

WHAT HAPPENED TO IT?

2 Peter 3:8

But do not let this one fact escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day.

What happened to it? I'm talking about 2017, what happened to it. Amazing, isn't it, how time flies. It really does. No one year is any longer or shorter than any other (except in the case of the leap year). No hour has any more or any less than sixty minutes.

Why, then, does it seem like the older we get, the faster it goes? Someone once said "Preacher, time seems to go faster now than it did when you were a kid because you have already used up over half of yours." There may be some wisdom in that.

No one knows how much time is left. James said that we need to think seriously about that because our life is like a "vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away" (James 4:14).

Even the longest life isn't very long when you compare it to the one who is "from everlasting to everlasting" (Psalm 90:2). We must learn to "number our days, that we may present to You a heart of wisdom" (Psalm 90:12).

What happened to 2017? It was used up, every last second of it. Some used the year wisely, some chose to do otherwise. Time passes, that's what it does; it passes with an uncompromising and relentless regularity. One of two things will happen. We will either die in the coming year or we will find ourselves asking again, "what happened to it?" If we see the sun come up tomorrow, God has given us another beginning. Use it well.

--Ron Harper--

Old Dogs and New Tricks

“And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.” Ephesians 4:30-32

I’m new at the whole “puppy-raising” thing. Really, it’s not even my responsibility considering the puppies belong to my parents, but I enjoy it so much that I have inserted myself into the situation. My parents have two Australian Shepherd puppies, Boog and Buck. They are sweet, fun loving puppies who rarely get in trouble. All in all, they are amazing dogs.

One thing I love about the Australian Shepherd breed is their ability to be taught certain things in a short amount of time. For example, just the other day, I had the dogs outside to run and play as they do. They could run and play almost anywhere they wanted to go, but I didn’t want them going over into the cattle pasture. Each time they got close to the fence, I would whistle a certain way to call them back. They would run back to me, I would ask them to sit, and they would. (But they already knew how to sit.) Eventually, when I would whistle, no matter where I was and no matter where they were, they would come running and sit at my feet without me having to say or do anything. They had learned what was expected.

I wonder if God treats us the same way. We begin to wander off and God somehow begins blowing our spiritual whistle. We have a choice to return or disobey. In verses like the ones above, God shows us the new way in which we are to walk. Not a way that grieves the Holy Spirit, not a way that causes strife with our friends and neighbors, but a way that is kind and forgiving. We are to live our lives to please our owner. After all, he did buy us with a price that exceeds gold and silver, that is, the precious blood of Jesus.

Sure, it’s difficult to change our ways, but it is never impossible. Let God be the guide. Trust him, love him, obey him. There is always more to learn.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

Ken & Barbara McPeak, Hazel Carey, Selma Boyd, Pat Davidson, Nora Fann, Odell Grissom, Sue Reeves, Ernestine Taylor, Carolyn Thomas, Laura Wiser, Nell Jernigan, Narene Davidson, Mary Williams, Shirley Bibb,

SHUT INS:

Tommy Bibb, Oleta Bullard, Houston Henry, Dan Stephens, Richard Jones, Wayne Mobbs, Carolyn Thomas, Mabel Robertson, Louis Wilson, Melba & Jeanie Young

NURSING HOMES & ASSISTED LIVING:

***MEMBERS**

ADAMS PLACE: Nora Fann*, Shirley Bibb*

NHC: Lizzie Bush, Sue Reeves*, Ernestine Taylor*

STONES RIVER MANOR: Laura Wiser*, Virgie Leonard*, Margaret Davidson*, Lillian Whitworth

SMYRNA: Geri Melton*

WOODBURY: Jeweldean Hall*

TN VETERAN'S HOME: Edna Vance*

Ms. Annie Holland, mother of Jon Holland has moved to Adams Place, Room 1223.

- The church office will be closed January 1- 2 for New Year's.

NEWS & NOTES

- There will be a **youth devotional** at the building on January 7th after evening services. We ask that you bring your favorite finger foods and desserts. Please make plans to be here as we will be going over our plans for 2018!
- A **family seminar** is scheduled with **Dr. Mike Cravens** on **January 12-14, 2018** with the schedule as follows:

Friday, 7:00-8:30pm

“Qualities for a Strong Healthy Marriage”

Saturday, 9:00-11:00am

“Qualities for a Strong Healthy Family”

Sunday Worship

“Please Let Me Know You Love Me”

Sunday Bible Class

“Resolving Family Conflicts”

Childcare will be provided with activities for the children.

- There will be a **combined game night** for the **youth and senior groups** on Saturday, January 20th at 5pm. Please bring board/card games to play. We are asking the senior group to bring soups, salads and sandwiches and the youth group to bring desserts and drinks. Please sign up on the list in the foyer.
- An elementary devo is planned for January 21 immediately following evening services at the building.

Salem Creek church of Christ
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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

December 24, 2017

Sunday	AM worship	240
	Bible classes	121
	PM worship	
	Contribution	\$6,907.00

Wednesday	PM Bible classes	127
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Wednesday	AM Ladies Class (Sept-May)	
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When county schools are closed due to inclement weather A.M. Ladies class will be canceled

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*



December 31

Regenia Grissom Joyce Jenkins

January 7

Bobby and Jackie Sims