



Truth for Today

November 22, 2020

1500 Wellman Road | Shenandoah | 77384 | 281.367.2099

Published for the members and guests of the Woodlands church of Christ

Things COVID Retaught Me.

By Don Hooton

2020 has brought its share of hardship on everyone. Getting the Coronavirus myself was not the worst thing in the world but it was as frustrating as I imagined. I am grateful I am recovering and on the mend. Not everyone has been so fortunate. It reminded me that when difficult times come, some suffer more than others and the unevenness of how that trouble is shared often catch people by surprise and challenge faith in others. But for most, I suppose, it brings well a needed curve of learning. It is like hitting the pause button to reevaluate and reprioritize what really matters to us. These are some things I have learned.

Things fail – people matter. All throughout the pandemic, from ZOOM to LIVESTREAM to MASKS, nothing ever worked 100% as it should. While our reliance upon technology made much of the recent weeks – and the previous months – feel so much less isolating, there was only so much it could do. However, it did some. If we had had none of those things, even when they fail from time to time, counting the blessing of their presence should propel us through this storm we are still trying to navigate. But what it still shows is that we cannot do that alone. **People matter.** We can see that easily manifested in the way God loved (John 3:16) and continues to love (Romans 5:6-8). And when you are disconnected from the touch and presence of the people you love, what we should have remembered yesterday - *that people matter* – we remember today.

Caring cannot be taught – it can only be chosen. Many people have reached out to make sure we were doing okay and several brought food when we asked. And truthfully, some reached out that I had not heard from in many moons and it brought many smiles. It reminds me that we are told to be like Jesus who went about doing good everywhere (Acts 10:38) – not for the flattery and not under compulsion. Certainly, we can be taught what Jesus did to manifest compassion and care; it was certainly something that He mastered. But His mastery of it did not come from a thing that had been taught to Him – but from being what He has always chosen to be. The same is true for us. “Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience...” (Colossians 3:12).

Sorrows multiply – and so should prayer. As the adage says,

“When it rains, it pours.” When you sit powerless to help others because of what constricts you, the multiplying of people’s hardships seems to never stop, and hearts feel heavy burdens. The best solution we can offer on their behalf is and has always been the best offering, prayer. Especially when you are capable of no more than that, praying is what we should do when sorrows multiply. “Pray without ceasing” (1Thessalonians 5:17) should be the Christian’s call for every day – and every minute – when you think you can do nothing. Yet the point is that prayer is the **Some**Thing that can do for **Every**Thing. While sorrows will continue even when we pray, prayer will help us forge ahead until the day the Lord comes again (c.f. Romans 8:18-25).

No one is exempt – and humility allows us to accept it. Catching a cold is something we have all accepted and now I see that with COVID. And it has retaught me again what it means that “There is none righteous, not even one.” It was not written by the Psalmist when he was mad at the world or the world was mad at him – but when he was honest about what was in the sons of men around him – not just the fool (Psalm 14:1-7) – and himself. When the Apostle quotes it, Paul was not trying to establish there is evil in the other man’s heart – he was acknowledging what was in his – we as well as every man’s. Being sick is the great equalizer that allows us to be humbled and compassionate when others are as well. The same thing should happen in our own self-awareness of our own sin because that is the only path to real joy in salvation. Such awareness would then help us, like in illness, handle the shortcomings of others: with grace and mercy in justice, “each one looking to yourself lest you too be tempted” (Galatians 6:1).

I can stop and change – and hope will make me do it. Most of life operates on tight schedules and deadlines. However, this pandemic has proved that life will be okay if some nonessential tasks are completed a bit more slowly. This time allowed many of us to reprioritize what is important because the reality is that some things really can wait. It is okay to slow down. It is okay to change the way things are done. It is okay because the hope we have wanted to realize was shielded behind the dust of our busy lives. Christians should “seek first the kingdom of God” with every assurance that God will provide their every need (Matthew 6:33) but not because we are worked to the bone – but because the things we hope to accomplish are to affect the future of hope in myself, in my family and in my world.

NEWS & NOTES

UPDATED PRAYER LIST

- **Kathy Austin's** second knee procedure will soon be scheduled.
- **George Chapman** has fever and sinusitis.
- **LouAnn Chapman** is better after three weeks of sinus difficulty.
- **Parker Henss** will be transferring to Fort Riley, KS. Prayers for encouragement and safe travel.
- **Tracey Hooton** is still home sick.
- **Linda Peterson** still trying to manage pain after her procedure.
- **Rich Shewmake** improved enough to come home.
- **Jon Winfield** is in Houston Northwest (1960) in ICU on a ventilator due to COVID-19. He is some better but prayers fervently needed.
- **Carmen Bettons'** older cousin, Gloria Richardson, in MO and with familing health and pain.
- **Zach Birkner's** mother has been diagnosed with breast cancer. Biopsy on Thursday to confirm. Pray for good result.
- **Mickey Chandler's** grandmother, Nora Chandler, had surgery on Wednesday after breaking her hip that was complicated by an aneurysm. Prayers appreciated.
- **Angela Copeland's** mother Ann Loring had knee replacement surgery last week and is recovering.
- **Karen Dargan's** parents' Bobby and Vera Thompson have special medical concerns and Karen has been caring for them. Steve has also returned to Florida to assist in their care.
- **Tricia Davis'** parents are sick and getting tested this week.
- **Livian Ford's** sister, Nikkie, is 27 weeks in her pregnancy and combatting gestational diabetes
- **Janica St. John's** brother, Tim, and six aunts who contracted COVID about two weeks ago.
- **Stuart Jones'** mom, Marcia Jones, fell recently and had stitches placed at the ER
- **Morgan Potter's** mother, Jackie, is doing well in her home recovery for another week with pending radiation treatments ahead.
- **Connor Foster,** boyfriend of the Preuss' daughter Lyndsey, is home in Austin with parents and

