Tates Creek Current

The Heart and Hands of Jesus

April 2015
Tates Creek Christian Church exists to win people to Christ (evangelism), build up believers in faith, knowledge, and service (encouragement), to help those in need (benevolence), and to stand up for Christian values in the community (witness).
“The Heart & Hands of Jesus” is the title of our next sermon series. Jesus said, “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.” (Mark 10:45) This verse highlights the heart of Jesus. Acts 10:38 says of Jesus, “He went about doing good.”

From time to time I am asked the question, “What is expected of me to be a member of Tates Creek Christian Church?” I like that question, and I am always ready with the answer. The expectations for a member of Tates Creek are quite simple. There are three (of course): The first expectation is to spend an hour in worship each week. Hebrews 10:25 says, “Not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.” The second expectation is to spend one hour in study with a group of people whether Sunday school or Small group. These folks become our church family. The third expectation is to spend at least one hour in service. It is through Christian service that we demonstrate the Heart & Hands of Jesus.

I have been blessed, all my life, to be around Christian people who demonstrate the Heart & Hands of Jesus. I remember a wonderful example from my first ministry. Coming to the church was a very poor lady who rarely bathed. Some of the dear godly Christian ladies of the church would sit with her on Sunday mornings. Another godly Christian lady would take this poor lady to her home and provide her a bath. Those precious ladies demonstrated the Heart & Hands of Jesus Christ.

My Dad and Mom have demonstrated the Heart & Hands of Jesus throughout their years. I remember years ago when a fellow from Mexico stayed with us. We called him, “Mexico Joe.” He worked alongside us day in and day out. He stayed with us in our house from August through Christmas. While he was with us, we gave him a Spanish Bible. He really loved his Spanish Bible. On the Sunday before he left to go back to his home in Mexico, he was baptized. Wow! That certainly was a great day! I remember the day Dad and I drove him to Lexington to catch the bus back to Mexico. We did fairly well with our good-byes. However, when we got within a couple miles of home, my Dad started crying. The only other time I ever witnessed Dad cry was when he buried his parents. Dad really had a heart for helping people. Do we have a heart for helping people, Christian or non-Christian? Do we have a heart like Jesus?

Jesus went about doing good! ~Tommy

tommy@tatescreek.org

 Lexington, KY 40502 www.tatescreek.org
I read an article, recently, about a school principal who replaced murals in the school which depicted such people as Mother Teresa and Gandhi. The pictures were replaced with murals of J.K. Rowling and Oprah. Now the point of the murals was to inspire the school’s young people by portraying heroic and influential persons they could look up to. Well, there’s no doubt J.K. Rowling has impacted our culture through her Harry Potter books, but in no way is she in the same class as Mother Teresa. So also, Oprah could be considered an inspiring character in our culture today, but she doesn’t hold a candle to Gandhi. Though there are many, the one glaring difference I see in these personalities is that Mother Teresa and Gandhi lived impoverished lives so they could make the lives of others better. Oprah and J.K. Rowling made their own lives better by receiving the accolades of others. I ask you, which two best illustrated what Jesus did? I remember the words of an old song which said:

He left the splendor of heaven, knowing His destiny
Was the lonely hill of Golgotha, There to lay down
His life for me. If that isn’t Love, The ocean is dry,
There’s no stars in the sky, And the sparrow can’t fly

If that isn’t Love, Then heaven’s a myth,
There’s no feeling like, this If that isn’t love.

In John 10:10 Jesus said: “I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.” Jesus impoverished Himself even to the point of death that we might not just have life, but have it to the fullest extent of its meaning. The question must be then, if our lives were a mural would they fit better among the murals of Gandhi and Mother Teresa or would they more closely resemble Oprah and J.K. Rowling? Again John’s gospel tells us what Jesus thinks about it. In John 8:31 He said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples.” There can be no misunderstanding what Jesus meant by that. He meant it in not just a doctrinal sense, but a practical one as well. Jesus was ALL about other people. His compassion extended to their physical as well as spiritual needs, and He has commissioned us to continue that compassion as His hands and feet. His hands fed the multitudes and His feet walked to where the needs were the greatest, even to the cross of Calvary, and that is what He has called our hands and feet to do. The truth is, we are each painting a mural as we live our lives. Where does your mural hang today?

In Him,  
~Bro. Kim
kimbeckwith@tatescreek.org
Cold Hands...Warm Heart?

We have heard this phrase many times. It originated in the early 1900’s in England with the idea that a person with cold hands must have a warm and generous heart inside. Actually, the outside temperature of our skin has nothing to do with our generous spirit, but there may be some truth in this phrase if we look deeply enough. Perhaps a person who uses his/her hands to do hard work can have a generous spirit inside. People with a “warm heart” are willing to have cold hands, dirty hands, calloused hands, busy hands, clean hands, open hands, hands that hold other hands, and the list can go on and on. Hands can be an expression of our heart, both good and bad.

