

# Shade Or Fruit Tree?

By Mike Riley

When an apple tree begins to run to wood and leaves instead of fruit, the farmer severely crops it. Almost always, the tree starts to bear fruit. It is equally true that people whose lives seem purposeless may direct their energies toward more purposeful living once they have been wounded or hurt in some way.

Every branch in us that does not bear fruit, should be cut off, and every branch that bears fruit should be pruned that it may bring forth more fruit (John 15:2 ESV).

Too many members of the Lord's church whose lives should be fruitful, have developed into shade trees. Sometimes we try to protect ourselves too much from folks we fear may reject us.

But let's think about this — what we may lose in flower, we may gain in fruit (Proverbs 11:30; James 5:20).



**STERLINGTON**  
Church of Christ



P.O. Box 82  
1095 Highway 2  
Sterlington, Louisiana 71280  
[www.sterlingtoncoc.com](http://www.sterlingtoncoc.com)

Sunday Morning Bible Classes - 9:30 AM  
Sunday Morning Worship - 10:30 AM  
Sunday Evening Worship - 5:00 PM  
Wednesday Evening Classes - 6:00 PM.

## Welcome Visitors

If you are seeking a church home, we hope that you will consider joining with us. We are a growing congregation, dedicated to worshiping in truth and spirit. Please fill out the Visitor's Card and place it in the collection plate!

## Those to Serve

### Today

**Announcements**- Travis Rogers    **Opening prayer**- Paul Simpson  
**Communion**- Wayne Fowler    **Closing Prayer**- David Reppond  
**Sermon**- Don DeLukie

October 13th

**Announcements**- Wayne Fowler    **Opening prayer**- Lyle Russell  
**Communion**- Larry Randolph    **Closing Prayer**- Gary Harris  
**Sermon**- Don DeLukie

## Announcements

### —Sterlington Church of Christ 80th Anniversary Celebration:

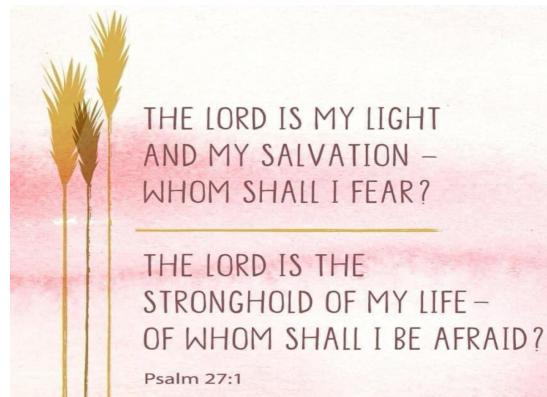
On October 13th we will celebrate our 80th anniversary after AM services. Lunch will be catered with a short presentation following lunch. All are invited!

—**Question & Answer Series:** Our next Question & Answer Series will be when enough questions are collected. Give your questions to Don.

—**Children's Home Collection:** Our congregation is collecting items for the Children's Home in Paragould, AR. Collection boxes are by the nursery. A list of needed items is in the foyer.



Scan the QR code to visit our website.



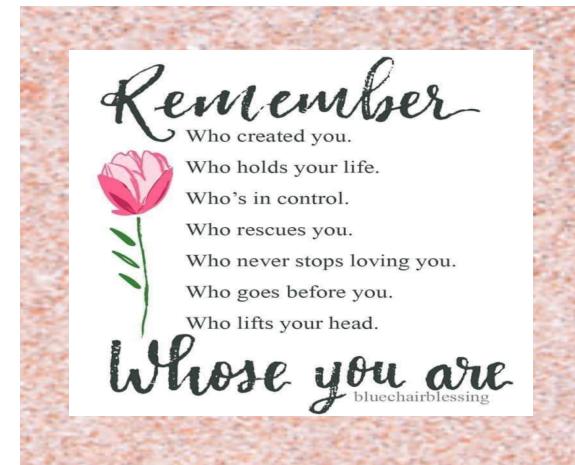
## Please Pray For:

Tommy White, Christopher Fowler, Debbie Grice, Joyce Moses, Brad Smith, Larry Randolph, John Ray, Cliff Lawrence, Debbie Cook, Louella Jacobs, Gavin Martin, Joe Lamar Hodge, Brenda Fricke, Teresa Smith, Carolyn Jones.

**Bereaved:** Families of William Jones.

## Needing Long-Term Prayers:

Tommy Franklin, Brigg DeLukie, Carol Granger, Arthur Binford, Dan Ross Jr, Ronnie & Dena White, Joanne Randolph, Bettye Flowers, Linda Garris, Sharon White-Ross, James Johnson, Bobby Barker, Cindy Smith, Renee Gee, Bobby Simmons, Terrance Dawson, Jamie Ross.



### October Birthdays

2 - Rick VanLoon	18 - Randal Freeman
7 - Joyce McDonald	24 - Jean Delukie
12 - Barbara Wheeler	27 - Charles Fricke
14 - Kathy Manning	31 - Bobby Barker
15 - Chuck Boyer	



**October Anniversaries**      None