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

January 21, 2021

Dear WCN Family,

Alton Ray Hesson II, known as Ray or Ray-Bob, was born on August 18, 1961 to Alton and Nancie Hesson. Because of multiple, severe limitations, the Hessons were told that Ray would not live past age 12. God could not have placed Ray into a better family. Ray knew nothing but love throughout his life. He enjoyed comics, super-heroes, and 80's tv shows. Ray loved church and longed to be at church. When he was young, he would sit with a different family each Sunday. For the past 18 years, Ray was bedridden. He lost his hearing. Communication was hard. Nevertheless, he kept praying and singing the hymns of the church. Ray was a miracle. He outlived expectations, dying last Tuesday at age 59. May Ray rest in peace and rise with Christ. I had the chance to visit Ray many times. I would lean close to his good ear and shout prayers and tell him I loved him. Ray was pure in heart. Ray is no longer limited, thanks be to God. We will have a memorial service at a later date, when COVID permits. Until then, pray for Alton, Nancie, Missy, Edie, and the rest of the family.

New Year's Family Communion happened the first Wednesday of the new year. It looked and felt different, but it was the same. Families met with pastors. We talked, prayed, and served communion. It is one of your pastors' most cherished opportunities—to spend personal time with you and pray for you as you move into the new year. We are eager to see how God answers our prayers in 2021.

We switched our Men's Prayer Breakfast from Monday to Saturday and got a larger crowd. The change kept a few guys from coming, but they are gracious because they know that the change works for more men. Our next breakfast is Saturday, February 20th. Join us, guys. Good things are happening.

Continuing Lay Training (CLT) is an equipping ministry through the church of the Nazarene. It is designed for lay leaders who want more intense study than Sunday School, but are not necessarily called to go through the course of study for ministry. CLT is a great 'middle option.' CLT offers classes in Bible, Theology, and Spiritual Formation, as well as certificates in Sunday School leadership, Men's and Women's Ministry, and other areas. WCN's church board approved two new CLT students: Garry Stanley and Rachel Reynen. We currently have five people enrolled in CLT. If you are interested, reach out to Pastor Janice for details.

The Season of Emerging Preachers took off Sunday night. Hunter Elliott preached an outstanding sermon from 1 Samuel. This was Hunter's first sermon, besides one he preached to a video camera for preaching class. The church was affirming. Hunter left Sunday night with greater confidence in his call, thanks to you. Join us this Sunday at 6pm to hear Kelsey Elliott preach.

The MidSouth District rescheduled District Assembly from the end of April to the first of June, hoping more people will be able to attend later. Assembly will take place in the middle of Family Camp, on June 3 and 4. Because of the assembly change, our church elections are also rescheduled to March 7-10. Information and voting instructions will come later.

Every winter, WCN's staff gets away for a couple of days. Our staff retreat is for team-building, prayer, planning, and vision-work. This year's staff retreat will take place February 1 and 2. The church office will be closed. We ask for your prayers during those days.

Celebrate Recovery has served WCN and our county well for the last three years. Pastor Annetta and her team discerned that a brief hiatus is in order. The plan is to resume in the spring with a renewed focus. You can help us with that renewed focus by completing the CR survey. Links were emailed Monday. Hard copies are on the welcome table. This survey is for everyone, whether you attend CR or not.

I miss Sunday School, and I know I'm not the only one. Other churches already resumed Sunday School but we still need to wait. Some of our classes meet in the elementary school, which is not yet open to us. Our on-campus classrooms are small and tightly packed, which is not conducive for distancing. Until Sunday School formally resumes, there is a combined adult class meeting in the sanctuary at 10am on Sunday mornings. Sunday School teachers are having ongoing conversations with staff about Sunday School. We are talking about re-purposing Sunday School to make it healthier and more missional. Pray for our teachers and staff as we seek to make a good thing better. I will keep you posted.

Like every other ministry, the staff struggled about how to execute our Ash Wednesday service on February 17th. Ash Wednesday is a central to the Christian Calendar, and it is central to our faith formation at WCN. It would be hard to do without Ash Wednesday. On the other hand, the service usually entails a packed sanctuary, lots of people-movement in lines, and face-to-face interaction for the imposition of ashes. We explored multiple options and decided to give each person/family unit a small container of ashes. Whether you engage virtually from home, or in-person at your seat, you will have a container to impose your ashes yourself or take turns imposing your family. After all, we do believe in the priesthood of all believers (1 Peter 2:9). When you impose ashes, I hope you feel the blessing we feel when we pastors have the honors. Containers of ashes will be available to you in the next few weeks.

I feel an overwhelming urge to express thanks. Thank you for understanding how difficult pastoral work and decision-making are these days. Thank you for your openness to new ideas. Thank you for your perseverance. Thank you for your flexibility. Thank you for being agreeable, even when you don't agree. Thank you for adjusting schedules and learning new ways to serve. Thank you for living with a holy, humble spirit. You lighten our journey. Thank you. Love you.

-Pastor Daron

## UPCOMING...

- Feb 1-2: WCN Staff retreat (church office closed)
- Feb 17: Ash Wednesday service, 6:30pm
- Feb 20: Men's Prayer Breakfast
- Mar 7-10: WCN elections
- April 2: Good Friday Tenebrae service, 6:30
- April 4: Easter Sunday
- April 25: Vision Sunday
- May 23: Ordination Celebration for Pastor Janice Rudolph
- May 30-Jun 6: Family Camp, with District Assembly Jun 3 & 4.

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

**Worship:**  
8:45 & 11am  
619 E. Main St.  
(931) 296-4184

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