

Wednesday Musings August 15, 2018

This past week we mailed out 74 letters of invitation to our Homecoming Celebration on September 16th. As you know, we'll be remembering the 125th anniversary of the dedication of our first building with great festivities beginning at 9:30 that day, running through a special service of worship followed by lunch, ice cream and games on the lawn. Special commemorative T-shirts are available for \$10 a shirt. This past Sunday was the first day they were offered and 12 people have already ordered theirs. Samples are available in the church library. Shirts come in various colors, sizes and fabrics. All shirt order funds should be made through Merle Sharpe and cash is preferred. Drop by the library to see the samples, then place your order by September 2nd. Shirts will be available on the 9th.

This Sunday will be our last Bible presentation to graduating seniors. Isaac Aning has been in Ghana visiting family this summer, but he's back now and will join us this Sunday for the presentation. Isaac will be the fourth graduating senior we've recognized this year. Also, this Friday is the Andes' 71st wedding anniversary! This weekend I'll have the joy of officiating at the wedding of Cindy Sharpe and Brooke Manning. Then, following worship on Sunday, Margot and I will be off to Ocracoke for a week's vacation. Our guest preacher on the 26th will be Beth Kennett. Next week the choir will rehearse on Tuesday rather than Wednesday. We have also initiated a new grant process with the Cannon Foundation. As you may recall, under the guidance of Jeanne Williams, the church received three different grants over the years for various building repairs. We hope that we will be as successful this time around.

On a personal note, our oldest daughter Courtney just received and accepted a job offer to teach this coming year with the School for Field Studies in the Turks and Caicos. SFS is a study abroad program for college students and has sites in dozens of places around the world. As Courtney's expertise is in coastal environmental and social management issues, this is perfect for her. Yet, as exotic as South Caicos sounds, and it is exotic, the site where she'll be working is very remote and she'll be living once more in a dorm-like situation. And, to complicate matters, they want her to begin before the end of this month. Needless to say, there's not a lot of time to prepare for such a move on such short notice. When she said "yes" it was like the start of a race – there's a passport to renew, a work permit to apply for, health insurance to have covered, endless forms to fill out, and that is even before she starts to deal with issues of packing for such a journey and the weight restrictions that come with such packing. In any case, it's an extraordinarily exciting opportunity for her, and perhaps an opportunity for a visit from her parents sometime in the course of this next year!

On the prayer concern front, Mark Garrison is going to have hernia surgery tomorrow morning. This will be outpatient surgery. Let's pray that there are no complications and that his recovery is quick and without complications this time around. Tim Collins had his shoulder surgery on Monday. It went well but sleeping is a problem and recovery is a test of patience. Parkie King came home from Liberty Commons on Sunday. Parkie has made good and steady progress, but he is still weak. In addition to all of these,

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please continue to keep in prayer: Nancy Thomas, Margaret Turner, Louise Walters, Donna Freeman and Anna Gerow.

This Sunday will mark the final instalment of the three-part sermon series on Jesus' temptations. This week we will look at Ps. 130 and Mtt. 4.8-11. Hope to see you then.

Mark