

PASTOR'S PEN

Nowadays we hear people say they can't wait to get back to "normal" when they can go about their business as "usual." Randy didn't write this month but you could almost think he wrote this 2002 message last week:

A NORMAL DAY

Perhaps you have found yourself longing for a "normal day." In many ways that means a desire to have things go as planned. It may include the kids sleeping through the night, no one being sick, having hot water for the shower, finding milk in the refrigerator, the car starting, avoiding traffic jams, the computer working properly, receiving no emergency phone calls....and more could be added to the list.

As I thought about this, two things came to mind. First, every day many things do go well that we never pause to think about. Second, and more important, our idea of the normal leaves little room for God (except, that is, for God to make things go normally). For example, the other night I had trouble sleeping. While it was frustrating, I also sensed God speaking to me about many things that were on my mind. Though tired, I actually felt energized and grateful for the experience. The next night, as I hoped for a "normal" night's sleep, I began to think of the many experiences of our faith that do not fit into the "normal" category. It is not normal to hear God speak from a burning bush. It is not normal for people to survive being thrown into a furnace. It is not normal for walls of a city to fall down. It is not normal for the God of the universe to be born to human parents. It is not normal to feed 5,000 people with the lunch of one boy. It is not normal for one to be raised from the dead. It is not normal for people to speak in other languages. It is not normal to be filled with the Spirit of God!



Get the picture? Our faith is not normal. We frequently encounter the living God outside our understanding of normal. It may be in a chance encounter with another person, or it may be through a phone call that we received only because we were running fifteen minutes late. How might God be calling us to leave the "normal" behind. Perhaps the very thing that we declare is not normal may be the opportunity in which God wants us to take risks for ministry. Sure, life needs some predictability. We need that which we call "normal" but we must also remember that our God is not limited to the ordinary or the normal.

The next time your day or night does not go as planned, ask, "Is God trying to say something?" How might God be acting or communicating to you outside the normal routine of life?

May God bless you with other than a "normal" day!

-Pastor Randy

COMING UP....SOME SPECIAL DATES

Birthdays

Judy Derstine	8/13
Jennifer Garrido	8/15
Steven Landes	8/18
Sandy Landes	8/25
Alejandro Garrido	8/25
John Moyer	8/29
Narges Bonyad	9/3
Abigail Zeo	9/3

Anniversaries

Denny & Sue Bartels	8/9
Abram & Lorraine Landis	8/15
James & Louise Beyer	8/29
Glenn & Janice Wyble	8/15
Kirk & Jenni Garrido	9/5

KAREN'S PLACE COFFEEHOUSE

Monday Night Free Outdoor Concert Series!

Every Monday in August @ 7:30pm

at the church pavilion:

- ◆ August 3 Eddy Mann with Wendy Schettig
- ◆ August 10 Dana Isles & Facedown with Joe Miralles
- ◆ August 17 Patrizsha & the Soulterior Motives with Liz Collins
- ◆ August 24 Regenerated Soul with Art & Rich
- ◆ August 31 Heaven Bound Reunion Band (Basic Connection) with Liz Collins

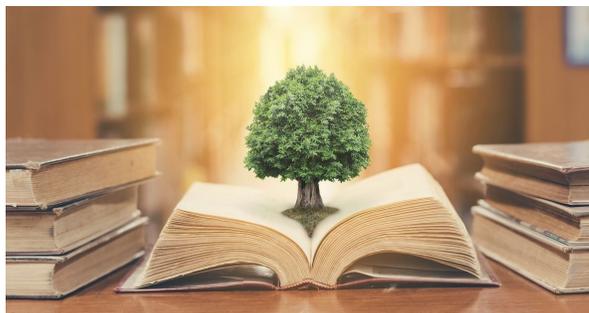
FROM THE PRAYER CORNER

In July I shared a sermon with the congregation on the topic of wisdom. At the end of my sermon, I read the following words which I sensed God speaking to me earlier that week, but then felt led by the Spirit to share them with DMC. Here are those words. I invite you to read them prayerfully and listen to how God might be speaking to you:

"Repentance is the most beautiful gift because there is always the opportunity to return home, to come back to rest in the love of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. That is wisdom, coming back to me for fullness of joy, fullness of forgiveness, fullness of restoration. Yes, there are natural consequences because of sin, but there is no condemnation, just learning. Learning is a beautiful gift, but humans don't want the process of learning, they want knowledge right away. Wisdom is a humble, open heart to learning, it is always in relationship and it is always a gift. Wisdom in one situation is not the same as wisdom in another one. People of God, I am the constant that never changes. I love you so much; my heart is full with love towards, for and with you. Rest in my loving wisdom today."

