

Journeying Together in Prayer:

Guided Meditations and Prayers for Judson College



Photo by Chip Cooper. The Margaret Brown Memorial in the gazebo on the campus of Judson College.

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Introduction

Welcome to the third annual prayer guide for Judson College! This journal is the work of many Judson sisters (over 30!) who believe in the power and importance of prayer for effecting change in the world and in individual lives. Alumnae from eight decades (40s, 50s, 60s, 70s, 80s, 90s, 00s, and 10s!) contributed to this collection of devotions, prayers, and profiles. And, just like last year, we were struck by the similarities in Judson experiences across the years and the shared commitments to God, family, and our beloved college. As we noted last year, Judson is a special place that has touched many lives. It is our desire that this guide will further the mission of our esteemed alma mater in the world.

In this year's prayer guide, you'll find all the things you've come to expect in its short, two-year existence – introductions to alumnae and current students, prayers for our college and its constituents, and reflections on passages of scripture. But, this year, there's a new little twist. Since we Judson girls like to sing on special occasions, we turned to the songbook of the Bible for inspiration. Each week (with the exception of one) features a Psalm that was sung to communicate the common experiences of a community, much like our treasured step-sing and senior songs formed us. By turning to this ancient songbook, we hope to give words to our prayers and to recount the appropriateness and sometimes the necessity of song to convey our emotions and desires. These Psalms, and our songs, make up our common story.

We hope that you will join us in praying for Judson College during the twelve weeks from the week after Christian Emphasis Week to J-Day 2013. Each week has a specific prayer focus and plenty of thoughts for further meditation. Our prayer for this guide is that it will not only draw us closer to the God we serve, but that it will renew our commitment to Christian higher education as one way we can be the hands and feet of Jesus in a hurting world.

*"...Because God made the stars to shine
Because God made the ivy twine
Because God made the sky so blue
God made, dear Judson, that's why we love you."*

With blessings from the Judson College Prayer Committee,

Sue Lenox Curlee '57
Susan Jones '02
Mandy McMichael '02
Marie Miller Pasco '03
Jennifer Sheets Stone '03

Week of January 21
Judson's Mission and Service
Scripture: Psalm 41

Devotion and Prayer by Tara Sprewell '06

"I". "I" is only a one letter word, yet it means so much. "I" defines each and every one of us and we use it all the time. Here are some examples you might find familiar. "I" want a chocolate covered ice cream cone from Dairy Queen. "I" like the beach when the sun is shining and there is a slight breeze to keep me cool so that "I" don't sweat when "I" layout. "I" need those new heels because "I" don't have them in that shade of that color. Surely by now you are getting the point about the word "I". There is absolutely nothing wrong with this word, however if we don't watch out, we can let our own "I" consume us. Our "I" can become so big that we forget to look beyond ourselves to the needs of those around us. Or we see those who are in need and think "I" don't know what to do or how to help. This is when we let our "I" get in the way.

While serving as a missionary in Central Asia, there was one specific time that I remember letting my "I" get in the way. One night, my friends and I were walking through a market. The sidewalks were about as crowded as a McDonalds French fry box. Suddenly, the crowd broke a little to my right and I saw a man sitting on the ground. He had no legs below the knee and one of his arms was gone below the elbow. He also appeared to be blind. In front of him was a small bucket for people to drop money. Feeling somewhat shocked by the scene, I tried to get by the man as quickly as I could so I could pretend I didn't see him. "I" felt so helpless. "I" could not take the man home, or even talk to him for that matter, because he did not know English. As I walked past him, I noticed my friend Jonna behind me. She knelt down beside the man. I stopped. She then reached for his hand and put her other hand on his back. At this point, she began to weep, and so did the man. She stayed there with the man for about five minutes and said a prayer with him. I just stood and watched. I was amazed and my eyes were full of tears. She just touched him. She knelt down beside him, just as Christ came down to earth to touch the lives of the hurting. Jonna didn't let her "I" get in the way.

In Psalm 41, David writes, "Blessed is the one who considers the poor! In the day of trouble the Lord delivers him; the Lord protects him and keeps him alive; he is called blessed in the land." As servants of Christ, we are called to deny our "I" and look to the needs of others. This doesn't always mean moving overseas or becoming a minister, but rather opening our eyes and meeting people where they are in life.

For me, this idea of meeting people where they are is at the heart of Judson's mission. During my time as a student and then as a Judson staff member, I was part of organizing and planning events in the early days of the Faith-Based Service and Learning program. Since that time, I've watched as the College has discovered more opportunities to be the hands of Christ in Perry County. God used my experiences at Judson to begin molding my heart to serve those who are less fortunate for a lifetime.

Week of January 21
Judson's Mission and Service
Scripture: Psalm 41

Prayer

Thank you, Father. Thank you for sending your Son, who did not come to be served, but to serve others. Lord, we pray that as a community of students, faculty, staff, and alumnae, we would continue to have a servant's heart. We pray that Judson would continue to be a beacon of light within the community of Marion. We ask that Judson would not only be your hands and feet in Perry County, but would continue to send people out into the world to share your message and hope. Father, in everything we do, give us a desire to serve those around us and honor You, so that Your name will be known through all the earth. Amen.

Profile compiled by Susan Jones '02

Meet Molly Beasley, a 2012 Judson graduate and Bible Award recipient. During her time at Judson, Molly was a source of encouragement and support to her sisters, who elected her J-Day Queen in 2011. She was active in Delta Omicron, FAITH, and Campus Ministries and took part in missions service in Perry County, Canada, El Salvador, Mozambique, and Ethiopia.

