

# Northside Church of Christ

“God is a Spirit; and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.”  
John 4:24



## Exhibiting Empathy Toward Others

By Mike Riley

The dictionary defines the word “empathy” as: “Identification with and understanding of another’s situation, feelings, and motives.”

Empathy is indeed a strong emotion. It can drive us to come alongside those who are in similar situations. It can cause us to care in a deeper way for those with whom we share a concern or a difficulty.

The greatest example of empathy is the Lord Himself. He became one of us (John 1:14 – NKJV). Because He did, He fully understands our struggles and weaknesses (Hebrews 4:15 – NKJV). Jesus knows what we are going through, for He endured the trials and tribulations of this life Himself.

As we receive His grace in our time of need, we are better able to come alongside others, giving them an encouraging word of comfort (Hebrews 4:16 – NKJV; 2 Corinthians 1:1-14 – NKJV).

### SUNDAY MORNING

Triple E  
Edify, Exhort,  
Evangelize  
Transformed  
8:30 AM

### SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY

I Timothy  
9:30 AM

### SUNDAY WORSHIP

Worship Service  
10:30 AM

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT

The Book of Acts  
7:00 PM



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“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

2 Timothy 2:15

Northside Church of Christ  
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Meridian, MS 39301

Place Stamp Here



## “Keep Your Fork”

By Mike Riley

There was a woman who had been diagnosed with a terminal illness and had been given three months to live. As she was getting her things “in order” (cf. 2 Kings 20:1), she contacted her preacher and asked him if he would come to her house to discuss certain aspects of her final wishes. She told him which songs she wanted sung at the service, what scriptures she would like read and what clothing she wanted to be buried in. The woman also requested to be buried with her favorite Bible. Everything was in order and the preacher was preparing to leave, when the woman suddenly remembered something very important. “There’s one more thing”, she said excitedly. “What’s that?” came the preacher’s reply. She told him, “This is something very important, I want to be buried with a fork in my right hand”. The preacher stood looking at the woman not knowing quite what to say. “That surprises you, doesn’t it?”, the woman asked. “Well, to be honest I’m puzzled by the request,” said the preacher. The woman explained, In all my years of attending church potluck dinners, I always remember that when the dishes of the main course were being cleared, someone would inevitably lean over and say, “Keep your fork”. It was my favorite part of the dinner because I knew that something “better” was coming .... like velvety chocolate cake or deep dish apple pie – something wonderful, and with substance! So, I just want people to see me there in that casket with a fork in my hand and I want them to wonder, “What’s with the fork?” Then I want you to tell them, “Keep your fork – the best is yet to come”. The preacher’s eyes welled up with tears of joy as he hugged the woman good-bye. He knew this would be one of the last times he would see her before her death, but he also knew that the woman had a better grasp of heaven than maybe he did because she knew that something “better” was coming. At the funeral, the woman’s many friends were walking by her casket and they saw the pretty dress she was wearing, her favorite Bible and the fork placed in her right hand. Over and over, the preacher heard the question, “what’s with the fork?” And over and over he simply smiled. As he spoke the eulogy, the preacher told those in attendance of the conversation he had with the woman shortly before she died. He also told them how he could not stop thinking about the fork and said they probably would not be able to stop thinking about it either. He was right. So, the next time you reach down for your fork, let it remind you, oh so gently, that spiritually speaking, the “best” is yet to come (Hebrews 11:16; Hebrews 13:14; cf. Ephesians 2:6; Colossians 3:1; Philippians 3:20; 1 Peter 1:4).

### Conclusion

Brethren, true friends are a very rare jewel (Proverbs 17:17; Proverbs 18:24). Indeed, they lend an ear, they share a word of praise, and they always are willing to open their hearts to us. Let’s show our friends, who are not members of the Lord’s church, how much we truly care about them by sending this article not only to them, but to everyone we consider a potential friend. Who knows, after reading this article, they might ask you about this “better place” (Hebrews 11:16; Hebrews 13:14), and be willing to study the Bible with you. As a result, you’ll be richly blessed, God will be glorified (Matthew 5:16), and you might even gain a new friend in Christ (John 15:14; cf. Acts 10:47-48; Gal. 3:26-27).

### Announcements

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### Prayer Requests This Week

- Pray for all those with ongoing health ailments
- Fred Tucker - stroke; ICU on ventilator; still stable
- Matt Roberts - needs liver transplant; Larry’s cousin
- Sandra Callens - feeling better after seeing Dr. Thursday
- Dwight Callens - not feeling well; sinus cold symptoms

### Communion Preparation

- Sign up sheet for 2022 is in foyer
- March - Callens
- April - Rowell
- May -

### March Birthdays & Anniversary’s

- Mark Potts - 6th
- Robbi Cooper - 20th
- Larry Montgomery - 13th
- Kylie Joiner - 23rd
- Greg and Maxine Powell - 16th

### Every Sunday Morning

@ 8:00 AM

on WTOK-TV



### Sermon Notes

### Men to Serve

Announcements/Opening Prayer - Don Potts  
 Scripture Reading - 1 John 2:15 - 17  
 Lead Singing - Chuck Rowell  
 Head of Lord’s Table - Larry Montgomery  
 Assist on Lord’s Table - David Cradic  
 Scripture Reading - Matthew 26:20 - 30  
 Closing Prayer - Shay Cooper

<b>Comcast Cable</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Comcast Cable</b>	<b>431</b>
<b>Comcast Cable</b>	<b>1011</b>
<b>DirecTV</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>DirecTV</b>	<b>396</b>
<b>Dish Network</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Over-the-air</b>	<b>11.3</b>