

Zions NewZflash

Letter from Our Pastor

JUNE 2024

Friends!

Deanna and I are celebrating our 45th wedding anniversary this month!!!! That's hard to believe. As I reflected on our marriage, I thought back to my parents' marriage and my mother's death.

When my mom died, my parents were married 42 years. Those first couple of months after my mother's death were devastating to my father. Since my father was, at the time, a recently retired pastor, having moved back into his home in Bernville, I decided to involve him in our church. I wanted to do the best I could in filling the void of his grief...impossible. Totally impossible.

My dad went to a grief group sponsored at one of the area hospitals. In that grief group, my father learned this idea: if you have had a good marriage—then you found the experience of marriage itself to be a positive. It is not at all unusual to consider getting remarried.

That idea is what prompted my father to take a walk with me one Sunday afternoon. My mom was 61 and my father 62 when she died. My dad said to me, "Randy, if I knew I'd die within the next two years, I would never think about pursuing another relationship. However, I could live until I'm 80." (He died at the age of 84 in 2019.) As we walked, he asked me for my permission and blessing to consider another relationship. I gave him my blessing without hesitation. I knew for a fact that I couldn't fill the void of his heart no matter how hard I tried. I loved my father, and I just wanted him to be happy.

Several months later, my father introduced Deanna and me, and independently my brother and Sharon, to Mary. We had the opportunity to grill her! (Which I did, with pleasure!) Actually, we were invited to ask either of them any question and explore with them their relationship. My position remained the same: I just wanted my dad to be happy.

And he was happy. My mother died in April of 1997 and my dad married Mary in May of 1998. He met her at the grief group. (Her husband had died in January of 1997.) My father and Mary were married just days short of 21 years. And they were happily married. My father was happy.

Mary is a different woman than my mother was. They have different personalities and different strengths and weaknesses, but they both had one thing in common. They both truly loved and cared for my father, and he loved and cared for them. In the early days of my father's marriage with Mary, they cried together over the loss of their previous spouse. They were good for each other early in their marriage and good for each other throughout their lives. I loved my mother, and I love Mary.

People approach me often as they reflect on my eventual retirement. They will say, "They'll never be another Randy." There's not supposed to be another Randy. No one will ever be a better version of Randy than Randy Bond. My prayer is that the person who follows me will be the best version of themselves as they strive to serve the Lord and come to love you as their spiritual family.

I never heard my father make comparisons between my mother and Mary. He loved them both. You need to come to love my successor as you have come to love me. As long as that person loves Jesus, comes to love you, and serves the Lord by the empowerment of the Holy Spirit, it's going to be good. God brought me into the life of this church, and God is going to bring my successor to this church. I truly believe the best years of Zion's Church are in the future!

Trust God and come to love my successor as my father came to love Mary.

In Jesus' love,

Randy

CPR Certified

Safety Team

On Saturday, April 20, 8 members of the Zion's congregation got CPR certified right here in the Fellowship Hall.

This allows us to have multiple people across the 3 worship services prepared with this life-saving skill.

We will host this event every 2 years for anyone in the church interested in learning CPR for the first time... or if you just want to update an expired certificate.

Thanks to all who took the time to participate!



Z-World: Mission to Planet Zuna

July 27-28

Z-World is a free 2-day family event filled with time to share laughs and make memories as a family. Activities include Zip-Line, 200' Alpine Slide, giant Slip 'n Slide, Pirate Ships, Human "car" Wash, and more. Families have the option to camp overnight with us or return for Sunday activities. It's sure to be an out of this world weekend!

Sign up is required by July 20th at z-world.org or 610-562-2300, option 6. Contact jennifer.scott@zionschurch.org with questions.



Important Dates

PRIME TIMERS

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|---------------|----------|-----------------------------|------------------|
| ◦ SAT, Jun 1 | 9:00 AM | Friendship Circle Breakfast | Perry Restaurant |
| ◦ SAT, Jun 29 | 12:00 PM | Lunch Bunch | Kutztown Tavern |

OTHER DATES

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|----------------|----------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| ◦ SUN, Jun 2 | 9:40 AM | Family Picnic & Kickball | Bottom Parking Lot |
| ◦ SUN, Jun 9 | ALL 3 services | Graduate recognition | Zion's Church |
| ◦ TUES, Jun 11 | 7:00 PM | Human Trafficking Awareness | Journey Cafe |
| ◦ SUN, Jun 16 | ALL 3 services | Young People Sunday | Zion's Church |
| ◦ Jun 20 - 23 | | Agape Festival | Agape Farm |

Ladies Kayaking

June 8, 2024

Join us for a fun trip down the Schuylkill River on Saturday, June 8. All women are welcome!

We'll meet at Hamburg Park for 9:00am (just past the Hamburg pool at the end of the parking lot) to gather up our kayaks and plan our pick ups. Be sure to pack your own lunch and snacks for our noontime stop at the Berne/Shoey picnic tables. If the weather is good, we'll probably stop for a swim or two as well. If you would like to join us but don't have a kayak, reach out to us and maybe we can find you one to borrow. If you've never done a river before, keep in mind that it can be a tough learning curve, but don't be discouraged - we're planning a lake trip in July or August. Text Marie Perry at 610-587-2136 for any additional questions.



Special Music

Sundays at 8:15 AM

Anyone interested in providing special music at the 8:15 AM service during the months of June, July, and August should contact Sharon Stump at 610-756-3476 or email sls2horses@gmail.com.

The Walk: Volleyball

June 9, 2024 at 1 PM

Young Adults are invited to a picnic lunch and volleyball, in the lower church parking lot after the 3rd service! We'll have some hotdogs on the grill, but we ask that if you attend, please bring a picnic food along to share!

The Walk: Middle Creek Wildlife Preserve

June 29, 2024 at 9 AM

Young Adults are invited to go for a walk with us and have a mini Bible Study at Middle Creek Wildlife Preserve in Ephrata, PA. Bring a water bottle and a snack if you would like. Dogs are welcome there if they are leashed. Contact Greta Perry or Emily Reppert for more information!