



Weekly Newsletter – Sunday, June 13, 2021

Office hours are Mondays and Wednesdays, 9:00am-3:00pm.

Contact info: office@greenbankcoc.org or 302-994-3800

Vessels of Honor by F. Himmel

“Now in a large house there are not only gold and silver vessels, but also vessels of wood and of earthenware, and some to honor and some to dishonor. Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from these things, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified, useful to the Master, prepared for every good work” (2 Timothy 2:20-21).

We don't have any gold dishes at our house. We may still have a silver serving piece or two somewhere, but we never use them because they are too much trouble to keep polished. Stoneware is quite popular, but apart from that, wood and earthenware have mostly been replaced by plastic and glass. Paper is often king!

Paul's point remains. Our houses contain a variety of vessels. Some are more or less honorable; some are more or less useful. In that regard, they parallel the church. Paul's parallel, however, is not exact. A dish cannot determine or change its makeup. People can.

Verse 21 says anyone can be a vessel of honor. In practicality, Paul's three-fold description of the honored vessel becomes a three-fold checklist for us.

First, we must be cleansed/sanctified. Initially, we are cleansed by Jesus' blood (Revelation 7:14) in the washing of regeneration (Titus 3:5), a reference to baptism. However, the Apostle has a more immediate application in mind in our text. He has just been speaking of the influence of some false teachers whose views lead to ungodliness (vv.16-19). We must cleanse or purge ourselves of such (the same verb occurs in 1 Corinthians 5:7 in a similar context). Paul then continues by telling Timothy, “Now, flee from youthful lusts...” (v. 22). For a young preacher, that includes not only fleshly lusts but also those akin to his work: “temptations... to pride, to conceit, to dogmatism, to contentiousness, and to the display of his own wisdom” (Charles Erdman).

Second, we must be useful to the Master. Paul used the word *useful* to describe both Mark (2 Timothy 4:11) and Onesimus (Philemon 11). Usefulness to the Master brings to mind our servant status. It requires a willingness to accept whatever role the Master assigns, in whatever circumstances, and doing it to the best of our ability, with a single-minded focus on pleasing Him. This applies to all of us, yet Paul again makes a preacher application of the servant idea (vv.24-26).

Third, we must be prepared for every good work. Christ redeemed us to be a people “zealous for good deeds” (Titus 2:14). Honorable vessels are ready, even anxious, to go to work. They are actively looking for opportunities to serve.

Let's each ask ourselves, “Am I a vessel of honor?”

Prayer Requests

Megan & Makenna Wilkinson: We rejoice that little Makenna has arrived and is healthy. Pray for mom, Megan, who is recovering from childbirth and a previous illness.

Sandra Jones-Henry: pray for the family as they mourn the loss of her mother.

Joyce Smith: traveling this week

Sharon King: pray for relief from ongoing medical issues

Gracie Arrowood: 4-month-old undergoing chemo to prepare for bone marrow transplant.

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

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

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 and Upcoming Events

Security Team Meeting – June 19, 9:00am

All security team members should plan to attend this meeting. Anyone with questions or suggestions can contact Rory Irwin.

Teacher's Meeting – June 19, 10:00am

As we prepare to resume classes and activities for our children, we need to meet with all who are interested in assisting with Bible classes, children's church, or youth night. Our goal is 30% congregation participation. This will allow many hands on deck to strengthen, encourage, and invest in our next generation. We are looking for both seasoned teachers and teachers-in-training to be a part of this ministry. All members, including our youth, are encouraged to consider this wonderful opportunity. We need your dedication, commitment, and time. Most importantly, we need you! If you have questions, please contact Crystal Reyes.

Oasis Chorale Concert – July 10, 6:30pm

Please note the time change for the concert. The Chorale needed to modify the concert time to allow for travel to their overnight lodging. We are looking forward to having this acapella group with us. Reserve the date for this event and invite friends, family, and neighbors to attend.

Church Picnic – Save the Date!

We have secured a pavilion at Brandywine Springs Park on **Sunday, August 1st** for a church picnic. Mark your calendars and plan to join us! More info is coming soon.

Camp Manatawny

Summer youth sessions run from **June 26 – Aug 14** for youth who have completed grades 1 – 12. Go to www.manatawny.org for the weekly schedule and to register. If you have a child who wants to go to camp this summer, but needs financial assistance, contact Rick Mickowski.

Join Us for Worship

Sunday Mornings @ 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

Bible Study ONLINE

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

3 Ways to Give

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

- 1) **In Person:** You may give your contribution during our Sunday morning worship service, or drop it off at the office on Monday or Wednesday between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.
- 2) **By Mail:** Send your contribution to 511 Greenbank Road, Wilmington, DE 19808.
- 3) **Online:** 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: \$7,174 Weekly Average: \$4,805