The Bible has several things to say about hands. For instance, in Psalm 24:4-5, we are reminded that “He who has clean hands and a pure heart...will receive a blessing from the Lord.” In Proverbs 10:4, we are told that “Lazy hands make a man poor, but diligent hands bring wealth.” In I Thessalonians 4:11-12 we are encouraged to “…work with your hands, just as we told you, so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody.”

The Bible also has a lot to say about the heart. Joshua 22:5b warns, “...to walk in all His ways, to obey his commands, to hold fast to Him and to serve Him with all your heart and all your soul.” In Ephesians 6:6b, we read, “...doing the will of God from your heart. Serve wholeheartedly...” I also like the admonition in Colossians 3:23 where we read, “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men...”

So, there are parallels between the hands and the heart. We can see a person’s heart through the work of their hands! That can be good or bad if those hands are used to hurt and not heal. Are we the hands and heart of Jesus in our daily walk with Him? Do people see the heart and hands of Jesus in our conversation, in our lifestyle and in our willingness to step outside of our comfort zone to help others? If you look at the picture above, you will see those hands are calloused. That says something about that person, doesn’t it? What do our hands say?

~ Don
don@tatescreek.org
“Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”

Philippians 2:4-8 (ESV)

Jesus was a servant. In fact, Jesus was the model servant. As this scripture from Philippians tells us, he was a servant even to the point of death on a cross. Jesus was all about others. He literally spent his life for other people. My question for you today is: How much time are you spending on others?

I think the word “spending” is the right word in this context. When we choose to serve like Jesus, we have to choose to SPEND time, money, and energy towards those we are serving. It costs us something. I think this is part of what Jesus was talking about in Matthew 16:24-26 (ESV):

“Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul?”

I think Jesus is calling us to make a grand transaction. We give up control, we become obedient to God, we SPEND our lives in service to Him, and in return we receive eternal life. Giving our life to Christ, being baptized, and serving in the church are all part of this process of giving our lives completely to God.

I challenge you to make this part of your prayers each day: “Lord, spend me on You today.” John 3:30 gives us another great way to pray this prayer. “He must increase, I must decrease.”

This transaction is a process that happens over time. As we mature in our faith, we are able to give more and more of ourselves over to God. It is painful at times, but what a beautiful exchange it is!

In His Service, ~Mike
mike@tatescreek.org
Being Part of the Body

“Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.” Ephesians 4:15-16 (NIV)

One of the most striking things I hear students say today is that they are sore or injured when they come to a church meeting. The 24/7 demands of competitive sports have put our youth’s bodies under a high amount of stress, to the point that seeing injuries, even in middle school, is common. Not only does it hurt the students physically, but they also still enjoy the sport and wish they could continue to compete. The truth of the matter is, though, even if a small part of the body is hurt and not functioning, they can’t do even the simplest tasks in their sport.

Take the wrist, for example. In order to move and rotate our hands the way we can, it takes no less than 13 bones working in sync. If one of those bones break or is separated from its ligament, then we can no longer use our hand. Only when all of the parts are healed and working properly can we use our hand to play sports, eat, read, write, or even wave hello.

This is why Paul uses the image of the body so frequently to teach us what the Church is. We aren’t meant to attend church merely to be around other Christians. He could use the image of a bowl of fruit laying on a table for that. Paul wants us to see that the Church needs to be in motion. The last words he leaves us with in Ephesians 4:16 is that the body is built up “as each part does its work.” A body that isn’t moving isn’t any use to anyone, and eventually withers. Jesus is our head, though, and He has commanded us to use our bodies to be his “hands” in spreading the Gospel to everyone!

Let’s lift Him up together! ~ Brad
brad@tatescreek.org
Has anyone really served you in a way that truly required sacrifice from them? Have you really ever served someone else in this way? I’m not talking about finding a way to serve someone in a way that it was more about how you felt afterward than it was about the person you were serving. I’m talking about a time when someone really got into your life trenches with you. A time that your heart broke for someone and you put aside your own comfort, schedule, finances, and thoughts to love that person through good times and bad.

