

RUSS' RAMBLINGS

FAITH COVENANT CHURCH

8333 FORT ST.; OMAHA, NE --- (402) 571-5543

John Peterson, Pastor
July 2008

Russell Wenke, Editor
Vol. 03 - No. 07

JULY BIRTHDAYS

6. Nate Hipsher
7. Peter Landmark
13. Brittany Alberts
14. Edward Miller
21. Adam Embree
23. Dave Lengyel
24. Laura Unruh
31. Tammy Kahler
31. Rebecca Welton



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

1. Nicklaus Oleson
2. Brad Lorang
5. Floyd Richardson
5. Matthew Miller
13. Michael Burrigh
15. Caren Jensen
19. Inga Reischl
20. David Welton
22. Goldie Beatty
23. Carol Kahler
24. Ron Hollins
24. Dot Wenke
24. Mikayla Alberts
26. Lillian Lorang
28. Pat Lund
29. Jeanne Miller
31. Theresa Graeve

**Happy
Anniversary**

July Anniversaries:

- 07/17 Katrina & Dan
07/22 Ginny & Howard

August Anniversaries

- 08/06 Dot & Russell Wenke
08/09 Roberta & Les Oleson



This Month . . .

07/20 – Board Meeting

Coming Events . . .

08/17 – quarterly congregational meeting

09/21 – Board Meeting

C E Notes

CHIC – Ron and Rebecah Welton have agreed to again take charge of planning for CHIC. One of the major responsibilities is to raise funds to defer some of the expenses for our youth to attend. They have decided to offer a lunch before the Congregational meetings as one of the ways to raise funds. We encourage you to stay for the meal and then participate in the meetings once every three months.

AWANA – Sandy Burrigh is retiring from leadership of this excellent program. Our youth from kindergarten through seventh grade have really enjoyed and benefited from the program. We considered continuing under another leader but decided against it. There has been a lack of people willing to help with the work and parents have not been consistent in bringing their kids at the scheduled time. If we see a change in the situation in the future, we will consider starting up again.

NURSERY – The nursery schedule has been updated through August. We could certainly use additional volunteers for this ministry. If you are interested, please contact me soon. I plan to put together the schedule for the fall months before the end of this month.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH – will be suspended through the summer. Current plans are to restart in the fall. This will be on the fourth Sunday of each month during the worship service. (We are open to volunteers to provide a program on the second Sunday as well.)

YOUTH WORKER – Our budget for the past couple years has included funds for a part-time youth worker. However, there has been no progress on actually finding and hiring an individual. Rather than continue with this approach, we have decided to consider joint efforts with our sister Covenant churches. Our youth are welcome to participate in their existing programs.

D i a c o n a t e

We will participate in a program called "Step Out". People of faith reach out to help those who are in need. Anticipated projects will be things such as painting, home or yard maintenance, etc. Tom McCurdy is coordinating with our sister Covenant churches in the area. For additional information contact Tom, Pastor John, or Pat.

P r a y e r R e q u e s t

We help support two missionary families. This month I received a couple emails from Dave Mark. The contents of those emails follow:

July 2, 2008 A Prayer Request for Wendy Mark

Dear Friends,

A routine annual physical resulted in some disconcerting news for Wendy. After some further testing and review by an endocrinologist, it was discovered that she has two tumors, both of which must be surgically removed.

The first tumor is located on her thyroid and, because of its location, will require removal of the thyroid gland as well. As some of you may know, this will require follow-up with a regime of synthetic hormones to balance her system. It is not known whether the tumor is benign or malignant, but the doctors assure us that if it is cancerous, it is quite treatable – perhaps the most treatable of all cancers.

More troublesome for Wendy is the other tumor located on her pituitary gland. This tumor is affecting several complex systems and creating some hormonal imbalances, like acromegaly, as well. The surgery is more complicated due to the location of the tumor, but we believe that we have found good and competent medical personnel to deal with it. (If you are curious about either of these procedures, the Mayo clinic website is quite informative and easy to understand.)

The first surgery, for the tumor on the thyroid, will take place on July 8, 2008. The second has not yet been scheduled. In the meantime, our life goes on with many trips and activities planned. Wendy is particularly hopeful that the surgeries and follow-up will not interfere with our plans to attend the All Latin America Mission Staff Retreat in Tequisquiapan, Mexico July 20-26 or the Missionary Connection Week in Chicago the following week. Wendy assures me that she is not experiencing anything other than occasional mild discomfort. At the same time, waiting for appointments, tests, dealing with insurance matters and the sheer fact of the unknown consequences can be very taxing. So, we do ask you to pray for Wendy. First of all, please pray for her physical concerns - healing and well being. Secondly, we ask for prayer that our heart and mind will be kept safe and confident in God's care.

Thank you for your faithful prayer for us,

Dave & Wendy Mark

July 8, 2008

Dear friends,

Thank you for praying for Wendy.

Wendy is out of surgery and in recovery as I write this. The operation was successful. It took about 3 hours and was a complete thyroidectomy. The surgeon sent the material from the tumor to pathology, but, based on lots of experience, she told us that she did not think it was malignant. We will know with greater certainty in 4-5 days, but it does sound like good news. Wendy should be able to come home tomorrow. After recuperation, she will need to be stabilized with replacement medicines for what the thyroid produces. This could take some time in order to get the amounts right for her. After that is done, she will be scheduled for the next surgery to excise the tumor on her pituitary gland. We do not know when that will be, at this point.

Again, thank you for your love and concern.

Dave Mark

MISSIONS CORNER

Mark – Dave & Wendy's March newsletter is still available on the bulletin board, or [follow the link to my web space](#)

Ekstrands – Nothing new this month. You can still see Pete and Cindy's February letter on the bulletin board or [follow the link to my web space](#).