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July 31, 2024

Church Family,

Charles David Cooke was born on July 19th weighing 11 lbs, 14 oz, and 22.5 inches long. Charles's parents are Danielle Lee and Jack Cooke. Charles is their first child. Charles's grandparents are Rodney and Candy Lee. His aunt and uncle are David and Delaina Aviles. They kept Charles in the hospital a while longer because he needed a round of antibiotics. Charles is getting better. He is expected home any day. We celebrate with the family!

Caroline Rivers Young was born on July 24th, weighing 7 lbs, 7 oz, and 19 inches long. Caroline's parents are Ryan and Madison Young. She is their first. Caroline's grandparents are Tracy and Glenis Young. Her aunt and uncle are Travis and Jill Young. Her cousin is Theo. We thank the Lord for Caroline and we celebrate with her family!

I am pleased to share the good news that Trinh Burns has been legally adopted by JC Crum and is now Trinh Elaine Crum. They have been a family for years. They went before a judge on Tuesday, July 23rd and made it official. Trinh is special. The Crums are an amazing family. So much is so right about this.

In the July board meeting, WCN's board granted Katie Brown a local minister's license. The granting of a local minister's license is the board's affirmation that one is gifted and called by God through the local church. The local license is the first step toward ordination in The Church of the Nazarene. Katie is unclear about the specific direction of her call. She is capable of anything. Taking this step without answers is called faith. Congratulate Katie. Pray for her discernment.

Many thanks to those who served on Saturday's workday: Eugene Woodside, Karen Woodside, Alan Pierce, Jack Hayes, Will McLeod, Jaiden McLeod, Jane Langston, Terry Langston, Jana Brazzle, Kelly Bohannon, Ellen Moran, Barbara Horner, Richard Horner, Kathryn McGuire, Shirley Mroczkowski, Katie Brown, Betty Hamm, Robby Einerson, Julie Einerson, Pastor Kelsey Elliott, Zach Hildreth, Delilah King, Valorie Hildreth, Ivy Hildreth, Macy Brown, Parker Brown, Joe Price, and Vernon Costello. Julie has a list of unfinished items. If you missed the workday and would like to serve on your own time, reach out to Julie in the church office.

This Wednesday (7/31) is the *Back to School Prayer Service* at 6pm. Next Sunday (8/7) begins our new term of *Immerse Groups* at 6:30pm. The list of groups and sign-ups are at wcntn.com or on the Church Center app.

A new sermon series begins this Sunday. *NextGen: The Church's Work of Shaping Young Disciples*. We will explore Deuteronomy 6, which contains a central Old Testament scripture called *The Shema*. Shaping young lives in Christ is the work of us all. Not just parents and pastors. On Sunday nights, Pastor Mary will lead *Diving Deeper* discussions with questions, applications, and hands-on activities. Be here for these important weeks.

WCN has *Engage Groups* at 10am on Sundays. All ages. Multiple adult groups. Each group engages in four practices: Teaching the Bible once a week, ongoing prayer ministry, recurring missional ministry, and gathering at tables once per quarter. If you are not in an *Engage Group*, let us help you find one. The beginning of school is a right time to get into this rhythm.

A few people have asked about chairs in *The Center*. For each service, there are 170-180 chairs in place and ushers are prepared to bring more out when needed. If someone arrives right before or during a service, coming from the back, it may appear that *The Center* is full. It is not necessarily full. At any given time there are 40-50 chairs available. The back rows often fill first, giving the impression that seating is full. No matter how many chairs we set out, the back will fill first, and it will give the impression that there are no seats available. Therefore, setting out more seats to begin with will not change anything. So what can be done? First, understand the reality and the reasoning. Second, join me near the front (if you sit near me during worship, you get to hear my singing voice every Sunday!). Third, come early. Some of the best moments of shared life and connection happen before worship. Thank you for understanding.

Sunday morning made for a wet, messy parking lot. One class that meets in *The Center* relocated to another space to better accommodate all of the groups. None of our adult classes have their own rooms. All of them share with offices or other spaces. We appreciate the flexibility as we continue to figure this out. Let me remind you: Due to inflation, we delayed some expenses (parking lot, exterior sign, sports equipment, kitchen equipment, etc.). Our first financial priority is operational financial health. We need to figure out our new normal when it comes to operational expenses (mortgage, bills, etc). As we do that, staff is keeping expenses lean. Our second goal is to build savings back. We need a healthy emergency fund. Then we will address delayed items, including the parking lot. Eventually, our plan is to add 8,000 square feet that will make room for more classrooms. Your giving has been critical to getting us this far. Your giving is critical going forward. Your tithes, offerings, and building fund giving help us cover operational expenses, continue the ministry of the church, build back savings, and address future necessities. You may designate your giving to some of our delayed work. Pastor Mary has an itemized list. Reach out to her if you want to give toward a specific need. Thank you for giving. Let's keep this up!

Let's pray for nervous parents of Pre-K students as they turn loose. Let's pray for 4th graders as they leap into junior high. Let's pray for high schoolers as they worry about who will sit with them at lunch. Let's pray for our teachers, administrators, faculty, staff, parents, and students. Let's pray for safety. Let's pray that the light of Jesus shines.

-Pastor Daron

Upcoming...

- Jul 31: Back to School Prayer service, 6pm
- Aug 7: New Immerse Group term begins, 6:30
- Aug 9-10: Teens: Back to School Lock-in
- Aug 17: Teens: Canoeing the Buffalo, RSVP w/Pastor Mary
- Aug 18: *Come to the Waters*: An Intro to WCN, 4-7pm
- Aug 23: Kids Game Night, 5:30pm
- Sep 7: Jackson plant support group meets in Jackson
- 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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