- on a slow road of recovery, both physical and emotional.
- **Ed Brand,** while engaging in his preaching somewhere between Nairobi and Nyahururu, Kenya is in the hospital to receive treatment for an inflamed gallbladder and high blood pressure now. He is hopeful that he can fly home soon.
 - **HOLIDAY TRAVELLING.** Over the holiday, several will be travelling so be mindful of all of those who will be to stay safe and well
 - **UPDATE:** We are watching COVID updates and upticks in the numbers. While eight of our members in the last two weeks have tested positive for the COVID virus, we are fortunate to only have had about fifteen since this all began for us in March – which we are grateful to God for. We will continue to urge mask wearing for everyone's protection during our assemblies and will do our very best to follow guidelines to keep everyone safe – as well as following up on the application of sanitizing procedures and shield from BioPure.

IN-PERSON SCHEDULE (*Seating is based on pew capacities to maintain safe seating distances. Please follow recommended wearing of face masks, especially when singing.*)

- **ONE SUNDAY SERVICE—TODAY, 11/15** at 10:00 a.m. (Lord willing).
- **WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE CLASS, 7:00 PM.** Adult class is "BECOMING MORE LIKE JESUS" and children classes will meet in their rooms to resume the curriculum series.
- **TUESDAY CLASS, 10:30 AM.** "FROM BONDAGE TO FREEDOM: the story of Israel (from Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers) **WILL RESUME 12/1**
- **SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASSES, Beginning 12/6, 9:00 AM.**
 - We will resume Bible Classes for all ages on Sundays on 12/6 at 9:00 a.m. Our new schedule will be 9:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. (worship) on Sundays.

VIRTUAL SCHEDULE

LiveStream events are still InPerson events

and replayable on our YouTube Channel

- **Worship** | Sundays, 10:00 a.m.
- **Adult Class** | Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m.
- **Adult Class** | Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.

MEETINGS, EVENTS, SINGINGS & STUDIES

- **2:52 Kids Class** on first Sundays [2-12] | 12/6 4:00 p.m. (classroom 9)
- **TEEN BIBLE CLASS [12-18]** | Bible Class on First Sundays | 12/6, 4:00 p.m. (classroom 5)
- **BUILDING STRONG FAMILIES** Bible Class on first Sundays | 12/6, 4:00 p.m. (auditorium)
- **TEEN HOME DEVO [12-18]** | Sat., 11/21, TBA at the Suarez's.
- **YOUNG ADULTS STUDY** | TBA
- **ADULTS STUDY [30/40]** | (TBA)
- **2020 EVENTS**
 - Area-Wide Singing | Sat., 3/6
 - Gospel Meeting with Ed Brand | 3/28-31
 - VBS | 6/22-25* (Tue-Fri)
 - Youth Lectures with Caleb Churchill & Andy Harrison | 8/7-8
 - Gospel Meeting with Mike Wilson | 9/26-29

WEEKLY BIBLE READING

Week Forty-seven(beginning 11/22)

- READ Psalm 46, 96, 146
- MEMORIZE Psalm 46:1-3

Attendance	InPerson Average Last-Month	Virtual Average Last-Month	InPerson Last Week	Virtual Views Last Week
Sunday Adult Class	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Sunday Worship AM	121	50	53	50
Tuesday Adult Class	10	23		
Sunday Worship PM	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Wednesday PM	59	30	37	26

SUNDAYS	10:00 AM 11/22	10:00 AM 11/29	CONTACT INFORMATION
Foyer 1-Welcome	Jay Dunlin	Dwight Haas	<i>Elders</i>
Foyer 2-Ushering	Leo Betancourt	Jonathan Chandler	Keith Arrants 936.582.1244
SongLeading	Jonathan Chandler	Norman Davis	George Chapman 281.298.1303
1 st Prayer	Nathan Shows	Harvey Goble	Norman Davis 832.326.2966
Scripture	Michael Harvey	Josh Suarez	Don Hooton 936.443.6230
Scripture Reading	Hebrews 11:1-16	Luke 1:26-33	<i>Deacons</i>
Communion_Lead	Dwight Osteen	Troy French	Adam Bohanan 281.798.1093
Preaching	Don Hooton	Don Hooton	Brian Clark 281.513.0706
2 nd Prayer	Brian Clark	Jay Dulin	Gary LeBlanc 281.292.0262
Announcements	Keith Arrants	Don Hooton	Craig Preuss 832.477.0578
Sanitize-Bathrooms After	Osteens	Hootons	<i>Evangelists</i>
Sanitize-Pews After	Shows	Shewmake	Don Hooton 936.443.6230
Building Open/Lockup	Bohanan	Hooton	<i>Website</i>
Sound 1	Chris Latson	Chris Latson	www.woodlandschurchofchrist.org
Communion Prep	G&L Chapman	G&L Chapman	<i>Office Phone</i>
Counting Contribution	George Chapman & Nathan Shows	Norman Davis & Timothy Chandler	281.367.2099
WEDNESDAYS	7:00 PM 11/25	7:00 PM 12/2	<i>Church Email</i>
SongLeading	Ross Randow		woodlandschurchofchrist@gmail.com
Invitation/Talk	Dwight Haas		
Prayer	Gerald Hodges		
Announcements	Don Hooton		