Molly is carrying on Judson's tradition of service as she prepares to serve as a missionary in South Asia. When she arrives on the field in April, she'll be sharing the love of Christ as she teaches English to underprivileged girls. Please be in prayer for Molly as she prepares for this exciting journey.

Week of January 28
Student Services
Scripture: Psalm 100

Devotion and Prayer by Ashley Wigley Smith '11

Judson is a place of transition for many of the women who pass through her gates. We arrive with ambitions and dreams, but they are usually coupled with some uncertainty. During these years, we experience challenges in the classroom and learn important life lessons through traditions and dorm life. Though difficult, all of these situations grow us into the confident, successful women that call ourselves Judson Alumnae. This transitional period can be hard, but the lessons we learn are sure to sustain us through trying situations after Judson.

Psalm 100 came to be a personal comfort during my own journey through Judson, and consequently, remains with me now. A psalm of thanksgiving, it reminds me of certain qualities of God that inspire renewed confidence in Him when my personal confidence may be lacking. I am reminded that my God intentionally made me for a purpose, though I may not see it now. He is my Shepherd and guards my path. God is good. He faithfully and unconditionally loves me forever. How comforting! When I feel out of control or unsure about any situation, I can rest in these promises.

Like the psalmist, I am thankful. I am thankful for a God who loves me and guides me. I am also thankful for a College that provided a safe and challenging environment in which I transitioned into a confident woman. I am thankful for the Sisterhood that remains strong though we have left our beloved Judson. This week, may we be reminded of the goodness and faithfulness of our God, and may we be thankful for Him and the College we all hold dear.

Prayer

Almighty God, we acknowledge your goodness and your faithfulness in our lives. We deserve neither, but we are grateful. Thank you for guiding us to Judson College, and thank you for the women we have become because of our time there. Thank you, Heavenly Father, for the confidence that we have in you.

We pray for those working in Student Services, and we thank you for their daily influence on students' lives. Show them how to serve the students and each other unselfishly, and give them the wisdom needed to do so.

Lord, may we be ever mindful of your steadfast love, and may it inspire us to serve each other, our College, and you. Amen.

Week of January 28
Student Services
Scripture: Psalm 100

Profile compiled by Susan Jones '02

Meet Faith Williams. Faith was originally interested in Judson because of the Equine Studies program and has competed as part of Judson's Intercollegiate Horse Show Association team in the Huntseat division for the past three years. As a senior, she says that one of her favorite things about Judson is how she feels like part of a family as a Judson girl. In addition to being the current Senior class president and reigning Hockey Queen, Faith is one of a group of ten talented, dependable young women who serve their Judson sisters as Resident Assistants in the dorms.

Week of February 4
Recruiters and Admissions Staff
Scripture: Psalm 121

Devotion and Prayer by Sulynn McCombs Creswell, '79

A blank page stares at me...where do I begin to testify to the truth of God's Word in Psalm 121? It seems just yesterday that I sat between my parents in the front seat of our car which was loaded literally to the roof with all of my "worldly" possessions. We arrived on the campus of Judson College on a hot, sultry August morning and I began the most important, life-changing journey of my life. The three years spent at JC certainly prepared me educationally for my future, but in honesty, the most valuable preparation was not in the classroom. Instead, it was the leadership roles, extra-curricular activities, and the one-on-one relationships with faculty, staff and classmates which prepared me most for my future. Forever friendships were formed during those years which continue to this day to be priceless treasures. Little did I know as I moved my tassel on our Graduation Day, that the journey ahead of me would be filled with ordinary days of continued learning, unbelievable joys and occasionally, indescribable heart-aches.

My life has not been extraordinary. I have not found the cure for cancer, healed the sick, taught hundreds of students in a classroom, gone to a foreign land to share the Gospel, or written a best-selling book, nor have I designed the interior of a fabulous work-space or home as you would assume from my degree. BUT my life has been far from ordinary because my precious Savior has been my Protector, my Comforter, my Provider, and my Guide each step along the way. Just as He promised Abraham in Genesis 12:2, "I will bless you", He has blessed my life – so often teaching me from my mistakes, inspiring me to love those who are different from me, leading me to have a grateful heart and to recognize His abundance. I have often claimed the verses of Romans 8:26-27: "In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weaknesses. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will." It is my testimony on this page today that the Spirit has interceded on my behalf far more often than I can count or deserve, and because of His intercession, "I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God, that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 8: 38-39) This is the testimony which makes my ordinary life truly extraordinary and gives me great confidence to lift up my eyes to the hills!

Week of February 4
Recruiters and Admissions Staff
Scripture: Psalm 121

Prayer

On this day, our most precious Father, we come to you with gratitude for your abundant blessings. We are truly thankful for all we have learned through our experiences here at Judson College. We lift up to you this day, those who devote their lives to sharing the news of the educational opportunities available to young women through this your college. We pray for your protection and watchcare on their lives as they travel each day, for clarity and forthrightness as they share important information with interested students and families, as well as for energy and enthusiasm on each day's journey. Father, bless them with the assurance of your presence and a sense of your blessing on their work each and every moment. With hearts of gratitude we offer this prayer in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior, Amen.

