

Discouragement

Do you ever feel discouraged in your Christian endeavors? I think this is something that almost everyone feels at some time. Perhaps your financial situation has changed and you can no longer give as you would like. Maybe you are becoming more mature (OK older) and you can't be as active in the work of the Church as you would like. It could be family problems, illness (yours or a family member), or many other things or combinations of things that cause you to be discouraged. It is not a sin to be discouraged. Even Jesus got discouraged at times. Mark 9:19 says in part, "And He answered them and said, "O unbelieving generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I put up with you?" The question is how do you deal with your discouragement?

Paul was a prisoner when he wrote his letter to Philemon. As such, his movements and actions were restricted. Was Paul discouraged? Probably or he would likely not have made the point that he was a prisoner. He could have easily claimed that as a prisoner there was little of God's work that he could do; however, he didn't let discouragement stop him. He wrote letters, like the Philemon letter, while in prison to encourage, exhort and rebuke. He knew that Onesimus (which means useless) was a slave who had ran away from a Christian master. Onesimus appears to have responded to the gospel while in prison and was ministering to Paul for the gospel. Paul's letter encourages Philemon and basically tells him how changed Onesimus was and how useful he had become to Paul. Paul made it clear that he was sending him back to his master so Philemon could, if so inclined; send him back to Paul of his free will. He is helping Onesimus do the right thing and reminds Philemon that he needs to remember that they are all brothers in Christ gently reminding him to do the right thing. Paul mentions his fellow workers that are with him Timothy, Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke as well as a fellow prisoner, Epaphras. Paul not only was conducting a prison ministry but an outreach ministry from prison as well.

Paul's example in this is as valid today as it was then. He could have taken the poor me approach but instead from the Philemon letter and other readings shows that he took advantage of opportunities and resources doing everything he could to spread the gospel. Don't be discouraged dwelling on what you can't do but rather look for the things you can do. God knows our abilities and limitations better than we do ourselves. Remember discouragement is one of the well-worn tools in Satan's tool box. Don't let him use it on you.

Larry Benson

A Review of Retreat

“Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing. We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves.” 1 Thess. 5:11-13.

It is safe to say that we had a wonderful time at our spring retreat this past weekend! It was a blessing like none I can describe to have two congregations come together as one church (as the Bible teaches) and engage in fellowship and spiritual nourishment. As a result of this retreat, we all have grown closer together and have made memories and friendships that will last a lifetime.

This could not have been possible without the help of our wonderful elders. We are blessed to have Godly men who labor among us and take no recognition for the things they do. They were eager and supportive of our retreat, and we all felt the effects of such support. Without them, this retreat would not have been possible. The next time you see one of our elders, please make a point to stop and thank him for all he does for Salem Creek and the Lord's church as a whole. Remember, as iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another (Proverbs 27:17).

We were blessed to have six chaperones accompany us on this trip. As they slaved away in the kitchen and other various areas, they served out of love for the Lord and his people. I want to make a special note to thank Robert and Mary Ann McKnight, Jeff and Tammy Glidden, and Randall and Cindy Phifer for all the work they did preparing food, cleaning up, and most of all, keeping me straight. (I know that was the hardest part!) If I could find a thank you card big enough, I would send it to each of these people because they labor among us and desire no recognition.

We were blessed to have a total of twenty-five campers attend the retreat. Some were from Florence, some were from Salem Creek, but ALL were as a family on this trip. I cannot say enough about the character of our young people at Salem Creek as a whole. They all earnestly strive to be men and women of God in their everyday lives. I am blessed beyond measure to be able to work with such a fine group of young people!

Paul writes to the Thessalonians encouraging them to encourage each other, especially those who labor among them. This includes those who are “over you” (i.e. elders, deacons, chaperones for retreats, etc.). Nothing I can say or write will ever express my gratitude to this wonderful congregation for its work and the labor that is among us. May we do this each day, not just for retreats.

Joshua Houston

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

SICK

Wayne Dodd, Marie Fleming (no visitors at this time), Janneil Brown, Lester & Ann Clark, Bill & Betty Driver, Ernestine Taylor, Brittany Bullard

TAKING TREATMENTS

Lois Arnold

SHUT INS

Rita Reed, Mabel Robertson, Houston Henry, Oleta Bullard

PRAYER REQUEST:

Shirley Bibb, Opal Jones, Dan & Lorene Stephens, Wayne Mobbs, Marie Fleming, Lorene Maddox, Selma Boyd, Janneil Brown, Gerald Wiseman, Jeanie Young, Oleta Bullard, Mabel Robertson, Wayne Dodd, Ernestine Taylor, Melanie Martin, Brittany Bullard, Janneil Brown, Lester & Ann Clark, Bill & Betty Driver

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.

***Visitors** - We are happy you chose to worship with us today! Please fill out a visitor's card and place it in the collection plate.

The Visitor

NEWS & NOTES

*We have received a Thank You card from Tim Muncy.

***All December & May Graduates** please submit 20-25 photos or digital pictures on disc to Tammy Berry or Tammy Glidden.

***Pew Packers** today @ 5:15 p.m.

*This evening **Chip Adkins** will be our 2nd Sunday speaker.

***Men's Breakfast @ IHOP** on Tuesday, April 12th at 8 a.m.

***MTCS** - Admissions Open House - Sunday, April 17th at 2:30 p.m.

***Men's Devo** - Monday, April 18th @ 7 p.m. Charles Reeves will host with Joshua Houston leading the devotional.

***Leanna church of Christ** Friends Day on Sunday, April 17th.

***Senior Saints** pot luck - Saturday, April 23rd @ 5 p.m.

***Ladies Day** at East Main church of Christ on Saturday, April 30th. Sign-up sheet is in the foyer.

*If you would be interested in hosting a 16yr old boy from Japan who wishes to attend MTCS for one year, please see Jon or Judy Holland for more details.



*In Honor of
Madison Lepper*

*A Bridal Shower will be
held today at the
building from 2-4 p.m.*

April 10, 2016

Salem Creek church of Christ
P.O. Box 332067
Murfreesboro, TN 37133-2067

Phone: (615) 893-7532

2525 Salem Creek Drive
Murfreesboro, TN 37128

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	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

Larry Benson
Michael Bowman
Craig Buckner
Bob Hoover

Andy Melton
Brian Melton
Alan Pepper
Wendell Wilson

FOR THE RECORD

April 3, 2016

Sunday	AM worship	199
	Bible classes	145
	PM worship	123
	Contribution	\$5,829.97

Wednesday PM Bible classes 107

Wednesday AM Ladies Class (Sept-May) 13

**When county schools are closed due to inclement weather
AM Ladies Class will be cancelled**

GREETERS

Please be at the door 15
minutes prior to services!



April 10

Chris Martin
Drew & Amanda Mitchell

April 17

Louise Smithson
Andy & Lisa Mitchell

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!