Why It Matters

Jeff Greenfield is an award-winning television journalist and author focusing on politics, media, and culture. In 1997, Greenfield wrote about a Memorial Day observance in Salisbury, Connecticut — the community where he lived. At the time of this piece, he had attended the same Memorial Day observance in his community for the previous 15 years. He described the events of the annual observance:

At 10 a.m., the parade begins moving down Main Street. It is a small parade: two vintage cars, bearing the region's oldest war veterans; the men and women who served in the military; the Salisbury Town Band; the Scouts; the Housatonic Day Care Center; the fire trucks from the volunteer fire departments in and around the Northwest Corner. We fall in line behind the fire trucks, and follow the parade to the cemetery. There's a hymn, and a prayer, followed by a Scout who reads the Gettysburg Address, haltingly, shyly. Then come the names of the men who died in the World Wars, in Korea, in Vietnam. A minister recites the 23rd Psalm, a bugler plays taps (with another bugler far away playing the echo), the flag is raised from half-staff, and we all walk the few steps back to the Village Center. It is as artless, as unaffected a ceremony as can be imagined. There are no speech writers, no advance men measuring the best angles for TV (there is no TV) and by the end of it, I — along with many other allegedly sophisticated urban types, are in tears.

The men whose names have been read indeed gave what Lincoln called "the last, full measure of devotion" — some in wars whose purpose no one could doubt — some in wars whose purpose will never be clear, some for the folly and arrogance of the men in charge. When they fell, their deaths were a small part of a bigger story. But every Memorial Day, the lives they never got to live, and the people they left behind, are the only story that matters. That is why it matters that their names are uttered aloud before people who never knew any of them. That is why it matters that we were there this year — and will be there the next and the next and the next.*

Every first day of the week, Christians all over the world observe a memorial — the Lord's Supper — to commemorate the death of Jesus Christ, God's Son, Who died on the cross to save us from our sins. Jesus demonstrated "the last, full measure of devotion" by giving His life for us on the cross to pay the price for our redemption and so that we may receive the gift of eternal life (Ephesians 1:7; Romans 6:23). Read 1 Corinthians 11:20-30 for the Apostle Paul's instructions regarding the Lord's Supper. Acts 20:7 also teaches that the observance of this memorial was one of the primary reasons that the early Christians would meet on the first day of the week.

Why every first day of the week? Because it matters. Every week Christians reflect on the Price that was paid for our salvation: the sinless Son of God died for your sins and mine. God will save and give eternal life to those who place their faith and trust in Jesus (Acts 16:30-31), turn from their sins in repentance (Acts 17:30-31), confess Jesus before men (Romans 10:9-10), and are baptized (immersed) into Christ for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38). He will continue to cleanse from sin those who continue to walk in the light of His Word (1 John 1:7).

Won't YOU accept His offer of salvation and eternal life on His terms?

-- David A. Sargent

* SOURCE: Jeff Greenfield. ABC News InFocus, May 28, 1997, from www.sermoncentral.com
Please pray for Esther.

too thin so this has delayed the date for the surgery.

is similar to a can

mother of Nelly

immune disord

Infirmary. Please pray for a speedy recovery.

PRAYER REQUEST

She is 90 years old. Please pray for Ms. G

PRAYER REQUEST

Christ.

outpatient surgery last Wednesday to close the incision

pray for Bob and his extended family.

Doctors continue to perform tests on his liver. Please

loss of their nephew who passed away due to the

Tuesday, May 23

CONGRATULATIONS

OUR MISSIONARY

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P R A Y E R  R E Q U E S T

We are collecting flip flops for the Honduras Mission Trip and also for the Panama Christmas Boxes. Please place them in the box labeled flip flops in the foyer.

THE TWELVE LIGHTS PROJECT FOR JUNE is Random Acts of Kindness Month.

HONDURAS MISSION TRIP: Beth & Jake Brooks and Blake Bergman will be traveling to Honduras on a mission trip. Beth and Blake will fly down on May 31st and Jake will join them a few days later. The cost of the trip is approx. $4700. If you would like to help cover the expenses please make check payable to Creekwood and give to Beth, Dawn, or one of the Elders. Please pray for Beth, Jake, Blake and their mission trip.

FOOD PANTRY: Our food pantry is getting a bit low and we are in need of some items: dried peas or beans, rice, tuna, canned chicken, spam, canned meats, oatmeal, grits, peanut butter, jelly, pasta, spaghetti sauce, canned soups, canned fruits, boxed meals, cornbread or biscuit mixes, instant mashed potatoes, and cereal. You may place the items in the box located in the foyer. Please help if you can.

THANK YOU all for the many cards, calls, and prayers for our loved one: Jack Lunsford. It really means so much to all of his family. In Christian Love, Gayle Lunsford & Family.

Tonight, May 28th is the Last Sunday night for Christian Soldiers until the beginning of the next school year.

THANK YOU to everyone who donated money or came out to help prepare the meal for the residents of the Ronald McDonald House. Your help was very much appreciated.

BRIDAL SHOWER for Morgan Miller the bride elect of Ethan McLaughy on June 11th at Creekwood 4:00 p.m. They are registered at Bed Bath and Beyond and Target.

THEME FOR OUR 2013 SUMMER SERIES HAS BEEN PLANNED: “Hope for Imperfect Christians.” It is based on a book by the same title written by Bob Murray and published by Freed-Hardeman University. The theme of the book is described on the back cover: “Christians, of course, are not born full-grown; they grow into maturity. Much mentoring, teaching, patience, and the meeting of challenges eventually shape Christians into active and productive followers of the Lord. And though it does not happen overnight, it is the most fulfilling and meaningful life!” We’ve asked several of our men to speak to us based on character studies in the Bible that are highlighted in Murray’s book. Our line-up so far is:

• June 7 – Andrew Howell (Regency church) – “God’s Use of a Dis appointing Peter”
• June 14 – Cody Poe – “Our Rock and Our Salvation: A Loving and Merciful God”
• June 21 – Bob Stacy – “A Man After God’s Own Heart: After What David Did?”
• June 28 – TBA

MEN’S SOFT BALL game on Friday, June 21st at 7:30 p.m. Field C.

TWELVE LIGHTS PROJECT FLIP FLOP DRIVE: We are collecting flip flops for the Honduras Mission Trip and also for the Panama Christmas Boxes. Please place them in the box labeled flip flops in the foyer.