Profile compiled by Marie Miller Pasco '03

Tyne Zbinden Coley Olkie ('05) graduated with a degree in Psychology and Business and has been an Admissions Representative at Judson since August 2011. She is the recruiter for the North Central Alabama and Central Mississippi area. Tyne's family has a long history with Judson and the Perry County area. Her grandfather was a baptist minister who sent all 6 of his daughters to Judson. Tyne graduated 34 years after her mother, Sarah Zbinden Coley. Her father is from Perry County and met Tyne's mother while he was a student at Marion Military Institute. Tyne made lifelong friends while at Judson. She believes that Judson taught her how to be a confident woman. Judson helped shape her into the woman she is today and her experiences there have enabled her to talk to many future Judson girls to help them see their place at Judson. Pray for Tyne and the other admissions staff members who are sharing the importance of Judson with today's generation.

Week of February 11
Alumnae
Scripture: Psalm 37

Devotion and Prayer by Amy Allen Newson '02

Confession time: I fret. I'm a fretful fretter who frets fretfully over all sorts of things I can't control - especially other people's actions and their consequences in my life. In Psalm 37 I discovered a solid rebuke for this ostensibly modest trespass, followed by reassurance that our marvelously watchful God has the futures of His faithful followers and of their enemies well in hand.

With all of the evils and wickedness I see in the world around me on a daily basis and in the nightly news, it's pretty easy to find things to worry over. In comparison to many of those shocking acts of depravity and mayhem, worrying and fretting seem fairly minor, right? After all, who am I hurting other than myself? Yet the passage reminds me that fretting "leads only to evil," that I am to "trust in the Lord and do good" and that He will therefore give me the desire of my heart.

So if I'm not fixated on the appropriate consequences for people who wrong me and those who go around sinning against the Lord and His people willy-nilly, who's going to handle the situation? According to this passage, that would be God. He laughs at the wicked. Even if they seem to be prospering like weeds in a flower bed, choking out the pansies, it won't be long before He breaks out the Roundup. The wicked will perish. Wrongdoers will be completely destroyed.

On the other hand, the Lord loves the righteous. He upholds those who keep His word in their hearts even when they stumble. As I love and honor Him, I should endeavor to refrain from anger, turn from wrath, and resist the urge to fret. How much happier will I be if I focus on delighting in my amazing Provider and Protector instead of homing in on all of the negativity and fallout of a fallen world? It can often be difficult in light of large-scale tragedies or even personal setbacks, but I know that I can trust in the Lord. If I wait on His perfect plan, I shall see the meek inherit the Earth.

Prayer

Father in Heaven, thank you for the reminder that the salvation of the righteous comes from you, and that you are their stronghold in time of trouble. I pray that you will continue to guard and guide each sweet and precious sister who has passed through Judson's doors, making firm their steps and upholding them with your hand as they delight in you. Deliver our Alumnae and save them from any who would do them harm as they take refuge in you.

Week of February 11
Alumnae
Scripture: Psalm 37

Profile compiled by Carol Uzell May '65

"Being involved with Judson College has inspired me and enriched my life. Whatever tasks I have performed, Judson College has prepared me for leadership positions. My parents, extended family, church family and school teachers laid the foundation for me so that I could respond positively to my college experiences."

Joyce Byrd ('62) specialized in child welfare programs and adoptions, among her many professional accomplishments in her field of social work. After she obtained her master's degree from Tulane University, she became the first social worker hired in a Pensacola hospital. Working to establish programs for aging and blind citizens, psychiatry and children issues, Joyce was one of the first social workers in Alabama to become board certified.

Joyce's mission work began in college and her involvement in church activities continues to this day. As a Sunday School teacher, developer of Bible schools throughout the state, and contributor to the Alabama Children's Home in Troy, she added the role of missionary to her already established profession of social work.

Continually called on to direct music at her home church and in her clubs, Joyce has always committed her life to helping others. "The protocol, manners, dress appropriateness and self-confidence were enhanced by Judson. My exposure at Judson has always been utmost in my ability to accept responsibility." The evidence is strong that Joyce Byrd has followed the convictions established early in her life to follow Christ's teachings to serve others. That journey continues as Joyce stays involved with her professional work and in her church work, lessons learned that inspire others to give of themselves.

Week of February 18
Students
Scripture: Psalm 111

Devotion and Prayer by Tanya Woodham Hallmon '96

Walking through the front doors of Jewett Hall, one of the first things we notice is the large collegiate seal on the floor which reads, "LUX ET VERITAS." Light and truth are the principles that Judson College seeks to impart to young women in entering this institution of higher education. With the quest for light and truth is also a quest for wisdom.

Psalm 111 offers us key insights into not only how we acquire wisdom but what our response should be once we have made the discovery.

Looking reversely in this passage, we see that wisdom – that is knowing how to appropriately apply what we know – begins with reverence before an almighty God.

Reflecting on verses two through nine we see why God deserves respect and awe. This passage reveals how the works of God are an overflow of the very character of the God. Some adjectives used in various biblical translations are honorable, majestic, gracious, loving, truthful, merciful, faithful, awesome and generous. Such magnificent words set the stage for a Judge and King that is almost beyond human comprehension. And yet that same eternal God came near through His son, Jesus Christ. He chose you. He chose me. He wants to be in a very personal relationship with each of us.

Once we come to this realization of who He is and are reminded of what He has done for His children, we are moved to praise with our whole hearts as described in verse one of Psalm 111. For what other response does one have for One so worthy but to embrace Him with our worship?

