



The Kedron Connection

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Volume 12

September 2013

Issue 8

From Our Pastor

I love the smell of books. I love the way a nice pen glides across a paper. In college everyone around me was typing on a laptop or a pda--and I just shook my head. I trusted my paper calendar and knew exactly where to find information in my handwritten notes. Plus I liked the look of my overflowing bookshelves. Now I'm typing on a laptop, listening to my ipod and checking my smart phone. My colleagues make jokes about my electronics being attached to my body. And this week I've been reflecting on how I got here with all these devices.

I've been thinking about this switch in my life because it happened while I was living in Kyrgyzstan. Monday night I presented pictures from my time in Central Asia to the Rutherford County Laity Club. I got some very insightful questions--including some about technology. So I've been trying to figure out why living without running water made me think electronic devices are necessary for life.

Part of the switch was out of necessity. There were not any books for sale where I lived, and mail was unreliable. But I could easily download books, encyclopedias, news articles, and emails. Electronics made my life much easier and happier. But technology really started to change my life when I realized it was changing the world.

My students all had fancy cell phones. At first I thought it really a little silly--I thought running water would have been more important than a toy. But for them it wasn't a toy. They didn't have land lines--those require much more infrastructure than cell phone towers. And cell phone towers enabled them to keep in contact with family who had to find jobs in other countries. The phones also helped them run businesses--and helped them keep up with the technology of a quickly changing world. Advancing technology can give more opportunities to people who haven't grown up with lots of infrastructure. I got a twitter account a couple of years ago for the sole purpose of keeping up with Kyrgyzstan's revolution. Twitter was popularized in the U.S. by celebrities and others tweeting seemingly arbitrary information about

themselves, but across the world twitter is valued for posting life and death information in places where news media is tied directly to the reigning regime.

And the phenomenon is not limited to social media. I have a friend who has been selling solar panels in war-torn Rwanda for several years now. Most places there don't have electrical lines. And the idea is that they will never have to. Solar panels require much less infrastructure to install and use. Because of advancing technology (and vision on the part of people like my friend) many Rwandans who don't have the political or economic power to install power lines can have electricity. Electricity (like communication) is not just important for comfort but also for economic advancement.

Examples abound--keeping up with technology means keeping up with new ideas for how the world can function--how we can live together. There's nothing wrong with the smell of a good book. But the question for us--the question for the church--is not one of personal preference but of what will do the most good for the most people. New ideas and new ways of living are opportunities for us to do the work of God--of making the world a better place for everyone who lives here.

Sunday Morning Time

Change - Sept. 15 Only

Our annual homecoming is the third Sunday in September. Sunday School will begin **10:00 a.m.** Worship Service will begin at **11:00 a.m.** Our covered-dish lunch will begin at 12:30 p.m.

Fellowship Supper

Our next First-Wednesday Fellowship Supper will be October 2. We will not have a September Fellowship Supper. Plan to join us October 2 at 6:30 p.m. for good fellowship and good food.

Men's Breakfast

The September First-Saturday Men's Breakfast will be September 7. We will eat at 7:00 a.m. Men, come be with us. This is a great way to start the first week-end of the month.

Handwork Ministry

The Handwork Ministry meets the third Wednesday of the month to knit and crochet. The September 18 meeting will begin at 9:30 a.m. at Evelyn Lee's home. Please plan to join us if you knit, crochet or want to learn.

Choir Practice

We will continue to meet at 9:15 on Sunday mornings. We will decide other practice times.

Bible Study

The Bible Study led by Rev. Travis Perry continues. The group meets at Kedron on Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m.

Fifth Sunday Singing

Our Fifth Sunday Singing with Lock's Memorial UMC will be at Kedron on September 29. We will begin singing at 6:30 p.m. and then share snacks we have brought. Rev. Lloyd Mabry of Smyrna First UMC has said that some of his congregation might like to come so they have been invited to be our guests.

Bucket Offerings

In September the offerings placed in the buckets carried by the children at Sunday morning worship will be contributed to the Good Shepherd Home.

Who Said This?

"The Lord is my strength and my might, and he has become my salvation; this is my god, and I will praise him,... The Lord will reign forever and ever."

NRSV (hint, Exodus)

Food Bank

You may bring donations for the Smyrna/LaVergne Food Bank to the church the first and second Sundays of the month and they will be delivered to the Food Bank. The suggested items for this month are sugar-free foods. Any non-perishable foods are accepted.

Rutherford County Laity

The Rutherford County Laity Fellowship will meet September 23 at Trinity UMC in Murfreesboro. Please note that the meeting time has been changed to 6:30 p.m.

Thank You

Thanks to all who helped when we hosted the Rutherford County Laity Fellowship in August. Many Laity members expressed that they appreciated and enjoyed the evening.

Happy Birthday to:

Deborah Kedell September 2
Seth Robinson September 13
Micayla Hickman September 20
Lauren Jennings September 21
John Lee September 24
Stephanie Robinson September 25
David Lee September 28

Happy Anniversary to:

Bryan & Wanda Mott September 13
John & Naomi Lee September 16

1 Peter 5:6-7 spoken by Peter was the quote in the previous newsletter.



September Calendar

Sunday, September 1:

8:45 a.m. Sunday School
9:15 a.m. Choir Practice
9:30 a.m. Worship Service

Tuesday, September 3:

10:00 a.m. Bible Study

Saturday, September 7:

7:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast

Sunday, September 8:

8:45 a.m. Sunday School
9:15 a.m. Choir Practice
9:30 a.m. Worship Service

Tuesday, September 10:

10:00 a.m. Bible Study

Sunday, September 15:

Homecoming

10:00 a.m. Sunday School
10:45 a.m. Choir Practice
11:00 a.m. Worship Service

Tuesday, September 17:

10:00 a.m. Bible Study

Wednesday, September 18:

9:30 a.m. Handwork Ministry
at home of
Evelyn Lee

Sunday, September 22:

8:45 a.m. Sunday School
9:15 a.m. Choir Practice
9:30 a.m. Worship Service

Tuesday, September 24:

10:00 a.m. Bible Study

Sunday, September 29:

8:45 a.m. Sunday School
9:15 a.m. Choir Practice
9:30 a.m. Worship Service
6:30 p.m. 5th Sunday Singing
at Kedron

Read Matthew 22:39 and unscramble this commandment.

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