Greetings!

On Wednesday I had the good fortune of celebrating my 52nd birthday. I must say that I am truly thankful to God for allowing me to reach this milestone in my life. I am also grateful for the many messages that I received from family and friends who shared this special day with me through their birthday wishes...

(Read more below)

The Nature of Nurture...

...But out of all the messages that I received, one that continues to reverberate in my mind was one that I received from a friend on Facebook. Basically this person was encouraging me to celebrate my birthday for the remainder of the year. Now wouldn't that be nice if it was possible? But when you think about it, it really is possible. Isn't the celebration of a birthday, in essence, the celebration of life itself?

And that being the case, shouldn't we celebrate "life" each and every day of our lives? Why do we need to wait until the actual anniversary of our births before we decide to celebrate the fact that we are still here?

I challenge each of us from this moment on not to put off the celebration of our lives until our birthdays are upon us, but rather to take time out of each day to thank God for giving us this precious gift and to celebrate it in some small way. And if we truly commit ourselves to doing this we won't have to wait until our actual birthdays are upon us, but we can wish one another a happy birthday.
every single day of the year. Happy birthday everyone!

As we prepare to worship the Lord this Sabbath at Sligo, I will be presenting the first part of a series of messages that I have titled, *The Nature of Nurture*, that were inspired from our mission to make passionate disciples. The title of my message this Sabbath is the *True Gift of Worship*.

Finally, we are all saddened as we say goodbye to the Sigue family as pastor Mark begins to serve his new pastorate in Virginia. We will miss his ministry to the children of Sligo Church and School. Following the 11:15 service there will be a farewell reception for the Sigue family in the atrium where the Sligo family will have an opportunity to share their appreciation for their ministry to our congregation. Our prayers are with them as they move forward with God in faith.

Pastor Charles A. Tapp
Senior Pastor

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"Too much emphasis has been put on the 'how' of worship and not enough on the 'why.'" -Charles A. Tapp

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Simple Truths for Life with Charles Tapp

The new radio ministry of Sligo Church, heard each Saturday at 11am on WGTS 91.9 was unveiled January 1st.

For years, Sligo has had a radio presence on WGTS 91.9, beginning with "The Sound Of Worship" which was the live broadcast from the sanctuary. But in recent years, it became apparent that a new approach was needed.

In order to accommodate a listening audience that is made up of more than 40% of people that are considered "un-churched", and for future opportunities for "Radio Day's", Sligo has now positioned this "revamped" radio program to be a more effective outreach ministry.

If you have friends, co-workers, neighbors or family who haven't been to church for awhile, we hope you will encourage them to check out this broadcast in hopes they may be willing to visit Sligo with you some day.

You can listen and share the podcasts, too, at www.sligochurch.org/simpletruths. Or find "Simple Truths for Life" on Facebook!

Like the new look?

We hope you found this week's e-weekend newsletter helpful. If there is anything else you would like to see included, we appreciate your feedback. Just email us to sligo@sligochurch.org. We will continue to send this out on a weekly basis. Remember, you may choose to unsubscribe for any reason at any time, though, we hope you won't!

May God continue to richly bless you!
History

The current building in which the Sligo Church family meets was completed in 1944. In 1985 there was an addition however by 2001, it was clear that there was need for significant renovation. Our congregation initiated a project labeled the Organ Sanctuary Renovation (OSR) project. The work included allowing more natural light at the front of the church (behind the pulpit), installing a new maple stage, baptistry with Jerusalem marble, Daffer organ and pipes and pews on the main floor. Acoustics were also improved. The original cost increased to $4.36 million when it became apparent that there was significant asbestos in the original construction that needed to be removed. Approximately half of the the money for this restoration project was raised prior to initiation and the remaining $2.3 million was borrowed from the Columbia Union Revolving Fund. To put this project cost of in perspective, at last estimate, our church property was valued at about $18 million.

The payment on the 20-year, 7% fixed interest loan started in May 2005. This payment is $16,500 per month. Since 2005, hundreds of thousands of dollars have been paid in interest. In order to decrease the burden of this debt, the Stewardship committee along with the pastoral staff and backed by the church board initiated a plan to pay off the loan early.

The Plan

Our goal is to pay off the remaining OSR debt by our Festival of Praise in November 2011—fourteen years earlier than originally planned. Retiring our debt this early will save over a million dollars in interest, money that can be used to further the ministries of our church. We kicked off the debt reduction drive in April of 2009. At that point, about $10,000 dollars a month were paid in interest. Since then we have raised almost $1 million to bring the total amount owed down below $1 million dollars. Our monthly interest payments have now also dropped to about $6,000 with over $10,000 a month used to further pay down the principal.

OSR Loan since payments began in 2005

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Give now to the OSR

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