked so hard on the Nominating Committee Report and the Stewardship and Budget Committee Report.