

Wednesday Musing July 25, 2018

Matt and Dotti made it back from their mission trip to Uganda safely and this past Sunday they shared just a bit of that experience and presented the church with a gift, thanking us for our support. The August newsletter is going out today. If you look in your edition you'll see a picture of their gift. It is a very intricately carved creche that is on the inside of a wooden branch. When the two "doors" swing open, the creche is revealed. It is on display in the church office on the glass shelves across from Joan's desk. Check it out the next time you come by. Also, Sept. 30th is the date for a presentation by Dotti and Matt about their trip. They will lead a Sunday School hour program at 9:30 that morning. Then during worship, they will be our featured speakers.

This Sunday we will make a presentation to this year's Carrie McLean Taylor Scholarship Fund recipients. For this coming academic year the fund will help support Matthew Knight and Sarah Morgan Davis.

Also, this Sunday afternoon there will be a decommissioning ceremony for the O'Kelly Chapel. The Chapel, located on NC 751 just over the Chatham/Durham County line, was the home church of James O'Kelly. O'Kelly was the moving force behind the formation of the Christian Church, the denomination from which First Christian sprang. For many years the Chapel was in the care of our Southern Conference. A few times a year, conference churches would hold services there to honor our past history. But because of the cost of keeping it up and its lack of use, the Conference sold the land to a nearby nursery business. They plan to move and preserve the building, doing basic repairs and maintenance. This Sunday there be a brief service to de-consecrate the structure that has sat in that place for nearly 225 years. All are welcome to attend.

Next Sunday will mark the start of fall Sunday School program. It will also be the day that we take in new members. If you know of anyone who is interested in membership, please let me know. Also, next Sunday will mark the start of a three-week sermon series that I am planning on the three temptations of Christ. The first week will be the temptation to turn stones into bread.

That next week will be a busy one in the life of the church. The Women's Fellowship will meet on the 6th at 6 pm. Bring items for a salad supper. Robin Wintringham from Habitat for Humanity will be the featured speaker. The Supper Club will meet the following day, the 7th, at Valerio's Restaurant on Front Street at 6 pm. Then, the next day we will hold our annual Ice Cream Social on the 8th beginning at 7.

On the prayer concern front, I just got a call from Donna Freeman who reported that Richard Cockman died suddenly last night while vacationing at the beach. Funeral plans have not yet been determined. Ann Marie Greer's mother has been taken into Hospice care near her home in Canada. We have mentioned her health as a prayer concern in the past. Unfortunately, she has taken a turn for the worse. There was an obituary that appeared in the paper recently that mentioned the death of Timothy

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Collins. A few have asked if this was Connie Collins' husband. It is not, this is a different Tim Collins, but let us remember his family in prayer nonetheless. Also, Connie's husband has learned that he will have rotator cuff surgery on August 13th. Also, as a follow up to health issues in Matt Rice's broader family, both his mother and sister are suffering from heart problems and an aunt that Mark Garrison was close to is suffering from lung cancer that has spread from another part of her body. In addition to these folks, please keep in prayer: Anna Gerow, Louise Walters, Donna Freeman, Nancy Thomas, Parker King and Margaret Turner.

This Sunday in worship I'm planning to focus on prayer as the topic of my sermon. In particular we'll look at Ps. 31.8-16 and Mtt. 6.5-13. Hope to see you then.

Mark