To be the hands and feet of Jesus means you aren’t just looking for ways to serve that you would enjoy. It really doesn’t even mean finding ways to serve that fit just perfectly into your schedule. To be the hands and feet of Jesus requires sacrifice. It requires time and resources spent on things of which you may never see the benefit. To help with this idea let’s think about some examples of Jesus serving from some very familiar children’s stories. When Jesus was talking to a Samaritan woman, his team was surprised. When Jesus went out of his way to heal the 10 lepers, it wasn’t just crazy, it only resulted in one person returning to say thank you. When Jesus asked to eat dinner with a short little tax collector he was despised. When Jesus knelt down to wash the nasty, dirty feet of his disciples as The Teacher and The Lord, the disciples were shocked. What business did the King of Kings and Lord of Lords have serving people that were “lower” than the social position He had been placed in. He was the Savior of the world that was expected to rule, and rulers don’t have time for peasants.

Isn’t it interesting, this same king was born in a stable and died on a cross hung between two criminals. Isn’t it interesting, this same king said we are expected to do the same thing several times as HIS followers, and he even paints a picture with sheep and goats of how we will be held responsible for how we respond.

I am encouraged to serve alongside folks that are at least trying their best. To see 6 adults at JME, 3 adult leaders and 3 Jr. Leaders at Pit Crew, and to see countless people through the orphanage mission in Liberia giving of their time and resources to attempt to be like Jesus. These people aren’t going to get anything back from the kids they are serving… in this lifetime. It makes me wonder… what did Jesus really mean when he said, “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also”? (Matthew 6:21)

~ Matt
matt@tatescreek.org
Recently my family was invited to a birthday party of a friend. This friend asked that instead of a gift for her, donations be given to her favorite cause. Upon hearing this, my daughter immediately emptied her piggy bank and brought this to the party to give. It wasn’t much, but she wanted to help so badly that she gave what she could.

I find myself continually learning lessons from children. In this case, in regards to helping others, it doesn’t matter if it is a small act of kindness, or a small amount of money. You are still helping, and that goes a long way. Sometimes even the smallest gift can make the biggest difference in a person’s life. A hug, a dollar for a cup of coffee, or an encouraging word.

Our memory verse for the month of April in Critterland is:
“Be Kind and Loving to Each Other” Ephesians 4:32.

~ Lesley
lesley@tatescreek.org
It was a record-setting day, with the temperature reaching three digits. I was on the verge of whining when I saw a frail, exhausted and obviously pregnant woman at the edge of the busy highway, wearing long sleeves and pants that hung from her tiny body. She was walking with her head down, despair evident in her posture. And despite my initial reaction to keep driving, my heart wouldn’t listen. I sensed God tugging at my heart to help her, but as my hands gripped the steering wheel, excuses gripped my mind. I’m already late to pick up my daughter up from practice. It’s dangerous to pick up strangers on the side of the road. Other people might think I’m crazy if I stop to help. Someone else will help her. But God’s voice continued speaking to my heart, reminding me of the passage in Matthew 25:40: “Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.” God’s pull to turn around was stronger than my excuses to keep driving, so despite my hesitations, I did it anyway. I made a U-turn, pulled up slowly beside her and asked if she needed help. She was hours from home and her car had run out of gas. The nearest station was five miles away, and she had no way to get to the gas, physically or financially. I realized both she and her unborn child were in danger, lost in every sense of the word. The truth is, all too often I get busy with life and neglect to see those who may need a helping hand, a warm hug, a shoulder to cry on or a tank of gas. But if I really want to follow Jesus and make an earthly - and possibly eternal - difference in another person’s life, I need to care for those Jesus called the “least of these.”

This helpless woman was the “least of these” Jesus mentioned in Matthew 25:44-46. In this passage, Jesus told the crowd a story about a king to teach them the importance of caring for those the world dismissed. Jesus explained when they cared for others, they were also caring for Him. Their actions to love the “least of these” were equivalent to serving the Savior. The faithful ones who showed compassion and exhibited a love for others were the ones to inherit His kingdom. Unfortunately, society hasn’t changed much. In fact, there are more lost and needy people in the world today than ever, and Jesus’ instructions to love the least of these are as important today as they were then. When we exhibit sacrificial empathy, tenderness, kindness and compassion, His light shines through as we extend to others the grace and mercy He’s extended to us. On this particularly hot day, I paused to help a young woman in need. It did seem like a risky decision; I was late in picking up my daughter. And when I had arrived at her practice with a total stranger in the passenger seat, some people did think I was a little crazy. But God’s greater purpose is always...
worth the sacrifice. How different might the world be today, if we allowed God's whispers to drown out opinions of naysayers, or voices in our minds telling us not to help those in need? Or when God calls us out of our comfort zones, if we'd put aside our inhibitions and commit to being His hands and feet? After returning this sweet lady back to her car with a tank full of gas, she waved at me with a big, thankful smile and quietly uttered the words, “God bless you.” But in my heart, I knew He already had.

