

Wednesday Musings August 1, 2018

As we begin the month of August, we are starting a very busy fall season here at church. This coming Sunday, several things are on tap. The 5th will mark the start of our Sunday School program for the year. After a break for July, classes will resume at 9:30 am. Also, during worship we will recognize and honor our teachers on Teacher Appreciation Sunday. During the service we will also be welcoming Matt Rice into church membership on a day when our family of faith gathers around the table to celebrate the Lord's Supper. As this is a communion Sunday, we encourage folks to bring food items to church for Allied Churches. Earlier today someone from Allied Churches collected 125 pounds of food from last month's collections. Let's see if we can beat that mark this month. Needed items include dried and canned foods of all types. Old devotional material are also appreciated. Instead of recycling your old Upper Room booklets, bring them by and drop them in the Allied Church barrel. Look for the barrel in its new location next to the church's mission display table in the Bray Fellowship Hall. This Sunday will also be the last day to bring in items for our foster children project. The collection hamper for those items is located in the same area by the mission table. Finally, this Sunday I'll be starting a three-week sermon series on the temptations of Christ. For this series, I'll be looking at the temptations as representing the great anxieties of human life. This first week - the anxiety related to the need to be loved. Following worship, there will be a meeting of the Homecoming Planning Committee in the church library. All are welcome to help plan (and work!).

If Sunday sounds like a busy day, next week will be even more so. On Monday there will be a joint meeting of our women's fellowship groups for their annual meeting. Bring fixings for a salad supper. Gather at 6 pm in the Bray Fellowship Hall and the featured speaker will be Robin Wintringham from Habitat for Humanity. On Tuesday evening, the Supper Club will gather at Valerio's Restaurant (120 E. Front St.) at 6 pm. If you plan to come, please make your reservation with Eleanor Lovgren by tomorrow at 8 pm. Finally, our annual Ice Cream Social will be held Wednesday night at 7. As always, there promises to be a wide array of wonderful flavors. Bring a friend and plan to join us for any or all of these fun events.

Let me remind you that we still need folks to sign up for receptions following worship. We are all set for this month, but there are still multiple slots that are open for later in the year. The signup sheet is in the parlor. We also received a notice from First Reformed about a big event they will be hosting this Saturday: a Basement Sale, Bake Sale and Craft Fair. This event will run from 8 am till noon in their church's fellowship hall. Food and beverages will be available for purchase along with everything else. Proceeds will benefit the Alamance County Meals on Wheels program.

On the prayer concern front, let me share a few updates. As you know, the Andes' daughter, Cindy, has been battling cancer for a number of years. Her condition has worsened lately and she is regularly in and out of the hospital. If you'd like to send a card, her address is: Cindy Nance, 1277 Golden Eagle Dr., Reston, VA 20194. Also, the Andes phone number is 1-980-262-3452. The number in our directory is incorrect. I think I've shared this correction before, but just in case.... Parker King was hospitalized

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over the weekend due to a leg injury. He is presently at Liberty Commons in room 402. He will probably be there for a week or two for physical therapy. And he would love a visit! Anna Gerow has been moved to room 307 at Alamance House. Mary Butler has recently moved to the assisted living building at Twin Lakes. Tomorrow, Connie Collins' mother will be having a surgical procedure that they hope will finally close a persistent, open wound in her back. Connie said that they will be doing this on an outpatient bases, so she'll be able to go home afterwards. Following worship this past Sunday, Lola Pipes mentioned that her sister recently suffered a stroke that has left her paralyzed on her left side. In addition to these concerns, please continue to keep in prayer – Donna Freeman, Nancy Thomas, Margaret Turner and Louise Walters.

This Sunday in worship we'll be looking at Gen. 3.1-13 and Mtt. 4.1-4. Hope to see you then.

Mark