



Weekly Newsletter – Sunday, December 5, 2021

Office hours are Mon/Wed/Fri 9:00am-3:00pm.

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

Where's Your Excitement? by Bruce Stoker

Have you seen that video of the grandfather who received a gift of adult-sized, light-up sneakers? As he opened the shoebox, he seemed rather underwhelmed by the lime green shoes. But when the soles started flashing, he jumped in his seat and then he jumped out of his seat. "Oh! Get out of town!" he yelled. Obviously excited about the gift, he showed the blinking shoes around the room, swatting a few of his family members to get them to flash again. "A dream come true!" he told them.

Such a reaction to such a little thing. New shoes. Big deal.

Where do you find your excitement? I would hope that it's in something bigger, better, more important than shoes or sports or politics. I would hope that you might find that kind of excitement in your faith, in your relationship with God, in your salvation through Jesus. Sure, you'd expect that from a preacher, but don't you think we ought to have some kind of excitement or enthusiasm in our lives simply because we know God?

In our Sunday evening Bible study, we've been following a video series about Paul's letter to the church in Philippi. When we got to Philippians 3, the preacher in the video, Matt Chandler, pointed out the excitement and enthusiasm different people have expressed because of their relationship with God. He described it as a passion or a desire to have more of God. He reminded us of David's desire for God in Psalms 63:1, "O God, you are my God, earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my body longs for you, in a dry and weary land where there is no water." He referred to several Christian writers, from the first century and into modern times, who wrote about their passion and desire for God, including John Owen, a Puritan theologian in the 1600s who wrote in *The Glory of Christ*:

"On Christ's glory I would fix all my thoughts and desires, and the more I see of the glory of Christ, the more the painted beauties of this world will wither in my eyes, and I will be more and more crucified to this world. It will become to me like something dead and putrid, impossible for me to enjoy."

Chandler referred to these thoughts about desiring God, both from the Scriptures and from Christians throughout the history of the church, to set the tone for our study of Philippians 3. We can see this same passion in verses 8-11 where Paul wrote:

"What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in him... I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead."

Then Chandler asked, "Who talks like that?" Who describes the good things in their life as being "dead and putrid" in comparison to God? Who looks at the best this world has to offer and thinks of it as "rubbish" when compared to knowing Christ? Why don't we hear that kind of language today? Perhaps we don't talk about our passion for Christ because we don't live passionately for Christ.

Living passionately for Jesus isn't a matter of singing with enthusiasm in the worship service or wearing T-shirts with Christian slogans or flooding our Facebook pages with inspirational quotes. It's a matter of being transformed in the way we think, speak, and act because we have received the most amazing gift of all: Jesus. When you get Jesus, don't you want more and more of Jesus? What do you do to get more of Jesus? You pursue Jesus, and the more you pursue him, the more you tell others about Jesus. That's a life of passion and excitement.

Do you think Grandpa put his new light-up sneakers back in the box and only took them out once a week? No; he probably put them on and went out for a walk and showed them off to everyone he met.

Where's your excitement? Where's your passion? How would you describe your desire to know God more and more? Is that your desire? How would we know? Would you look like Grandpa and his new light-up sneakers?

Praise & Prayer Requests

Joyce Smith: recovering from the flu.

Sharon Rood: receiving hospice care; she is Wilma Blue's sister.

Lee & Linda Phipps: they are now at home, but are on oxygen as they continue to recover from Covid-19.

Mia: 2-year-old having heart surgery on 12/10 at DuPont Children's Hospital.

Spanish Ministry: pray for encouragement and growth in this new ministry.

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

Greenbank missions: Westerholm (Mozambique), Borfay (Liberia), Agbeta (Ghana), Camp Manatawny, Reflect Campus Missions/BHC. Pray for a new mission work that reflects the interest of our members.

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

Annual Christmas Party for Adults

Our Christmas party is this Saturday, Dec. 11 at 7:00pm. This year we are serving only desserts and beverages which will be catered. If you have not signed up to attend, please do so today. We need an accurate count to provide to the caterer. We will be doing our customary gift exchange. Please bring a wrapped gift for your own gender: man or woman. Spending limit is \$20. We hope you all will join us for dessert, gift exchange, and fun!

Holiday Care Package

We are putting together a care package to send to Marc Brasefield and those he's stationed with in Romania. We have some Christmas cards we will be sending. Please take a few minutes before or after services today to sign them. We are also in need of donated baked goods (cookies, brownies, etc.) to send. We are making a special effort to get something to Marc by Christmas, but we also want to make this an ongoing encouragement while he is deployed. If you are able to help, see Shelley Irwin.

Winterfest

It is time for Winterfest registration! If you would like to learn more about the Winterfest trip for your teen, please let us know. If you have already expressed an interest in attending, pick up your registration form and payment schedule today. Do not let the cost of the trip keep your teen from going. Financial assistance is available. See Boyd or Lisa Reed for more information.

Sunday Meeting Times

In-Person Bible Classes for All Ages @ 9:30 a.m. including a Spanish-speakers class (adults).

In-Person Worship Service – English & Spanish @ 10:30 a.m.

The English service is live streamed with 3 ways to connect:

- 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. You do NOT need a Facebook account to view the service through our website.
- 3) **Phone In:** (301) 715-8592 Enter Meeting ID 889 4601 8992

BIBLE STUDIES

In Person – Wednesdays @ 7pm – John's Epistles led by George Kirkland.

Online – Wednesdays @ 7pm – Proverbs led by Domingo Reyes. Connect as you would on Sunday.

Spanish (In-Person)– Thursdays @ 6:30 pm – Contact Domingo Reyes for more information.

Ladies – 2nd Saturday each month @ 11am on Zoom – “A Woman Who Doesn't Quit” led by Crystal Reyes.

Men – 3rd Saturday each month @ 10am at Greenbank led by Mark Ray.

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: Attendance: 129

Contribution: \$3,671

Weekly Average: \$4,869