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*waverly church of the nazarene
belong. believe. become.*

December 18, 2019

Dear WCN Family,

Our annual Group Home Party was everything it could be and everything it should be. Singing. Dancing. Silliness. Bad jokes. Good Food. Gifts. Laughter. The air was thick with joy. Thanks to Kay McGranahan for her coordination. Thanks to Buddy Bishop and his crew for the program. And thanks to everyone who participated. You made Christmas brighter.

WCN did not have a float in the Humphreys County Christmas parade. But WCN was IN the parade. We were on the county soccer league float. We were in the scouts float. We were marching in the band. We were waving pageant winners. WCN represented. We were on about two dozen floats in the parade. I love the fact that we did not have a WCN float. That freed us up to be WCN in the community. That is who we are.

Adriana Batchelder was sworn in as a U.S. citizen on Tuesday, December 10th. A rowdy crew of family, church family, and friends gathered around Adriana in Nashville for the special occasion. Adriana's class included 27 different nationalities. This marks the end of many years of uncertainty, and many dollars in legal and other fees. Tuesday was filled with tears of joy. We celebrate with the Batchelder family.

WCN has a new app for a new year. On the new app, you can sign up for events, check the church calendar, receive notifications, listen to sermons, and give. Android users: go to the play store and search "WCN." Apple users: search for the "sharefaith" app. Download it. Choose WCN. Select "my ministry." Let the app help you stay connected to the life of your church family.

The tent revival that launched WCN began in 1946. We are now two years away from our 75th anniversary. Several decades ago, Bertha Matlock wrote a brief history of WCN. In 2000, Alice Blazier updated Bertha's work, writing another brief history of our church. In anticipation of our 75th anniversary, the church board named John McGranahan "Resident Historian" to compose an updated history of WCN. If you know John, then you know the board made the perfect choice.

Fall Immerse Groups have completed. Thanks to Madison Young, Ryan Young, Charles Davidson, Nick Forester, Bradley Selph, Eugene Woodside, Jane Langston, Diane Davis, Brittany Selph, Sarah Baker, Earl Baker, Lanelle Coleman and Pastor Mary Forester for leading groups. The winter term begins January 15th. Groups will be announced soon.

After much prayer, planning, and conversation, I made the recommendation to the church board in our December meeting that Pastor Mary Forester receive a role change. Effective January 1, 2020, Pastor Mary's title will be Pastor of NextGen ministries. The church board wholeheartedly and unanimously supported this move. NextGen stands for Next Generation. The NextGen umbrella includes birth through young adult (college age). Let me assure you of a few things: (1) Pastor Mary will continue to be our children's pastor. That will not change. (2) She will not attempt to lead all age groups directly. The age range is too large to attempt that. (3) This decision is not in lieu of hiring a future youth pastor. We still plan to hire a youth pastor when the time is right. (4) Pastor Mary is not receiving a compensation adjustment with her new role. She accepted the position on the condition that her salary remain the same. Pastor Mary's role will be an executive who provides oversight to the above-mentioned age groups. The nursery team and children's ministry team already work in cooperation with Pastor Mary. The teen leadership (and future youth pastor) will serve in conjunction with her. And she has already begun to reboot our young adult (college age) ministry. This is not the way churches usually organize leadership. It is not familiar. It is ok for us to be different if it works for us and if God is calling us to it. Pastor Mary still feels called to children's ministry, but she also feels like God is expanding her calling to include others. More than anything else, this role change will help me. Instead of me trying to provide oversight to all areas, Pastor Mary will help me by carrying the load of oversight. She is capable, organized, passionate, and gifted. She is the right person for this role. If you have questions about this transition, come and see me. This is a win on many levels.

This Saturday evening at 5pm is our Blue Christmas service. I have never attended a Blue Christmas service, let alone organized one. I do not know exactly what should happen in a Blue Christmas service. I just know that God is calling us to this. People feel blue during this season for many reasons, not just the death of a loved one. Divorce. Distance between loved ones. Loneliness. Declining health. Depression. Some people feel blue for no reason at all. They just do. Come Saturday if this service pertains to you. If it does not pertain to you, join me in praying for those who need it.

This is your last letter for 2019. There are two Sundays left in the year. Two weeks left to give. If you need to catch up on your giving for the year, or if you feel led to make a year-end gift, I believe there is no better investment than God's work through WCN. Would you consider a year-end gift to the building fund? Or FUEL ministry? Or missions? Your giving makes a difference.

This Sunday is the fourth Sunday of Advent. The last Sunday before Christmas. All four candles around the perimeter of the advent wreath will be lit. We will begin worship the best way we know how. Discovery Kids will sing and sign the song "Go Tell it On the Mountain!" Come early. Come ready.

-Parson Brown

COMING SOON:

- Dec 18: Yuletide Wingding, 5pm
- Dec 20: Teen Christmas Party at Davis home, 5pm
- Dec 21: Blue Christmas, 5pm
- Dec 22: Discovery Kids open worship
- Dec 23: Kaleo Luncheon, 12noon
- Dec 23-27: church office closed
- Jan 4: Ultimate Frisbee at the soccer fields
- Jan 8: New Year's Family Communion, 3-7pm
- Jan 11: Teens: Storm Damage cleanup, 10am
- Jan 12: Celebration of Baptism, 6pm

*If you have
a prayer need
please email
prayer@wcntn.com*

Worship: 8:45 & 11am
S/School: 10am
Sun Nt: 6pm
Wed Nt: 6:30pm

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