



July 3, 2019

Greetings friends,

My sister, Kelly, and I drove our brother's car (he already had his pick-up) out to him and his new home in Virginia earlier this week. What a delightful time we had, first on the drive out and then hanging out with Kent in his new city. As with any journey, you learn a few things on the way. The first thing we learned is that when setting up your GPS – make sure to ask for the best route that avoids toll roads. Acck! Do you know how much money we could have saved if we had known that BEFORE we started? LOTS – a really shocking amount! The drive was great and even though we paid a lot of tolls, on the way out we were so smug because we were on I-80 through most of Ohio – how easy was that? It's almost impossible to get lost when you stay on the same road – a definite plus for two gals who don't even bother to pack a paper map! We learned when Kent drives back and forth; he takes I-70 and has no toll charges. Huh. Lesson learned for our next visit.

We didn't really learn this next one; it was born of necessity and an over-abundance of caution. I first employed this game plan when just Max (at 4 years) and I would drive home from Florida to visit. It served me well traveling with a preschooler and I stand by it today. *We stop every two hours to refuel* (the gas tank rarely gets below ½ full), grab a quick bite and take care of personal business. This helps make the trip go fast and is a real pleasure – we never have the stress of running out of gas or being caught with a full bladder and no place to stop. It is never an issue! Now, we don't eat real well. We just grab convenience store snacks and keep on going. Not a problem for 15-20 hour road trips – we make good time and figure we can eat well when we get to our destination.

We learned Kent's new city, Winchester, is a wonder and he is so happy to be making his home there. It has historical significance and is just an hour and a half outside of Washington D.C. For an old 5th grade social studies teacher it is pretty much nirvana. He has access to several local museums and battlegrounds (we visited young George Washington's office and Stonewall Jackson's Civil War headquarters) and is excited to learn more by visiting everything over time. The college he works at (Shenandoah University) is full of charming old buildings and stunning newer ones as well. The landscaping was beautiful. He was so proud to show it all off to us and is excited for fall to come and students to return.

But, perhaps best of all, we discovered the city of Winchester doesn't seem to be plagued with mosquitoes or biting flies. We spent hours outside – even ate alfresco and weren't bothered by a single bug (or unbearable heat and humidity). Now THAT was heavenly!

It was great to see where Kent has chosen to make his new home, but most of all it was a pure joy to spend a couple days hanging out with two of my siblings. We played a few rounds of our favorite made up game – *Do You Remember...?* And laughed our way through the precious time we got to spend together. It was an amazing, relaxing getaway!

This Week at Grace Nate Warwick will lead our worship experience and deliver the message, "Who is Your Neighbor" inspired by Luke 10:25-37. Judy Andrew will share special music with us. Dave & Linda McVicker will serve as greeters and the Hubert family (Adam, Val, Owen, Camille and Eli) will be our ushers on Sunday with Owen Hubert as liturgist. Come early at 8:45 for *Java with Jesus* and our worship service begins at 9:15 – please join us!

The Roland-Story Back to School Supply Drive poster is up in the narthex. Please help yourself to the list you would like to fill. Please return to the narthex area by July 30th. If you would rather donate money, the Angel Tree program plans to add a book to each kit this year.

Can you please help? We are in need of a Middle School Sunday school co-teacher, and a co-facilitator for the Adult Sunday school class this fall! Please let Jonathan know if you are interested in learning more about any of these important positions!

You're invited to come to church a bit early on summer Sunday mornings for 'Java with Jesus' and your Grace Church family. Beginning at 8:45 each Sunday, plan to bring a thermal cup of your preferred morning beverage and meet in the narthex for a little fellowship before the service begins. On the third Sundays of July and August, the serving G.R.A.C.E. team will host Coffee Fellowship with home-baked goodies following the morning service.

Dates to mark on your calendars:

September 6 and 7 – All Church Camp Adventure at Little Wall Lake – reservations have been made. Bring your camper or tent and plan to join in the fun!

Sunday, October 13 – 2019 Charge Conference – time has not yet been set, but it looks like it will be just our church (not a group meeting like last year in Ames). Perhaps we can make an event (include an all-church potluck) of it...

As you pray this week, please remember these friends and hold each up in special prayer:

Betty Hults and family on the passing of her mother; Caleb Michel; Rich Peterson (Erma's brother); Karen Keech (Kent's wife); Judy Skaare (Jonathan's sister); George Sellers; Emmerson Kahl; Emily Meier; Lois Johnson; Garry Gerjets; Jackie Royer; Cooper Leeman; Taylor family

News You Can Use

Sunday, July 14

8:00 AM Trustees

8:45 AM *Java with Jesus*

9:15 AM Worship – Nate has message, Judy Andrew sings

Monday, July 15

5:30 PM SPRC

7:00 PM Worship committee

Tuesday, July 16

7:00 PM P.E.O. in Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, July 17

Summer Stretch will use Grace Church as 'home base' for the day

5:30 PM Leadership Development

Sunday, July 21

9:15 AM Worship – Nate has message, Judy Andrew sings

10:15 AM Coffee Fellowship

Please "like" our Facebook page, [@storycitygrace](#) and receive regular updates on "what's happening" at Grace Church! Our website, www.grace-umc.com is full of information and pictures about the life and activities of our Grace Church family. Please check it out!

**Faithfully,
Cathy**