

<b>January Birthdays</b>		<b>January Anniversaries</b>	
1	Stanten Sikes	1	Robin & Joe Autry
4	Robin Autry		
25	Linda Reader		

### **Mission Work Areas**

Quito, Ecuador  
Mazatlán, Mexico  
Reitoca & San Carlos, Honduras

### **New Prayer Requests**

Austin Petty (Zirkle's Grandson) – will be changing to a different oral chemo treatment. The first one was not helping. Keep him and his family in your prayers.

Dave Nettles and Lauren Nettles-Broussard (daughter) – she needs a kidney and David will be giving her one of his. Testing is complete and surgery is not scheduled yet. Please keep them both in your prayers

Dr. Richard "Dick" Burt (Margo Greene's brother) – Is starting to show some improvement. He has had some movement in his arms and is able to feed himself. He and all of his family continue to need our prayers.

Glenda Cox' Mother – having sciatic back problems and is being admitted to a rehab nursing home until she can strengthen her back. Please pray for her.

### **Long Term Prayer List**

Ron Hansen	Richard Pedrie
Ian Stewart	Greg Pyle
Gary Stewart	Beth Pedrie
Marilyn Bartlow	Norma Bartlow
Joan Lawrence	Melissa Wagle (cancer)
Kendra Tate (Stanten's niece) – recovering from accident at home	Cavasos Family – multiple health issues and moving to Iowa.
Austin Petty (Zirkle's Grandson - cancer)	Tom Hartman (friend of Jeff Richards) – Mt Bike accident and cancer
Betty & Danny Sidebottom –are living with their son	Bill Phillips (Terry's Brother-in-law) – prostate cancer
Dick McClain (friend of Readers) – lung cancer	

<b>January 22, 2023</b>		
Greeters:	Terry Reader	Ken Davis
Announcements:	Terry Reader	
Song Leader:	Kelly Beek	
Opening Prayer:	Ken Davis	
Closing Prayer:	Larry Fulton	
Lord's Table:	Kelly Beek	Len Gates
	Al Olguin	Ken Davis
Coordinator:	Len Gates	

### **Elders**

Stanten Sikes (719) 207-0629  
Ian Stewart (720) 878-2919  
Terry Reader (719) 427-7141

### **Deacons**

Wayne Bartlow (719) 395-2520  
Stacey Moss (719) 395-9294  
Ken Davis (719) 748-8654  
Kelly Beek (719) 342-5856  
Larry Fulton (719) 398-9987  
Len Gates (719) 207-0039

If you have bulletin information or updates, please send them to Terry or Linda Reader

- Terry's contact (719) 427-7141 [tdr1960@yahoo.com](mailto:tdr1960@yahoo.com)
- Linda's contact (928) 965-5708 [lnreader@q.com](mailto:lnreader@q.com)



**When you visit us...**

January 15, 2023

You can expect to find your friendly neighbor, assembled to worship God the Father, and proclaim the love and grace He has given to us; and remember Jesus, the Christ, our example—our Savior. We will strive always to provoke love and good deeds of one another.

As in the 1st Century New Testament Church, our worship to God is simple - without mankind's rituals. You will find a wholesome respect for the Word of God as inspired by the Holy Spirit. We study only the Holy Scriptures—no human creeds will be used by us.

In addition to the worship of our Creator, we strive to fulfill our Savior's stated plan for us by sharing His Gospel message with this community and throughout the world.

Sermons every Sunday will be based wholly upon the Word of God. They will be Christ - centered and Biblically based so we can develop a deepening relationship with God through our understanding and personal involvement with Him and His truth in our everyday life.

Pulpit Minister—Stanten Sikes  
P.O. Box 1479 \* 16310 County Road 306 \* Buena Vista, CO 81211  
(719) 395-8753 \* email: [mvccbv@hotmail.com](mailto:mvccbv@hotmail.com)  
[www.mountainviewchurchofchrist.org](http://www.mountainviewchurchofchrist.org)

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>
10:00 am ....Bible Class	7:00 pm.....Devotional
11:00 am.....Assembly	or Bible Class
Noon.....Fellowship Meal	
1:30 pm.....Devotional	

## *The Providence of God*

Warren Berkley

Our word “providence” conveys the idea of providing; the quality or state of being provident. The providence of God generally means the divine care, guidance and sustaining power of God over the universe and the affairs of men.

I find it helpful to think of God's providence in terms of five realms where Scripture specifically has something to say: Permission, Performance, Preference, Providence and Prohibition.

There is that which God PERMITS. Paul said, "... I hope to stay a while with you, if the Lord permits," (1 Cor. 16:7; Jas. 4:15). God "allowed all nations to walk in their own ways," and the Hebrew writer said, "and this we will do if God permits," (Acts 14:16; Heb. 6:3). This is clear. In the exercise of His wise providence, there are things God allows or permits.

Also, there is that which God PERFORMS. He makes certain things happen, performing certain actions. He makes His sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and the unjust (Matt. 5:45). God gives to all life, and breath and all things (Acts 17:25). We can affirm, therefore, that God performs certain actions: He makes, He sends, He gives.

God PREFERENCES certain things. He desires or prefers that all men come to the knowledge of the truth and be saved (1 Tim. 2:4). Many are not interested in His truth, and He does not force them to obey it. But He certainly prefers that all men listen to and give favorable response to His truth. He desires that all men repent, and He prefers that there be no offenses among us (2 Pet. 3:9; Matt. 18:14).