~ Tracie Miles, Christian Speaker & Author
Proverbs 31 Ministries, www.traciemiles.com
reprinted with permission

APRIL EVENTS

Good Friday Service
April 3 ~ 7 pm

Easter Services
April 5
Traditional ~ 8:00 am
Blended ~ 9:30 am
Contemporary ~ 11:00 am

Please note the change in service times.

Easter Egg Hunt
April 4 ~ 12 pm
Lansdowne Merrick Park
Bring your family and friends to the park and enjoy some family fun.
The Easter egg hunt will be for the preschool and elementary children.
Contact Matt Lee (537-2634) if you can help in any way.

Senior Adult Events

Adult Bible Study
Wednesdays ~ 10:30 am
Room 200A

Better With Age Club
Thursday, April 16
10:30 am ~ Fellowship Hall
Bring side dishes, salad, or dessert to share.

Better With Age Club
Day Trip ~ Boone Tavern
Thursday, April 23

Senior Saints in the Smokies
June 1-5
Register on their website or pick up a brochure in the church office.
I believe in the power of prayer. I have often asked for prayer for family members and for others. In January 2014, after a two year battle with Leukemia, my cousin, Dennis went home to be with Jesus. Many of you prayed for him. He believed in prayer and told me thanks for praying and also thanks to my church family and the Deborah Circle for praying.

In April 2014, my brother suffered a broken hip and a fractured vertebrae in his back after a fall at his home. I requested prayer for him and again, many of you prayed. He died unexpectedly during surgery on Good Friday. When we learned what was happening in the surgical room, we prayed. We were surrounded by Christian friends that loved, supported, and prayed for us that day. Over the last few months, we have felt the prayers of many people who continue to lift us up in prayer. I can tell you that my family and I cannot get through each day without prayer. God hears those prayers and He has given us comfort and strength.

We are given opportunities here at Tates Creek to pray for others. There are prayer request sheets at the Welcome Center each Sunday. Our Sunday School class and Deborah Circle take prayer requests each time we meet. You can make a big difference in someone’s life by simply saying a prayer for them whether or not you know them personally. God knows them and He hears our prayers for each other.

~ Debbie Back

The mission of this ministry is to pray, motivate, and train others to pray, and to provide prayer opportunities so that we might know our Lord more intimately and serve Him more fervently.
Communion Serving Schedule

April 5 - Easter
Elders: Bill Clem, John Langley
Ashland Terrace: Harold Butler
Home Comm: Henry Evans, Bill Burke, Greg Wheeler
Sat Comm Prep: Jim Everman
Prep after 1st Srv: Fred/Emma Goode
Clean-up after 1st Srv: Chris/Debbie Dennison
Prep after 2nd Srv: Fred/Emma Goode
Clean-up after 2nd Srv: Chris/Debbie Dennison

April 12
Elders: R. W. Ellington, Bill Clem
Deacons: Harold Butler, Greg Wheeler
Ashland Terrace: Ed Hall
Home Comm: Lucas Moore, Charlie Byers, Craig Martin
Sat Comm Prep: Tom/Waynetta Myers
Prep after 1st Srv: Carolyn Nipper
Clean-up after 1st Srv: Rick Layne
Prep after 2nd Srv: Brad Byington
Clean-up after 2nd Srv: Rick Layne

April 19
Elders: Larry Bugg, R. W. Ellington
Deacons: Ed Hall, Bill Burke
Ashland Terrace: Steven Clem
Home Comm: Steven Clem, David Martin, Terry Morrison
Sat Comm Prep: Brian/Sontina Hogston
Prep after 1st Srv: Rick Layne
Clean-up after 1st Srv: Carolyn Nipper
Prep after 2nd Srv: Rick Layne
Clean-up after 2nd Srv: Brad Byington

April 26
Elders: Kent Mason, Larry Bugg
Deacons: David Martin, Henry Evans
Ashland Terrace: Craig Martin
Home Comm: Russell Brown, Bill Poor, Harold Butler
Sat Comm Prep: Kathy Hicks
Prep after 1st Srv: Chris/Debbie Dennison
Clean-up 1st Srv: Chris Hines
Prep after 2nd Srv: David/Joanne Shuman
Clean-up 2nd Srv: Chris Hines

April Oasis Meals

April 8 ~ Roast Beef, Parsley Potatoes, Cooked Carrots, Rolls, Dessert
April 15 ~ Oven Baked Chicken (on bone), Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Rolls, Dessert
April 22 ~ Baked Spaghetti, Salad, Garlic Bread, Dessert
April 29 ~ Sloppy Joes, Macaroni & Cheese, Carrot & Celery Sticks, Applesauce, Dessert

Salad is available as an alternate meal when it is not a part of the meal being served.

