

Wednesday Musings January 31, 2018

There are several items to call your attention this week, but hopefully all of this is already on your calendar. Beginning at 9:30 Sunday morning, Prof. Lynn Huber will kick off a four-week educational series on 1 and 2 Corinthians entitled, "Corinthians in Context." This week's topic will be "The City in Context," a look at the history of the city of Corinth and Paul's time there as described in the book of Acts. This series, sponsored by the Board of Christian Education, will meet in the Bray Fellowship Hall.

Then, following worship, we will hold our Annual Meeting. Copies of the Annual Report, as well as the minutes of our Congregational Meeting on December 10th, will be available for your review at the service. Also, extra copies of our church directory are available. We have made a change in our church's record keeping software since last year. You will notice a different format for the directory from years past. Also, please carefully check your information to make sure that all your data transferred from our old system to our new without a problem. And if you notice anyone's name has been left out, let us know that too. We hope to make all necessary changes in the next few weeks, then we'll publish an updated version.

This coming Tuesday the Supper Club will meet at Valerio's on Front Street for dinner. Eleanor mentioned last night that 17 have signed up so far. If you'd like to join us, give her a call by 8pm tomorrow evening.

Then, let me share an idea I have for our service on Feb. 11th. As you know, occasionally we have a service where there is an opportunity for folks in the congregation to share some of their experiences. On the 11th we are going to do that again, but this week the topic will be mystical experiences. The Gospel reading for that morning is the text about Jesus' Transfiguration, perhaps the ultimate in mystical experiences. I also made reference to a study a couple weeks ago in a sermon. The study said that half of the Catholic lay people interviewed said that they had had life-changing spiritual experiences, but seldom told others about them because they were afraid that people would think they were crazy. At the time I wondered if that percentage was the case for us Protestants as well, and perhaps even for us as members of First Christian. So, I decided to give this service a try. Have you ever had such an experience? Would you be willing to share it? My plan is to come down from the chancel and be out in the pews with you for a conversation about this. I wanted to give you forewarning so that you can think about this. Perhaps this service will work, it may fall flat

- but in either case, I suspect it's worth a try. And for those among us who do a story to share, I suspect that your experiences will be deeply moving for others. In any case, please, come and join us on that day.

On the prayer concern front, Harvey Sharpe had surgery for a hernia on Monday. The surgery went well but his recovery has been slowed because of a couple complications. With another few days, Harvey expects to be feeling much better, but in the meantime he appreciates your prayers. Also, Frances Morgan was supposed to

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have eye surgery this week but that was postponed till later in February. Also, I got word from Sharon Wheeler this morning that her husband Ted is in the hospital with a case of Mersa. Please keep both in your prayers. Finally, please continue to keep Louise Walters, Parkie King, Nancy Thomas, and Donna Freeman in prayer as well. And as Vera Reeder battles end stage cancer she appreciates cards or notes from all of her friends here in Burlington. Her address is: 67 Wembury Dr., Clayton, NC 27527.

This Sunday in worship we will not only celebrate Holy Communion, but we will receive Beth and Mack Painter into membership. And during the service we will be looking at Ps. 147:1-11 and Is. 40:21-31. Hope to see you then.

Mark