

## **DANGEROUS DELAY**

Have you ever known anyone who said, "I can't wait to die and go to hell"? I have known a few who admitted (foolishly) that the way they were living might take them there but none have told me they were anxious to go. Why do people wait to be baptized into the Church or repent of sin(s) after they have fallen away?

I believe that the number one reason is that people think they have plenty of time. The young often have the feeling of invincibility and the desire to experience life before they settle down. Those of us who are older have seen a lot of sunrises and think surely there will be a few more. They ignore the counsel of James (4:14) when he compares our life to "a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away." Surely "you have plenty of time" is one of the most effective lies ever devised by Satan's evil heart. The number of people who entered eternity unprepared to meet God, surprised that their time on earth was done is probably beyond count. Death truly is no respecter of person and coming to young, old and those in between.

What happens to people who do a lot of hard manual labor? The skin on their hands becomes hardened and they develop calluses. What happens when one repeatedly ignores their need to respond to the invitation? Their heart becomes hardened. Just as calluses make the hands less sensitive so does the heart become less sensitive (receptive) sometimes requiring a major life event to bring repentance. We see a lot of young people respond while their hearts are tender and not age hardened.

I found a statement I like that is attributed to R. A. Torrey, "A wise man, when he sees a thing ought to be done, does it immediately. A fool, when he sees a thing ought to be done, says, yes, it ought to be done, but I'll wait and do it later". If you have not yet accepted Jesus and been baptized or know you have sinned and need to repent and ask for prayers but are delaying, you are literally sitting on a time bomb that could go off at any moment. Isn't a home in heaven with God for eternity worth more than any reason you may have for delay? I will close with a saying, "The road to 'by and by' leads to the house of 'never'."

**Larry Benson**

## *Lessons from Barbed Wire Pt. 2: Patience*

***“Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.” Isaiah 40:30-31***

It has been said that fencing is an art. No, I don't mean fencing like sword fighting...I mean the art of building a fence. (And by the way, I'm sure I am the only one who has said fencing is an art. Most of the time, it's just a pain.) As with any artistic endeavor, fencing takes a great deal of time and concentration. Just as an artist knows exactly where the next stroke of paint will fall on the canvas, so also must the builder of the fence must know the next step and where the next strand of wire will be placed. If the builder gets in too great of a hurry, the fence will be poorly constructed allowing the animals to get out and dangers to get in.

You cannot be in a hurry when you build a fence, especially when you use barbed wire. Barbed wire will cut your skin and your clothes. It requires slow, methodical placement and movement. The problem is that no one (especially me) likes putting up a barbed wire fence in the middle of a thicket. Fighting the thorns and branches also work to slow you down. Slow and steady wins the race. Go to fast and you will get tangled and injured.

Similarly, the Bible calls for us to be patient. Patience is a quality of love (1 Corinthians 13:4) and is a description of how we should be waiting for the Lord (James 5:7-8). I cannot tell you how many times I have wished that I could fast-forward my life ten years just so I wouldn't have to experience college or dating or job searching. However, with patience, we can live each day as a child of God truly knowing that he is the giver of strength. Remember the verse above. We are to wait for the Lord and he will renew our strength. We are human and humans grow tired and impatient no matter what the age or setting in life (Isaiah 40:30). Just like the thorns and barbs will cut us if we hurry through the project, so too will this world tear us to shreds if we rush through life. Remember to have patience and *“be still and know that I am God”* (Psalm 46:10).

**Joshua Houston**

## PRAYER REQUESTS:

Selma Boyd, Ernestine Taylor, Margaret Taylor, Sue Reeves, Odell Grissom, Nora Fann, Virgie Leonard, Betty Driver, Lester Clark, Shirley Tenpenny, Carol Wilson, Marie Fleming (No Visitors at this time)

## SHUT INS:

Rita Reed, Mabel Robertson, Houston Henry, Oleta Bullard, Tommy & Shirley Bibb, Dan & Lorene Stephens, Melba & Jeanie Young

## NURSING HOMES & ASSISTED LIVING:

### \*MEMBERS

**ADAMS PLACE:** Nora Fann\*, Virgie Leonard\*

**DIVERSICARE OF SMYRNA:** Jean Nickens\*

**NHC:** Lizzie Bush, Sue Reeves\*

**STONES RIVER MANOR:** Margaret Davidson\*, Jeweldean Hall\*, Ernestine Taylor\*, Laura Wisner\*, Lillian Whitworth, Edna Vance\*

**SMYRNA:** Geri Melton\*

## MILITARY:

Tony Berry

## NEWS & NOTES

- **Men's Devo** - if you would like to host a devo, it's held on the third Monday of each month. The sign-up sheet is in the foyer.
- Bobby Sims will be our speaker for our evening service.
- **Men's Breakfast at IHOP** on Tuesday the 14<sup>th</sup> at 8 PM.
- **Elders/Deacons** meeting on Wednesday, February 15<sup>th</sup> after services.
- **Church Eat Church** – potluck on Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup>.
- **Visitation Team #2** will meet on Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup>.
- There is a planned trip to **Smyrna Bowling Center** for Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup> from 8-11PM. **UPDATE: Please meet at the Bowling Center at 8 PM.**
- **Couples Retreat** – March 10-12<sup>th</sup> at All Season Suites in Pigeon Forge with guest speaker Wayne Miller. Sign-up sheet is in the foyer.



*Bridal Shower  
In honor of  
Hannah Malone  
will be held on  
Sunday, February 26<sup>th</sup>  
from 2-4 at Salem Creek.  
She is registered at  
Kohl's, Wal-Mart, and  
Bed, Bath & Beyond*

Salem Creek church of Christ  
 2525 Salem Creek Drive  
 Murfreesboro, TN 37128



P.O. Box 332067  
 Murfreesboro, TN 37133-2067

Email: [office@salemcreekcoc.org](mailto:office@salemcreekcoc.org)

We're on the web!  
[www.salemcreekcoc.org](http://www.salemcreekcoc.org)

## SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

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

Wednesday  
 Ladies Morning Bible Class (Sept-May) 10:00 am  
 Evening Bible Classes 6:30 pm

### ELDERS

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

### MINISTER

Ron Harper

### ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Joshua Houston

### DEACONS

Rick Acklin Rick Corum  
 Larry Benson Andy Melton  
 Michael Bowman Brian Melton  
 Craig Buckner Alan Pepper  
 Joe Byars Wendell Wilson

### FOR THE RECORD

*February 5, 2017*

|               |                      |                   |
|---------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Sunday</b> | <b>AM worship</b>    | <b>227</b>        |
|               | <b>Bible classes</b> | <b>157</b>        |
|               | <b>PM worship</b>    | <b>123</b>        |
|               | <b>Contribution</b>  | <b>\$8,274.00</b> |

|                  |                                   |            |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|------------|
| <b>Wednesday</b> | <b>PM Bible classes</b>           | <b>103</b> |
| <b>Wednesday</b> | <b>AM Ladies Class (Sept-May)</b> | <b>13</b>  |

*\*When county schools are closed due to inclement weather A.M. Ladies class will be cancelled\**

### *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 as often as you have opportunity!*

*We were honored by your presence!*

### GREETERS

*Please be at the door  
 30 minutes prior to service*



### February 12

Robert & Mary Ann McKnight

### February 19

Regenia Grissom      Dianne Stroop