

## Remember in Prayer:

### The Sick:

**Billy Creek**, Dorothy Shaver's brother, has improved and has been moved out of ICU to a room at Skyline Medical Center.

**Carolyn Lowder** is scheduled to have surgery on her neck and to have a carpal tunnel release on Wednesday.

**Johnny Adams**, Anita Carman's uncle, received the results of a biopsy which shows his cancer has returned and is inoperable. He is currently evaluating treatment options.

**Jeremy Condor**, Xenna's grandson, is in Vanderbilt Medical Center undergoing treatment for an iron deficiency.

**Donald Lockamon**, Billie Keller's brother-in-law, had a heart attack and is currently undergoing treatment at Rex Hospital, 4420 Lake Boone Trail, Raleigh, NC 27607.

Continue to remember those recovering from sickness, surgery and those dealing with cancer or chronic illness, including **Brownie Spicer, Karen Shelton, Xenna Gooch, Burton Brown (Bettye's brother), Cecelia O'Brien, Lucille Hall (Ethel's mother), Jean & James Tanksley and John Pryor (Clara Burkett's son).**

## News & Notes:

--**Group 1** will meet today in the Library after the morning service.

--If you find **songbooks** in need of repair, please place them on a pew in the lobby.

## Boats and Other Floating Things

1. What king's household was carried in the only ferryboat mentioned in the Bible?  
2 Samuel 19:16-18
2. What was the material used in making the basket the infant Moses was floating in?  
Exodus 2:3
3. What nervous prophet actually requested that he be thrown off a storm-tossed ship at sea?
4. What was Jesus doing when a storm struck the boat carrying him and his disciples?  
Luke 8:22-24
5. What was the name of the island where Paul and his companions landed after the shipwreck? Acts 28:1
6. Who joined with wicked King Ahaziah of Israel in building a navy to go to Tarshish?  
2 Chronicles 20:35-57

**Answers:** 1. David's; 2. Bulrushes daubed with slime & pitch; 3. Jonah (1:4-16); 4. Sleeping; 5. Malta (or Melita); 6. King Jehoshaphat of Judah

**ELDERS:** Doug Driver  
Johnny Felker  
**DEACONS:** Ralph Brown  
Mark Claypool



**Service Times**

**SUNDAY**  
Bible Study—9:00 am  
Worship—9:55 am & 6:00 pm

**WEDNESDAY**  
Bible Study 7:00 pm

# Perry Heights Weekly Bulletin

Perry Heights church of Christ  
423 Donelson Pike  
Nashville, TN 37214  
(615) 883-3118

*"...let us consider how we may encourage one another"  
Heb. 10:24*

March 15, 2009

## Sometimes You Land in the Rough Play It Where It Lies

Before Tiger Woods, there was Bobby Jones. A generation ago, he was the best golfer ever to play the game. Some contend there will never be anyone to match his feats in golf. At the prime of his life and his game, Jones was stricken with a crippling disease that eventually took his life. When he could no longer play the game he had mastered, he was asked how he felt about it. His reply, "I have to play it where it lies."

You have to know something about golf to appreciate his answer. When you hit a golf ball, where it lands is the spot from which you must hit your next shot. For instance, if you are on the tee and you wind up and with a mighty swing send it sailing ten yards down the fairway, that is the spot from which you must hit your second shot. To circumvent this rule, many golfers use a "mulligan" whereby you get to take another shot without counting it the first. It's kind of a gentleman's agreement to cheat.

If your ball happens to land in the rough (the high grass, weeds and trees that line the fairway), you must hit it from the rough. You're not supposed to pick it up and place it neatly on the fairway; you have to "hit it where it lies."

Bobby Jones reminds us that life sometimes hands us some "rough" times. It would be nice if you could "hit it in the fairway" every time, but that doesn't happen, even in golf. As we live, we learn that there will be fair weather days and foul. There will be good times and bad, heart joy and heart break. Just about the time you think you're at your peak and nothing can go wrong, the ground can fall out from under you. How Jones handled his disappointing and disabling disease speaks volumes about his character. I do not know what kind of spiritual background he had, but he sure learned something about how to graciously handle adversity.