Love, your Dad

-Sandy Landes, Prayer Minister



FROM THE CARE TEAM

The Care Team participated in the Stewards of Children training presented by NOVA on July 28 instead of their scheduled meeting. Their next meeting will be set for September.

FROM THE LIBRARY

Review of the book, [THIS IS GOD'S TABLE](#)

by Anna Woofenden

The author weaves a wonderful true story of her childhood, her heritage of the Swedenborgian Church and how she followed God's leading to Southern California. Anna found several people who took on her vision of an unconventional church located on an empty lot, except for litter, a sagging fence and 12 foot tall metal dinosaur!

After months of praying & planning, they became a "church". Digging in the dirt, collecting the litter, pulling weeds & planting a garden they began praying & blessing one another and breaking bread together. So the people came, as they watched Anna & her friends "plant a garden church": a young Chacano barber, the cranky old Croatian lady, the shady real estate agent, a hopeless drunk and the afflicted single Mother.

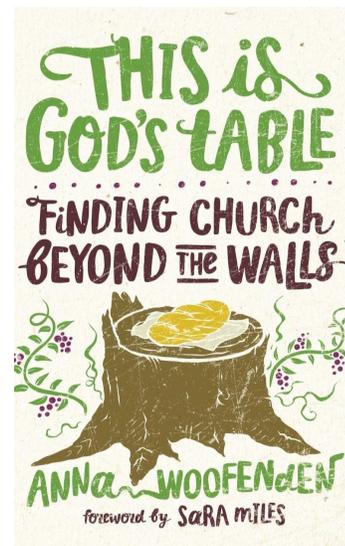
BACK AT CHURCH

How good to sit together for worship! It looks funny to see people scattered far apart around the room with their faces covered. We can still sing and fellowship in person with our dear friends. People at home can still enjoy the sermon and the music by watching online.

Anna includes the stark reality of life and the intense challenge of "finding church beyond the walls". The people came as they saw a place where they could all be healed of their brokenness. Eventually, because all found acceptance, were blessed by each other as well as by Anna, this "church" filled the needs of each as they all contributed, in some way, to find nourishment for their souls.

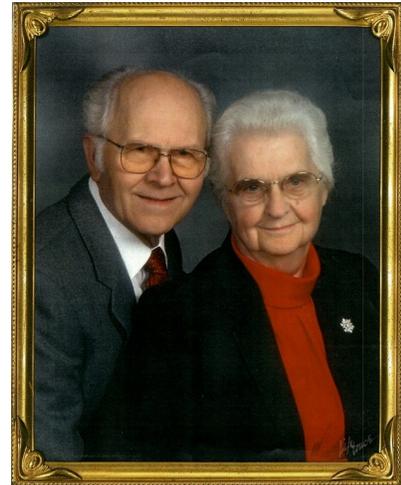
This is a book every Christian should read to get a glimpse of what the future church could look like. It helps us discover that there is enough right under our feet to make a church together, and God can bless even the wildest ideas!

-Mary Leatherman



CELEBRATING TWO LIVES WELL LIVED

On July 11 the joint memorial service was held here for Lester and Sara Heacock, who died on May 4 and June 10 respectively. Their children, many grandchildren and great-grandchildren were in attendance and a number of them participated in singing and instrumental music as Sara had requested. After Lester's death, she had helped to choose the date and make plans for the service. In person and also on video, many of the family shared their memories and appreciation. Lester's sister Mildred Hostetter came from Harrisonburg, Virginia, with some of her family. After the service a meal was shared by the family and some invited guests.



From Susie Churchmouse:

I never know, but I keep hoping something is coming. There hasn't been much going on around here. I miss the Peace Camp, but a lunch was served for the family after a memorial service. At least that's something!

DEADLINE for submitting items to the September News & Views: September 1

PARTING THOUGHT:

Be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. Romans 12:2

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