

September 2021 Newsletter

From Heaven's Heart

"You Deserve A Great Big Thank You"

It's hard for me to believe that by the time you are reading this, Andrea and I will be celebrating eight years as a member of our Shallow Ford Christian Church Family...and as your Pastor and Pastors Wife...PW as Andrea fondly refers to herself...thank you for making these past eight years far, far better than we dreamed possible. I can say without any hesitation, these have been the best years of our lives. Thank you!

It seems like we arrived here only yesterday and although none of us know what the future holds for us, Andrea and I both hope and pray that our ministry here is far from over. But God does know. And the fact that He knows and wants only the best for His Church and His people, we can lay our futures in His wonderful, loving, all merciful, all powerful and perfect hands. Thank you Father. You sure are good. Always have been. Always will be.

So, I begin writing the September, 2021 Edition of our Newsletter giving thanks to God for allowing us the privilege of serving Him, serving you and serving our Elon Community for eight years.

Let's see, that's about 450 Messages, 53 Celebration of Life Services (funerals) and a couple of hand-fulls of marriages and baptisms. I didn't keep a record of how many folks decided to join our church family. I bet Roberta knows. I guess having our first youth group complete confirmation classes this year has been THE Highlight of my life.

I'm so thankful for all the experiences we've had together over the years. You've been easy to love. Thank you for loving my family. You sure are good. Always have been. Always will be.

I guess the most important point of this newsletter is to simply say this. Please, please keep doing what you've been doing. Please keep trying your best to Love God first. Make Him everything in your life. If you do, you will discover what the Bible tells us is the promise of experiencing life in full abundance. And keep trying your best to love others like you love yourself. There is a reason Jesus said this is the second most important thing we are to do. Love God first and love others second. Then and only then will you discover what real life is all about and how you can have the peace, joy, and power God promises.

Finally, the Big and Eternal reward is presented to us when life here comes to an end and we walk into Heaven. Eternal, lasting, indescribable rewards handed out by God Himself. Can you imagine what that day will be like. No tears, no pain, no disappointments, no bills to pay, everyone singing and praising God all day long and doing what ever work He has planned for us in Heaven.

But while you and I remain here, there's exciting work to be done. Someone once said, "Find something you love to do and you'll never have to work a day in your life. Well, Andrea and I have found something we love to do and I know many of you have also. It's not really work is it! Serving God and serving others may be called God's work but what joy, real joy is it to be His and doing His work.

The way you love can't be hidden from others. That's why when folks walk through the doors of Shallow Ford Christian Church they always, yes, always say to me, "They feel God's Spirit alive and well in this place. They feel your love". You are the reason God is present. Thank you.

May I close with this? From our Heavenly Father to you, "Thank you for being His and showing it...and for allowing Andrea and I to serve you as your pastor and PW these past eight years". You are the best. It's been a great ride.

With the deepest love for you,

Pastor Steve and Andrea (PW)

PS I am more confident than ever that God wants to continue sending folks to join our church family because He knows they will be cared for...His way.