

P.O. Box 603 Waverly, TN 37185

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January 8, 2025

Church Family,

Emerie Jay Turner was due to arrive on Christmas Day, but like many holiday packages, she arrived late. She was born on December 27th at 10:30pm. Emerie weighed 6 lbs, 10 oz, and was 19 3/4 inches long. Emerie's parents are Andrew Turner and Abigail Shanks. She is their first. Her grandparents are Khoury Shanks and Dianna Shanks. Her great-grandparents are Darrel Shanks and Sarah Shanks. Emerie's birth is noteworthy for me, because I remember being at the hospital the day Abigail was born. Both mom and baby are healthy. Congratulations to the family!

On Sunday night, we gathered to honor and celebrate the ministry of Pastor Janice Rudolph upon her retirement. Before she answered God's call to ministry she served, taught, and mentored others. WCN hired her as pastor of local missions and pastoral care nine years ago. During that time, Pastor Janice has served our church and community faithfully. I honestly do not know another pastor who pastored a community better or more faithfully than Janice Rudolph. We are more like Christ because of her ministry. This community is more like the Kingdom of God because of her ministry. Thanks to Jana Brazzle for directing the meal. Thanks to Pastor Janice for being Pastor Janice. There is no doubt that she is deeply loved and appreciated.

The Yuletide Wingding was another fun-filled Christmas event for all ages. About 100 people caroled at Humphreys County Care and Rehab, then gathered in the Center for food, games, and the annual Ugly Christmas Gear Contest. Benton McClanahan won "ugly." Janet Brush won "uglier." And Buddy Bishop won "ugliest." Buddy's trophy features a picture of me in ugly Christmas gear. It rests on his mantle. He says he looks at it every day. Many thanks to Ann Long for directing the meal.

One of the great blessings of 2024 was our connection with *No More Tears* and their work with those in recovery. Several WCN people made their Christmas a *No More Tears* kind of Christmas. Jackie Boswell raised over \$4,500 for Christmas presents for the children and grandchildren of the men. Over 100 of her friends chipped in. Richard Horner made personalized Christmas gift bags for the guys. Each bag had assortment of items that they would need or want. At least 2 of our *Engage Groups* chose to partner with *No More Tears*, receiving Christmas offerings to support the work. Terry and Jane Langston opened their

home on Christmas Day to 16 of the men who did not have somewhere else to go on Christmas. There is a fine line between giving and receiving.

A new round of *Immerse Groups* begins this Wednesday, January 8th, at 6:30pm! We have nursery, groups for kids and teens, and six adult options, which are featured in the enclosure. Come early. Get hot drinks and connect. This rounds lasts until Easter.

We meet again this Saturday in Jackson to pray and plan for the church plant. We will gather at the Casey Jones restaurant at 11:30. Come and be part of the momentum.

Come to the Waters is this Sunday. It is an introduction to WCN. Those who attend have the option to join in membership, but there is no pressure. We will provide dinner. We need a headcount. We would love to see you. Please contact the church office now.

Every winter we host the *Season of Emerging Preachers*. On Sunday nights we have brief services of worship. We hear from one of our emerging preachers. Then we give feedback about their preaching. The SOEP begins on January 19th at 6pm and runs through February. Come support our emerging preachers.

Several recent crises: In the last letter, I shared about Bernadene Gray. She lost her home in the flood three years ago, then rebuilt. Now, she lost her home in a fire. A few days after the fire, she lost Don, her ex-husband, for whom she was caring. Bernadene has insurance. She is in temporary housing and is rebuilding. Tammy Hamm lost her home in a housefire days before Christmas. She lost her husband, Larry, a few months prior. WCN men built a ramp on her home before it burned. Everyone is ok. They are waiting on insurance. Daniel Harvell is a No More Tears resident. He fell from a ladder and broke several bones in his feet and legs. After three surgeries, Daniel is waiting to be moved to rehab, hopefully in Waverly. Daniel has a long recovery ahead. Lori Roche was diagnosed with cancer and is undergoing treatments. She had surgery Friday and began chemotherapy and radiation this week. Lori is insured, but she had a \$10,000 medical bill due last Friday. Her friends and loved ones raised the amount needed in less than 24 hours. Many of you have given to these needs. Thank you. If you would like to continue to give to them, you may give through WCN.

WCN's annual staff retreat is January 13th-14th. The church office will be closed. Please pray for us as we get away for some work and time together.

Last Sunday, we began the series *I AM* from Exodus 3. If you were unable to come, I encourage you to watch the video on *YouTube* or *Facebook*. This Sunday, we will move into the Gospel of John to explore Jesus' *I AM* statements that connect to God's name in Exodus 3. As we move deeper into 2025, let's focus less on who we are and who we want to be. Instead, let's give ourselves to the *God who is*.

I leave you with this. Someone who attended *Life Recovery* last week says that WCN is the only place he has ever felt love. Let that settle in. Your love is making a difference. Keep it up.

-Pastor Daron

Upcoming...

- Jan 8: New *Immerse Groups* begin, 6:30
- Jan 11: Jackson plant meeting, 11:30 @ Casey Jones Restaurant
- Jan 12: Come to the Waters: an Intro to WCN, 4-7pm
- Jan 13-14: Staff Retreat
- Jan 19: Season of Emerging Preachers begins, 6pm
- Jan 25: Teens to Trevecca, basketball
- Feb 8: Men's Prayer Breakfast, 9am
- Feb 14: Valentine cookies to jail
- Feb 23-24: WCN Elections
- Mar 5: Ash Wednesday

If you have a prayer need please email prayer@wcntn.com

Worship:
8:30 & 11am
Engage Groups:
10am

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