
HOPE HEADLINES

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Randy's Ramblings



As I settled into my seat to listen, I thought of all the previous times I had attended a graduation ceremony. Some of the speakers kept my attention. Others lost me. Some use it as a platform for their own personal agenda. Others use it to encourage the graduates. Some speak to the people in the crowds, and some speak to the larger audience outside the venue in which they are

speaking.

Some speakers are controversial. Some are inspirational. Others are simply bland.

Like many high school graduations, the one I was attending invited the class Valedictorian to speak. One community always invites a former student to speak because Valedictorians are not necessarily good speakers.

As I settled into my seat to listen, I wondered what this one was going to be like. And I wondered if anyone would remember what was said a year later ... or even an hour later! I also realized that as I am preparing to attend my 50th class reunion, I can't remember *who* spoke, let alone what was said! This poor high school graduate, the one who happened to have the highest grades, is being tasked with making a speech that in all likelihood will not be remembered.

And then I remembered our daughter who once told her Sunday School teacher that she wanted to be a preacher when she grew up "so people would listen to me when I talk." (I laughed, wondering how often people really listen to me!)

As I settled into my seat to listen, I looked around to see who was paying attention. Not many of the people around me seemed very focused on the young man at the podium. Some were looking at the program to see what else would happen before the ceremony was over. Others were trying to keep little children occupied with crayons and markers. One woman was checking Facebook on her phone.

As I settled into my seat to listen, I was amazed at the young man's confidence. He was able to tell some humorous stories – inside stories that connected with his classmates and a few parents but left the rest of us out. And then he spent most of his speech naming teachers and students, one by one, with a brief recollection of something they had done.

When he finished, I realized that if your name was included in his speech, you might remember it. But I also knew there were many students who were not named. It's as if he left them out. They might remember being left out, too.

It made me glad I didn't have to give a speech when I graduated. The pressure to say something worthwhile is so high that few can achieve it.

And what about me, now? I preach every week. I did so for more than 30 years. And while I know not all of them were memorable, I also know the cumulative impact of my work is better remembered than any one sermon. I always hope that what is remembered about my words is that they were honest, they were true, and they pointed beyond me to the one who sent me. And I always hope God was able to use my words to connect with you.

As I work on my last few sermons here, I find myself thankful for your willingness to listen to whatever I think needs to be said. But my last sermon may feel a lot like that Valedictorian's speech. I just hope I don't leave anyone out!

CELEBRATION AND FAREWELL!



On June 30, Randy Quinn will bring his interim pastorate to an end. We will celebrate his ministry, thank Rhonda for sharing him, and send him off into his long-awaited retirement (second time around). Hopeful Blues will play and the choir will sing a tribute piece.

After our worship service, please plan to stay for an extended morning celebrating Randy with further sharing, fellowship time, and brunch. Details to follow.



We are on our summer hiatus. Sunday School will resume after Labor Day weekend in September.





Sandwich Saturday volunteering

Are you willing to gather a group of 4-5+ people, give less than 3 hours of your time on a Saturday morning, and share lunches with those who are houseless? Then this mercy ministry is right for you. The food items and supplies are purchased for you; you simply have to put the lunches together at Hope and then distribute them at St. John's Episcopal Church downtown. We are looking for a group for July 6 & August 3.



WOMEN'Ss BIBLE STUDY GATHERINGS

The THURSDAY EVENING WOMEN'S BIBLE GROUP invites all women possibly interested in attending this Bible Study in the future to a Cook Out at Ruthie Goering's home, 8901 N. Eastpoint Rd., Valley Center 67147, Friday evening, **June 7**, at 6:30 pm. It will be a great time of fellowship and an opportunity to get to know the group. Please RSVP to Ruthie by Wed., June 5. Ruthie will be grilling burgers and sausages and providing drinks. Everyone can bring a side dish or a dessert.

The TUESDAY MORNING WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY will meet on Wednesday, **June 12** for lunch at noon at Donna Bradbury, 1329 N. Forestview Ct., Wichita, KS 67235. You are very welcome if you are a current attendee, a past attendee, or a possible future attendee! Wendy Wiens will provide Sloppy Joes and Donna will supply the dessert. Please bring a salad and RSVP to Donna by Sunday, June 12.

Successful Nehemiah Assembly Held

"There comes a point where we need to stop just pulling people out of the river. We need to go upstream and find out why they're falling in."
- Desmond Tutu

On May 9, JUSTICE TOGETHER's first Nehemiah Action event was held at Century II at 6 pm. **It was powerful to have 1,340 people of different faith backgrounds, and walks of life, show up united to do justice together.** Thank you to the forty-nine individuals from Hope along with 26 guests who attended. What a way to help people who have fallen in the river upstream. The power of our unity made a big impact with major commitments achieved on our two priority areas.

The evening was bathed in an attitude of respect. We committed to listen carefully to officials' responses, even if we may disagree. Each of the

officials was briefed on Justice Together's proposals in advance, allowing them to answer in an informed manner.

The city, county, and state officials who attended were: Wichita Mayor Lily Wu, County Commissioner Ryan Baty, City Manager Robert Layton, and County Manager Tom Stolz, KS Department of Aging and Disability Services (KDADS) Deputy Secretary Andy Brown, and COMCARE Executive Director Joan Tammany.

Here's what we achieved on mental health:

***Achieving fully staffed and operational 24/7/365 mobile crisis teams throughout Sedgwick County by October 1, 2024.

***Providing additional funding for week-end on-call psychiatric care by January 1, 2025

***Expanding the Substance Abuse Center of Kansas' proven bus pass system that provides people with addiction or mental health issues bus transportation that gets them to appointments, to pick up medication, to work, and around. This expansion will grow the program from serving 15 people currently, to 300 people!

Here's what we achieved on homelessness:

***Create a low-barrier local ID program that will make people eligible for employment, housing, and local services to be implemented in 2025. News coverage stated a possible conflict with a state statute, saying municipal identification is not valid as state identification. As long as the local ID card is stamped with the phrase, "not valid for state ID," it will be a valuable asset for those individuals seeking to get a job or assistance.

***Commitment was made by all the officials for the Multi-Agency Center (MAC) to work toward funding the day-to-day operational budget. MAC is a one-stop-shop for housing and supportive services which has been proven highly successful in other cities.

The officials and Justice Together staff agreed to regular meetings to keep the organization abreast of the officials plans/goals/accomplishments in pursuing these agreements! Justice Together also knows that fixing these broken systems will take much more than these changes. Still, we celebrate this step forward and ready ourselves to continue our shared work of doing justice together!

Watch for future bulletin announcements about **Justice Together's Celebration and Fundraiser on June 20.**

~~Submitted by Brenda Glanzer Lilliston and Wendy Wiens