OLLI @ UK Spring Concert
April 25 ~ 3:00 pm
The OLLI and the Arts event will begin at 3:00 pm in the Sanctuary with a concert by the 95 member OLLI Chorus followed by an art exhibit and reception in the 3rd floor gym. The concert will be a potpourri of songs from Broadway show tunes, pop music from the 50’s and 60’s, and more.
Thank you so much for your generous support of Blue Grass Christian Camp. We feel humbled and blessed that God allows us to be His hands as we minister to thousands of children each year. BGCC experienced another record-breaking summer in 2014 with over 1,300 participants engaging in summer programs. We are incredibly thankful for the efforts of Matt Lee and Brad Haggard whose promotion and planning help make each summer out at camp an enormous success! We are also fortunate to have forged relationships that continually open doors to unique opportunities for this ministry. Our Brother-to-Brother program that partners with local police and public schools to reach “at-risk” students provided us with the vision and direction to open a day camp on Georgetown Street that runs throughout the summer. This camp, along with our traditional summer sessions and school year ministry, gives to us the privilege of extending the reach of Jesus’ love.

Thanks to a record-breaking number of school year retreat guests and increased donations by churches and individuals, we have been able to make many needed repairs and renovations to the camp facility over the last few years. Because of partners like Tates Creek we have installed several new HVAC units, purchased new maintenance vehicles, repaired roofs, renovated the playground, installed new games, and constructed new elements to our challenge course. In addition to these enhancements, we have diminished our debt, provided more scholarships, and significantly lowered the price of many of our camps. These improvements and financial decisions allow more children to experience the love of Jesus in a safer and more enjoyable environment.

As 2015 summer numbers skyrocket, school year activities increase, and partnerships broaden with churches and in the community, we believe expansion at camp is both necessary and achievable. We are grateful to have partners like you as we seek to broaden access, increase capacity, and financially secure the future of camp by constructing a new pool and dorm while eliminating our debt over the next few years. Again, thank you so much for your partnership and prayers! We look forward to walking into the future with you!

~ Michael Fann
Executive Director
Blue Grass Christian Camp
Because we have four children we are well familiar with the famous words from Dr. Seuss’ book, *Horton Hears a Who*. “A person’s a person, no matter how small.” As I’ve pondered this article regarding our family’s life in Tanzania, I want to modify Seuss’ words to read, “A family of God is a family of God, no matter where they are.”

Life in Arusha, Tanzania, is similar to life in America. Our two oldest kids, Caeden and Reeghan, attend a small Christian School in town. We load up backpacks, pile into the car, and talk with other parents as we drop the kids off.

I strive to meet job expectations, handle difficult staff situations, manage finances, and survive business travel. My wife, Doretha, manages the roles of wife and mother with the same ups and downs moms face in any nation on earth.

In these ways, we are no different than any other family of God on earth. At least, we shouldn’t be. You see, a family of God should live in the context of the ministry of Jesus Christ 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Our location shouldn’t change that at all.

Because ministry is my career, my whole family can accompany me to a village for a week of camping and teaching. When families come to Arusha to attend our three month Church Planter Training, we live with them. We eat, worship, play, and pray with the students and their families.

Does this have to be something only a missionary family in Tanzania gets to experience? Of course not! While your family may not go to the office with you, don’t let this one distinction stop you from being a deliberate 24-7 family of God. Choose to serve your neighbors as a family. Pray for co-workers, classmates, and teachers as a family. Serve in the ministry of TCCC as greeters, nursery workers, or “servant-cleaners” together with your kids. Skip a meal out, give up satellite TV, or something special and give that money to God. Then, whether in Lexington or Arusha, we’ll discover that “a family of God is a family of God no matter where they are.”

~ Steve and Doretha Limiero,
Caeden, Reeghan, Andwynne, and Rowan

Missions Moment
Limiero Family
Devotional Thought Week 1

JESUS IS THE CONQUEROR ~ John 20

One of my favorite sayings is “If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is”. I guess you can call me a skeptic.

Garnet and I recently received an advertisement from a local auto dealership. The ad said they would allow us up to $4,500 above book value for our car. I quickly began to figure how inexpensively we would be able to drive around in a brand new car.

We walked into the dealership and were greeted by a salesman. When we described our car, he told us how much the trade-in would be. That figure turned out to be $3,000 less than the book value – not $4,500 more. Needless to say, we are still driving our old car. As we left the showroom, we were reminded “If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is”.

Put yourself in the shoes of Mary Magdalene, Peter, John, or one of Jesus’ other followers on that first Easter morning. He had told them that He would be betrayed, have to suffer and die, but would rise from the grave three days later. They didn’t begin to understand what He was talking about. Even if they had, it would have sounded too good to be true.

