

A Word From the Publisher

How in the world did we already get to April? This year, like many others, is flying by! I've had many discussions with people concerning the weather: hot one day, cold the next. Let's all remember, this is why we live in Florida. We are actually getting to enjoy a little spring and I'm thankful! I'm not quite ready for the hot summer days!



About three weeks ago, we celebrated our 'Stearn Meeting' which is time with parents, siblings and cousins. Each year our time together includes all adults (kind of) who have a lot of fun! This year, the pace was slowed down a slight bit as Mama had just had knee replacement surgery 3 weeks prior, however was moving around like a champ.

We all arrived at Cherry Lake in Madison, Florida on Friday afternoon. Once everyone shared hugs and unloaded, we met at the log cabin house for a tenderloin dinner! And it was amazing. After enjoying dinner together, we all chimed in on a 'Stearn rendition' of singing Happy Birthday to Mama with hot peach cobbler and three cakes! We also had birthday blowers and sound makers that everyone had fun with. Saturday morning, after fixing a cup of coffee, I enjoyed visiting with my brother Gus. The lake was so peaceful and the morning so enjoyable. A little later we all met at Southern Charm, the house next door, where we all eventually met for breakfast. Not only was there a lot of conversation but lots of varieties of food. I just can't tell you how enjoyable it is to spend these precious few days with our family.

This year, our picture opportunities were a little different. We had several family members (besides mama) that were having some issues getting around. We just decided to take our pictures on the porch and then go with snapshots from the weekend! The weather was a little cooler than we all expected so most of us are in the picture with our jackets on.

Saturday evening was another spread for dinner! We all take turns with a night or day cooking and it works out. The food was really good. During dinner, a family

friend (Bobby Flynn) dropped by to say hello! I see him from time to time but he hasn't seen the rest of my siblings in years. It was a great visit and Mom and Dad really enjoyed him stopping by. Afterwards, we all enjoyed homemade ice cream with all the toppings and cake of course! It was so delicious and quite fun watching my brothers Dub and Gus putting just the right combinations together.

Sunday, Daddy had his devotion with the entire group together and encouraged us all. His heart is so precious and the love of Jesus just radiates from him and Mama. Next, my brother Dub said a few words. Dub is currently going through treatments for pancreatic cancer. He shared his heart with us and then as he read from the Bible, we had communion together. It was such a special time.

I'm thankful for such a loving family that is grounded in Christ. Our special weekend continues to be more precious with each and every year. Our cousins, Mama's sister's girls & their spouses, have been joining us for the last few years and it is such a joy to see each of them. Mom and Dad have always welcomed them as their own. We share a special bond together.

I have learned through the years that each moment is special. When the opportunity is presented to spend time with a member of your family, take it. None of us are guaranteed tomorrow which makes today so incredibly special. I'm so thankful God placed me in the family he did. As Dub said and we all agree, "I love our family!"

Have a blessed week!

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