So in your quest for wisdom in the biology lab, the stables, in choir, on the basketball court or softball field, in math class, in composing that English essay or studying for that history midterm, remember that the source of all wisdom and understanding comes from living out the principles in God's Word that bring glory to Him.

No matter what facet of your life you are engaging in as a student – be it relational, academic or extracurricular – seek wisdom from God in each of these areas and let your voice overflow with praise to the One who is worthy of all that we are and all that we have.

Week of February 18

Students

Scripture: Psalm 111

Prayer

O Gracious and merciful God, we come before you with grateful hearts for all that You are and all that You have done throughout history. At this special time, we thank you for Judson College and all the students who have passed through her halls over the last 175 years. Grant Your knowledge and Your guidance to each student in every area of her life. May she receive it and live it out in her present academic season as well as in her chosen career. As she displays a life of wisdom, may others see Your light and truth shine through her, giving all praise and honor to You. We humbly ask these things in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, Amen.

Profile compiled by Jennifer Sheets Stone '03

Meet Riley Z. Tunnel. Riley was introduced to Judson by a church friend who invited her to go to a Scholarship Day. She was planning to attend another college, but after spending the day on Judson's campus she knew that it was the place that God had chosen for her. Riley loved how nice and helpful the professors were and found herself at home in the science department as a Chemistry major. She's a member of Tri-Beta, the Science Club, and is currently working on a research project in genetics through the Honors Program. Riley's involvement stretches beyond the walls of the science building, however. Some of her other activities include playing on the tennis team and serving as the Honor Council President. After graduation, Riley hopes to go to UAB and get a Ph.D. in Genetics and Genomic Sciences.

According to Riley, "Judson has given me so many opportunities to grow in faith and wisdom, and has also taught me to better communicate with others and to be more aware of and attentive to the needs of my community. I know the experiences I've had at Judson will stay with me forever, and that they have empowered me to become the woman that God wants for me to be." As most Judson women attest, Judson afforded Riley not only an excellent education and confidence in her abilities, but also lifelong friends. Riley sums it up by noting, "I wouldn't trade my time at Judson for the world." She certainly speaks for a lot of us!

Week of February 25

Staff

Scripture: Psalm 119: 105-112

Devotion and Prayer by Claire Kinnard Keel, Ed.D. '81

As a student at Judson College in the late 1970s and early 1980s, I was living in my own little perfect world on a small Christian campus surrounded by friends of similar values and a wealth of Christian mentors who were not only outstanding in their professional fields, but also were sincerely devoted to their calling in Christian education. During those most formative years of my character and my education, I never imagined what the 21st Century might bring. I had no idea that our nation and world would have experienced the trying times that have occurred during the final years of the 20th Century and these first 12 years of the 21st Century, including war, bombings, terrorist attacks, economic hardship, mass shootings, and natural disasters. During the dark times of tragedy and turmoil, it has been important for me to remember from whence cometh the light to help see me through – “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path” (Psalm 119:105, KJV).

Humans frequently try to blame or question God for the tragedies that occur in our lives. Some may ask, “How could a loving God allow such things to happen?” With Adam and Eve sin was brought into the world. The devil is definitely at work in our world, trying his best to win control. The Psalmist wrote, “The wicked have laid a snare for me, but I do not stray from your precepts” (Psalm 119: 110, ESV). God does not promise to prevent us from experiencing trying or even tragic times. God does, however, promise to never leave us and to guide and sustain us through such times. “Your testimonies are my heritage forever, for they are the joy of my heart” (Psalm 119: 111, ESV).

It is easy to praise God and trust His Word during the good times. It is during the trying times of turmoil and tragedy that it is most important for us to adhere to God’s Word and to trust that He will bring us through if we cling to Him. It is also important for us to continually pray for our leaders – local, state, national, and international. We must also continually pray for our dear Mother Judson and those entrusted to lead, preserve, and carryout her mission of providing a Christian education for young women. We must pray that Judson will always be a “beacon on a hilltop shining brightly through the night” providing “light and truth” for young women for generations to come.

Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, author of truth and source of divine wisdom, bestow upon Judson College and her leaders your grace and blessings. May your spirit permeate the campus and guide the actions and decisions of her staff and administration so that Judson College is in the center of your perfect will and so that she remains true to the calling upon which she was founded – that of providing young women with educational excellence in body, mind, and spirit. May her students and staff trust in Your Word for guidance and comfort and remain always faithful unto you. In the name of Jesus Christ our Savior, Amen.

Week of February 25

Staff

Scripture: Psalm 119: 105-112

Profile Compiled by Sue Lenox Curlee '57

Donna Huey has served Judson College as book store manager for eighteen years. During this time she has endeared herself to every Judson girl who has passed through the book store doors. They describe her as "loving," "kind," and "an asset to the college."

Donna was born and raised in Sprott, Alabama, and has been married to Larry Huey for 47 years. She has three daughters- two of whom are Judson graduates – Lara Huey Walton and Anna Huey Tice. Her daughter, Amy Huey Holladay, is a graduate of U.A.B.

Donna loves her job and feels that her calling is to impact the lives of Judson girls in a way that will benefit them most. She has developed relationships with her work-study students in the bookstore; they provide her assistance with day-to-day activities while she provides them with encouragement and advice as they prepare for their futures. She is active in her church, Ephesus Baptist Church, which was destroyed by a tornado in 2011. She and her congregation have worked together to rebuild the church.