But it is true. Mary Magdalene saw Him, believed He was alive, and went and told the disciples. The disciples saw Him and believed He was alive when He showed them His hands and His side.

However, one of His chosen followers was not there when Jesus appeared. We know this disciple as ‘Doubting Thomas’ because he said he would not believe unless he saw the nail wounds in His hands. But even this doubter was convinced eight days later when Jesus appeared to them again.

There were several other appearances over the next forty days. He walked and talked with the two on the road to Emmaus. He appeared to His apostles while they were fishing. Those same men were present and watching when He ascended into heaven. The preponderance of evidence assures us it is true. Jesus conquered death, the final enemy (I Corinthians 15:26). If we confess our faith in Him, and confirm that faith by our obedience, He will make us conquerors, too.

~ Ron Eversole
Former Administrator
Devotional Thought Week 2

THE HEART & HANDS OF JESUS ~ Mark 10:45

“For even the Son of man did not come to be served, but to serve and to give His life a ransom for many.” Mark 10:45

Jesus gave His followers a true picture of servanthood. How many of us would kneel down and wash dry, dirty feet as Jesus did for His disciples in the upper room?

Would we give our very life for someone else as Jesus did when He willingly gave up His physical life so we could have eternal life?

What holds us back from being the hands and heart of Jesus?

The first thing that comes to mind is timidity. We may hesitate to offer to pray for someone, afraid they will think we consider ourselves “super spiritual.” Think of it as taking our hurt brother or sister to a parent (God) to be comforted and soothed.

The second reason we may not step up and serve is it may not be convenient. I remember when a needy, homeless friend was staying in a motel. She called and said she had no money for the room and the bill was due. I told her to come and pick up a check to which she said, “I have no gasoline in my truck, you will have to bring it to me.” She was all the way across town and it was time to cook supper. My husband graciously braved the traffic and went with me. I confess I did not do it with the heart of Jesus.

A third reason is serving may deplete our resources. The little boy who gave his loaves and fishes gave them up freely. He must have had faith in Jesus. Because he gave, he was part of a miracle. In our case it may be money or energy that will be depleted if we answer a need.

Another reason is serving may require physical sacrifice. My daughter-in-law under went a hospital stay, and a painful bone marrow extraction, for treatment for a lady she did not know.

Each of us has works of service to do for Jesus. Let us leave our comfort zone and be His hands and feet to the world.

~ Peggy Park
Crusaders Class Member
LEADERSHIP IS SERVICE ~ Luke 22:24-27

“The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them, and those in authority over them are called benefactors. But not so with you; rather let the greatest among you become as the youngest, and the leader as one who serves.” Luke 22:25, 26

The idea of servant leaders within the church is certainly not new. It is a theme that Jesus stressed over and over again. Sadly, the fact that He still needed to address the issue just hours before he went to the cross means the disciples still hadn’t gotten the message. Have we?

The type of service doesn’t matter. Jesus washed the disciples’ feet to make this point. And as Terry Morrison is always telling us in Sunday School class, “No one can do everything, but everyone can do something.” Anything from shoveling snow, to preparing communion, to keeping the nursery, to visiting the shut-ins, to teaching Sunday School is service. It is impossible to name all the things that need to be done in Christ’s church, but all service done for Jesus and His church is significant. It is also a privilege.

It has always amazed me that Jesus has not only saved us but also has allowed us to have a part in His kingdom. He has allowed us to be an active functioning member of the body of Christ! Can there be any greater privilege than that? Let’s face it folks. Most of the things that we spend our time and effort on have no significance past the next fifteen minutes. What we do for the Lord and His church (no matter how menial the task) has eternal significance.

Leadership actively seeks ways to serve. It looks for ways to impact people and programs. It is constantly looking for ways to lift up the name of Jesus so that He can draw all men into His church, both here in Lexington and throughout the world.

Yes, leadership is service, but service is also a privilege.

~ Bill Clem
Elder
PURE RELIGION ~ James 1:27

Most people have heard the warning to avoid the topics of politics and religion in social settings and family gatherings. When we turn on the television, we hear of terrorists killing Christians and Jews in the name of religion. Religion has the potential to be among the most divisive words known to man. You can even look within the Christian community and find faithful followers who embrace Jesus, but renounce religion. And throughout the earthly ministry of Jesus there are seemingly countless examples of Jesus condemning the religious leaders of that time. But Jesus was not condemning religion. What he condemned was the hypocrisy of the religious leaders, as evidenced by their outward observation of the law, but inward spiritual void. In essence, they had defiled religion. So if that is what defiled religion looks like, what does undefiled (faultless) religion look like? And what kind of religion is pleasing to God our Father?

