



Weekly Newsletter – Sunday, January 1, 2023

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

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

Dedication by J. Launius

What does it mean to “dedicate” oneself to something? When applied to an individual, it means to devote to a particular subject or purpose. In a religious sense, it means to devote to the worship of a divine being, specifically to God. It can also be defined as setting apart for specific, sacred uses with solemn rites. There are many instances of dedication found in the Old Testament story.

The mother of Samson was instructed by the Angel to dedicate the boy to God’s service with the “Nazarite” vow. The vow, as described in Numbers 6, laid specific rites to abstain from strong drink, not to cut the hair, and refrain from touching the dead (Numbers 6:1-21). Though the original vow was intended to be a temporary dedication, Samson, along with Samuel and John the Baptist, were to keep the vow for their lifetimes (1 Samuel 1:10-11; Luke 1:13-15). As we consider these three examples, we may very well see the foresight of inspiration for Christian dedication.

When we obey the Gospel, we make a commitment to the Lord and are to dedicate ourselves to His service. “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.” (Romans 12:1).

This personal sacrifice and dedication to the cause of Christ is now a lifestyle rather than something we apply only for an hour on Sunday morning. We’ve all known people who wholeheartedly dedicate their lives to a cause that they are passionate about. We need to be just as passionate about our Christianity and live it to the fullest every day. Unlike the original Nazarite vow which lasted for only a specific time and then expired, our Christian service will have only one expiration date as described by Revelation 2:10, “Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.”

Praise & Prayer Requests

Lillie West: additional surgery will be performed on Jan. 6.

LaKeisha Smith & family: dealing with health concerns and other challenging situations.

Marlin Johnson: pray for health and strength as he begins the process of finding a kidney donor.

King family: pray for health and healing.

Willie D. McLaughlin family: his mother passed away in Kittrell, NC.

Jane Phillips: recovering from a bad cold.

Bob, Carlton & Montana Reece: all have the flu and Covid; pray for healing.

Robin Johnson: needs exploratory surgery; pray for guidance and peace.

Shelley Irwin: undergoing chemotherapy.

Kristin Farraday: has breast cancer; undergoing chemo to reduce tumors before having surgery.

Ed & Sue Maynard: continue to pray for Ed’s health to improve and strength for Sue as she cares for him.

Doug Essex: health and various other needs; **Ken Essex:** health continues to worsen.

Bartschi families: struggling with health and other concerns.

Greenbank church: Godly guidance for our elders, minister, deacons, and ministry leaders.

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.

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 Events

New Adult Bible Study Begins This Week

Boyd Reed will lead our adult class in a 4-week series on How to Study the Bible. These lessons are geared to help us learn different study tools and how to use them to enhance our understanding of Scripture.

Baby Shower – Sunday, January 8 – 12:30pm

We are hosting a baby shower for new members, Jessica Ice & Hunter Brons, to welcome their first baby who is due in late January. All are invited to attend this event (yes, men too!) which will be held in the fellowship room following our morning service. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to Lisa Reed today. Jessica's baby registry can be found at this link: <https://www.babylist.com/baby-jessica-ice>

Annual Congregational Meeting – Sunday, January 15

Our annual meeting will be held immediately following our worship services on Jan. 15. All members are asked to attend. For those who cannot attend in person, you will be able to connect online as you would for worship.

Food Pantry Needs

We need more volunteers for food distribution on Thursday evenings, and we also need additional van drivers to do food pickups on weekday mornings. Sign-up sheets have been posted on the bulletin board. If you have questions about either need, speak with Wilma Blue or Sue Maynard.

2023 Communion Preparation

There are several months still available on our list for communion preparation. Please stop by the bulletin board to sign up. If you have not done this before and would like to learn how, speak with Susan Johnson.

Birth Announcement

Congratulations to former members, Tim & Rebecca Tucker, on the birth of their first grandchild! Sadie Rose was born on Dec. 17 at 8:11pm. She was 7 lbs 3 oz and 18 ¾ inches. Congrats, also, to new parents Sam & Leann (Tucker) Thomas!

SUNDAY MEETING TIMES

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

In-Person Worship Services – 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

Mid-Week (hybrid class) – Wednesdays @ 7pm – Study of Romans; hybrid class (in-person & online) Facebook Live or this Zoom Link: <https://zoom.us/j/98664842526?pwd=Rkp6Z3VYSGZpcjY4cXZWNjd1djNpQTog>

Spanish – Thursdays @ 6:30 pm at Greenbank. Contact Domingo Reyes for more information.

Ladies – 2nd Saturday each month @ 11am on Zoom – led by Crystal Reyes. Contact Crystal for the Zoom link.

Men – 3rd Saturday each month @ 10am at Greenbank led by Paul King.

Young Ladies – 3rd Saturday each month @ 11am on Zoom led by Eileen Hence. Contact Eileen for the Zoom link.

SMALL GROUPS

Bear/Glasgow – 2nd & 4th Sundays @ 2pm – hosted by George & Sherry Kirkland and Walter & Susan Johnson.

Married Couples – 1st Tuesday each month @ 7pm in the upstairs classroom – led by Domingo & Crystal Reyes.

Newport – 2nd & 4th Sundays @ 12:30pm – hosted by Mike & Judy Barker.

Singles – 2nd & 4th Tuesdays – hybrid class (in person & Zoom); current study – “So, You Want to be Like Christ”

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87670702282?pwd=Sy8xYTAyZThkRHpqY1hmbzYrZk4ydz09>

Teens – 1st Friday each month @ 7pm in the upstairs classroom; led by Domingo Reyes

3 Ways to Give

- 1) **In Person:** Place your offering in one of the wooden boxes located in the back of the auditorium.
- 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: 121 Contribution: \$6,762