

Greenbank Weekly Newsletter – Friday, December 4, 2020

Do you know someone in need? Contact the church office, and we will find a way to assist.

office@greenbankcoc.org or 302-994-3800. Office hours: Wednesday Only, 9:00am-3:00pm

Email and phone messages will be accessed remotely throughout the week.

Reflection: For God's Little People by John Piper (edited)

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. —Luke 2:1–5

Have you ever thought what an amazing thing it is that God ordained beforehand that the Messiah be born in Bethlehem (as the prophecy in Micah 5 shows); and that he so ordained things that when the time came, the Messiah's mother and legal father were living in Nazareth; and that in order to fulfill his word and bring two little people to Bethlehem, God put it in the heart of Caesar Augustus that all the Roman world should be enrolled each in his own town?

Have you ever felt, like me, little and insignificant in a world of seven billion people, where all the news is of big political and economic and social movements and of outstanding people with lots of power and prestige?

If you have, don't let that make you disheartened or unhappy. For it is implicit in Scripture that all the mammoth political forces and all the giant industrial complexes, without their even knowing it, are being guided by God, not for their own sake but for the sake of God's little people—the little Mary and the little Joseph who must be got from Nazareth to Bethlehem. God wields an empire to bless his children.

Do not think, because you experience adversity, that the hand of the Lord is shortened. It is not our prosperity but our holiness that he seeks with all his heart. And to that end, he rules the whole world. As Proverbs 21:1 says, *"The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand of the Lord; he turns it wherever he will."*

He is a big God for little people, and we have great cause to rejoice that, unbeknownst to them, all the kings and presidents and premiers and chancellors of the world follow the sovereign decrees of our Father in heaven, that we, the children, might be conformed to the image of his Son, Jesus Christ.

Lifting in Prayer

Many of our members have lost loved ones recently. Please keep all grieving families lifted in prayer.

Those who have Covid-19: Bobbie & Dave Cross: Bobbie is still in the hospital; **Anna DaCunha; Gwen Byrd; Carolyn Pinder; Sedic Willis; Luis Reyes;** Ron Cox's sister **Karen Lester & her husband** – he is in the hospital due to other serious health problems; **Jeff Brannock** (Ron Cox's brother) **& family**

Sandy Brannock: in the hospital with respiratory issues; she is Ron Cox's mother

Jamie Jones recovering from back surgery; he is doing well

Greenbank church: Godly guidance for our elders & minster as they make decisions for our worship and budget for the coming year.

The most recent requests are listed above. If you have an item for prayer or praise, please email it to office@greenbankcoc.org for inclusion in our weekly list. To view previous prayer requests and those on our ongoing lists, please visit the Weekly Bulletins page on our website www.greenbankcoc.org.

Announcements

From the Elders

Dearly Beloved (what a wonderful greeting),

Above all we pray that each of you are well and, despite the challenges of COVID and other matters, are strong in the spirit, hopeful of the future, and fully assured of God's love.

As a matter of information, this coming Sunday (Dec. 6) our worship will again be restricted to online streaming, i.e., we will not be having service at the building.

This decision--like the one regarding last Sunday-- did not come easily; but was based out of care for the congregation and in accord with what we believe to be what God, in His love, would have us do under the

circumstances as the coronavirus again spikes... and is now impacting some of our brothers and sisters at Greenbank in a very direct way.

On Monday, the elders and Domingo will be meeting to discuss how best to facilitate our congregational worship in the coming weeks, and we will communicate what is decided to you promptly. As we engage in those decisions, we ask that anyone who has comments or thoughts please share them with us before Monday. To be sure, we seek your prayers for wisdom and that we act in a way within these uncharted waters that will be blessed by the Father.

The recent news about coming vaccines gives us great hope, and we bless God for that. We are, therefore, confident in the dawning of a new and better day.

For now, however, we pray that we all remain patient (As Paul teaches, Love is patient) ...that you will continue in full faith.... that you will continue steadfastly in your individual worship to God and in participation in the online service, in your prayers, and in your outreach to one another..

God be with you.

In love, Jim (on behalf of Domingo and the elders)

Eph 4:1 Therefore, since through God's mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart.

Ladies & Young Ladies Classes

Our next class session will be Saturday, December 12 at 11:00 a.m. Ladies class will cover chapter 3 in our study book. If you have not yet signed up for these classes, information to do so is below under the Online Bible Studies heading.

Job Opportunity

Housekeeping help needed. Please call in the mornings between 8-10 a.m. 302-292-0884

Housing Need

A Christian sister is looking for a 1-2 bedroom apartment or house to rent. If you know of anything that is available, please contact the church office and we will put you in contact with her.

Worship with Us Online

Sunday Mornings 9:00 a.m. Spanish service 10:30 a.m. English service @ 10:30 a.m.

1) **Facebook Live:** <http://www.facebook.com/greenbankchurchofchrist>

2) **Greenbank website:** www.greenbankcoc.org Click on the Facebook Live tab on the menu bar at the top of the page. PLEASE NOTE: You do NOT need to have a Facebook account to view the live feed through our website.

3) **Conference call:** If you do not have internet access, you can dial in on your phone to connect.
(301) 715-8592 Enter Meeting ID 889 4601 8992

Online Bible Studies

Wednesdays @ 7PM: Facebook Live <http://www.facebook.com/greenbankchurchofchrist>

Ladies & Young Ladies Classes: 2nd Saturday of each month at 11:00 a.m. Online using the Zoom platform.

Register for class here: : <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0845AFAE2EA6FB6-ladies>

The book for the ladies class is Honorable and Dishonorable Women of the Bible by Crystal Reyes. It is available on Amazon Kindle for \$2.99. (It will be \$0.99 for 30 days starting October 4th.) Purchase it here: https://www.amazon.com/s?k=honorable+and+dishonorable+women+in+the+bible&rh=n%3A154606011&ref=nb_sb_noss

Options for Giving

We appreciate those who have been able to maintain regular giving. Ways to contribute:

- 1) **Write a check** and mail to 511 Greenbank Road, Wilmington, DE 19808, or hold all checks until we begin meeting again.
- 2) **Cash givers** can set aside your contributions and bring them when we begin meeting again.
- 3) **Online giving:** A PayPal option has been set up on our website www.greenbankcoc.org. Click on the “Donate” button and follow the instructions. (Note: there is a small fee assessed from each donation.)

Last Week's Contribution: \$4,059 Weekly Average: \$4,207