The Word of God answers that question. James 1:27 says this about religion – “Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.” So with that divinely painted picture of pure and faultless religion, we must each ask ourselves, ‘How close does that compare to the religion I embrace?’

There is no shortage of lonely, hurting widows. Most nursing home residents are widows, and it is estimated that 60% of nursing home residents have no visitors. Many are starving just for someone who will spend some time with them.

The world has no shortage of orphans either, both within our borders and in other countries. Our church has ties to several orphan-related ministries, and there are ample opportunities to look after orphans in their distress for anyone who is willing.

The final brushstroke in the picture James paints for us of pure and faultless religion is to keep ourselves from being polluted by the world. We should honor God, seek to bring Him glory, and not focus on selfish ambitions.

~ Keith Wertz
Deacon
**Study of the Epistle of James**

Led by Dr. David Fiensy

Dr. Fiensy is the Dean of the graduate school at Kentucky Christian University. He will be leading the class in a study of the Epistle of James. Topics will include wisdom, being slow to anger, surrender to God, and waiting on God. Come discover the seven “Ups” of James. *Wise Up, Listen Up, Look Up . . . just to name a few.*

“The Amazing Collection” Job to Song of Solomon

Women’s Study Led by Phyllis Eversole

Beginning with the book of Job then continuing through to the book of Song of Solomon, this study will help participants discover the overview, key players, and timeless principles of each book. There is a suggested donation of $10 for the workbook.

“Hands and Feet Ministry”

Led by Danny Branham

What does it mean to be the hands and feet of Jesus? During these seven weeks, participants will invest themselves in a choice of community outreach ministries demonstrating their love for God by pouring themselves into the lives of others.

“gods at war” by Kyle Idleman

Young Adult Study Led by Mike Allen

This video series by Kyle Idleman will challenge you to consider that all sin derives from one source - idolatry. While there are many gods at war for our hearts, this study focuses on four in particular: the gods of love, money, pleasure, and power.

Class Registration

Register online at: [https://tatescreek.logosconnect.com/church/reg](https://tatescreek.logosconnect.com/church/reg), follow the link on our website at [www.tatescreek.org](http://www.tatescreek.org), mark the class of your choice on a Communication Card, or scan the QR code to the right.

Be sure to register early so materials are available!
Tates Creek Christian Church has a vibrant and active Women’s Ministry. The ministry is organized in circles that give women opportunities to fellowship, serve, and grow in their relationships with God and each other. There are many circles to choose from.

In addition to the circles, the Women’s Ministry also takes on special projects and holds special events at certain times throughout the year. These special events and projects are often a high point on the Ladies’ calendars and are awaited with much anticipation. These events are always well done, often involving an inspirational speaker, lovely decorations, and other aspects appealing especially to the Ladies.

Women’s Circles

Deborah Circle  Group: 35 and up
The Deborah Circle meets the 1st Thursday of the month at 6:30 PM in the members’ homes. Deena Wertz (619-4204) and Anne Branham (494-9218) are the chairpersons.

Faith Circle  Group: Singles & Newlyweds
The Faith Circle meets the 2nd Monday of each month at 6:30 PM at the church in room 104. Sontina Hogston (552-0678) is the chairperson.

J.O.Y. Circle  Group: Various 50 & up
The J.O.Y. Circle meets the 2nd Monday of the month at 6:30 PM in the Friendship Hall. Carole Smith (272-2947) and Ginny Ellington (223-1517) are the co-chairpersons.

Mary Circle  Group: Retired
The Mary Circle meets the 1st Thursday of the month at 10:30 AM in the TCCC Friendship Hall. Willena Beagle (231-8682) chairperson, Betty Rolph (277-3167) co-chair.

Rachel Circle  Group: 45 and up
The Rachel Circle meets the 2nd Thursday each month at 6:30 PM in the Friendship Hall. Mary Ann McMurry (224-0394) is the chairperson.

Tabitha Circle  Group: 45 and up
The Tabitha Circle meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM in the members’ homes. Margaret Heaton (271-4038) is the chairperson.
Sunday School
Average Attendance
February 2015

**Youth**
- Infants 6
- Walkers 8
- 2 - 5 Year Old 14
- Elementary 62
- Middle & High School 51

**Adult**
- Alpha/Omega 8
- Christians in Action 16
- Crusaders 40
- Early Bird 8:30 am 3
- Faith 11
- Fellowship of Believers 8
- FOCUS 17
- Generations of Faith 24
- Good News 29
- Grace & Truth 44
- Grass Roots 16
- Heaven Bound 8
- In The Word 15
- Open Bible 55
- Psalm 34:3 3
- Reach 19
- Seekers 11
- Servants for Christ 25
- Upper Room 11
- Willing Workers 26
- Ashland Terrace 4
- Miscellaneous 5
- Officers 2
- Total 535

---

February Worship Attendance & Giving

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>General Fund</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>$31,960.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8th</td>
<td>780</td>
<td>$26,611.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15th</td>
<td>572</td>
<td>$26,988.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22nd</td>
<td>519</td>
<td>$25,262.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

Funds Totals for Feb.

