



## BLODGETT CHURCH of CHRIST Bulletin

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### Prune That Tree

This is the time of year people enjoy getting outdoors and working in their yards or gardens. Frequently about this time of the year, people prune their trees. I used to have some fruit trees, and often I would prune them just before the spring sap.

Why do you need to prune a tree? I am not talking about the type of pruning that occurs when you clear a fence row or around power lines where it is so severely pruned that the tree might as well have been cut down. Pruning, however, is necessary for a tree to do well. Pruning makes a tree more productive, healthy, and when done correctly, can improve the overall appearance. If a tree goes unpruned, it will produce unproductive branches sometimes appropriately called "suckers." Left unattended those little "suckers" will take away from the overall health and growth of the tree. "Suckers" can weaken the condition of the tree thus making it vulnerable to a host of problems, not to mention making it unproductive.

Every now and then we need to prune a few branches in our lives. Sometimes we get to adding to our everyday lives little things that can become "suckers," and before we know it, those little "suckers" have taken over our productivity leaving us unproductive and vulnerable. These extras take away from the important growth. Take a little inventory of your life, and as you do, how many branches are you supporting? It is easy to allow ourselves to simply react to life, and before we know it, our time, energy, money, desires, dreams, hopes, are lost to "urgent" things but not important things. It is amazing how people allow urgent things to take us away from important things.

What is the ultimate goal of your life? If it is to be more Christ-like tomorrow than you are today, then I am rejoicing with you. Consider the following questions to help evaluate your spiritual maturity. Do you spend time with God in prayer each day? Do you take the time to learn something new from God's Word every day? Do you spend

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#### *Time of Services:*

*Sunday: 10:00 A.M. class, 11:00 A.M. worship, and 6:00 P.M. worship*

*Wednesday: 7:00 P.M. class*

#### *Preacher:*

Larry Black (cell) 903-588-4253 email: [lblk@peoplescom.net](mailto:lblk@peoplescom.net)

#### *Youth Leaders:*

Heath & Carla Hines 903-717-1423 email: [hhines@hotmail.com](mailto:hhines@hotmail.com)

Benevolence - Rick Toland: 903-220-9825

Building Maintenance - Mark Sharpin 903-573-3993

Dwayne Porter: 903-563-7161

Finance - Larry Reynolds: 903-767-0742

Wednesday Devotional Speaker: Rick Toland

time talking with family and friends about spiritual matters? What are you willing to sacrifice today so that someone may come to know Jesus?

Perhaps you are not proud of some of your answers to the above. That doesn't make you a bad person, but it does indicate that some pruning may be in order because there are too many things taking us away from spiritual growth. Jesus left us an example of complete devotion and loyalty while the apostle Paul was not too far behind. We can learn from the example set before us by both Jesus and Paul. Living a devoted life begins with a decision and then is followed with fortitude. You **can be** what the Lord wants you to be. (*Phil. 4:13 KJV*) *I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.* ~Larry

### **Spiritual Garden**

With spring just around the corner, some are making preparations for their garden. In many ways, life is like a garden.

First, plant five rows of PEAS: Preparedness, Promptness, Perseverance, Politeness, and Prayer.

Next to them, plant three rows of SQUASH. Squash gossip; Squash criticism; and Squash indifference.

Then plant five rows of LETTUCE. Let-us be faithful; Let-us be unselfish; Let-us be loyal; and Let-us love one another.

No garden is complete without TURNIPS. Turn-up for worship; turn-up for work days; turn-up for Bible study.

The fruit of this garden will yield you a more content and happier life.

**Some people are always grumbling because roses have thorns, but we should be thankful that thorns have roses.**

*This is the day which the LORD hath made;  
we will rejoice and be glad in it. Psalms 118:24*

### **Family News**

- This Wednesday evening Chip Horton will be here to give us a report on his last mission trip.
- March 28 at 2:00 p.m. Bill Money will graduate from the Lamb's Academy. The ceremony will be at the church in Mt. Vernon. All are invited.
- The first of the month luncheon in April is also Easter Sunday. For the smaller children, Pat and Robert Slone will hide Easter eggs around the

### **PRAYER LIST:**

Steve Newman, Jennifer Boyd, Clem Williams, Jimmy Jones, Sharon Fields, Lisa Fields, Vicki Dodson, Sharron Grolemond, Mark Sharpin, Jean Martin

Picture that scene for a moment. The shepherd walks ahead. He does not drive the sheep from behind. He leads them. And they follow—not out of fear, not out of force—but because they recognize his voice.

That recognition did not happen in a day. It was formed over time. The sheep had heard his voice again and again. They had learned to trust it. When other voices called out, they did not respond. Those voices were unfamiliar.

In this simple image, Jesus gives us a powerful truth about relationships. The sheep knew the shepherd because there had been consistent communication. They listened. He spoke. Trust grew.

It works the same way with us and the Lord. God speaks through His word. We respond through prayer. The more time we spend listening to Him, the more clearly we recognize His voice above all the noise around us. In a world full of competing voices—opinions, trends, fears, distractions—we must learn what His voice sounds like.

The same principle applies within the church. Healthy congregations are built on clear, honest communication. When people feel disconnected or uninformed, distance grows. When leaders and members communicate openly, trust deepens. Small concerns can be addressed before they become large problems. Unity is strengthened when no one is left guessing.

The sheep followed because they knew. They knew because they had listened. And they had listened because there was a relationship.

Today, the question is not whether the Shepherd is speaking. He is. The question is whether we are listening closely enough to recognize His voice—and willing enough to follow where He leads. Thoughts by Roger Shouse,