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January 13, 2024

Church Family,

Proverbs 19:21 says, "Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails." The last newsletter was filled with plans. A few hours after sending the letter, we learned about a timeline delay. Plans halted. But the LORD's purpose will prevail. More information later in the letter.

Lexi McGranahan and Jack Mergen were wedded on Saturday, December 30th at WCN's Main Street campus. She is 4th generation WCN on one side of her family and 3rd generation on the other side. She was married in the place where she was raised to know and follow Jesus. Hers was the final wedding in the building. Lexi's parents are John and Kay McGranahan. Makayla, Lexi's sister, stood as a bridesmaid. I shared pastoral duties with Pastor Amanda Crice, pastor of the church Jack and Lexi attended in college, and Rev. Larry McGranahan, Lexi's grandfather. We celebrate with this special couple.

On Christmas Eve, we gathered around Samuel Dellinger, prayed for him and sent him to Winnsboro, Louisiana. Sam was my first baby dedication about 22 years ago. WCN nurtured Sam to know and follow Jesus. He just finished his final semester at Trevecca. He joins Pastors Daniel and Dani Hawks, who formerly served as WCN's children/youth pastors. They were Sam's pastors here. Now Sam is their youth pastor and Bible teacher in the church's K-12 school. Full circle. Full heart.

WCN received 15 new members on Sunday morning! Zach Hildreth, Valorie Hildreth, Zach Presson, Stephanie Presson, Mary Ann Smothermon, Ronnie Brown, Patsy Brown, Beth Wooton, Cory Sternberg, Karalee Sternberg, Ken Parnell, Kim Owens, Dana Gonsalves, Sherry Gonsalves, and Paul Petersen. One of these couples has a newborn. Two of them are expecting. Each have beautiful stories of grace and connection to WCN. Paul and his wife, Kelly, intended to join as members for years. Kelly battled cancer. Each time *Come to the Waters* was offered, Kelly was sick or Paul was working. The Gonsalves moved from Hawaii to Waverly. Sherry and Kelly were best friends. Kelly went to be with the Lord last summer. Sherry and Dana stood beside Paul as we received the three of them into membership. We were all thinking of Kelly in that moment. Like I said, beautiful stories of grace and connection.

Scott Kilburn was posthumously awarded the *Carnegie Medal for Bravery* for his efforts to save Regina Brake on August 21, 2021. In his attempt, both Scott and Regina perished. The *Carnegie Medal for Bravery* is the highest civilian honor in North America. Only a handful are awarded annually. I preached Scott's funeral days after the disaster. Scott's widow, Tracy Kilburn, is an active member at WCN. We honor Scott. No. Greater. Love.

For more than two years, Pastor Mary struggled with the Small Business Administration on our behalf for a loan. She jumped through hoops. Case manager switches. The goal line moved several times. Eventually, SBA learned that she was not giving up. We just received the final disbursement. \$1.641 million. 30 years. 2% money. This keeps us from having to spend so much more. Thanks to Pastor Mary and thanks be to God!

Because of the delay, we have a few Wednesday nights before the *Immerse Group* term begins. These Wednesdays are *Pack & Pray*. We will meet at 6:30 on our Main St. campus. All ages. We will pray and get organized. Then we will sort, sift, pack, toss, clean, label, etc. Come and help. Plenty to do.

Last week, the fire marshal visited. This Tuesday we received our Certificate of Occupancy. Punch list work is underway. Terry Langston, the architect, and the contractor are resolving the final things to be done. The punch list process takes no longer than two weeks. Then two days for the building to be deep cleaned. Then we move in. Thanks be to God!

The revised schedule is enclosed. It includes moving storage items from *Tennsco* to our building on Saturday, January 27th. We need trucks, trailers, and movers at 8am sharp. Depending on the time of completion, we will set more days for moving items from Main St. to Airport Rd. The open house on January 31st is for WCN from 2-4pm (whether you are a member or not) and is open to everyone (including WCN) from 4-6pm. Guided tours and refreshments will be given. A refreshments sign-up sheet is in the lobby on Sundays. See Ann Long. The public is welcome. Invite your people.

The February 2nd service of Pilgrimage and Dedication is something you don't want to miss. We will begin on Main St. at 6:30pm. We will process to Airport Rd. The City of Waverly will escort us with flashing blue lights and flashing red lights. The service will conclude with prayer and dedication of the building. So much will be so right about the way we make this move.

February 4th is our first Sunday in the new building. 8:30 and 11:00. February 18th will be the 3rd Sunday, which will be our *Coming Home Celebration*. Consider that Sunday our *hard launch* or *grand opening*. We will have a meal after the 11:00 service. Bring food. Lots of food. Contact Delilah King.

Engage Groups (Sunday School) will reboot at 10am on February 4th. Signs will be posted. People will help you. Find a group. Visit several groups over the first few weeks. Find a group that is right for you. All ages.

Here is what we need from you: Prayer for a smooth transition, for unity and focus and that we retain a deep sense of mission. Pray for those who will have a hard time with changes. Be flexible. Expect bumps in the road. Be ready to help. Sign up for emails from the church office for notifications.

I can't get Louie Giglio's statement out of my mind:
"Life is short. God is big. Take the next step."
Here we go.

-Pastor Daron

Upcoming...

- Jan 19-20: *Nazatween*
- Jan 27: Workday; Moving furniture from *Tennsco*, 8am
- Jan 28: last Sunday on Main St
- Jan 31: Open House at 693 Airport Rd, 2-4 for WCN, 4-6 for public
- Feb 2: Service of Pilgrimage & Dedication, 6:30 at 619 E. Main
- Feb 4: First Sunday at 693 Airport Rd, 8:30 & 11:00 & Engage Groups reboot at 10:00
- Feb 14: Ash Wednesday service, 6:30pm
- Feb 18: *Coming Home Celebration Services*: 8:30, 11:00 & meal to follow 11:00 service

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

Worship:
8:45/8:30 & 11am

Engage Groups:
10am

693 Airport Rd.
(931) 209-4000

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