
The Joyful Noise

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I've found myself thinking a lot about my dad lately. I suppose it's because his birthday was on April 21st and it made me think of him even more than I normally do. He would have been 107 this year. He made it past 100, which he was very proud of. Here's a picture of him blowing out all 100 candles 7 years ago.

It seems hard to believe, but he's been gone for over 6 years now. My dad was an amazing man. When he hit 100 years old he was still living in his own home, doing most of the cooking and household chores since my mom could not get around very well by then. He had just gotten his driver's license renewed with no restrictions, still did all the grocery shopping, and still made it to church nearly every week; driving himself the 5 miles out to the rural United Methodist church he had attended since birth. He had been diagnosed with bladder cancer just before his 100th birthday, but made the decision that he'd rather celebrate his birthday than have surgery or worry about cancer, so he chose to ignore it. That fall, because of my mom's health, with much arm-twisting, he and my mom moved to an assisted living facility, something he had said he wouldn't even consider till he was in triple digits! Just about a month later we found out that his cancer had spread extensively. He died just three weeks later, on December 27th, 2012.



People used to ask what the secret was to his long and healthy life. It wasn't necessarily in his genes. His father and 2 of his younger brothers all died of massive heart attacks in their 70s or early 80s, and another younger brother died of cancer much younger than that. Probably some of the credit had to go to his healthy living. While he didn't particularly eat healthy – he was a meat and potatoes kind of man with an aversion to most fruits and vegetables – he was a farmer or mail carrier most of his life, so he got plenty of fresh air and exercise. Even at 100 he still tried to get out and walk around the block most every day. It took him longer than it used to, but he at least walked up to the mailbox at the end of their street most days. And, he spent his entire life being an avid non-smoker and non-drinker.

But I think what probably deserves just as much credit as anything was my dad's attitude.

My dad was one of the happiest people I have ever come across. My mom said that she had seen my dad angry – once in 65 years of marriage – years ago when someone buying hay from him tried to cheat him. I don't think I ever really saw him lose his temper. I don't remember ever hearing him criticize or belittle anyone. He was the eternal optimist. He enjoyed the simple pleasures of life, and he didn't worry or stew about things. One of his favorite songs was "One Day at a Time," and I think he managed to live out that philosophy.

My dad was a man of great faith. There were not many Sundays in his 100 years when he was not in church. And he was still kneeling by his bed to say his prayers every night even when it probably took him longer to get back up off his knees than it did to say his prayers. He lived his faith, and he trusted in God. One of his favorite hymns was "God Will Take Care of You." (Which is only slightly older than he was!) He believed in these words:

God Will Take Care of You
by Civilla D. Martin

Be not dismayed whate'er betide, God will take care of you;
beneath his wings of love abide, God will take care of you.

Refrain: God will take care of you, through every day, o'er all the way;
he will take care of you, God will take care of you.

Through days of toil when heart doth fail, God will take care of you;
when dangers fierce your path assail, God will take care of you. (Refrain)

All you may need he will provide, God will take care of you;
nothing you ask will be denied, God will take care of you. (Refrain)

No matter what may be the test, God will take care of you;
lean, weary one, upon his breast, God will take care of you. (Refrain)

Maybe it was his fundamental trust in God – the trust that enabled him to be happy and worry-free though all of life – that was most responsible for his long life. It certainly helped him to live not just a long life, but more importantly, a healthy, happy, faithful life.

By the time he had reached 100 he was *starting* to look a little old to me, and it was starting to sink in that since no one lives forever, we might not have him all that much longer. When we were told he probably only had weeks to live, my brother Mike said something to the effect of “Even though I know people don’t live forever, I was starting to think that Dad *really* would!” I think he spoke for all of us. Even as he was dying Dad expressed nothing but gratitude and trust, saying he had lived a long and happy life and been richly blessed by God.

One thing I know is that I was richly blessed to have had him for my dad, and to have had him for so long. There are so many ways in which I wish I were more like him. I’m a long ways from it, but then I remember what I shared about God’s sanctifying, perfecting grace last Sunday – that through God’s grace we can be made perfect in love in this life. So maybe if God keeps working on me, by God’s grace I’ll eventually become like my dad. (If I live to be 100!)

Pastor Kathy

PLEASE KEEP US INFORMED

If you have recently moved, changed your mailing address, your **email address**, phone number, **or are only using cell phones**, please contact the church office with the current information. **Thank you!**



If you would like to be included in the **Weekly Prayer Partner EMAIL** which includes scripture readings, prayer requests, birthdays, and weekly reminders, please email or call the church; especially if you have not received these lately. If you have email, but do not receive information from the church this way, please give your email address to the office. We may not have it, and it’s important that we do going forward so you can stay updated. Thank you.