**Facing Adversity.** Did not Job, that marvelous character from the Bible, teach us the same lesson? Talk about adversity, Job excels us all! Yet, he did not do as his wife advised to "curse God and die" (2:9). Though he struggled with the questions that plague us when adversity strikes (he didn't understand why it was all happening), he ultimately rebounded to even greater faith and prosperity. He chose to praise God and live.

--continued on page 3

# Preacher's Pen points

## Getting Rooted by Daily Bible Reading & Study, #3



*If we are to bear fruit for the Lord, we must get our roots down deep into the word.  
Reading and studying God's word each day provides the strength  
we need to become more fruitful.*

\*\*\*\*\*

### **It will help us meet the \_\_\_\_\_ of daily life.**

It will give us assurance and peace in times of \_\_\_\_\_.

*Those who love Thy law have great \_\_\_\_\_, and nothing causes them to stumble.  
(Ps. 119:165)*

### **It will assure us of God's love when life is \_\_\_\_\_.**

*Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?... But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who \_\_\_\_\_ us. (Rom. 8:35-37)*

### **It will give meaning and joy to our \_\_\_\_\_ existence.**

*I have inherited Thy testimonies forever, for they are the \_\_\_\_\_ of my heart. (Ps. 119:111)*

### **It will give us comfort in times of \_\_\_\_\_.**

*For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore \_\_\_\_\_ one another with these words. (1 Thes. 4:16-18)*

### **It will give us hope in times of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.**

*Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil; for Thou art \_\_\_\_\_ me; Thy rod and Thy staff, they \_\_\_\_\_ me. (Ps. 23:4)*

**Take time every day to hear a word from God; and remember that by being rooted in the word of God, we gain the divine help and strength we need to live a fruitful life.**

--continued from front page

Back to the golf analogy. . . One of the greatest differences between the professional and amateur is what they can do when they find themselves in adverse conditions. The pro can take a poor shot that has landed in the most terrible place imaginable and then hit a shot defying description and land it on the green. The amateur whacks around, takes his 7 on a par 3, or may even pick up his ball and go home. He might get so aggravated as to cuss, wrap a club around a tree, or throw it into the water. He has not learned to deal with adversity.

Too often we throw up our hands in despair when the best practice is to raise them in prayer. Paul and Silas teach us that from a Philippian jail. They had been beaten severely and thrown under the jail. Rather than filled with despair, the air was filled with prayers and hymns (Acts 16:25). The other prisoners heard them and so must we. The next time you're in the middle of some of the worst "rough" imaginable, let the air be filled with prayers and hymns to God.

Just as the amateur golfer will rarely be about to work out of "impossible" lies, we will find ourselves in "impossible" situations in life. In such cases, God is the Professional and we're going to have to leave it in His capable hands. When we are tempted to give up in despair, we must let Him "make the shot." In His providence, He may decide to let us "tough it out" longer than we desire. That's when faith has to kick in.

**You Don't Know the "Why".** God let Abraham take several days to journey to the mountain upon which he was to sacrifice Isaac (Gen. 22). God didn't let him off the hook until the last moment. There's no use trying to figure out God's timing on anything, especially how long adversity will last or how many things will pile up at one time. Just about the time you think you've got about all you can handle, another difficulty comes roaring in. Whoever says, "Troubles come in threes" is wrong. Sometimes they come in sevens and tens.

We must learn to put our trust in the Lord. Frequently, we may find ourselves having gone as far as we can go, having done all that we can do, having said all that we can say, and cried all that we can cry. Then we have to "take it to the Lord and leave it there" as the old song urges. Peter put it this way: "*casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you*" (1 Peter 5:7). Just prior to that he said, "*therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God that he may exalt you at the proper time.*" (v. 6) When your hand shakes with fear, uncertainty, and weakness, put it in the hand of Almighty God, who in His good time and His good way will lift you up. It's the only way to live, really live. Whatever our reality is, rough or smooth, let us learn to "play it where it lies."

--Gary Ogden, *Biblical Insights, Vol. 8,*