



June 2017

I probably say this every month, but it is true. Time goes by so quickly. What a month June was! Let me begin by saying “thank you”. It is my great privilege to be where I am doing what I am doing. I pray God leaves me in Rockville, at Forest Hills Baptist Church, with these wonderful people, doing this wonderful work for all of my days. The last three years haven’t always been roses and even now we find ourselves in the midst of various uncertainties, but God is God, and He is good, and I am thankful. Thank you for allowing God to use you as He has on our behalf.

June was a month full of visitors, both first time and return. Just about every week in June, we had people visit the church. Our attendance was up all month long, which is a great thing to be able to say during the summer months. In fact, our high day in June was 49 with some of our regular attenders out of pocket.

God moved away a very dear family in June. We had a young couple in the military that moved here almost two years ago end up moving back home this past month. That was a sad time. They loved the church and the church loved them, and the situation that brought them here kind of fast-tracked the bonding process. He got out of the military and went back to Arkansas. We will miss them. On the positive side, the Sunday after they left, God brought another family that showed up ready to jump right in. They are also military and will be here only about a year, but we are glad to have them.

We also had a surprise early in the month of June. A young couple that moved to the area around September of last year visited our church one Sunday and then never came back. They stayed in touch and followed the progress of our building program, checked in on Facebook occasionally and called, but that was it. Then in the beginning of the month, they showed back up for services. I told my wife that I figured they just wanted to see the building. Well, they have been here every Sunday since! As you can imagine, that is both encouraging and exciting. We also had another individual join the church this month as well. We had two join last month and two join this month.

Please be in prayer for our folks. They are very active with the Gospel. That is what we strive to cultivate here, and God has helped them embrace and work toward boldness and faithfulness with the Gospel as a way of life each and every day. Pray that God would give them fruit as they strive to be faithful. Pray that He will help them see also, that the influx of random visitors can be God’s blessing of their efforts as well. I don’t want them to get discouraged. One family in particular stepped way out of their comfort zone and ended up seeing their neighbors (Anglican people) visit one Sunday. Their entire family (a family of five) came. Nothing much has come of it yet that we can see, but they heard the Gospel very clearly, and we know God is working. The young man that was baptized last month is also very vocal about his faith. He too has had people come with him to church that he has been trying to reach. Please pray for them.

God is doing an incredible work out here in Rockville. I love it. I love watching God help His people see that we are called to be actual disciples today; modern-day followers of Jesus. I have loved watching the lightbulb moments and I have loved what I see God doing in regard to the vision He has given me as we continue to move forward. Please pray for us. I am currently looking for a part-time job that will enable me to continue to focus on this work to the degree that I have been while at the same time alleviating some of the financial burden I place on the church as they have taken up the slack of waning support. I am not willing to take away from my family or the work of this church. So, I am looking for what may seem to be a tall order, but God can provide. Please pray with me about that. I am hoping to find something that is flexible, and will utilize my strengths, whatever they may be. I want to do something that I can love and do well so that whoever hires me gets more than they bargained for. Thank you again for all of your prayers and all of your support. It means the world to my family and me.

In Christ,
Joe Edward Lusk Jr. (JJ)
I Timothy 1:12

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