There is that which God PROVIDES in response to our petitions. If we believe what is written in passages like 1 John 5:14-15, we know God responds to prayer. He says He does, and we can regard those provisions of God as part of His providential dealings (see also Jas. 1:5,17).

Then, there are things God PROHIBITS. Certain things are not allowed by God, and this affirmation assumes His activity in the affairs of men. "No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it," (1 Cor. 10:13). God, for instance, did not allow the devil to do certain things to Job. Likewise, God does not allow temptation to come into our lives which is beyond our ability to resist! (God not only prohibits irresistible temptation; he "makes" the way of escape.)

These are things I firmly believe about the providence of God. He permits certain things, He performs certain acts, He prefers certain things, provides for us in reply to our prayers, and He prohibits certain things. I entertain no difficulty and no hesitation in regard to the fact of God's providence.

NOW, if you demand that I interpret the details of God's providence from day to day and event to event, I WILL NOT ACCEPT THAT CHALLENGE! A storm occurs and wipes out a whole community, killing several citizens, and the questions follow: Did God cause it, or just permit it? If God caused it directly, why? What did He have in mind? Was this just an indirect consequence of living in a world corrupted by sin? I cannot answer these questions. And, the fact that I function as a gospel preacher does not afford me any depth of insight into the mysteries of providence. The fact that I firmly believe in divine providence does not qualify me to interpret the details!

I know God answers prayer, even though I may not know exactly how He does it. I believe God has the ability to use various influences, circumstances and people for my good. There isn't any doubt in my mind He has the ability to work among nations. He can use weather, illness and even wicked behavior for His own purposes. But when it comes to exactly and specifically what God causes, controls, permits or provides, I am not capable of knowing all about that. And, I don't need to know all about that. What I need to know is my God and my duty to Him, my Savior and how to respond to and honor Him.

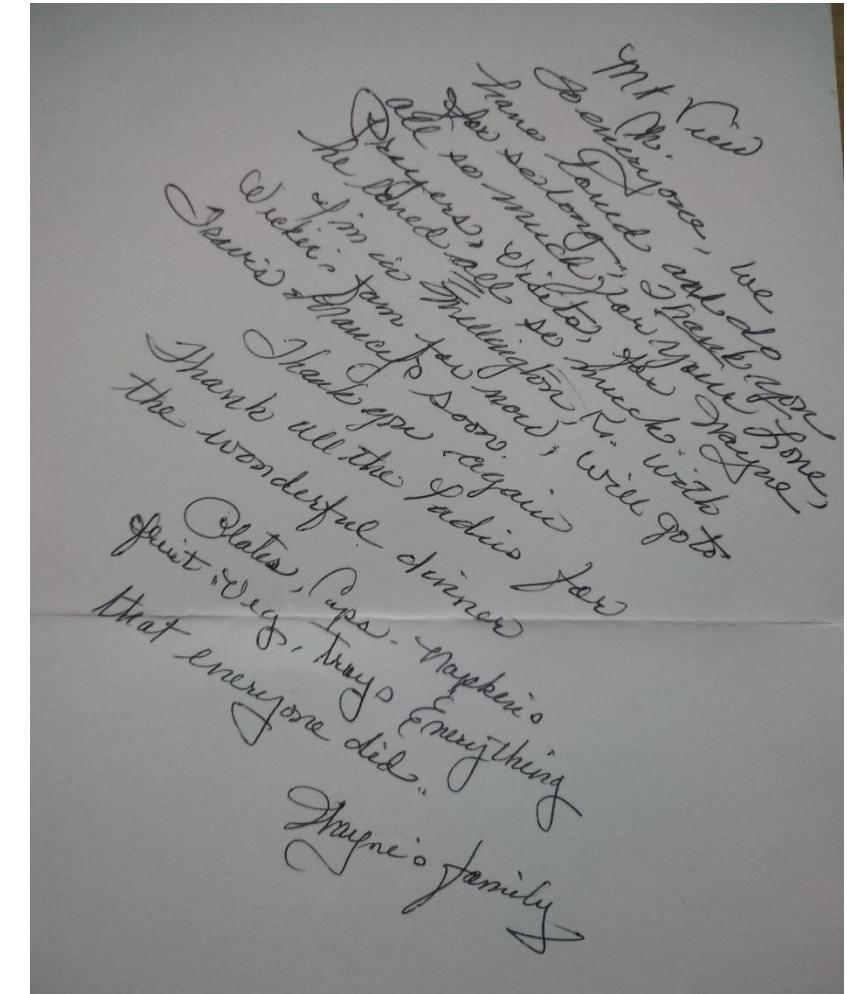
Let us not be ashamed to proclaim the fact of God's providence. But let us be exceedingly careful what we impulsively affirm, claim or attribute to God. There is the very real danger of "words without knowledge" (Job 38:2; Eccl. 5:2).

AND WE KNOW THAT  
**FOR THOSE WHO LOVE GOD**  
ALL THINGS WORK TOGETHER FOR GOOD,  
FOR THOSE WHO ARE CALLED  
ACCORDING TO HIS PURPOSE.  
**ROMANS 8:28**

Sybil Atha

New Cell Phone  
(719) 398-3882

Home phone is still her primary number



We invite you to stay for our Weekly Fellowship Lunch & Afternoon Devotional! We hope you'll stay and eat, fellowship and worship with us immediately following morning services.

### ***For your calendar.....***

Weekly Fellowship Luncheon	Sunday – 12:00 Noon
1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday Singing	February 1 – 7:00 PM