

Southwest *Church of the Nazarene*

CHURCH NEWSLETTER
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COMMON SENSE IN 2021

At this moment, thousands of people each day are receiving doses of a vaccine for the COVID-19 virus that has plagued our world for the last year practically. The scientists believe this will protect people from the virus. I hope it can. But another question I have is can we give our world a dose of common sense? Or better yet wisdom... especially godly wisdom? I recently saw a sign for an office that said, "If you have no common sense, please ask for assistance."

We are reading Proverbs as a church, one chapter each day through January. The first few chapters the writer is trying to make a point to his son, "give attention to my words" ... "do not let them depart from your eyes; keep them in the midst of your heart" ... "Get wisdom! Get understanding!" ... "search for her as for hidden treasures." He sums this up by saying "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, but fools despise wisdom and instruction." (1:7)

Many of the problems of our society could be eased or resolved if people would simply stop and think and use common sense or wisdom before they act. Even better, if people would take a moment to pray then act. It is amazing the headaches and pain we can spare ourselves (and everyone else) when we do this. God can help us understand how to live life at its best.

An evangelist once told me "You can learn from a cook and bottle washer if you want to." I believe that is true. Common sense, wisdom, and knowledge do not arrive when we are born; we must learn them and then apply them. We can learn from our parents, church, from our mistakes... practically anywhere. We need to include learning into our daily life.

At my graduation ceremony at Indiana Wesleyan, Dave Anderson from Famous Dave's Barbeque was our commencement speaker. I thought this was a little strange, until I learned a little more about him. He is an avid businessman and reader. He reads an average of 15 newspapers and magazines each day to stay on top of what is going on in the world and the restaurant business. He's been on the Food Network, The Travel Channel, and CNBC. He went to Washington, D.C. on a special Presidential appointment. He helps at-risk youth to understand leadership. Dave, however, was not always like this. Dave was not a strong student himself, but he eventually earned a master's degree from Harvard, and an honorary doctorate for his life's work. Oh, and he also has written six books. That is not too shabby for a Wisconsin Native American.

A few years ago, Anderson spoke at a prayer breakfast stating, "I'm not embarrassed to say God changed my life." After being raised in the church, in his 20's he got caught up in a destructive lifestyle. He sought professional help and while there said he found the power of prayer. He says, "My story is a story about hope and never giving up that things can change." (*Known for food, 'Famous Dave' talks faith at Cottage Grove prayer breakfast*, by Scott Wentz, Nov. 2011)

If we seek to learn all we can, beginning with the Lord, I believe like Dave – that we will have much greater life in 2021. Lord, fill our hearts and our minds with some good, godly, common sense and wisdom.

Pastor Scott and Cindy

Time to Smile

Quotes from comedian Red Skelton:

- “There are three signs of old age: loss of memory... I forget the other two.”
- “My doctor said I looked like a million dollars – green and wrinkled.”
- “I personally believe that each of us was put here for a purpose -- to build not to destroy. If I can make people smile, then I have served my purpose for God.”
- “I've put on a lot of weight... I only weighed six and a half pounds when I was born.”
- “Recipe for a happy marriage: My wife and I always hold hands. If I let go, she shops.”

Praises:

- Praise the Lord we are in a New Year! Like our church sign says, “New Year. New Beginning. Same Faithful God.”
- Praise the Lord for a generous financial gift to the church recently! So thankful for those who support our church with their tithes and offerings. God is taking care of our needs... and I know He will supply your needs as well!
- Praise the Lord we are getting more lights installed! We finally received another shipment of our lights and Brad Adkins is installing them in the hallways and classrooms. You may notice things are a little brighter around here! Thanks Brad.
- Praise the Lord for Stephen Hatchett and Monique Robert’s new baby! Legend enjoyed his first Sunday in church this week... one of many to come! God is working in their lives, they want to dedicate the baby soon, get married, and Stephen wants to be baptized. Praise the Lord!

Proverbs 2:1-5

¹ My son, if you receive my words,
And treasure my commands
within you, ² So that you incline
your ear to wisdom, And apply
your heart to understanding;
³ Yes, if you cry out for
discernment, And lift up your voice
for understanding, ⁴ If you seek
her as silver, And search for her
as for hidden treasures; ⁵ Then
you will understand the fear of the
Lord, And find the knowledge of
God. NKJV

Prayer Needs:

- **Prayer Needs can be found in the emailed and mailed versions of the newsletter.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS

Services and Ministries Update:

As a board, in the days ahead, we will be looking at how to know what and when to add in our other ministries – such as Sunday School, Nursery, song specials, Wednesday and Sunday night Studies, etc.. It is a delicate balancing act, and we appreciate your prayers and support as we try to know how and when to do things. As much as we all want to be back to “normal,” our utmost concern is everyone’s safety, especially as the virus is still very present in our world. Through all of this, we have been following the State and County regulations as best as we can to stay compliant and to stay healthy. Thank you for your patience and understanding during these long months; we will keep you posted on any new changes!

Wednesday, January 6th:

6:30pm Prayer Meeting

Friday, January 8th:

Church board reports due to Katrina
(southwest@swnazarene.org)

Sunday, January 10th:

10:40am Worship Service
& Children’s Church

3:00-5:00pm Teen Quizzing

5:00-7:00pm R!OT Youth Meeting

Tuesday, January 12th:

6:30pm Church Board Meeting

Wednesday, January 13th:

6:30pm Prayer Meeting

Sunday, January 17th:

10:40am Worship Service
& Children’s Church

3:00-5:00pm Teen Quizzing

5:00-7:00pm R!OT Youth Meeting

Sunday, February 28th:

10:40am Worship Service –
District Superintendent Dr. Ron
Blake will be speaking.

Baptisms & Membership

We will be doing baptisms and taking in new members in February. If you have received Christ in your life and have not been baptized or if you are a believer and want to go through our membership class, please see Pastor Scott.

- Baptism is a symbol of our leaving the old life and rising to new life in Christ. It is our testimony to the world that we are a Christ follower and desire to belong to the family of God.
- Membership is when a believer makes a commitment to their local church, to support it with their attendance, tithes and offerings, and to use their talents and gifts to help accomplish Christ’s Great Commission. It is agreeing with the doctrines and polity of the Church of the Nazarene as they have outlined from the Scriptures guidelines for the church. With membership you have the right to be a part of the Annual Elections, voting, and even being a candidate for a position.
- If the Lord is leading you to either of these areas, please contact Pastor Scott, and we will set up a class time for you.