

# Wednesday Musings July 11, 2018

Today, before sharing any news from the congregation, let me offer a word of thanksgiving for the final rescue of that soccer team that was entombed under a mountain in Thailand for the past two and a half weeks. Those boys captured the prayers of the world, but even more than that, they brought people around the world together. At a time when so many are divided, that rescue effort called on our better angels. The effort coordinated by the Thai government was extraordinary. Divers literally volunteered their services from all over the world and, sadly, one gave his life in the effort to save those boys. They will need our prayers for some time to come, but let us never forget the lessons that were snatched from the jaws of tragedy. We are always stronger when we stand together. No matter how bleak the situation may seem, there is always hope. And with creativity, ingenuity, fortitude and many prayers, even mountains can be moved, or at least the children trapped under them. Not only has the return of those boys been a gift to their parents, it has been a gift to us as well.

Closer to home, it is less than a week until the start of our Summer Symposium. Beginning Monday, running through Wednesday, we will meet in the Bray Fellowship Hall to learn more about Judaism. Springing from the same spiritual roots, Judaism and Christianity hold much in common, but there are vast differences as well. Our guest speaker this year, Rabbi Rachel Brown, will help us better understand our "sister" religion. Sessions will run from 6:30 – 7:30 each evening. In addition to her lecture, there will be time for dialogue, so bring your questions. Bring a friend as well. This should be a good and informative program.

Further down the road, September 16<sup>th</sup> will be the date for this year's Homecoming Celebration, but this year there is even more to celebrate. 2018 marks the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the city of Burlington, but it also marks the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our first church building constructed in 1893. In September we will recall our history, celebrate our fellowship together, worship, eat and play games together. If you would like to be a part of the group making plans for this event, join us following worship this Sunday in this church library. We also want to send out letters to former members and friends inviting them to join us on that day. The last two Sundays there have been inserts in our bulletins asking you to suggest names and addresses for this letter. It's still not too late to make submissions. Forms are available in the sanctuary next to the pulpit, or you can email Joan with the information if that would be easier. In any case, be sure to make your calendars now.

In addition to the Symposium this coming week, the Finance Committee will meet on Tuesday at 2, and the Investment Committee will meet on Wednesday at 4.

We also received an email invitation this week. There is a proposed extension of the Mountain Valley Pipeline that will run through parts of our community transporting natural gas from fracking fields in Pennsylvania and West Virginia through parts of Alamance and Rockingham Counties. More information is available at [www.nomvpsouthgate.org](http://www.nomvpsouthgate.org). There will be a potluck supper tomorrow evening at the Elon Community Church to discuss this issue. The meal will begin at 6:30 in their

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Community Life Center. If you can attend, please call the church at 336-584-0391 to let them know you're coming.

On the prayer concern front, Spanky Newsome had an infusion today to treat his MS. A brother of Glenna Lewis passed away last week. His service will be this Sunday in Wilkesboro. In last week's Musings, I mentioned that the Andes' daughter, Cindy, has been hospitalized in her ongoing battle with cancer. I just learned today that Cindy is able to return home each night, but is in the hospital by day. Kristin has gone up to Northern Virginia to help out. Peggy Foster's granddaughter (who played for our service a year or so ago) was in a recent boating accident. She needed to be medevacked to a hospital in Washington, DC from her home in Fredericksburg. She suffered a serious concussion, but is home now and is on the mend. Matt Rice and Dotti Davis continue their mission work in Uganda. They will be returning home on the 18<sup>th</sup>. On Sunday, Mike Smith mentioned that one his granddaughters is on an under 15 soccer team that won the South Regional championship. This week they will be participating in a national tournament to determine the national champion. The Whitfields asked for ongoing prayers for their son, Lee. He is back at work part-time, but has lost 40 pounds as a result of this illness and is still very weak. Finally, in addition to all of these prayers, please remember in prayer: Anna Gerow, Parkie King, Louise Walters, Margaret Turner, Nancy Thomas and Donna Freeman.

Hope to see you Sunday!

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