



# The Creek Courier

Weekly Update May 14, 2022

*Loving God*

*Learning Together*

*Leading Others to Christ*

**But I have this against you, that you have left your first love.**

Revelation 2:4

**Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good;**

**For His faithfulness is everlasting.** 1 Chronicles 16:34

**See how great a love the Father has given us, that we would be called children of God**

1 John 3:1

Dear Church,

Can you recall the joy and excitement you felt when you first discovered that Jesus loves you and that you love Him with all your heart? With the challenges of this life I believe it does us well to remind ourselves of that time when we gave our life to Him and committed to be His disciple.

For the individual and for the church we know that Christianity is built on the foundation of a love relationship. Our love relationship with Christ begins when we are gripped by His grace, His power and His joy. The result is that all of our intellectual, emotional and spiritual faculties are focused on our unreserved desire to live for Him as an expression of our love for Him.

But then our relationship becomes routine and can ultimately lose its fire. The things we once vigorously pursued in our walk with the Lord—like Bible study and prayer become less exciting. Serving becomes a chore. The love we once felt gets pushed aside by obligations. Blandness supplants what was once expectation of blessings.

It seems this is exactly what happened to the church at Ephesus. Jesus addresses this crucial problem in the first of His seven letters to the churches. Sure, they were commended for doing many right things, but there was something missing. They had lost the zeal of their first love. They apparently lacked the vitality, warmth and enthusiasm they had at the beginning of their relationship with the Lord.

One should never doubt that Jesus holds the church, His bride, at the center of His love. And when we get sidetracked and lose our zeal for what He loves and holds dearest He rightly takes issue with it.

I recently came across this story I read a few years ago: Sisters Anna and Susan Warner made their home on Constitution Island on the Hudson River, directly across from the Military Academy at West Point. They were able to teach the Bible to many of the cadets, in addition they wrote some of the most popular novels of in the 1800s. In their novel *Say and Seal*, they told about a fictional boy named Johnny Fox who was dying. His Sunday School teacher, John Linden, comforted him by taking him in his arms, rocking him as he spoke these words from a song he had made up: "Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so . . ." When composer William Bradbury read the words of John Linden's little song, he composed music for the lines, and the children's hymn 'Jesus Loves Me' was born. The song gives us our theology in a thimble.

Can you say your experience of Jesus' love and your love for Him is stronger today than it was when you committed your life to Him? Or has your relationship with Him become increasingly routine and dull. That's the danger

**LifeGroups  
9:30 a.m.**

**Sunday Worship  
10:30 a.m.**

we all face. We can become so preoccupied and busy with doing things for the Lord that we neglect our personal relationship with Him. Regardless of where we are in that relationship we can always rest in this truth: 'Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so.'

-Bruce

**Sunday Worship**

**Sermon Series: What Now?**

**Prayer Ministry**

**Sunday afternoon at 5:00  
in the Family Life Center**

**Graduate Sunday**

**May 22 has been designated as Graduate Sunday. We want to honor all our graduates. So that we don't overlook anyone, please provide us with the name of your graduate by calling the church office at 252-492-6000.**

**Scholarship Applications Due by June 1**

Scholarships are available for our students who are graduating high school and planning on continuing their education at the college level as well as for our students continuing their college studies for the 2022-23 school year.

To start the process you will need to request and complete a Scholarship Application. Please contact Mrs. Betty Blue to make arrangements for obtaining an application. Betty can be reached at 252.492.0395.

This year's VBS, "Make Waves" will be Sunday, June 5 – Wednesday, June 8 from 6 to 8:30 each night. Dinner will be served nightly at 6. June 8 will be the VBS wrap up and Family Night. You can register and volunteer at [www.myvbs.org/newsandycreek](http://www.myvbs.org/newsandycreek). Registration and volunteer forms are also available in the foyer of the Family Life Center. There are also informational postcards for you to pick up and share with friends and family.

Pastors Tim and Josh and your deacons are available to help with any needs you might have.

On-call deacon for the next week is Billy Edwards.

Billy can be reached at 252-432-7702.

Pastor Tim can be reached at 252-432-6780.

Pastor Josh can be reached at 919-606-0537.