HOSPITALIZED

Please contact the church office or Pastor Kathy if you know a member has been admitted to the hospital. With the new privacy laws being strictly enforced there are many times we are unaware of hospitalizations. We would rather get ten calls than none at all. Thank you. **Prayer concerns** can be called into the office (472-2324) or emailed to the office at rockrapidssumc@premieronline.net or Pastor Kathy at kathysides@hotmail.com and they will be sent out.



Praise God~

- ☺ A week of healthy living for Daxton!
- ☺ Sunshine
- ☺ Successful Urban Plunge- Youth will report on May 5th
- ☺ 54th Anniversary- Jim & Char DeGooyer
- ☺ The Power of Prayer



Prayers~

- ✂ Continued prayers for Dave & Barb Fegan.
- ✂ Those who struggle with depression
- ✂ Dry weather
- ✂ Donna Inderwisch- recovery from fall and surgery
- ✂ Henry Boeve is in Lyon Manor
- ✂ Continued prayers for Mark & Sonya's Granddaughter Lena
- ✂ Family of Melanie Kroon-Sanner in her passing (Terry's cousin)
- ✂ Leroy Jones family after Leroy's passing
- ✂ Sue Vinson-recovery from surgery
- ✂ Kelli Docker- recovery from surgery
- ✂ Family of Ken Barker
- ✂ Answers at Doctor Appointment for Daxton DeGroot



May Birthdays & Anniversaries

- | | | |
|--|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 02~ Lila Kennedy | 11~ Sutton Schlumbohm | 23~ Cassie Van Berkum |
| 04~ Destiny Boeve
Jessa Vande Weerd | 11~ Elizabeth Stubbe | 24~ Roxanne Ackerman |
| 07~ Marlys Brown | 12~ Spencer Kracht | 25~ Dale & Vicki Slack |
| 08~ Blake Miller
Afton Schlumbohm | 13~ Peter Menage | 26~ Dean & Tami Schweitzer |
| 09~ Matt & Jamie Schar
Julie Taylor | 14~ Terry & Kathy Van Berkum | 30~ Pat Patton |
| 11~ Zed Heimensen | 18~ Carole Priest | 31~ Phil Priest |
| | 19~ Callie Yeakel | |
| | 20~ Bonnie Wilson | |
| | 22~ Earl & Kathy Sides | |

*We apologize for any omissions or incorrect information. Please contact the office with the correct/missing information. Thank you!

Reminders and Announcements

May Greeter & Fellowship Schedule

GREETERS



Sunday, May 5

Marceia Techen & family

Sunday, May 12

Scott & Sheila Maxwell family

Sunday, May 19

Tom & Amy Menage

Sunday, May 26

Dave & Mary Fields

FELLOWSHIP



Sunday, May 5

Brian & Stacey McIntire;

Corey & Carmen Stratton

Sunday, May 12

MOTHER'S DAY- NO FELLOWSHIP

Sunday, May 19

Brent & Brenda Vande Weerd

Sunday, May 26

Mike & Jackie Austin

*Thank
you*



I would like to thank everyone for the cards, letters, flowers, visits and prayers while I was laid up. I would also like to thank everyone for the Prayer Shawl. It is such a treasure.
~Mae Smid





Zed Heimensen

Son of Corey & Heather Heimensen

*Zed will be going to Morningside College
majoring in Business with emphasis in Finance.
Zed will also be playing football for the Mustangs.
Congratulations Zed!*



Viktorija Stubbe

*Daughter of Wyatt & Heather Stubbe
Viktorija will be going to Minnesota West Community &
Technical College (Luverne Campus)
majoring in Surgical Technology
Congratulations Viktorija!*



Callie Yeakel

*Daughter of John Yeakel & Elisha Agena
Callie will be going to Morningside College
majoring in Nursing
Congratulations Callie!*



Ian Wells

Son of Steve & Jackie Wells

*Ian will be going to Iowa Lakes Community College
majoring in Aviation & Airport Management. After obtaining his
initial pilots license and certifications, he'd like to fly regionally and
pursue a 4 year degree in some area of Engineering and/or Research &
Development
Congratulations Ian!*



RRUMC MEAL MINISTRY NEWS!



Come Join Us this Summer!! Each month gives opportunity to serve, right here in Rock Rapids and Lyon County. Please consider joining us once a month. Tuesdays we prepare @ 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays we serve @ 6:00 p.m. (at the Forester community building). Wednesday nights we will need a driver for George and now Little Rock

Each month a donation list is created with items off the menu. This is a great help toward the budget of this ministry. Monetary donations keep coming in and checks can go to Evelyn Baldwin. All our information is located in the upstairs narthex hallway. We appreciate each and every one of you, but it will take many hands to keep this ministry moving in the direction God is leading us. If you have any questions, please reach out to Rhonda Menning or Kathy Van Berkum.

