

Good Friday afternoon, New South Family. Welcome to the 28th edition of the Weekly Word – this for the week ending January 10, 2020.

-----The Critical-----

Announcements

1) Pastors / Elders / Appointees Conference Report Forms were e-mailed out this past Tuesday. Every person/deacon/elder under appointment should fill out this brief form and return it to me by January 31, 2020. Your information helps the Ministerial Appointments Committee determine appointments for the following conference year. Many thanks for your timely attention to this. Those report forms are on the conference website under “Resources / Pastor and Elder Resources” as well.

2) Compensation Change Forms If you are a pastor and your church is paying into the denominational retirement/pension on your behalf, and if your compensation has changed for 2020, be sure to complete the change form...found on the conference website, resources page, pastors’ resources...or...right here:

<https://hr.fmcusa.org/pension-change-of-status-form/>

3) Denominational Church Report Forms will be out in a few weeks. Please watch for these, coming from the World Ministry Center. These are the statistical reports for the general church.

4) Pass Through Funds Your church’s financial assessment/fair share amount is based on your church’s income from “two” years ago – 2020 assessment amounts are based on your church income from 2018, for example. That income number is the result of a calculation which may involve pass through funds – which need to be approved by the superintendent by the end of January. If you’d like to submit pass through funds for approval, please send your request to me by January 31. That is my deadline for submission to the World Ministry Center.

Church of the Week: Living Stones FMC in Harriman Tennessee – Randy Scarborough is assistant pastor there. Keep Living Stones in your prayers, especially that a full time pastor can be appointed soon. They have an interim that they’d love to move to full time.

Conference Calendar:

January 23-24	Daryl in Nashville area for meetings
February 2-4:	Area Bishop and Superintendents (ABS) meeting in Nashville (Daryl attends these under duress – ha)
February 7:	FM History and Polity class begins
February __:	Strategy Day
March 20:	District Leaders – Wilmore, 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.
March 20:	BOA – Wilmore, 6:00 – 10:00 p.m.
March 21:	MEG/MAC – Wilmore, 8:00 a.m. - noon
March 31-April 2:	Global Overseers Team (GOT) - Indianapolis
April 26-28:	ABS - Tampa
May 29-30:	New South Annual Conference, Oakdale Christian Academy
June 7-9:	ABS - Indianapolis
June 15-20:	NSC Teen Camp
June 11-14:	NSC Family Camp
June 22-26:	NSC Kids’ Camp
August 9-11:	ABS – Baltimore
August 25-28:	Starting Strong for new pastors - Indianapolis
September 23-25:	New Room Conference, Nashville, TN

And now...

-----The Important-----

Resources, Articles and Attachments

1) New Resources Online at FMCNewsouth.org: Several new links have been posted to useful and informative websites, including:

The John and Charles Wesley Center – which exists to provide a contemporary witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ out of the Wesleyan tradition that articulates, defends, and promotes Christian orthodox faith and its Scriptural foundation and to create resources to strengthen the discipleship, faith, and ministries of 21st century Christians. <https://jcwcenter.org/>

First Things – an evangelical Catholic theological journal that I find challenging and helpful. <https://www.firstthings.com/>

The Francis Asbury Society - FAS exists to proclaim and resource the message of biblical holiness as the central priority in all Christian activity, for every individual and every church, in every situation. <http://www.francisasburysociety.com/>

Seedbed Publishing – Seedbed is the publishing and resourcing arm of Asbury Seminary and exists to gather, connect, and resource the people of God to sow for a great awakening by producing Bible studies, books, small-group studies, training courses, videos, podcasts, conferences, and articles through print, digital, electronic, online, offline, web-based applications, social media, and good old-fashioned word of mouth messaging. <https://www.seedbed.com/>

Institute for Faith and Freedom – This is a “think tank” that integrates faith and freedom in applications for today. <https://www.faithandfreedom.com/>

2) You’ll Find the new “Mere Musings” by our own David Schreiner attached, entitled, ““In What Have You Put Your Faith?”

3) Church Reports about the Christmas Season: Murphy - “Although we have sometimes had a Christmas dinner for the community, this year with the week of Christmas being the time when our family could be together in Kentucky, we decided not to do it. What a blessing when others in our church family wanted to go ahead anyway, pulled together and made a wonderful meal for the community joining in fellowship with each other and a number of those from the area who otherwise would have been alone and/or not had much of a meal.”

Wilmore – We had a record 800+ in three Christmas Eve services and great times of worship and, actually, rest over the season. Also, after entering December with a World Mission giving deficit, by the end of the month, we wound up exceeded our church mission giving goal by \$34,000.00 – we’re very grateful to God.

Job Openings

At this point, we have a pastor or interim pastor in every NSC church, although those interim situations are, well, interim.

Remaining January Birthdays (*that we know of)

Don Stevens – January 14 – Elder, retired

Kevin Hale – January 17 – Conference Trustee

Shivraj Mahendra – January 19 – Elder, student

Carol Matthews – January 21 – Conference Auditor

Bob Barnard – January 25 – Elder, Chaplain, Thomson Hood Veteran's Center

Ron Johns – January 27 – Elder, retired

Ralph Kester – January 27, Lay Delegate, Wilmore

*I would love to know the birthdays of all those related to the NSC who receive this communique – pastors, elders, delegates, special friends, etc. Please send month and day to Timothy at

newsouthconference@gmail.com

This Week's Passage, Quote and Joke

Passage: This Sunday I continue looking at Christmas from the “Backside;” interpreting the Christmas event post-holiday. My text is Luke 2:25-35 and the words of Simeon.

On Sunday night, I will bring the occasional, “While We’re At It” message, which is a series of rather random thoughts on faith and culture, inspired though the holiday season and the events of our day.

Quote: “Our greatest fear should not be of failure but of succeeding at things in life that don’t really matter.” –Francis Chan

Joke: *The Sunday School teacher began the week’s lesson with a recap of the previous week’s topic by saying, “We have been learning about how powerful the kings and queens were in Biblical times. But there is a higher power. Who can tell me what it is?”*

Six-year-old Peter blurted out, “I know, Aces.”

Blessings on your weekend and day of worship.

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marks of crucifixion and dated to the time of Pontius Pilate was Jesus of Nazareth. In many ways, this film pursues the same questions as "The Search for Whit." What are the implications if Jesus's bones were found? What are the political and social ramifications, let alone the theological ones? Could the faith survive, and to what lengths would people go to either suppress the information or manipulate it? And when I teach my New Testament survey classes I have my students ponder this movie. Why? To get them thinking about the locus of our faith and just how much rests on the resurrection of Jesus. Moreover, this conversation easily moves into another one. What are the historical non-negotiables of the faith? Indeed, I believe that the historical death and resurrection of Jesus is one of them. But what about the exodus? The ten plagues? Or whether the sun stood still in midair so that the Israelites could rout the Amorites?

So, it's worth pondering again. In what have you put your faith?