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June 19, 2024

Church Family,

Richard Lindsey, Kim Lindsey, and Floyd Gumpert were welcomed into membership on Sunday, June 9. They were part of the larger group of 28 new members who recently attended *Come to the Waters*. Their schedules did not work for the date on which we received the other 25. We gladly welcome the Lindseys, Floyd, and their families into the life of WCN!

The following teens attended Middle School Camp: Gavin Wooton, Corban Roberts, Macy Brown, Ainsley Forester, Chloe Sullivan, Piper Haley, Mikayla Gwin, Madison Gwin, Paisley Pickett, Mayah Baker, and Sydney Porch. The week was spiritually nourishing and formational. Many thanks to Emily Stookey and Pastor Hunter Elliott for chaperoning our young people!

Chad, Angela, and Addalee Taflinger joined us for a missions service on June 9. They shared about their relational ministry, primarily with young people, in Saipan. This family's faith and obedience inspire us. We supported their ministry with a love offering. We blessed them, but we received more than we gave.

The SAGE Group sponsored WCN's first Open Pickleball play. Thanks to Terry and Rhonda Moore and their group for organizing and providing refreshments. Thanks to Eugene Woodside and Parker Brown for being Pickleball instructors. If you want to know the winner, it was Kathie McClanahan's apple muffins.

In 2008, Tish Ladd sat in my office and said, "Pray for me. The Lord is sending me into the jail. " That conversation and prayer launched our jail ministry. For years, we sent men to men and women to women to meet with, invest in, and share Christ with inmates. During the pandemic, we were not permitted in the jail. Since then, we have not been able to return because of overcrowding. Unfortunately, inmates are living in common spaces. That means there is no place in the jail for private conversation. Inmates could not opt in or opt out of spiritual conversations if we sent people to the jail. We understand. We want to respect people's privacy and rights. Plans for a new jail are in the works. When the jail is complete, there will be enough space for us to return to personal interaction. Until then, creativity is called for. The Spirit is brewing something new.

Sheriff Davis reached out to us to provide media ministry for the jail. Each inmate will have access to a tablet. Churches are invited to upload content to the tablets. This content can include sermons, testimonies, or teachings. Spiritual care and life skills (anger management, parenting, financial basics, etc.) are especially needed. Our content will be made available—not just to the Humphreys County jail, but to facilities across the United States that opt into the program, broadening the reach of our ministry. Our plan is to begin small, just weekly sermons. Then we will grow the ministry, adding content as we go. Zach Hildreth will upload our content. Eventually, we may have cameras in Bible Studies or other groups to record and share the sessions. I realize this seems less personal than it was, but it is an opportunity to minister creatively given our circumstances and our technological capacity. And there is a personal element. This is where you come in. Inmates will have WCN's mailing address. They are encouraged to correspond with someone from the church. We will receive letters from inmates. We need a crew of people ready to reply to their letters. Obviously, there are rules and parameters, such as using the church's address and not personal addresses. On Sunday, July 7th, Pastor Janice will have a meeting in The Center at 4:30pm for anyone interested in being part of this ministry of correspondence to inmates. We need men and women. Come with your questions. See if this ministry is right for you.

Vacation Bible School is this week. Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday from 5:30 to 8:00pm. Doors open at 5:10pm. Pre-register with the QR code in the enclosure. The age range goes up to kids who completed 5th grade. Bring cereal. We need hundreds of boxes of cereal for *Helping Hands*. The bins are outside under the awning. You can drop them off any time. On Saturday at 12:30pm, one of our people will be paint-clobbered as a result of the cereal contest. Bring friends. Invite families. Pray for this ministry opportunity.

Sometimes people leave The Center and say, "Good sermon." Sometimes I want to reply, "We'll find out." The "proof" of a good sermon is when "the word becomes flesh" and it is lived out by the Body of Christ. Two Sundays ago I preached about the word "family" being elastic for Jesus. He stretched the word beyond biology and marriage. I noted ways we do this well. I challenged us to be intentional about letting Jesus stretch our concept of family even more. The following Saturday we had a Men's Prayer Breakfast. Thank the Lord, several of our new young men attended the breakfast for the first time. I watched one of these young men sit at a table by himself. Then I watched the four guys at the table next to him stand and move to his table, reaching out their hands and sitting with him. The word became flesh. Now you can say it. Good sermon.

A few months ago, I hit 23 years on my odometer with you. I am glad and grateful. People ask me how I've managed to stay. I have several answers. One of them is regular sabbath-keeping. Without regular sabbath, I would not have lasted. The same is true for our amazing staff. They need sabbath. All of us receive sabbath on Fridays, unless there is an emergency or a planned schedule change. We protect Fridays for our sakes and for our families. I ask you to remember and respect our sabbath. Sometimes you forget and attempt to contact us on a Friday. That is ok. Please understand that we attempt to be unreachable unless it actually is an emergency. This is one important way you can support us. Thank you.

Remember to step each day in the direction of the light.

-Pastor Daron

Upcoming...

- Jun 19-22: VBS, W-F: 5:30-8pm & Sat: 10am
- Jun 24-28: Tween camp
- Jul 1-4: Elementary camp
- Jul 7: Jail Ministry meeting in The Center, 4:30pm
- Jul 27: Church Workday, 8am, all ages
- Jul 31: Back to School Prayer service, 6:30pm
- Sep 8-11: Week of Renewal w/Pastors Daniel & Dani Hawks
- Sep 15: Faith Promise Sunday

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

Worship:

8:30 & 11am

Engage Groups:

10am

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