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September 13, 2023

Church Family,

"I have never felt more loved in my life." Barbara Hicks spoke those words to me the Sunday after the memorial service for her daughter. Sherri Hicks Hall died tragically. When life is at its worst, the church is given the chance to be at its best. Delilah King led teams of people to provide meals. Angela Norton and Carla Reynolds walked alongside Barbara and hosted a spaghetti fundraiser lunch that brought in more than \$3,500. The money more than covered the cost for the arrangements. Darrel Shanks and his team of guys replaced siding on Barbara's home. Vernon Costello and *Volunteer Metals* donated siding. *Sherwin Williams* donated paint. Now Darrel and his crew are replacing the deck on the front of Barbara's home. These were repairs that Barbara's husband was doing when he got sick and died a few years ago. This tragedy opened the door for us to come alongside of Barbara and the family. May Sherri Hall rest in peace and rise with Christ.

WCN welcomes new members: Dr. Jim King, Charmaine King, Johnny Orton, Shannon Orton. Cody Cathey, Sierra Cathey, Brad Mangrum, Kim Mangrum, and Dean Worcester. Sierra is the daughter of Johnny and Shannon. Cody and Sierra have Noah and Jade. Brad and Kim have Allie, Layla, and Noah. Dean attends worship with his son, Scotty. We welcome and celebrate the gift of these wonderful people.

Don and Linda Nichols needed a ramp for access to their home. Darrel Shanks, Fred Perkins, Richard Horner, and Duane Pine built the ramp. Days after it was complete, Don had a fall in his bathroom. The medics arrived and wheeled him out. They raved over the ramp. It was the finest they had seen. No one expected it to be used so soon. But it was there when it was needed. Don is getting stronger every day at NHC in Dickson.

The *Bridge* (young adults) Engage Group wanted to invest in the building. Because they are in school or just beginning work, they don't have much to give. So they hosted a yard sale in conjunction with the 30 Mile Yard Sale. Thanks to *FirstBank* for the use of their lot. Thanks to *Humphreys County Tire and Oil* (Robert and Francie Hagewood) for donating several new tires to be sold. Thanks to each donor. Thanks to Troy Manor, Eugene Woodside, and Karen Woodside for giving time and energy. And thanks to Katie Brown and the *Bridge* for their efforts that raised about \$3,000 for the building fund.

WCN has partnered with and given to *United Way* over the years. After the flood, WCN directed funding to *United Way* for distribution to flood recovery residents. It never occurred to us that we might be a recipient. Two weeks ago, Nioka Curtis came by. She gave us a \$10,000 check from *United Way* for our building fund. It is humbling to receive. We are blessed and grateful.

I mentioned in my last letter that we gave half of the undesignated flood recovery money to residents in our community. One of those families recently gave the amount of money we gave them back to us. They know we're working with a gap. They are on more solid footing. And they want to be part of God's solution as we move forward. Thanks be to God.

Another person in our church texted me: "I've been thinking about the building fund. I've given as I can above my tithing and offerings...I thought about what sacrificial giving would be. Giving that would mean doing without something in order to give sacrificially. I'm working on that. I believe even on a fixed income I can do more and the blessing to the church will be beyond any personal 'stuff.'" Two days later, I got another text: "I found a way to cut some recurring things each month. I've got an extra \$100 per month to give toward the building." More of this, Lord.

The next building update meeting will be 10am on Sunday, September 24th. We will talk about construction progress, the ongoing SBA saga, and where we stand with the gap. The good news: expenditures are consistently lower than income. We have opened up several additional creative funding sources. We are doing everything in our power to close the gap. Join us on the 24th so we can share details. In the meantime, keep praying and giving.

Pastor Chuck and Helen Ellis are moving to North Carolina to live near family. We will send them the way we send people: with food and stories. The food will be great and the stories will be interesting. Join us on Sunday, September 24th at 5pm at the Apex Community Room. Jana Brazzle is directing the meal. Mexican main dishes are covered. Bring sides, drinks, and desserts. Bring cards or gifts for the Ellis's.

This Sunday begins WCN's *Week of Renewal*. Sunday through Wednesday. Dr. Tim Green, professor of Old Testament from Trevecca will be our guest preacher. He is at the top of my list of preachers and he is at the top of my list of people. The schedule is enclosed. Pastor Joe Voight will lead music. Pastor Kelsey Elliott will lead services for kids. Nursery care will be provided. Let's pray for renewal in ourselves, in our church, and in our community.

On Sunday, I gave one of my favorite definitions for *church: God's community of love on the move*. YES to all of that. Every word. First of all, we are *God's*. We do not belong to ourselves. Church is a *community*. Not a place. We are marked with the *love* of Jesus. And we are *on the move*. Not settled. Sent. As you look through this letter, be reminded of the kind of church to which you belong. Grief care during tragic loss. A fundraiser to cover arrangements. New siding and a deck. A ramp built just in time. Young people hosting a yard sale for the future. People giving back. Instances of sacrificial giving. By the grace of God and the power of the Spirit, this is who we are. *God's community of love on the move*. Lord, let it be so more and more.

I look forward to being with you Sunday! Let's expect renewal!

Pastor Daron

Upcoming...

- Sep 13: SAGE (Seniors) Lunch, 11-1 at WCN
- Sep 16: Women's Prayer Breakfast, 9am
- Sep 17-20: *Week of Renewal* w/Dr. Tim Green
- Sep 18: Teens and parents: Pizza with Dr. Green, 5pm
- Sep 24: Building Update Meeting, 10am & Appreciation/Sending Meal for Pastor Chuck & Helen Ellis, 5pm at Apex
- Sep 26: ASP Celebration, 3-6pm at Asbury Park
- Oct 2: Teens: Ultimate Frisbee at City Park

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

Worship:
8:45 & 11am
Engage Groups:
10am

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