

There is Much to Do

I was thinking about the opportunities facing the Church at Salem Creek in 2016, and the hymn "There is Much to Do" by M.W. Spencer came to mind. The song is dated as being published in 1893 and the words are as applicable today as they were in that day. "There is much to do, there's work on every hand" speaks across the ages. We only have to access any of the multiple ways we can receive news today to know that there are multitudes of people crying out for help but looking in the wrong place. Either through ignorance, willful neglect, or failure to be taught they do not take advantage of the Bible's instruction.

The verse continues with Jesus calls for reapers. I think everyone knows that farmers have to harvest crops. If workers fail to pick the harvest when it is ready, it will eventually ruin and be of no good to anyone. The lost are a harvest waiting and needing to be picked even though they may be unaware of their need. Jesus plainly called for workers to seek and save the lost. Paul in his letter to the Romans makes clear the need for those to preach (teach) the word (Romans 10: 14 & 15).

The verse continues with the need to be active and the commitment, "Here am I, send me." God could have had us born with the knowledge of His word but instead He chose to have it spread by His children. That charge is given to every Christian. He doesn't expect all of us to be preachers or Bible class teachers; but, each of us has talents that God expects us to use. Who knows the long term impact of a kind word or a small act of kindness? It might be what makes a lost one to become aware of their lost condition and start them on the path to salvation.

The Church at Salem Creek is starting 2016 in a new building in a new location. We have a great opportunity for growth in this community. There is much for all of us to do. I encourage everyone to look at your talents, consider your level of commitment, and determine to do all that you can do for the Lord's Church. You can make a difference.

Larry Benson

“The Bright and Cloudless Morning”

Isaiah 43:2

It has been an unseasonably warm past few months. As I step outside to come to work, my jacket is wrapped tightly around my torso for fear the day might be brisk and the cooler air be sharp as a knife. I walk out the door and suddenly realize there is no need for a jacket, especially of a Carhartt's magnitude. The sun is shining, the birds are chirping, and I am blessed to have another day to appreciate God's creation.

It is impossible to love the bright and cloudless mornings without taking on the rain and storms. While the winds howl and the lightning flashes, we are faced with fear and uncertainty. After all, storms are unpredictable. Most of the time, we cannot conquer a storm. Rather, we ride it out until the winds cease and peace is evident.

“When you pass through the waters, I will be with you. And through the rivers, they will not overflow you.” God speaks through his prophet Isaiah in the forty-third chapter that bears his name stating that though we go through difficult times, God is with us. What the passage does not say is that God will stop all bad things from happening to us. We cannot play in the sunshine if we are unwilling to work in the rain.

What storms are you facing? Perhaps it is relational, emotional, physical, financial, spiritual, etc. Know that God is with you! He will not stop the challenges but he will be with you during them. Perhaps we should assume the attitude of Paul when he writes in 2 Corinthians 12:10, “For when I am weak, then I am strong.” As we rely on God for his goodness, love, and guidance, we have a great blessing of relying on each other for strength and love from God. May we do that as we come into the New Year. May God bless you and your family. You are loved!

Joshua Houston

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Ron Bowersock, Clyde Bowman

TAKING TREATMENTS

Lois Arnold, Carolyn Thomas, Janneil Brown

SHUT INS

Rita Reed, Mabel Robertson, Houston Henry, Oleta Bullard

PRAYER REQUEST:

Shirley Bibb, Clyde & Opal Jones, Dan & Lorene Stephens, Wayne Mobbs, Marie Fleming, Lorene Maddox, Imogene Bozeman, Selma Boyd, Janneil Brown, Gerald Wiseman, Ron Bowersock, Melba Young, Nancy Hatton, Oleta Bullard, Mabel Robertson

NURSING HOMES & ASSISTED LIVING:

*MEMBERS

ADAMS PLACE: Nora Fann*

DIVERSICARE OF SMYRNA: Jean Nickens*

NHC: Sue Reeves*, Lizzie Bush, Geri Melton*

STONES RIVER MANOR: Edna Vance*, Virgie Leonard*, Margaret Davidson*, Jeweldean Hall*, Laura Wiser*, Lillian Whitworth, Louise McKnight*, Martha DeVore

MILITARY

Please keep **Tony Berry** in your prayers, while he is stationed in California at Camp Pendleton.

NEWS & NOTES

We extend sympathy to the family of **Betty Shoemaker**; she passed away on Saturday, December 26th. Her funeral was held on Saturday, January 3rd at Woodfin's.

Youth/College devotional will be after services at Salem Creek tonight. Bring your favorite board/family game to play after the devotional. Please do not bring food or drinks.

Disaster Relief needs volunteers for the food line and loading the truck Tuesday, January 5th at 10 a.m.

Gospel Meeting beginning Sunday, January 10 – Wednesday, January 13th.
Speaker – Doug Couch

Couples Retreat in Pigeon Forge – March 18 – 20, 2016

CYC - February 26 – 28, 2016.

Barnabas workers, nursery attendants, baptism assistants and Ladies or Gentlemen to prepare the Lord's Supper are needed. Sign- up lists are in the foyer.

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We're on the web!
www.salemcreekcoc.org

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday
Morning Worship 9:00 am
Bible Classes 10:15 am
Evening Worship 5:30 pm

Wednesday
Morning Bible Class 10:00 am
Evening Bible Classes 6:30 pm

ELDERS

B.K. Ham
Jim Hatfield
Jon Holland
Andy Mitchell
Randall Phifer
Fred Rogers
Keith Short

MINISTER

Ron Harper

ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Joshua Houston

DEACONS

Larry Benson Andy Melton
Michael Bowman Brian Melton
Craig Buckner Alan Pepper
Bob Hoover Wendell Wilson

FOR THE RECORD

December 27, 2015

Sunday	AM worship	215
	Bible classes	140
	PM worship	148
	Contribution	\$5,591.00

Wednesday	PM Bible classes	120
Wednesday	AM Ladies Class (Sept-May)	---

GREETERS

Please be at the door 15
minutes prior to services!



January 3

B. K. & Jan Ham
Jim & Pat Davidson

January 10

Joshua Houston
Keith & Margaret Short

To Our Honored Guests...

We are happy you chose to worship with us today! Please stay after our assembly so that we can get acquainted with you and your family. We invite you to come back to Middle Tennessee Christian School while our new building is under construction.

We were honored by your presence!