

Dear Church Family,

What a joy it has been this past year to serve Greeneville First Church of God as your Senior Pastor. You may not realize it, but I have been privileged to serve with a wonderful Pastoral and Administrative Staff. Stephen Aiken, Dale Gruver, Anita Miller, Teresa McCrary, Karen Knight, and Jennifer Luttrell, have given of themselves to serve this congregation, and I find them to be people of excellence in their service. I am also grateful for the leadership that Barbara Ziliox gives to Noah's Ark, as the Director of our outreach ministry. But then, we are privileged to serve people who give of themselves for the Kingdom of God.

The Steward Board has worked extremely hard to provide care for the congregation and wisdom in our financial decisions. Steve Ottinger, Paul Collins, Marsha Hybarger, Lisa Shipley, Gary Collins, Jeff Melton, Eric Miller, Virginia Waddell, Kim Trantham, and David Tipton, give of themselves without reservation to provide quality leadership to our congregation. They have all been a pleasure to work with and provided a godly example to me, as we have attempted to progress in our efforts to build the Kingdom of God.

Over the past year, we have seen some efforts to move forward as a congregation. The Drama this year was exceptional. Dale Gruver, Anita Miller, and Mickey Waddell gave excellent leadership, and all who served in the ministry helped make it a success by introducing people to Jesus, great attendance, and financially. The Drama is always a challenge with all of the demands on the time of all who participate and with the cost, but this year we saw success in both areas. I would like to thank all of you for making it something that declares to our community that we love Christ and do things at the highest level.

In this past year, we also had a Concert of Prayer and two outreach weeks. The Concert of Prayer brought a sense of our need to be in personal contact with the Savior, and the outreach weeks have been efforts to reach both those who visited this congregation, as well as, our seniors. What a joy it was to visit with people who have entered our doors and to share the message of Christ with them! Of course, we could always use more people to help in those efforts, so as we move forward with another outreach in September, I pray that you will consider being part of it.

This year Locust Springs Christian Retreat celebrated their 20th Anniversary. We combined that celebration with our Independence Day celebration with a dinner, games, worship, and fireworks at Locust Springs. It was a real joy to be part of that time and to hear about what all has happened in the past 20 years at Locust Springs.

I pray that the New Year will be a time where we will give ourselves to worshipping God, reaching the lost, making disciples, and living in a manner that brings honor to God. If we live that out, it would seem to me that God will be pleased. I would also like to thank my wife, Ruth, for her wonderful support that she has given me this year. She is a joy in my life.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor H. G. Rudd