

## The Reason for Fishing

Have you heard the one about the rich capitalist who was horrified to find a fisherman lying lazily beside his boat, whistling a tune? "Why aren't you fishing?" said the capitalist. "Because I have caught enough fish for the day," said the fisherman. "Why don't you catch some more?" "What would I do with them?" "You could earn more money," the capitalist said. "With that you could equip your boat with a motor and go into deeper waters and catch more fish. Then you could make enough to buy nylon nets. These would bring you more fish and more money. Soon you would have enough money to own two boats...maybe even a fleet of boats. Then you could be rich like me." "What would I do then?" asked the fisherman. "Then you could really enjoy life." "What do you think I am doing now?" asked the fisherman.

We're supposed to side with the fisherman and realize how silly the capitalist is. The fisherman comes out looking wise, while the hard-working capitalist looks like a fool.

But I think they're both wrong.

Sure, the capitalist doesn't seem to have a sense of why he's working so hard – if he's successful, the best case scenario is that he'll wind up where the fisherman is. But why is the fisherman lying lazily beside his boat? Is that really the way to enjoy life?

You can't enjoy life unless you know what life is for. Life isn't about getting to a point where you have nothing to do. The meaning of life is so much more than that.

Life is about seeking the Creator and using our talents and opportunities to glorify him. Paul touched on this when he spoke to a group of philosophers in Athens:

[God] made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, *that they should seek God*, in the hope that they might feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, for "In him we live and move and have our being'..." (Acts 17:26-28)

We were created to seek the Lord. There's no denying it. That's why a lazy fisherman can be just as miserable as a busy capitalist. If the end game for both of them is just to "enjoy life," they're both on the wrong track. They have no sense of purpose.

But it is also true that both the fisherman and the capitalist can be full of joy, because both can do what they do to the glory of God. Paul said, "Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men" (Col. 3:23).

We must find ways to make our vocations and our leisure for God. Then life truly will be fulfilling.

**Drew Kizer,**  
Ashville Road church of Christ  
Leeds, AL

## ***Things I Wish...My Church Family Knew***

***“Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind.” 1 Peter 3:8***

Well we have done it. We have come to the last “Things I wish...” article in the series. I understand in the past few articles, I have singled out a particular group of people and addressed them individually. Hopefully as you have read, you found something that encouraged you or helped you grow closer to God as a Christian. For this last part, here are some things I (and the Lord) wish members of Salem Creek church of Christ knew.

1. The only difference between you and me is approximately three feet on the stage. People seem to view the minister(s) as super-Christians or incapable of making mistakes and sinning. That is not true. We all have our own struggles. I need you to encourage me and walk with me on the road to Heaven. We all need to be accountabil-a-buddies! We are in this together because all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23).
2. We are one. I desperately beg all of us to stop causing division among ourselves in the church. Generational division, levels of spiritual maturity, social status, schools we attend or places we work, please MAKE IT STOP! We are ripping the body of Christ when we cause these petty divisions. Let's come together, unified and strong, and be Christ in the world like he would have us to be!
3. I love you. I hope this needs no further explanation. I hope you all know that I would do anything for you like I know you would do for me. I love every one of you and strongly want to see all of us get to Heaven.

How blessed could a blessed man be if a blessed man could be blessed? The answer is simple. Here, with you, I have been blessed more than I could ever put into words. I pray that we can grow together in the word and walk together toward the goal of Heaven. I will be there to pick you up just like I know you will do the same for me. May God bless and keep you.

Grace and peace,  
Joshua Houston

### PRAYER REQUEST:

Shirley Bibb, Dan & Lorene Stephens, Wayne Mobbs, Marie Fleming, Lorene Maddox, Selma Boyd, Oleta Bullard, Mabel Robertson, Janneil Brown, Sue Reeves, Nora Fann, Louise Smithson, Louise McKnight, Ernestine Taylor, Naoma Woodcock, Houston Henry, Willis Clark, Wayne Dodd, Laura Wiser, Holly Bowman

### SHUT INS:

Rita Reed, Mabel Robertson, Houston Henry, Oleta Bullard

### NURSING HOMES & ASSISTED LIVING:

#### **\*MEMBERS**

**ADAMS PLACE:** Nora Fann\*, Nell Jernigan\*

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

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

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

### MILITARY:

Tony Berry



A basket in honor of **Kasey Troupe** will be in the lobby near the kitchen. She had a baby girl on Monday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>. Kasey is the daughter of Wendell & Rita Mingle.

### NEWS & NOTES

- **Fall Festival** on Saturday, October 29<sup>th</sup> Activities will be starting at 3pm and BBQ dinner at 6pm. See Cindy Phifer if you would like help with this event.
- **College Students - Creation Unveiled** - Thursday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> 6pm at MTSU Ballroom A&B (Room 250) at the Student Union Building. **Speakers: Kyle Butt and Dr. Mike Houts.** For more information the flyer is posted on bulletin board.
- **Middle Tennessee Christian School** will host the **56<sup>th</sup> Annual Steak Dinner** Fundraiser Thursday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 pm. For tickets or sponsorship information, please contact Beth Hancock at 615-893-0601 or visit [mtcscougars.org](http://mtcscougars.org)
- There will be a **Fellowship Day** at Bradyville Road church of Christ on November 6<sup>th</sup>. The morning speaker will be Bro. Albert Cole and the afternoon speaker will be Bro. Ralph Thompson from Green Meadows church of Christ. Lunch will be served after morning worship.
- Our annual **Senior Saints Banquet** is planned for Friday, November 11<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm at our church building. Seniors are those 60 or older (younger spouses are welcome). Please sign the sign-up sheet in the foyer. If you need a ride, please check yes in the space provided. Please see Keith Short or Larry Benson if you have any questions.
- In preparation of the **2017 Membership Directory**, please check your information for any corrections or additions. A printed copy of this list is in the foyer.

**\*check out the bulletin board for activities and weekly updates.**

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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

*October 16, 2016*

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>AM worship</b>	<b>210</b>
	<b>Bible classes</b>	<b>154</b>
	<b>PM worship</b>	<b>133</b>
	<b>Contribution</b>	<b>\$5,813.40</b>

<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>PM Bible classes</b>	<b>139</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>AM Ladies Class (Sept-May)</b>	<b>12</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  
 15 minutes prior to services!*



### October 23

Robert & Mary Ann McKnight

### October 30

Jim & Gayle Glover