- Deacons’ Fund $1,663.
- “What If...” $24,899.
- Victory for Life $464.

% of Dollars Given Online 18%

---

General Fund Report

- 2015 Budgeted Need per week $31,440.
- 2015 Average per week $29,624.
- February Total Income $111,211.
- February Total Expenses $116,134.
- Moved to Savings $5,517.
- Net Shortfall ($10,441.)

Indebtedness

- Mortgage Balance, Feb. 28 $1,037,121.
- Monthly Payment (Mar. 1) $40,088.
- Principal $10,013.
- Interest $2,874.
- Add’l Principal $27,200.

To give online anytime or setup a recurring online gift, visit our website at www.tatescreek.org and click on “Giving”.

---

Tates Creek Christian Church 3150 Tates Creek Road
New Members

Pam Taylor,
Alana & Cameron
Transfer, February 22

Pam has lived in Lexington all of her life. She currently works as the switchboard operator at Kentucky One Cardiology & Pulmonary. Pam and her grandchildren have been attending TCCC for about 3 months upon the invitation of Jacob and Renee Jones. She enjoys The Vine service and is still visiting different Sunday school classes. Alana and Cameron are enjoying worship with Matt Lee and other children in Uptown.

Susan Robertson
Rebaptized February 15
picture not available

Susan has been a member of Tates Creek for several years. She is retired but is the caregiver to her husband who has ongoing health issues. Susan states, “After further study, I realized that my baptism was not as it should be, my faith was weak due to the stress of my husband’s illness.” She continues to find strength in her family, her friends in the Faith Class, and in these scriptures; Ecclesiastes 3, Psalm 23, and John 3:16. Be sure to encourage Susan in her renewed walk with the Lord.

Stephen & Lee Garland,
Transfer, February 15

Malachi Garland
Baptized February 15
picture not available

Stephen and Lee Garland, with their sons, Malachi and Micah, have been attending Tates Creek for about a year and a half. Stephen is a Civil Engineer and Lee is a HR Director. They are active in the Good News Sunday school class.

Malachi was excited to be baptized on February 15th. He came to this decision after understanding that becoming a Christian is a lifetime growth experience. Malachi attends Edythe J. Hayes middle school where he enjoys playing lacrosse and the trombone. Please be sure to make this family feel welcome.

Richard & Gail
Johnson
Transfer, February 8
Calendar ~ April 2015

1. No Oasis
2. Mary Circle, 10:30 am, Fh
3. Good Friday Service, 7 pm, WC
4. Singles Breakfast, 7 am, Keeneland
4 & 18. Card Ministry, 8:30 am, 102
5. Easter Sunday, 8, 9:30, & 11 am
6. Elders’ Meeting, 6 pm, 200D
9. Deborah Circle, 6:30 pm
10. Crusaders Social, 6:30 pm, FH
10-12. HS retreat, 5 pm
12. Monthly Ministry Teams
13. BCMF, 5:45 pm, Sayre Christian Village
13. Faith Circle, 6:30 pm, 104
13. J.O.Y. Circle, 6:30 pm, Fh
14. MOPS, 9 am, FH
14. Tabitha Circle, 7 pm
15. BWAC, 10:30 am, FH
16. Women’s Ministry, 7 pm, 302
18. Serve the City, 8 am
23. BWAC Day Trip, Boone Tavern
25. Women’s Prayer Breakfast, 9 am 200D-E
25. OLLI Concert, 3 pm, WC
26. Missions Team, 4:30 pm, 200D

Weekly Activities

Sunday Evening:
Rejoicing Ringers, 4:30 pm, CR
Evening Worship, 6:30 pm, WC
Adult Small Groups, various times and locations

Monday Evening:
Orchestra rehearsal, 6:00 pm, WC

Tuesday Evening:
Pit Crew, 3:30 pm, MMC
Victory for Life, 6:00 pm, FH

Wednesday:
Adult Bible Study, 10:30 am, 200A
Worship Team, 5:30 pm, WC
Oasis Meal, 5:45 pm, MMC
High School Worship, 6:30 pm, 303
Middle School Worship, 6:30 pm, 303
Oasis Classes, 6:45 pm, various rooms Worshp Choir, 6:45 pm, WC