



19 August 2012

Announcements

Today is Graduation Day! “Graduation” comes from the Latin “gradus” and means “step.” This is why funerals are often called Graduation Ceremonies for believers; we are taking a step - a really big step! We have students “stepping” out of High School, Nina Grennon and Brian Everett. We also have a “student” (i.e. disciple) stepping into a new chapter of ministry, Alan Hill. You are part of the forming of these two. We are members one of another. And this family is not limited to time and location. To recognize this, Alan has asked three people (in addition to Jon and Tom!) to read today, Brian, Ross and Debbie. Please read the reasons given by Alan for their selection on the back.

Please sign the Well chairs for Brian and Nina if you have not already. Also, there is a set of books for Al that we would like everyone to sign. Both the chairs and the book are at the back of the sanctuary.

All are invited to a reception to honor Al following the morning worship. There will be an opportunity for anyone to speak about Al if you feel lead. Please be nice, and brief!

Board meeting 22 August 2012 – 7:00pm. There will be a time of worship and the handling of a few housekeeping matters. As always, these meetings are open for all who would like to attend.

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The Rev. Dr. Tom Bryant

Debbie Vance - Debbie and John, her husband, were our hiking and canoeing companions. The concept of Holy Communion hikes was born amongst the four of us. When Debbie was called to serve as rector of a Cursillo weekend, Diane served as her assistant. A favorite memory is a hike on the Hightop trail in Shenandoah National Park – Debbie burst out in song: “Shout to the North and the South, sing to the East and the West, Jesus is Savior to all, Lord of Heaven and Earth” and kept at it until all four of us were making a joyful noise.

Brian Everett - Brian has faithfully attended our adult Sunday School Class. He has been extremely outgoing in our intercessory prayer efforts. When a friend of Brian’s was going through a rough spot in his life, Brian got us to lift his friend up in prayer. But what really blew my mind, was that Brian did not stop there – he got his friend to come to church with him. Here was a young high school senior who cared about another young person’s life, and who had the insight to see his church family as part of his friend’s road to fulfillment.

Dr. Russ Leonard - Russ is the friend who patiently and gently got me into prison. Russ is persistent in his calling to bring the good news of Christ’s love to those put away in our state’s prisons. He is also one who is true to Christ’s call. He never flinches or apologizes for the hard truths of who Jesus is, and what it means to live a life devoted to God’s service. Russ is also the first responder to his friends who experience any kind of loss – always present and always with the right word by the power of the Holy Spirit.

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