

CORNER NEWS

October 2008
First Baptist Church

No. 230
Sanford, NC

I hit a professional milestone this week. After 35 years as a professional educator, for the first time in my career I have my own office!! It is actually very exciting for me. I figure it is quite humdrum for the average professional.

In just the last 2 or 3 days since I moved to my new location at the office numerous coworkers have come by my office to say they miss me in my old area with the other “cubicle folks.” It also occurs to me that since I left teaching at Lee Senior High School I lost contact with many teachers who I saw on a nearly daily basis. In our busy, busy world, it is mighty easy to overlook keeping up with old friends.

It really is a busy, busy world no matter whether we work full time jobs, stay at home as a mother and wife, enjoy retirement, or work hard as students. All of us are guilty of becoming so busy that we forget to stay in contact with God.

John 15:4 states *“Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me.”*

Each day it is our responsibility—*no, it is our obligation*—to maintain our contact with God. He is ever present in our lives. We must live each day knowing that and living according to His will. We can’t know His will when our communication with God breaks down. Keep in touch!!

Your Servant,
Ruth Price

Pastoral Reflections

Let me begin by simply saying, hey! I hope that you are all doing well. We miss you here in Sanford! It occurred to me as I was preparing to write this that Fall Break is right around the corner, meaning that we will probably get to see your smiling faces soon. I certainly hope so.

By now the semester is taking shape for you. You know by now which of you’re courses are going to require the most work. You have no doubt identified the quirks of your professors, so you know what they are looking for. My concern for you now is the gathering of strength for the finish. I was never a serious runner, but I did participate in a couple of 5k races when I was in seminary, and when I had young knees. I recall that there was always the crucial time in the middle of the race when my body was tempting





me to stop and dropout. There was no denying the feelings I was experiencing. My lungs were burning, and my legs were tiring. I really wanted to stop. At that particular moment it was necessary for me to literally ignore my body and its messages. I had to determine in my mind to press forward. And when I did, something remarkable happened—the pain disappeared, replaced by a calm reassuring feeling that I could and would finish what I had started.

You will have feelings such as these in school, in life, and in your relationship with Christ. Just remember, when the temptation to stop or abandon the journey comes, it takes a determination of the will to press on. And the rewards will be many. We all know that Paul once said that he “pressed on toward the prize.” We are encouraged by those words. I also like what he said to the Ephesians, ***“I ask the Father in his great glory to give you the power to be strong inwardly through his Spirit”*** (Ephesians 3:16). Know this...I and your church are praying in just this way, for each of you!

Grace,
Jeff

JT's Notes

Nancy and I recently went to a Seniors Golf Tournament. There I saw, up close and personal, many of the golfers I have watched on TV and read about. We watched them hit shot after shot—drives, irons, putts. Wow! Those guys are good! They hit it long. They hit it straight! Their putting was awesome. For them to not make a par on a hole is a rarity whereas, for me, making a par on a hole is more a surprise--or a miracle. Now there were a few times when even the professionals had to hit a shot from the rough (tall grass where they didn't want to be) or a hazard (sand trap). On those occasions, they would bring out a rescue club—a club designed to “save” them from a bad shot. ***For them***, no problem! Hit the rescue club and get them back to the task at hand—making a birdie or a par on the hole. Because they believed in their game and trusted their equipment, what would seem to be a miracle shot to us amateur golfers was very doable for them.



You know, life is a lot like a round of golf. Each day is similar to a hole of golf. Some days, we find ourselves “in the fairway of life”—on the short grass. Things are good! It is easy to focus on the goal of doing God's will. But every now and then, we find ourselves “in the rough, dealing with a hazard”. How we respond to these “setbacks” of life has a lot to do with our relationship with our Lord. When, in life, we need a “rescue club”, do we call on our God or do we sort'a flail about on our own? Over the years on the “course of life”, old JT has learned that the greatest “utility club” we can use is to call on God. He is in control, you know. All things are possible with Him and through Him. If we will but believe in Him and trust in Him, we too will experience miracles every day as we seek to escape the “roughs” of life. All we have to

do is seek Him! He's always there for us. That's His promise and God doesn't mislead us! So for now, "Fore, Lord". That means "Be ready, Lord. Here I come!"

Love ya'

JT

"On the day I called, You answered me; You made me bold with strength in my soul"

Psalms 138:3

Bits 'N Pieces

Marty Stoner continues working with the NCSU football team. He is having a great time and thrilled to be working with the Tom O'Brien staff. He is majoring in engineering at NCSU.

Nichole Merritt completed her undergraduate work at ECU and is now attending Appalachian State University working on her Masters in Marriage and Family Counseling.

John Coggin spent 6 weeks in India this summer. He was in the Study Abroad Program from UNC-CH.

Courtney Smith spent many weeks at Camp Mundo Vista as a counselor for the Summer GA camps.

Dustin Norris has moved to Greensboro to continue his studies at UNC-G.

Jessica Wilder is interning in the classroom as she works on her degree in education at UNC-G. Her degree has a concentration in Elementary Education with a focus in science. She spent the summer as a camp counselor for the YMCA in Raleigh.

Jennifer Oldham graduated from Meredith College in May with a degree in design. She is using her degree to begin a career in interior design.

Mary Beth Spivey completed graduate school at ECU, is working at Ayden-Griffin Elementary School as a second grade teacher, and is engaged to be married to Michael Stec in August, 2009. It's been an eventful year this year!



My big news is that Mr. Camp and I received our fourth granddaughter into this world on July 6, 2008. Her name is Hannah Jane Price born to Stephen, Laura, and Ashlyn.

My email is rprice51@charter.net Please send your news to share with each other and with members of our church family to me or Betty Merritt in the church office BettyMerritt@windstream.net.

Current issues as well as old issues of the Corner News can be found on the First Baptist website at www.firstbaptistsanford.com Just scroll down on the Home Page and click on "Corner News" on the menu on the left.