Donna's hobbies are antiquing and working in her flower garden.

Many thanks to you, Donna, for your loving service to Judson College.

Week of March 4

Friendships

Scripture:

"Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another." Proverbs 27:17

Devotion and Prayer by Laura Bohler Forman '01

During my time at Judson, friendships played an important part in my life. I learned so much about myself, because of how I interacted with my Judson sisters. My freshman year, my roommate was a girl who was my high school classmate. Many people said that there was no way that we would stay roommates for the duration of our years at Judson because living with someone you know is always tough. But I totally disagreed with them. When you know someone, you can truly do as Solomon says in Proverbs, you can be as iron sharpening iron. Living and knowing someone so well is not easy. You see the good, the bad and the ugly. Sometimes it hurts when a friend calls you out in an area of your life. But yet, that is what a true friendship is about. You must be able to be honest and with love be able to do the things that can hurt in order to sharpen each other.

As iron sharpens iron, we are called to encourage our sisters to press on to know the love of the Father in a deeper way. While at Judson, Father gave me such deep friendships with other women who love the Lord with all of their heart. These friendships are not something that came easy. Because of such a close-knit college, we were able to form friendships that did just as Solomon told us, sharpen each other.

As an alumna or a current student, I challenge you to think about the sisters in your life that have had this kind of impact in your life. Take some time to thank the Lord for blessing you with this gift of friendship. You might want to write a short note of encouragement or a blessing of thankfulness to your sister. I am so thankful that the Lord has shown us what true friendships are about because of Judson College. May you be blessed through your Judson sisters each and every day.

Prayer

Father,

Thank you so much for choosing to give us friendships. Thank you for giving us a college that put so much emphasis on loving our sisters and to be as iron sharpening iron. I ask that you would continue to be the center of the Judson sisterhood.

Today, please bring to mind specific sisters from Judson who we can encourage and sharpen. May we always look back to our days at Judson College and be able to say that you were a huge part of our sisterhood. Thank you for giving us such good and perfect gifts (James 1:17). In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Week of March 4

Friendships

Scripture:

"Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another." Proverbs 27:17

Profile compiled by Marie Miller Pasco '03

Mary Jo Randall ('49) knew from a young age that she wanted to go Judson. After graduating from Judson with a degree in English, Mary Jo went to Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. She served as a missionary to Japan with the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board from 1959 to 1979. She taught Bible and English in churches while there. After returning to the states, Mary Jo was a campus minister with the Alabama Baptist Convention for 13 years. Mary Jo believes that Judson helped her grow her leadership skills while she was the class president all four years. She continues to stay involved with Internationals in the Auburn area by directing free English classes at First Baptist Church in Auburn. She also teaches a Sunday School Class for Internationals. Mary Jo continues to support Judson by keeping in touch with her classmates and encouraging them to pray for their college, reminding them of the importance of giving to the Annual Fund. Let's learn from Mary Jo's faithful service to internationals. Join her and her friends in their prayers for our college and the friendships that are forming and have been shaped there.

Week of March 11

Fundraising

Scripture: Psalm 104:24-33

Devotion and Prayer by Elizabeth Holland Hutchins '77

When I was a senior at Judson, one of my favorite songs to sing at serenades was “When We Were Freshmen Here.” As we spent our years at Judson, we learned to treasure everything that it offered. We gained friendships that have lasted through the years; we gained an education that created opportunities for intellectual development. We gained a stronger faith and appreciation for everything with which God has blessed us. Over the years, God has provided leaders, funders, and supporters to continue the values and traditions of Judson that helped to shape us during our years there. As alumnae, we can look back and remember all the people who made our years and valued experiences at Judson possible. It could have been a professor who sparked an interest and helped us discover our passion. Maybe it was a recruiter who introduced us to Judson, a donor who helped to provide a scholarship for us, or an alumna who helped to mentor us and provide an example of strong character and faith.

God placed people in our lives to help guide us and make it possible for us to grow and develop during our time at Judson. As alumnae, we now have the opportunity to help current and future students make memories, gain educational opportunities, and develop their faith. We can be involved in the lives of these young women, from making monetary contributions to the college for its operating budget, to funding scholarships or helping to support buildings and renovations, to mentoring students or helping open professional doors for them. We have the unique opportunity to make a difference and continue everything that we remember and loved about Judson.

Fundraising can be a hard subject to talk about at times. We know we want to help, but sometimes we just don't quite know how. As alumnae, we have the opportunity to not only give of ourselves, but to bring Judson's story to the attention of other people who have the means to help. We can attest to the way Judson works in and changes young women's lives. We can show our gratitude for all the opportunities that we received by giving back, through our words and our works.

When we were freshmen at Judson, we had no clue how much of an impact it would have on our lives. We met sisters and created lasting friendships. We had the opportunity to meet people who had a tremendous impact on our lives. God helped to strengthen us and build us into women who can make a difference in the world. We now have the opportunity to take all the wonderful gifts God gave us, give back to Judson, and make a difference in these young women's lives. I hope that you will prayerfully consider the ways in which you can help Judson continue to grow and be a wonderful, impactful institution.

