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May 22, 2024

Church Family,

We recently honored two godly ladies who served faithfully and died unexpectedly. Thomasine Hill wore lots of hats. Underneath all of her hats, she was a humble servant of the Lord. She lifted our community in many ways, especially with her singing. Karen McIlwain was a CNA who spent decades of her life caring for others. She worked at the senior center the last two years, doing what she did best: giving care. Their services were celebrations. We remember and honor them. May Thomasine and Karen rest in peace and rise with Christ.

WCN welcomed the following new members on Sunday: David Frazier, Cindy Frazier, Randy Bell, Tammy Bell, Brittany Bell, Janet Hendrick, Jennifer Taylor, Jason Manor, Coral Groves, Michael Hewitt, Clay Hamblin, Lacy Phillips, Spencer Phillips, Terry Just, Jessica Roberts, Nolan Roberts, Gabby Ard, Laura Ard, Jamie Stewart, Liz Waggoner, Melissa Pickett, Michael Ross, Shannon Ross, and Lori Roche. These 24 people and their families are a blessing to us. We welcome them with joy.

2024 Resurrection Stories featured people who struggle with the following: living with disability, legalism, alcoholism, death of a parent, death of a spouse, death of a child, drug addiction, low self-image, grief, isolation, struggle with belief, deployment of a parent, depression, and much more. Many thanks to Jackie Boswell, Terry Moore, Julie Einerson, Jeni Lill, John McGranahan, Grace Jones, and Ray Vaughn for sharing their Resurrection Stories. Stories are catalogued at wcntn.com. Thanks to Pastor Mary for many hours spent recording and editing. Her work made their stories better.

On May 7th, we filled rooms at Waverly Elementary School and Waverly Junior High School with food. We fed teachers, administrators, and other school employees. We wondered about our ability to feed two school staffs at once. After it was over, we could have fed 3-4 school staffs. Then on May 9th and 10th, Waverly Elementary School held their field day at Asbury Park. WCN was called upon to provide presence for activities. Those who served are Steve Truell, Jasmine Bancroft, Mateo Batchelder, Knox Einerson, Easton Elliott, Brittany Selph, Madeline Einerson, Julie Einerson, Jimmy King, Rhonda Moore, Terry Moore, Ainsley Forester, Lacy Philips, Rachel Reynen, Macy Brown, Madison Gwin, Mikayla Gwin, Nick Forester, and Kelsey Elliott. Thank you to everyone who actively serves in partnership with our schools.

Will you help children and teenagers get to summer church camps? The scholarship need is \$2,000. *The Sending Tree* is in the administrative hall. Take an envelope. Enclose a gift. Return it through the offering or to a staff person. Thank you for investing in the spiritual formation of our young people.

The MidSouth District Family Camp begins this Sunday evening. We will commemorate fifty years of ministry at Camp Garner Creek (700 Sam Hollow Rd, Dickson). Dr. H Ray Dunning will teach weekday morning sessions at 10:30am. A different special preacher will preach each evening at 7pm. WCN will not have evening activities this Sunday the 26th or Wednesday the 29th. Pastor Kelsey will lead services for kids at Family Camp. Activities for all ages include inflatables, rubber duck creek races, golf, frisbee golf, cornhole tournament, crafts, petting zoo, luau, pool swimming, creek swimming, zip line, low ropes course, and much more. Contact the church office for the full schedule of activities. Join our district family for these special days.

Part of pastoral ministry is matchmaking, but not in the way you are thinking. Tony Jones and Don Nichols have a lot in common, including their military service. The Joneses and the Nichols did not know one other until recently. Don's wife, Linda, resides at Humphreys County Care and Rehab. Her room is at the end of a hall. Her window looks over a lawn. Linda wanted a birdfeeder so she and Don can sit and watch the birds. Several people could have done the job. I drafted Tony to do it. I believe it was the Lord's prompting. I connected Don and Tony. Tony put up the birdfeeder. Then Tony and Brinda visited with the Nichols for a few hours. The Nichols are happy with the birdfeeder. But more importantly, a connection has been forged between some good people who have a lot in common. They are better off because they know each other. Our word for this is *Belonging*.

Spencer Phillips is like another son for Eugene Woodside. For years, Eugene has not hesitated to call on Spencer to help him with church jobs. Eugene cajoled, arm-twisted, pushed, pulled, bribed, and guilted Spencer into helping out with church work. The Phillips have been coming regularly for months. Sunday morning when Spencer and his family joined in membership, Eugene stood in the back with a smile on his face and said, "We love everyone else into the church. Spencer is the first one we ever worked into the church." Yes, we worked him in. With love.

I don't usually pay attention to online reviews of our church. We recently received a public review that I could not ignore. One of our teenagers who is growing up in the church posted this about us: "...an amazing church. despite my lack of belief in the Christian faith, I've never felt more than welcome in this church I grew up with. You don't have to be a follower of God to come and be a part of such a core part of this community. Belong, Believe, Become." This is the kind of church I want to pastor. Although I want us all to believe, I want us to be a safe space for people to be honest. I want people who struggle with belief to sense our authenticity and know that they are loved. I share this to remind you: who you are makes a difference.

Summer is upon us. It is easy to let church attendance and giving take a back seat to summer stuff. It takes intentionality to prioritize church attendance and giving during summer months. Will you make the effort to remain engaged? You will be better because of it. We will be better because of it.

Be reminded of the word of the Lord for you: "I will put my Spirit in you and you will live (Ezekiel 37:14)."

-Pastor Daron

Upcoming...

- May 26-31: Family Camp at Camp Garner Creek (no Sun pm or Wed pm activities at WCN's campus)
- Jun 2: Celebration of Baptism service, 6pm
- Jun 3-7: Sr. High Camp
- Jun 9: Missionary service: the Taflingers from Saipan, 6pm
- Jun 10-14: Middle School Camp
- Jun 15: Men's Prayer Breakfast, 9am & Kids tie-dye shirts for camps
- Jun 24-28: Tween camp
- Jul 1-4: Elementary camp

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

Worship:
8:30 & 11am
Engage Groups:
10am

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