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September 27, 2023

Church Family,

In the September, the church board approved Rachel Reynen as *WCN's Littles Ministry Director*. This is a title for the work Rachel has been doing. She is a *Certified Lay Minister* in the Church of the Nazarene. God gifted her with the ability to lead preschool children well. They have fun. They love her. They learn about Jesus. The walls downstairs are thin. I often hear her teaching on Sunday mornings. She is nothing short of amazing. This title affirms Rachel for the work she does and will not come with compensation. She will continue leading the *Littles' Engage Group* and *Littles' second service worship*. We look forward to new ways God will use her as she takes ownership of this ministry alongside Pastor Kelsey (Children's Ministries), Delilah King (*Tinies Ministries*), and Pastor Mary (NextGen Ministries).

Guys from WCN replaced Barbara Hicks' deck. Darrel Shanks led the crew that included Duane Pine, Charles Davidson, Eugene Woodside, Kevin Woodside, Daren Hamm, Fred Perkins, Richard Horner, Troy Manor, Nathan Lill, and Vernon Costello. Barbara is thrilled with her new deck. Thanks to these guys. It's only a matter of time before they build the next deck or ramp. If you want to join the crew, talk to Darrel. If you would like to give toward this project or the next one, you may give through me.

We needed a trench dug and conduit laid at the new building site for electrical. The contractor's subs were tied up. Terry asked if our guys could do the work. These guys dug the trench and laid the conduit. In doing so, they saved us time and about \$50,000. Thanks to Mike Turner, Ted Scholes, Fred Perkins, and Daren Hamm. And always, thanks to Terry Langston.

On Sunday night, WCN honored Pastor Chuck and Helen Ellis. Their season with us was short. But their impact was large. Pastor Chuck and Helen's leadership with recovery ministry, the JOY Engage-Group, their teaching, preaching, counseling, and presence have been a blessing to us. Personally, Pastor Chuck has been a blessing to me. Pastor to pastor. His ongoing affirmation and encouragement have lifted me. Many thanks to Jana Brazzle and her team for organizing the meal for the Ellis's. One thing about WCN: we send people well.

WCN's FUEL ministry launched for the schoolyear. Pastor Janice and Candy Lee give oversight to 4 Waverly churches that serve 100 students. WCN's share of students is 26. Those numbers are likely to climb. WCN's cost to operate FUEL is roughly \$10,000/year. Thankfully, FUEL has never been a budget item because you faithfully designate gifts beyond tithes for FUEL. Thank you for feeding hungry kids.

Faith Promise Sunday is October 15. We will talk about missions. We will tell stories about missions. We will pray for missionaries. And we will support them with our giving.

The first installment of *619 Stories* will be October 15 at 6pm. The theme is *Belonging to the Body of Christ*. Join us as we share stories of *Belonging* to WCN for nearly 8 decades. It will be meaningful.

Sunday begins Pastor Appreciation Month. I have been asked to share with you: Baskets will be in the foyer for cards/gifts of appreciation to pastors. Thank you for loving on your leaders.

Here are the notes from Sunday's Building Update meeting:

- Drywall is in place.
- Rough-in for electrical, plumbing, and HVAC is complete.
- Some sidewalks have been poured.
- Now: glass is being installed and paint is going on walls.
- Next up: utilities turned on in the next two weeks, then HVAC. Topsoil/grass/sod in two weeks. Paving, cabinetry, and flooring in early November.
- Estimated completion: early to mid-January
- Our SBA loan is in closing. We hope to receive our first check soon.
- We applied for a FEMA buyout of our current property. The buyout is for \$400,000. It is not guaranteed. We are months away from finalization.
- Inflation hit us hard. In spite of our efforts, and even though expenses are consistently lower than monthly income, the gap is now at \$190,000.
- We do not expect inflation to cause any more problems for us because remaining project costs are more predictable.
- Expect us to scale back. We will defer items like basketball goals, paving the entire parking lot, furniture, etc.
- Our expenses remain very lean, thanks to staff.
- In addition to your giving, we are seeking creative funding options. We applied for and received grants. We reached out to "Friends of WCN." Grants and gifts continue to come in.
- Pastor Mary has a tiered list of furnishings. Some of you have purchased items (chairs, office equipment, nursery décor, etc) in memory or in honor of loved ones. The list is constantly being updated. Reach out to Pastor Mary to receive the list.

With three and a half months until completion, the news is mixed. We are not strangers to challenges. The pandemic. Rising costs due to the pandemic. The flood. Ministry with very little square footage. Inflation... The Church was born in adversity and it is built for adversity. God sees God's people through obstacles. That is the story of scripture. That is the story of WCN. God has us right where God wants us. Praying to God and counting on God. Because we are counting on God, that does not mean we are off the hook. God provides, often, through God's people. Keep praying and keep giving as the Lord leads us through another challenge.

It was September 30, 1993. Thirty tears ago this Saturday. I said yes to God's call. I did not have all the answers. I could not see the way forward. My future was fuzzy. I had fears. I had public speaking issues. I had many reasons to say no. But I said yes. Here I am, all these years later, thanks be to God.

Although the future is fuzzy, let's keep being the church that says yes to God.

Pastor Daron

Upcoming...

- Oct 2: Teens: Ultimate Frisbee, 1pm at city park
- Oct 14: Men's Prayer Breakfast, 9am
- Oct 15: *Faith Promise Sunday* for World Missions & 619 Stories of Belonging at 6pm
- Oct 17: Hospitality Team meeting, 6:30pm in sanctuary
- Oct 20-22: District Women's Retreat at Garner Creek
- Oct 22: Missionary service (creative access) at Pine Hill, 5pm, no pm activities at WCN
- Oct 29: Celebration of Baptism service, 6pm

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

Worship:

8:45 & 11am

Engage Groups:

10am

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