Week of March 11
Fundraising
Scripture: Psalm 104:24-33

Prayer

Lord God, thank you for all the wonderful gifts you give us. You always provide for us and show us the way when things may seem darkest. Thank you for the gift of Judson. You have given us friends and leaders who have helped us to grow, supported us through our struggles, and led us in your word. Please help us as we look for ways to be a light and guide to the new generations of Judson women. Let your love shine through us in our actions, gifts, and words. Help us to remember how thankful we are for everything in our lives and find a way to give back the blessings that you provide for us. May your glory and love endure, now and forever, in our lives and in our hearts. In your name we pray. Amen.

Profile compiled by Susan Jones '02

Meet Terry Morgan. Dr. Terry Morgan currently serves as Judson's Vice President for Advancement. In this role, she helps oversee financial development, alumnae relations, and public relations. Prior to coming to Judson in 2011, she held positions at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Baylor University, Buckner Benevolences, Children's Medical Center of Dallas, and Samford University. When asked to describe our alma mater, Dr. Morgan calls Judson "a remarkable institution with a rich history, heritage, and future."

Week of March 18
Faculty and Administration
Scripture: Psalm 25

Devotion and Prayer by Catherine McPhail Dockery '04

I remember several times in my life when I've prayed so fervently for God to instruct me in the way I should choose. "God, which college should I attend?" "Should I work or take classes in the summer?" "Is 8:00 really the best time to take English Grammar 400?" Often, I felt like my fervent prayers for guidance were answered with silence. Thirteen months ago, though, my husband and I began to consider adopting a child. This time, things were different. We felt affirmation and guidance from God every step of the way. I remember one particularly frustrating day when someone had scratched out something on a form that wasn't supposed to be scratched out. I worried that, if our paperwork wasn't done perfectly, we would be booted out of the system and lose any chance of adopting. In that moment, I got the clearest message from God I have ever received; basically, "You do the best you can with that paperwork out of obedience to Me, and whether or not you actually have a child at the end is up to Me."

I wonder why seeking God's will sometimes seems so fruitless but is sometimes so rewarding. I think David, in verse 12, gives us the key. "Who is the man who fears the Lord?" That's the guy who is seeking after God and finding Him. While God is interested in our daily decisions and life choices, His biggest interest for us is to fear Him.

I've been a Christian for most of my life, but, at 30, I have finally understood what it means to fear God. Fear of God comes from knowledge of Him, and knowledge of Him comes only through the Gospel. I am a sinner, and have been since birth. I am dirty and foul, unable to enter God's presence, and therefore doomed to life without God. God, in His infinite wisdom and love, is aware of my problem, and has provided the perfect solution. Since my sin problem keeps me from entering His presence, Jesus came to Earth. He lived a perfect life in order to give me an example to follow, and then died a horrific death, to take my punishment for my sin. He conquered death, and returned to Heaven, leaving His Holy Spirit to draw us unto Himself and guide His children in the way of righteousness. This beautiful plan, which has rightly been called foolishness to the perishing, is the knowledge of God. Our fear of God takes us to the cross, where we find salvation and reconciliation with God, and our fear of God guides us to make decisions that bring glory to His Name.

Know, dear sister, when you are seeking God's will and finding silence, that your right standing with God comes, not from always making the right decisions, but by being in Christ.

Week of March 18
Faculty and Administration
Scripture: Psalm 25

Prayer

Oh Great God, we pray, like Paul, that we may be filled with the knowledge of Your Will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of You, fully pleasing to You, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in knowledge and fear of You. We pray for our faculty and administration, that they may be strengthened with all power, according to Your glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy. We thank You and praise You that Jesus, in whom we have redemption and the forgiveness of sins, has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to Your kingdom (Col. 1:9-14). All this we pray in the name of Jesus our Savior. Amen.

Profile compiled by Freda Spradley York '71

Meet Layne Calhoun ('98)! After her graduation, Layne spent several years in the retail industry until her return to Judson College in May, 2010 to serve as Assistant to the Vice-President of Admissions and Financial Aid. She accepted the position of Executive Director of Enrollment Services in October, 2012. Judson College is very blessed and fortunate to have such a faithful alumna as Layne in a position of direct contact with prospective and current students. Her focus on "growing of enrollment" is strengthened by her experience and by her strong Christian values. Layne said that she is "truly blessed to have this position and get to know the alumnae and everyone involved with the college" and asked that we all "pray that the Lord will lead the girls to the admissions counselors and turn their hearts toward Judson College, a Christian environment in such a secular world."

Week of March 25
Judson Families
Scripture: Psalm 113

Devotion and Prayer by Angela Mobley Teague '91

I was truly blessed to be born into a family with a heritage of Christ-like servanthood. While in no way have my parents or grandparents performed miracles, but they have been a conduit for showing Christ's love to many people during my childhood years, and even today. The examples are endless. I saw my dad cut many loads of firewood and deliver to families in need of warmth. I saw my mother carry impoverished children to a store to buy new clothes. I saw my grandma deliver food to those who were sick or who had lost a loved one to death. I've heard stories of how my great grandmother faithfully washed the feet of fellow church members. Each of these acts of service were committed not out of selfish ambition, but out of the blessings bestowed by God and out of a desire to bring praise to His name, ironically, by being a servant.

When I read Psalm 113, I am aware that the psalmist sought to bring praise to God's name. He certainly recognized God's eternal and universal sovereignty. God is rightfully due our praise. Yet, servanthood, in its most pure form is foreshadowed here. Little did the psalmist know that hundreds of years in the future, a humble, servant-girl, would deliver almighty God to earth in human form. The God Man stooped to earth and lived among the poorest. He discussed with the religious elite yet dined in the home of sinners. He befriended and taught a group of simple tradesmen who would become known as his disciples. He healed the sick. He restored life, both physical and spiritual. The latter verses in Psalm 113 describe how God, through Christ, stooped down to be a servant to us.

