

Greenbank Weekly Newsletter – Sunday, February 21, 2021

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

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

If you, or anyone you know, has a need, contact the church office, and we will find a way to assist.

Sticks and Stones ... and Words – by Marjorie Foerster Eddington

“Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words can never hurt me.” If only this were true. In many of our experiences, words can hurt – a lot! It’s even worse, now, with social media. People, and especially teens, are becoming severely depressed and suicidal when they take to heart the judgmental, critical, bitter, angry, and damaging words that spread like wildfire through their peer group and beyond. What can we do – as individuals, as peers, as caring human beings?

Let’s look at what Jesus says. He says that our communication should be honest, truthful, simple. It should be “Yes” or “No,” and anything beyond that is rather devilish (Matt. 5:37). If we speak, post, or tweet to put others down, to gossip, to get our own way, to manipulate... it’s simply not right. We need to be clear and up-front in our speech. And if we look at the rest of the Sermon on the Mount, we need to be kind and gentle as well.

But What Jesus says about anger and words in anger is pretty shocking and thought-provoking. First, he brings up the commandment of no killing. Then he goes on: “Anyone who nurses anger against his brother must be brought to judgment. If he abuses his brother, he must answer for it to the court; if he sneers at him he will have to answer for it in the fires of hell” (Matt. 5:22 NEB).

There are three points here, and none of the consequences sounds great.

1. If we work hard to maintain anger, if we’re holding onto a grudge, if we’re resentful of someone... then we’re in danger of judgment.
2. If we insult someone, call someone a name, abuse their character, gossip, post compromising images, make off-handed judgmental tweets... then we must answer in court.
3. If we lash out at someone with violent verbal attacks, sneer at someone, call them a fool (which, back then, was an absolute slam on their character, one of the worst things you could say), see them as worthless and point it out, are totally contemptuous of them (look down upon them), tell lies about them... then we’re in danger of hell-fire.

Basically, words spoken or posted out of anger kill – they kill joy, a sense of self-esteem, reputation, standing in a social group. Moreover, we are answerable and responsible for our angry words and posts. Not only are we making it miserable for others, but we will also end up having a rather hellish experience in life, one which we’ve created. How can we be happy if we’re living with anger, judgment, and contempt?

So, in order to avoid judgment, the courts, and hellish experiences, we:

- Refuse to nurse anger of any kind.
- Practice forgiveness for ourselves and others.
- Allow ourselves to feel, but also allow the feelings to pass. We don’t act on them if we’re angry.
- Let things go. We don’t have to respond to everything right away. It’s never a good idea to respond or talk when we’re angry.
- We think before we talk/post.
- We are careful, kind, honest, and thoughtful in what we say/post.

Jesus explains that we can make a different choice. We can choose to help. We can choose to make it right with the person with whom we’re in conflict. We can choose to solve problems, negotiate, compromise, forgive, reconcile with others. We can choose to live out of love, not anger.

Let’s use social media as an avenue for joy and life and gratitude and togetherness. Let’s not throw sticks or stones or harsh words at each other. Instead, let’s appreciate and value others.

Lifting in Prayer

Marlin Johnson: having some health problems.

Tabitha (Hucker) Grimes: Her husband, Art, passed away on Feb. 14. Tabitha is undergoing chemo for Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma. Tabitha is a former member and daughter of Roger and Vickie Hucker who are also former members. Roger served as a deacon and then an elder for the Cedars congregation for many years.

Those adversely effected by extremely cold weather, especially in Texas.

Caleb Quick: receiving chemo for leukemia; he is the son of former member Naomi (Ginter) Quick

Shirley (McCullogh) Grapes: diagnosed with stage 4 cancer

Pray for unity in our country and for our leaders to seek God's wisdom and guidance.

Greenbank church: Godly guidance for our elders & minster as they lead our congregation.

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

GriefShare

Our Loss of Spouse seminar is on Monday, March 1, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. This will be an online session on Zoom. Register at www.griefshare.org. Cost: \$5 for materials. If you have questions, contact Judy Barker.

Camp Manatawny

Early bird registration for summer sessions is open. Register before March 31 and receive a \$26 discount and a free t-shirt. The month of March will be our special collection for Camp Manatawny. Please pray about how you will be able to give to camp.

Winterfest

In a normal year, our youth would be in Gatlinburg, TN this weekend for Winterfest. This year we will have "Winterfest @ Home." All the speakers, worship songs, and entertainment that we would have been able to see have been recorded, and we are going to show these videos at our own event soon. We are also able to order authentic Winterfest t-shirts, so if your teen wants one, contact Lisa Reed.

Sunday Worship Service

Our weekly worship service will continue to be only online at this time. Watch the newsletter and your email for updates.

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) **Phone In:** 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>

Our book is Honorable and Dishonorable Women of the Bible by Crystal Reyes. It is available on Amazon Kindle.

Youth Bible Study

Tuesday evenings from 6:00-7:00 p.m. on Zoom. We will use Microsoft Teams rooms to communicate with our youth (12-older). Parents of younger children will receive communication through email. If you would like your child/ren to participate, please contact the church office or Crystal Reyes.

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** can be dropped off at the building on Mondays between 9-11 a.m. or set aside your contributions and bring them when we begin meeting again.
- 3) **Online giving:** PayPal 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: \$3,055 Weekly Average: \$4,240