

I WANT TO BE A WORKER

Ephesians 4:16

From whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love

I was speaking with a couple who visited our services when I heard some very encouraging words. "We want to find a church where we can be workers." That may not be an exact quotation but it is very close. I found them to be looking for "an active church" where they could be involved in the Lord's work and grow.

I am hearing people say that a lot these days. It is very encouraging to find people who want to fulfill Ephesians 4:16. In that chapter, Paul presents God's vision for the body of Christ. God's vision is that the church grow to maturity; "we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head even Christ" (v. 15). Jesus is our focal point. We seek not to be served, but to serve.

This wonderful body is held together by what "every joint supplies" (v. 16). Every part of that body plays a vital role. As we seek to grow through our own service, the body naturally builds up itself in love.

There are many ways in which you can play a vital role in this church. What you do and what you can do is extremely important. Without the "proper working of each individual part" the body does not grow. YOU are an important part of the body of Christ.

--Ron Harper--

Lessons from Barbed Wire Pt. 3: Overcoming Obstacles

“Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.”

James 1:2-4

The area we are fencing on the Houston farm is basically all brush, trees, and thorns. Any other farming operation would likely have brought in a bulldozer and pushed down the old fence along with all the trees that were in the way and put in a new, clean fence. However, that cost a ton of money and we did not want to lose the shade trees for the cattle. Thus, we did the only feasible thing we knew to do. We became lumberjacks.

My brother and I went out with two STIHL chainsaws and began to cut a path just wide enough for us to walk through with a roll of barbed wire and other fencing supplies. Once the path was cut, we should be able to stretch the wire with ease. You all know by now from my articles that nothing on the Houston farm goes right the first time. What was supposed to be an easy run of wire ended up being an obstacle course. Between the roots and stumps, you never knew when or where you might trip next.

For this same reason, the verses listed above are difficult for me to comprehend. I don't like obstacles, challenges, or trials. I want my job to be easy, efficient, and simple. However, James tells us to count it all joy when we meet various trials. Clearly, these Christians were going through significantly far worse trials and challenges than tripping over stumps while stretching wire, but you see the parallel. Christians today want to complain and moan about government policies and the way the world is turning, just to name a few things. Rather than complain about it, we should weep at the sin in the world but rejoice at the opportunities that we receive to show Jesus to this lost world.

The only way to overcome our obstacles is to watch our feet. In a dark world, we watch our feet by using the lamp provided by God (Psalm 119:105). While the world wonders in darkness, we are to be walking in the light. Let us never forget that even though obstacles are less than ideal to us, sometimes they are necessary.

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 is in St. Thomas Rutherford, no visitors please.

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

- Congratulations to **Jason & Marie Patterson** upon the birth of a son on Tuesday, February 14. He has been named **Beauregard (Beau) Montgomery Patterson**. Proud grandparents are Ron & Janie Harper.
- Sympathy is extended to the family of **Janet Carey Brown**. Graveside services were held Friday. She was the sister of **Jack Carey**.
- **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.
- **Church Eat Church** – Today following Bible classes will be a potluck followed by our evening service.
- **Visitation Team #2** will meet on today, see Craig Buckner for details.
- There is a planned trip to **Smyrna Bowling Center** tonight from 8-11PM. **Please meet at the Bowling Center at 8 PM.**
- **Couples Retreat** – March 10-12th at All Season Suites in Pigeon Forge with guest speaker Wayne Miller. Sign-up sheet is in the foyer.
- We have received a Building Fund donation in memory of **Lois Arnold, Opal Jones** and **Louise McKnight** by the following:
***Dean Thompson**

You're Invited to a



Bridal Shower

Bridal Shower
In honor of
Hannah Malone
will be held on
Sunday, February 26th
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

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

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 12, 2017

Sunday	AM worship	225
	Bible classes	167
	PM worship	154
	Contribution	\$6,942.00

Wednesday	PM Bible classes	141
Wednesday	AM Ladies Class (Sept-May)	13

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 19

Regenia Grissom Dianne Stroop

February 26

Dorothy Stroop Joyce Jenkins