So, what does this foreshadowing of Christ's servanthood and the examples of servanthood I witnessed in my family mean for me? I am very aware of my blessing to be born into a family that praised God and exemplified a servant lifestyle. With this awareness also comes an obligation to carry-on the servant lifestyle. Not out of obligation to my family of origin, but because Jesus Christ, God in human form, has called me to a lifestyle of service for His namesake. As a parent, it is also my responsibility to see that my children, as well as others in my realm of influence, see and learn about the praise of God through a servant lifestyle. After all, for the One who sacrificed His life for me, the least I can do is serve Him through service to others.

Prayer

O God, we bring you the praise You deserve now and forevermore. We are humbled that the almighty God of creation stooped down to us, in our sinful humanity, so that we may know Him through Jesus Christ. Through Jesus Christ and His sacrifice on the cross, You made it possible for us all to experience Your love and salvation. We are grateful for family members who have demonstrated Christ's love and servanthood. We are also challenged to be that example to those who may *not* have seen it in families. Thank you for allowing us the privilege to serve You. Amen

Week of March 25
Judson Families
Scripture: Psalm 113

Profile compiled by Marie Miller Pasco '03

Elizabeth Crabtree Wells ('70) knew Judson was the place for her after visiting for Scholarship Day with her father. After graduating from Judson with a BA in History, a minor in education, and an education degree, Elizabeth taught History and Math in the Marion City Schools. She then got her MA in History from Auburn before becoming the Archivist and Special Collection Librarian at Samford University. Elizabeth and Francis Hamilton wanted to contribute in some way to Judson's 150th birthday. They wanted to capture not only the history of the school but the inherent culture and heritage of Judson. After traveling and researching throughout the south, Francis Hamilton and Elizabeth came up with *Daughters of the Dream*, which traces the history of Judson from its inception until 1987. The book was a testament to Judson sisterhood. Two Judson women from different eras of history combined their talents and produced this wonderful book. Elizabeth continues to stay connected to her college through her career and through the relationships she made there. Thanks to Elizabeth future Judson girls will be able to read about what makes Judson the special place that it is today. May we not forget where Judson has come from and continue to pray for its future so that more girls can experience the sisterhood that so many who have gone before them have.

Week of April 1
Board of Trustees and Board of Governors
Scripture: Psalm 1

Devotion and Prayer by Elizabeth Flynn Mitchell '00

This Psalm deals with the two paths that each of us must ultimately make a choice on which to travel – the path of ungodliness or the path of righteousness. Verse one speaks of a progression in regard to the former path – walking in the counsel of the ungodly, standing in the path of sinners, and then sitting in the seat of the scornful. Every day we are confronted with choices that have the potential to result in sin. If the wrong choice is made we begin that dreadful walk toward ungodliness. If we do not turn around and take the right path, or repent, we can grow more and more comfortable on the path of ungodliness until we stop walking and stand in a life of sin. Finally, we will rest, or sit, in a life that is not only sinful but that disdains God.

Verse two speaks of the latter path, the path of righteousness that is found in adherence to God's Word. This adherence is not from begrudging obligation, but out of delight in the Creator and His precepts. Psalm 119 tells us that the Word cleanses our way, revives us, lights our path, gives great peace, directs our steps, and delivers us. Jesus said in John 14 that keeping His commandments is an indicator of our love for Him. Since our righteousness is found only in Him, shouldn't our love and appreciation for Him be shown by walking in the path of obedience?

Those that are in the position of making decisions that affect the future of Judson College must choose which path they will follow. The path of being like secular institutions of higher learning could very well be the easy path, but not the path that pleases God. We should be grateful for those who have gone before us whose sound, Biblical decisions have made Judson the "beacon on the hilltop burning brightly thru the night."

Prayer:

Father, thank you for your grace, mercy, and faithfulness. Please impart wisdom, discernment, and unity to the Board of Governors and the Board of Trustees. Help them to delight in Your law and keep them from the path of ungodliness. May they honor You in every decision affecting Judson College. In the name of Your Son, Jesus, we pray, Amen.

Week of April 1
Board of Trustees and Board of Governors
Scripture: Psalm 1

Profile compiled by Mandy McMichael '02

Carol Uzell May ('65) claims that she was “stamped Judson” when she was born. Carol’s 91-year-old mother was not able to attend Judson because her dad died during the Depression. When her best friend, Louise Jones Roberts, attended Judson, Carol’s mom enjoyed visiting Judson. She knew it was the type of place where she would have flourished and determined that her daughter would get the college experience she had not received. Carol had little say in the matter. Looking back, Carol says it was “one of the very best things that could have happened to me.” While at Judson, she met her husband Bill who was an Army lieutenant assigned to MMI. During their many travels, they often ran into other Judson and Marion alumnae. The shared connection proved a blessing time and time again. They still share a love of Marion and Judson, traveling up for visits many times a year.

Like so many Judson women, Carol supports and promotes her alma mater in many capacities. Most recently, she served as president of the Judson College Alumnae Association, initiating this prayer journal project and overseeing much of the work with the Guidance Counselor conference. She also takes seriously Judson’s mission to be light and truth in the world by teaching Sunday School and remaining involved in her community and with her family. While she didn’t have a daughter who could attend Judson (she has three wonderful sons), she does have one granddaughter that she hopes will follow in her footsteps and an amazing 6-year-old grandson that she insists “must marry a Judson girl!”

