

# Neighborly News

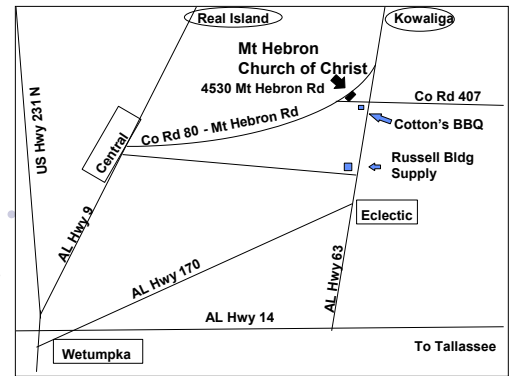
*Brought to you by your friends at the Mt. Hebron Church of Christ.*

## Brandon's messy pancakes

Six-year-old Brandon decided one Saturday morning to fix his parents pancakes. He found a big bowl and spoon, pulled a chair to the counter, opened the cupboard and pulled out the heavy flour canister, spilling it on the floor. He scooped some of the flour into the bowl with his hands, mixed in most of a cup of milk and added some sugar, leaving a floury trail on the floor which by now had a few tracks left by his kitten. Brandon was covered with flour and getting frustrated. He wanted this to be something very good for Mom

next, whether to put it all into the oven or on the stove (and he didn't know how the stove worked). Suddenly he saw his kitten licking from the bowl of mix and reached to push her away, knocking the egg carton to the floor. Frantically he tried to clean up this monumental mess but slipped on the eggs, getting his pajamas white and sticky. And just then he saw Dad standing at the door. Big crocodile tears welled up in Brandon's eyes. All he'd wanted to do was something good. but he'd made a

scolding was coming, maybe even a spanking. But his father just watched him. Then, walking through the mess, he picked up his crying son, hugged him and loved him, getting his own pajamas white and sticky in the process. That's how God deals with us. We try to do something good in life, but it turns into a mess. Our marriage gets all sticky or we insult a friend or we can't stand our job or our health goes sour. Sometimes we just stand there in tears because we can't think of anything else to do. That's when God us up and loves us or gives us, even though some of our mess will over Him. But just because we might mess up, don't stop trying to "make pancakes," for God or for others. Sooner or later we'll get it right, and then they'll be glad we tried.



### Mt. Hebron Church of Christ

P.O. Box 240159  
4530 Mt. Hebron Rd.  
Eclectic, Ala. 36024

Come and visit us

Sunday  
Bible Classes 10:00 AM  
Worship Services  
11:00 AM & 6:00 PM

Wednesday  
Bible Classes 7:00 PM

### Quotable Quotes

"In taking revenge a man is but equal to his enemy, but in passing it over, he is his superior."

—Francis Bacon

"Death is just a comma to a Christian, not a period. Jesus saves the best for last."



*This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved. (Acts 4:11-12)*

## Burdened by useless weight

Every year, about 1,500 “thru hikers” set out to walk the entire Appalachian Trail in a single season. Only 10 percent complete the 2,160 miles of challenging terrain stretching from Georgia to Maine. One reason some people drop out early is that they haven’t learned to travel light.

A friend of mine launched his thru-hike carrying a seriously over-loaded backpack. He had a cassette player and six tapes of bird calls, an air pistol to keep varmints away, a camera, a radio and an alarm clock. “If it ran on batteries,” he said, “I had one in my pack.”

At his first stop, an experienced hiker helped him go through his pack and decide what to keep and what to send home. Each item was placed on a gram scale with the question, “Is it

next 2,000 miles?”

My friend discovered that his biggest problem was an accumulation of little things. Most of his extra weight was in ounces, not pounds. He didn’t need half of what was in his first-aid kit nor the extra tube of toothpaste. His heavy multi-tool knife was replaced with one weighing only an ounce. A metal knife-fork-and-spoon set gave way to a single plastic spoon. He sent home 26 pounds of unnecessary weight.

How many of us are trying to walk the trail of faith in Christ weighed down by an accumulation of little things – anger, bitterness, worry,

worth it? Do you want to carry this for the

envy, jealousy, lust and selfishness? Instead of enjoying the beauty of life with Jesus, we complain about how hard it is to follow Him.

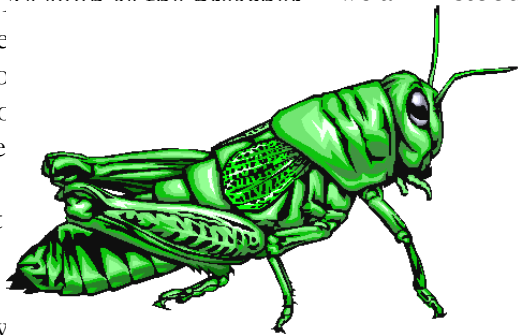
Psalm 32 is for everyone who’s ready to shed the weight of sin and regain the joy of walking with the Lord. *Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. (Psalms 32:1)*



## The day the cricket preached a sermon

As a youth, I squirmed through many a worship service. One particular Sunday was to have an added distraction. A person at the front

got up to describe what he had walked onto. He suddenly came from the cracks there were to be found most anywhere in the old building. Everyone in the first three rows saw the cricket. He looked dazed and stumbled near the edge of the pulpit area and our eyes followed his every step. I shouted to myself "Jump! Jump!" But alas the cricket did not jump. Time after time he walked back and forth. I didn't know if the sermon was any good, but the cricket was sure fun to watch.



When the invitation song began, we all stood up and watched the

preacher. He almost got stepped on when the song leader walked to the front and we all laughed. My laughter turned to amazement. Someone went forward! My

father wasn't a Christian. My Mom and I had been trying for years to get him to come to church with us, to no avail until today. Now the preacher was taking him back to be baptized.

"Dad," I asked later, "what made you want to be baptized today?" Dad asked, "Didn't you hear how Jesus gave His life for us so that we could be saved?" I hung my head in shame. That beautiful message did

not reach me that day. I was watching the cricket.

To this day, I believe that cricket was preaching to me. He was saying, "Watch me! Jesus isn't important. I'm more fun." A lot of things will distract a person from worshipping God. But I learned my lesson. God is more important than anything else.

*God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." (John 4:24)*

