

A Few Words From Your Pastoral Staff

Volume 2, Number 1 - Week of January 25, 2016

Dear Member of the Auburn Church Family,

I haven't had the opportunity to drop you a line now that we're in the new year, so there are several important things I need to bring you up to speed on.

This Sabbath we have a guest speaker I think that you will really appreciate. Her name is Karen Nicola. On Sabbath morning she will be sharing her journey of grief and healing after the loss of her 5 year old son to Leukemia. Then, in the afternoon, from 3:00 to 5:30 pm she will be holding a seminar on how to relate to others who are going through grief. We've all experienced a friend or relative or co-worker who has had a death in their family, or who may have discovered that they, themselves are dying, and have had no idea what to do or say. This workshop will provide you the tools for dealing with your own and other's grief.

One of our members, Cher Wagenleitner, has this to say about Karen, "I can tell from knowing her personally and through church for over 30 years, Karen is one remarkable woman of God. I've used her grief book and workbook several times for my own grief and it is an absolute treasure she has shared with the world. She speaks from the heart, she is clear and concise and you feel her pain and joy at the same time when she shares her story. She has helped hundreds of women and is a blessing to all who meet her." (I am attaching the flyer from our bulletin for more information.

I also wanted to remind you of our church game night this Saturday night, starting at 6:30 pm. Bring your favorite cheese for grilled cheese sandwiches. We are providing the soup and the place. And Jim Brewster, the popcorn king, will be popping corn. Bring your favorite table game(s) and plan on joining us for a good time.

There is one other thing you need to be aware of. Seven years ago we started feeding the homeless, and others, breakfast on Sabbath mornings before our services. There were some parents who were concerned that there were people on the grounds before Sabbath School who they were not comfortable having around their children. Gradually, many discovered that the people who were coming were pretty harmless and those concerns, for the most part, went away. This last year, though, we have begun to have a different type of individual showing up for breakfast - largely because Auburn is now the only parole office serving three counties and these people are required to stay in the area. Many in this new group are much more "entitled," angry, belligerent and self-centered. Consequently, the breakfast and the time afterwards are feeling less and less safe for parents and volunteers. So, sadly, the Church Board made the difficult decision to shut down the breakfasts as of this coming Sabbath. Please keep us in your prayers as we look for other ways to minister to those in our community who truly need our help.

Sincerely,

Pastor Dan M. Appel