LUKE 6 VS 38

“GIVE, AND IT WILL BE GIVEN TO YOU. A GOOD MEASURE, PRESSED DOWN, SHAKEN TOGETHER AND RUNNING OVER, WILL BE POURED INTO YOUR LAP. FOR WITH MEASURE YOU USE, IT WILL BE MEASURED TO YOU.”



We all are the hands and feet of Jesus.
Love,
Rhonda and Kathy



The Annual Spring Clean Up will be held on Wednesday, May 15th at 6:00 p.m.

**So far we have had no response to our challenge.
In case you missed it or are still thinking about it, here's a reminder in
the form of a re-run from last month's newsletter:**



A Challenge from the Finance Committee.....

We currently have 22 giving units who are giving to the church through automatic payments transferred directly from their bank account to the church's account. Thanks to all of you who are already giving in this way! We would like to put out the challenge to double that number to 44. We encourage those of you who have not set up an automatic payment to do so now! Here are some reasons to consider making the change:

Top 10 reasons for giving through automatic payments –

- #10) **It's available!** You can start automatic payments at any time during the year.
- # 9) **It's convenient!** No more writing checks or looking for an offering envelope!
- # 8) **It's flexible!** You can choose to make payments once or twice a month.
- # 7) **It's easy!** Just fill out a form and you're done!
- # 6) **It's changeable!** You can stop or change the amount of your payments at any time.
- # 5) **It's consistent!** It enables you to give on a regular basis, not just when you attend worship.
- # 4) **It's appreciated!** The weekly offering often fluctuates with attendance, but the church's financial obligations do not. Expenses are constant even if the offerings aren't.
- # 3) **It's thoughtful!** You may already pay such things as your car payment or utility bill this way. If it is important to give those places money on a regular basis, why not the church?
- # 2) **It's biblical!** Well OK, the Bible doesn't actually mention automatic payments. But it does say we should give our "first fruits" to God and not our leftovers. Automatic payments from your account means your gift to the church is a planned, regular gift and not dependent upon whether or not you have something left after everything else is paid.

And the #1 reason for signing up for automatic payments.....

- #1) **It's faithful!** God's blessings to you are given on a regular basis. Shouldn't your giving back to God be the same?

Please pick up a form from the church office and sign up today!!



**Prayer Team meets the 1st and 3rd
Wednesday of every month at 6:30 a.m.
Everyone is welcome!**

May, 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6:30 a.m. Prayer Team meeting (EVERYONE WELCOME) 7:00 p.m. Praise Team practice	2	3	4
5 9:00 a.m. Morning Coffee 9:30 a.m. Worship-Praise Team Youth Report on Urban Plunge Eden's Puppets 10:30 a.m. Sunday School & Fellowship Organist: Marilee Schleusner Greeters: Marceia Techen & Family Head Usher: Larry Wibben Acolyte: Avery Littlefield Sound: Grace Heimensen Fellowship: Brian & Stacey McIntire; Corey & Carmen Stratton	6 7:00 p.m.- Evangelism meeting	7 1:30 p.m. Quilters & Crafters	8 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir	9	10	11
12 9:00 a.m. Morning Coffee 9:30 a.m. Worship-Mother's Day- Senior Sunday 10:30 a.m. Sunday School Organist: Marilee Schleusner Greeters: Scott & Sheila Maxwell family Head Usher: Jerry Birkey Acolyte: Rylan Maxwell Sound: Hayden Heimensen	13 6:00 p.m. Missions Team meeting 7:00 p.m. Education Team meeting	14 1:30 p.m. Quilters & Crafters	15 6:30 a.m. Prayer Team meeting (EVERYONE WELCOME) 6:00 p.m. Annual Spring Clean Up	16	17	18
19 9:00 a.m. Morning Coffee 9:30 a.m. Worship-Youth 10:30 a.m. Sunday School & Fellowship Organist: Marilee Schleusner Greeters: Tom & Amy Menage Head Usher: Larry Wibben Acolyte: Jashaun Borman Fellowship: Brent & Brenda Vande Weerd	20 6:00 p.m. Discipleship Team meeting 7:00 p.m. Ad Council	21 1:30 p.m. Quilters & Crafters 6:30 p.m. Meal Ministry-prepare food	22 6:00 p.m. Bread of Life-distribute sack suppers	23	24	25
26 9:00 a.m.- Morning Coffee 9:30 a.m.- Worship 10:30 a.m.- Fellowship Organist: Marilee Schleusner Greeters: Dave & Mary Fields Head Usher: Larry Wibben Acolyte: Kyra Van Berkum Fellowship: Mike & Jackie Austin	27	28 1:30 p.m. Quilters & Crafters	29	30	31	