

## **02-14-18 Wednesday Musing**

Happy Valentine's Day as well as Ash Wednesday. Ash Wednesday marks the start of the liturgical season of Lent, and we will kick things off with a joint, three-church service at noon today. The service will be held at Life's Journey UCC (2121 Edgewood Ave.) and will be a service focused on confession, forgiveness and healing.

We are also in the middle of a special educational series on 1 and 2 Corinthians being held on Sunday mornings in February. Unfortunately, the father of our instructor, Prof. Lynn Huber of Elon University, has become seriously ill. Lynn is heading back to the west coast to be with him. As a result, this coming Sunday, the 18<sup>th</sup>, there will be no Sunday School. Lynn hopes to be able to rejoin us on the 25<sup>th</sup>. Please keep her and her father in your prayers.

Let me continue on the prayer concern front. Troy Johnson had multiple by-pass surgery on Monday. The operation went well. He is presently in the Critical Care Unit of Duke Regional Hospital for observation. He is going slow right now, but expects to make a full recovery.

Nancey Simmons broke a bone in her left foot last week. She will be wearing a boot for several weeks, but no surgery is anticipated. Shirley Perry was going to have knee replacement yesterday. Instead, she spent the weekend in the hospital with a bronchial infection. She is home now and surgery will be rescheduled.

Sadly, Marie Griffin passed away last Wednesday after a long illness. Her service will be a private ceremony for the family. Dotti Davis' husband, Ronnie, has returned home after hip surgery, and he is doing well.

Mike Smith shared some very good news on Sunday. You'll recall that, several weeks ago, doctors diagnosed his granddaughter, Rebecca, with MS. After further testing, they have determined that she is instead suffering from a significant B-12 deficit which should easily be treatable. To say the least, all are extremely relieved.

Frances Morgan is scheduled for eye surgery next week. And my own surgical date has finally been confirmed for February 22<sup>nd</sup>. I will miss our service on the 25<sup>th</sup>, but Jamie Fonville has graciously offered to fill in in my absence.

Then, let us continue to keep in prayer Harvey Sharpe, Parkie King, Louise Walters, Donna Freeman, Nancy Thomas and Vera Reeder.

This summer, Matt Rice will be joined on his mission trip to Uganda by Dotti Davis. If you would like to contribute to their mission fund you can make out a check to the church and write "Mission Fund" on the memo line. Or you could make a contribution online at [www.loveafricamission.org](http://www.loveafricamission.org). Go to support, Uganda Summer 2018. Look for the support team and click on Delores (Dotti) Davis or Matt Rice and complete the information required.

Next Sunday, immediately following worship, our reception will take place in the Bray Fellowship Hall. Deacons hope to gather with members of their care groups for

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light refreshments and brief introduction and discussions. Plan to stay and enjoy the fellowship.

The Board of Christian Education is interested in replacing the church's old and very dated television set with a newer flat screen. Have you recently updated your own television and would like to donate your old one to the church? If so, please call the church office.

Many thanks to Keith Miller for his work in securing better outside light on the Church and Davis Street porticos of our sanctuary. (see photo below)

Finally, this Sunday in worship we will be looking at Genesis 9:8-17 and Mark 1:9-15. Hope to see you then.

*Mark*

