

## LAUGHTER

Did you ever hear the story about a group of farm children who were playing Church? They were “baptizing” the animals and came to the mule. Looking at the mule one of the children remarked that the mule must already be a Christian because of its long, sad face. I am sure we have probably all known Christians who had the perpetually sad, solemn look that made one think a good laugh might crack their face. Laughter is defined in The Free Dictionary as, “to show or feel amusement or good humor” and is mentioned many times in the Bible in various ways.

We have references to God laughing. Psalms 37: 12 & 13, “The wicked plots against the righteous, and gnashes at him with his teeth. The Lord laughs at him; for He sees his day coming.” God is amused because He knows that while the wicked may have their moment of triumph, the victory will ultimately go to Him. When we are struggling through life, we need to remember this and laugh.

Psalms 17:22 tells us, “A joyful heart is good medicine, but a broken spirit dries up the bones.” Medical Science today has verified the truth of this statement. A joyful heart filled with laughter can make the difference literally between life and death. Also, if we are trying to let our Christian light shine out to reach the lost, which face shows more light, happy or sad? Joy attracts. Sadness repels.

We are probably all familiar with this verse from Ecclesiastes 3. Verse one starts out by saying there is an appointed time for everything. Verse 4 continues, “A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance.” Solomon in the wisdom God had given to him acknowledges there is a time for laughter. Laughter brings people together provided you are laughing with them and not at them. Sometimes life makes it hard to laugh; but, if you can laugh you will often feel better.

Finally let’s look at the promise Jesus gave in what we know as the Sermon on the Mount. Luke 6:21, “Blessed are you who hunger now, for you shall be satisfied. Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh.” What a wonderful promise from our Lord! We will face all manner of trials and tribulations as we journey through life. We may even some day face persecution such as early Christians experienced or some today experience in other countries. Regardless of the hard knocks life gives us, we will have our time to laugh. If we remain faithful, the promise of heaven and the knowledge that God, the judge that cannot be overruled, will give the wicked their just reward will sustain us. God in His wisdom gave mankind the gift of laughter. Don’t be afraid to use it.

**Larry Benson**

## *Who Do You See?*

***“Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up!” Ecclesiastes 4:9-10***

Close your eyes and count to ten. Open. Look around at your surroundings. Who is there? Who isn't there? Why are they there? Why are you there? These may seem like odd questions to ask sitting in a church pew or riding home in your car; however, I promise there is a point.

Imagine you are in ancient Babylon. You have been taken captive by the Babylonian military and now you are just trying to stay alive. You wake up one morning and hear there is a new law in the nation. The law states when a certain song plays, you must worship an image of the king or you will die. Not only will you die but you will die by being burned alive in a furnace used for making bricks for the Babylonian empire. Being a Babylonian slave, you would have seen this furnace. You don't want to die a painful death but you also don't want to worship the king. So, you have two choices: go against the king of Babylon and die or go against the king of the universe. Which would you choose?

For Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, there was no question. You perhaps know them better as Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego. These men were taken captive by the Babylonians, made into eunuchs, and forced to learn the laws of the Babylonians (Daniel 1). Then, they were placed in charge of certain Babylonian provinces and likely would not have been with each other. Then, the music played...

People all over the empire of Babylon fell to the ground and worshiped the idol. But as the people bowed, three remained standing. I can imagine Shadrach thinking, “I'm the only one,” and then looking across the province and seeing Meshach and Abed-nego still standing. I can only imagine the comfort they must have felt knowing someone else wasn't going to bow.

We live in a world where everyone bows to idols. These idols may not be images of gold or silver but they are people, possessions, fame, money, etc. We compromise our faith for fortune and forget what our true purpose is. We must remember to look up and make sure we have surrounded ourselves with people who will stand with us. Just like Solomon wrote in Ecclesiastes 4, there is strength and power in numbers.

## PRAYER REQUESTS:

Selma Boyd, Ernestine Taylor, Margaret Taylor, Sue Reeves, Odell Grissom, Nora Fann, Virgie Leonard, Lester Clark, Shirley Tenpenny, Kaylie Joy Pendgrast, Laura Wiser, Edna Meadows, Wayne Mobbs, Chris Berry

## 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\*

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

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

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

**SMYRNA:** Geri Melton\*

**CREEKSIDE AT THREE RIVERS:** Nina Summer\*

## MILITARY:

Tony Berry

We have received donations to the Nicaragua Mission Trip Fund in memory of

**Marie Fleming** by the following:

\*Diane Butler      \*Becky Adkins  
\*Vicki Chandler    \*Tracy Collins  
\*Petey Elliolte    \*Leslie Shearon

## NEWS & NOTES

We have received a Thank You card from Billy, Shirley and Andy Tenpenny.

- Tonight - **2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday speaker** for the evening service is Jason Patterson.
- **Men's Breakfast** at IHOP on Tuesday, March 14<sup>th</sup> at 8am.
- **Men's Devo** at the home of Jim Hatfield with Ron Harper leading the devotional on Monday, March 20<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.
- The **Salem Creek Youth and College groups** will have a joint lock-in on March 31<sup>st</sup> – April 1<sup>st</sup> beginning at 9pm on the 31<sup>st</sup>. Please sign the list in the foyer if you plan on attending. We will have a devotional along with the lock-in that will serve as our devotional for March. Please also plan to bring food and write what you plan to bring on the sign-up sheet.
- A **Senior Saints meal** with a speaker is planned for Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup> at 5pm at Salem Creek. The meal will be catered and the cost will be \$10 per person. There is a sign-up sheet in the foyer. Please see Keith Short or Larry Benson if you have any questions.
- **Ladies' Day** at East Main on Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup> from 8:15 till 12 noon. Lunch will be provided. More information on bulletin board in foyer.
- **All December & May graduates** please submit 20-25 photos or digital pictures on disc by April 16<sup>th</sup>. Photos that are submitted will be returned to you in May.

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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

*March 5, 2017*

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>AM worship</b>	<b>239</b>
	<b>Bible classes</b>	<b>188</b>
	<b>PM worship</b>	<b>147</b>
	<b>Contribution</b>	<b>\$7,191.00</b>

<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>PM Bible classes</b>	<b>147</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>AM Ladies Class (Sept-May)</b>	<b>15</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*

### March 12

Jim & Pat Davidson

### March 19

Keith & Margaret Short

