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May 26, 2023

Church Family,

We experienced 7 beautiful Resurrection Stories during the Easter season. Thanks to these people for living and sharing their stories: Robby Einerson, Darrel Shanks, Rose Mitchell, Rhonda Moore, Kathryn McGuire, Carla Reynolds, and Garry Stanley. Thanks to Pastor Mary for bringing the stories to life. WCN has been sharing Resurrection Stories since 2013. Eleven years. Seven stories each year. We have a catalog of 77 stories of God's grace at work in God's people. The stories can be found at wcntn.com. At any moment in the life of WCN, there are many more Resurrection Stories in the making. I look forward to seeing them on the screen in years to come.

Sunday night was our sixth Long Term Recovery Connect. We heard from the good people of Grace Community Church of the Nazarene in Spring Hill, KS. They are doing flood recovery work in Waverly. We thanked them and prayed with them. We enjoyed desserts and a time of connection outside.

On Wednesday night, Joshua and Katherine Haun shared about their missions work in Sofia, Bulgaria. The Hauns are from East Tennessee and have three beautiful children: Jude, Kaitlyn, and Levi. The Hauns are passionate about a church planting movement in Bulgaria. We were blessed to hear from their hearts and support their good work. Remember to pray for the Hauns as they serve.

This is the weekend we get to *Pray Toward Pentecost*. Our 24 hours of prayer begins at 8:45 Saturday morning and concludes at 8:45 on Sunday morning before worship. All prayer slots have been filled. If you did not sign up, you may pray at any point during the 24 hour period. You do not have to come to the church campus to pray. Pray wherever you happen to be at your time. We are praying for the church, the building, and for God's mission in this world. On Sunday morning, we will hold a building update meeting at 10am in lieu of Engage Groups. Thank you for your continued investment in the good work God is doing.

Family Camp begins this Sunday evening. Dr. Carla Sunberg will preach in the evenings. Dr. H Ray Dunning will teach in the day sessions. Dr. Dwight Gunter will lead a workshop entitled *Up From the Ground: Reviving the Church to Restore the World* from 2-5pm on Thursday, June 1. There will be

services and activities for all ages. The schedule is in the enclosure. We will not have evening activities on WCN's campus this Sunday, May 28 or Wednesday, May 31. Make Family Camp a priority. You will be glad.

Some things you should know: I have been exposed to immense talent. I watched Mr. Clint Rawls, the WJHS band, and the WCHS band perform and educate us about music and culture. I saw *The Lion King Jr.* presented by the WJHS Wildcat Theatre. I saw incredible art at the WCHS Student Art Show. And I walked around the ballpark, catching many of our kids playing baseball and softball. If I tried to list all of our talented young people, the list would be long and I would leave someone out. Our church and community are blessed.

In the Church of the Nazarene, the relationship between the pastor and church is reviewed after two years, then every four years thereafter (*Manual* paragraph 123). This spring marks 22 years for me at WCN, which means it is time for the next review. On Tuesday, June 6, District Superintendent, Dr. Dwight Gunter, will meet with the WCN Board to conduct the review. You may reach out to board members before the review if you wish to share input.

The Church of the Nazarene Manual states, "In order to encourage a healthy pastoral ministry and strong spiritual life of the pastor, the church board, in consultation with the district superintendent, should provide a sabbatical leave for the pastor during each seventh consecutive year of service in one congregation...(129.10)" Pastor Mary Forester reached her seventh year of ministry. The church board has granted her a sabbatical this summer. A sabbatical is not a vacation. It is extended leave for rest, renewal, learning, and prayer. Her sabbatical will be a benefit to herself and to us. She will be unavailable for contact during her sabbatical. Her duties have been delegated. Anything that would normally require her attention should be directed to the church office. The dates of her sabbatical are June 5 to July 31. Join me in praying for Pastor Mary and her family during the sabbatical.

Ryan Brown was my first ever roommate when we were kids. He is my little brother and my best friend. He best-manned my wedding and I officiated his. Growing up, people looked at me and said, "That one will be a pastor." They looked at Ryan and said, "We don't know what that one is gonna be." My life has taken the appearance of a straight trajectory (but truthfully, far from perfect). Ryan's has been more roundabout. When Ryan was transformed and called into ministry, everyone was surprised. Everyone including Ryan. Everyone except me. People tried to talk me out of ministry because it might not put food on the table. People tried to talk Ryan out of ministry because he was Ryan. Our story has similarities to the parable of the prodigal. The main difference is—this older brother has been happy and proud.

For 15 years, Ryan thrived in pastoral ministry and his three churches have thrived. On Thursday, May 11, the Central Gulf Coast District of the Church of the Nazarene elected Ryan to be their District Superintendent. This is a significant leadership role in the church. Ryan's territory includes lower Alabama and the panhandle of Florida. It's funny how God works. We should hang our heads for the ways we try to measure people. I celebrate with my brother as he follows God's call into this new ministry adventure.

This Sunday is Pentecost. The importance of the day may not register on your radar like Christmas or Easter. But when God's Spirit gets hold of God's people, there is no telling what happens next. Let's come expecting.

-Pastor Daron

Upcoming...

- May 27-28: 24 Hours of Praying Toward Pentecost
- May 28: Pentecost Sunday/Building Update Meeting, 10am
- May 28-Jun 2: Family Camp w/Dr. Carla Sunberg
- Jun 9-15: Church of the Nazarene General Assembly, Indianapolis, IN
- Jun 19-22: Sr. High Camp
- Jun 23-26: Middle School Camp
- Jul 3-10: NYC
- Jul 10-14: Tween Camp

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

Worship:

8:45 & 11am

Engage Groups:

10am

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