When asked to reflect on her Judson experience, Carol mused, “So much of what is positive and valuable about my life centers around Judson and the influences of those associated with it. My chapter sisters and many special friends in the JCAA have had a huge impact on my life. I am grateful to Dr. Potts and the staff at Judson for keeping ‘the light burning’ over the better part of two centuries. There is no way to estimate the value of our college on our state and the lives of its citizens. It is a mission for all of us Judson Girls to let our ‘little light shine’ wherever we are in the world.”

Week of April 8
Looking to the Future
Scripture: Psalm 67

Devotion and Prayer by Caroline Anderson Reich '82

"...Each of us shall in some future day,
While in our wandering, stop and say,
'Dear God, Bless Judson for ere and aye, this we pray.'"
From *"To The Spirit"*

How I love to ask God for blessings for Judson! But what exactly do I expect God to do when I ask Him to shine His face upon our college? My list can be compiled quickly. I want Him to bring more students to the campus, inspire generosity within donors, endow our administrators with even more wisdom, and insure that traditions and values are preserved. While these petitions may be important to a certain extent, the second verse of Psalm 67 makes me pause. The author of this psalm has a different end in mind when he places his requests before God. He seeks God's blessings in order to spread the news of God's ways upon the earth and his saving power among the nations. He seeks the shining face of God in order to praise God personally and to spread God's praises to the ends of the earth. The psalmist's request, unlike mine, is focused on the end goal, not on the means to the end.

This psalm reminds me that recognition of God's provision and praise for all the blessings that He has already showered upon is as important – maybe even more important – than our litany of petitions for additional blessings. We need to recognize, acknowledge and praise Him for the way He is already working among us. For 175 years God has blessed this institution as our students and faculty have responded to the call to share God's grace and saving power among the nations. We have a rich history of not only being blessed but using these blessings to share God's plan of salvation to the ends of the earth. This tradition remains strong today. Over the past few years more than 30 students have participated in mission activities from Perry County to New York City, as well as in foreign countries in Asia and Africa. As you read this devotional, Katie Cooper, a Judson sophomore, is spending this semester ministering in Uganda. How blessed we all have been through our association with this institution that remains so faithful to its legacy of commitment to God and service to His people.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, Giver of all good gifts, we come to you in gratitude for the bounty of blessings that you have been pouring upon Judson College for 175 years that has enabled generations of young women to be educated to be of service to your kingdom at home and across the globe. We praise you that we have been and currently are the beneficiaries of your gracious kindness to this institution. May we use the fruit of these blessings to honor you and spread the knowledge of your unfathomable love. As we look to the future, may you continue to bless Judson College and make your face to shine upon her, for ere and aye, this we pray.

Week of April 8
Looking to the Future
Scripture: Psalm 67

Profile compiled by Mandy McMichael '02

Meet Katie Cooper. Katie is a sophomore Religion major and a member of the Judson soccer team. Like so many Judson women, Katie found in Judson more than just a place to study and play ball. She found a family that could help her grow in her faith and give clarity to her calling. According to Katie, "One of the things I love about Judson is the support that professors, students, and the alumnae give to the students. I have had an overwhelming sense of encouragement and support by them in my academic and spiritual life." Katie feels like God is calling her to serve as a missionary overseas and is spending this semester in Uganda to further explore that call. As she studies at Uganda Christian University this semester, Katie hopes that God will open doors for her to minister to others. She appeals to Acts 3:6-7 as her motivation, saying, "Being a college student I don't have a lot of money. However, I do have the love of Christ and that is what is going to change people's lives." Like so many Judson women, Katie longs to use her gifts in service to God's kingdom.

You can read about Katie's adventures in Uganda on her blog: <http://katycoop.blogspot.com/> Pray for Katie as she seeks further confirmation of God's call to mission work. Pray for other Judson students who are following in the footsteps of so many Judson women who entered the mission field both at home and abroad.

*EXTRA DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT
FOR ENTERING THE SUMMER:
Scripture: Psalm 33*

Devotion and Prayer by Sue Lenox Curlee '57

"The eyes of the Lord are on those who fear Him, on those whose hope is in His unfailing love." Psalm 33:18

Psalm 33 opens with a call to praise- the reason: *"for the word of the Lord is right and true. He is faithful in all He does. By His word the Heavens were made and the starry hosts by the breath of His mouth."* Psalm 33:4.

God's word is never failing, never ending, never returns to Him void, and always accomplishes whatever He sends it to do. We can trust God to do whatever He says, whatever He promises.

Why then do we worry so much over everything?

Jesus Himself tells us that we should not worry for God sees our every need. Paul tells us not to worry about anything, but to pray about everything, tell God all of our needs and thank Him for His answers.

Psalm 33:13-15 promises that *"from Heaven the Lord looks down and sees all mankind... He watches all who live on earth... He considers everything we do."* Verse eighteen says, *"the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear Him, on those whose hope is in His unfailing love."*

Then what do we need to do?

The answer is in verses 20 and 21- *"we wait in hope for the Lord. He is our help and shield. In Him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in His holy name."* The Psalm then ends with a prayer in verse 22- *"may your unfailing love rest upon us, O Lord, even as we put our trust in You."*