

A Word From the Publisher

The week of Labor Day was quite a blur as forecasters made us keep a close watch on Hurricane Dorian. Thankfully, we were missed and so blessed! The week was different anyway due to the Monday holiday however the pressure of the storm caused much more stress. Our schedule for publishing the paper changed as we came in early Tuesday and had it at the press by 2 p.m. The Post Office also closed on Wednesday so most people still received their paper on Thursday as normal.

Funny thing is Roger and I had already planned a week at the lake for the following week. So let's see, we were off Monday, Wednesday and Friday and worked Tuesday and Thursday! I could get used to that schedule but I wouldn't be worth a darn!

We did make our lake vacation and it was fabulous! We couldn't have asked for better weather as each day we had a wonderful breeze

for the entire day. We rented a house at Lake Jewell in Interlachen. We have stayed at the house many times but hadn't been there in 13 years. Very quickly our love for the lake was restored when we got out of the truck and relaxed in the chairs at the lake's edge under the big oaks! It doesn't get much better than that. We, of course, launched our boat and took a cool ride around the lake and surroundings. I was just amazed at how quiet it was. So peaceful and serene... God's majesty in full view! Once we got everything unloaded and set up we took some time to grill a couple of steaks! We had a great first night and it only got better!

Saturday, Roger's daughter Teresa and our granddaughter Milianah came for a visit! We had a great time together playing in the water, riding in the tube, boat rides and of course eating! They stayed the night and left later on Sunday. Roger and I came home late Sunday night as I needed to work for a little while on Monday. Once things were pretty well settled, we met up with

my parents who followed us back down to the lake. We opted to stop in Starke at Sonny's for supper before heading to the lake. Once again, all of us were taken away with the beauty of the lake and the calm breeze!

Tuesday, Roger's sisters Rhonda and Regina brought his mother (92) down to see us and spend the day! It was a great treat. We all had such a great time visiting with each other. We had lunch but most of the time was spent sitting outside under

the big oaks! Great shade! Roger took his sisters out on the boat for a ride around and to a couple of small connecting lakes. I've learned that the lake brings such a calming effect on everyone. I know for me, any type of water has that effect! It really is a time to reflect on how blessed I truly am! The rest of the week we just spent time doing what we wanted...mostly chilling!

My parents left Saturday morning to head home. Not long after they left, my daughter and family, Jenny, Mark, Hunter, Michael and Bristol drove up! Very quickly the energy revved up! About 20 minutes later,

my son and his family Levi, Summer, Jayden and Harper, drove up! What a fun time they had and so did we! Those children played and played! We had such a great time together. They ate, played, ate, swam, ate and played. Needless to say I didn't bring home too many leftovers! It worked out perfectly!

I'm so thankful for our family and the joy we have when we are all together! God has truly blessed us over and above what we deserve. I'm also thankful to be able to take a little time away and feel confident in leaving. Having a time of refreshing is most important in our busy lives. I've also learned that each and every day is so important. When opportunities present themselves we definitely need to take advantage of them because we don't know what tomorrow may hold.

Have a blessed week!

Dawn S. West

