

The next chapter

Penny and I enjoyed some much-needed time off this weekend on Lake Norfolk. We were there to conduct a wedding for one of our former youth kids. They had a fantastic venue, and the scenery there was spectacular. The service was beautiful, and the bride and groom declared their love and commitment to building a life together. Many happy returns to Chris and Christina Gillison.

The outing gave Penny and me the time to step away from the stresses of work and an impending move to just rest and spend a little time together. Penny booked a small cabin on Lake Norfolk about 20 minutes from the wedding venue. It. Was. Perfect.

The booking was a small rock cabin with a stunning panorama of the lake. Even though the unit was small, it had everything we needed. Our favorite was the screened-in porch with a mini fridge and nice padded chairs. We quickly trundled our bags into the cabin and then flopped down outdoors to watch the remnants of the sunset.

Deer came into the yard to forage. An approaching thunderstorm created an incredible light show. Soon a light rain made soothing sounds on the metal roof. We laid down our phones and breathed in the serenity. I'm not sure if we ever needed a respite any more than this weekend. Thanks to Scott Russell for coming home to preach for me.

Penny and I were sad to miss Graduation Sunday, but I agreed to form that union several months ago. We want to wish Macleigh Guest and Brooklinn King all the best in the next chapter of their lives. These young ladies have enormous potential to become influential persons of importance and standing. Congratulations to all of their parents, families, and teachers for guiding them to this accomplishment. Please commit to joining me in praying for all graduates as they begin a new season of life.

After I finish this article, I will meet my family at the parsonage. Today is the day we begin the move to 1017 in earnest. We owe special thanks to the folks who completed the pre-move cleanup in our absence. Thanks to their hard work, we can get on with the actual relocation. With any luck, the contractors will be at the parsonage property before the week is out.

Jesus was familiar with the struggle of gaining an education. Likely as not, he spent several years under the tutelage of a rabbi or teacher. Eventually, he closed the door to the carpenter shop, wiped oil on his father's tools, and hung up a going out of business sign. Jesus then left family and home to pursue a higher purpose for his life. Sometimes you have to let go of something good to reach for something better.

Itinerant ministry is challenging. It must have been a stark change for Jesus to leave Nazareth for the last time. Living on the road and sleeping under the stars must've been lonely, especially at first. Trying to teach, travel, call and equip disciples must have been a daunting task as they moved from place to place seemingly all the time. Walking everywhere, living on a shoestring, and depending on the hospitality of people he might not even know was a regular part of life on the road.

Jesus didn't shirk the mission, and because of his commitment to his life's purpose, a new world religion was born. His disciples continued to share the love of God as they traveled all over the known world. Our calling is to continue the mission of sharing the Good News and God's grace, which changes lives, communities, and the world. Their witness stood over against the conventions of empire and proclaimed a new King and a new Kin-dom, the Kingdom of God. *After this, Jesus traveled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. The Twelve were with him, Luke 8:1* **Pastor Kenny**

Calendar for the Week

Wednesday	Food Truck	Sunday
5:00 p.m. Youth		8:45 a.m. Lexa Worship
Friday		9:00 a.m. Marvell Sunday School
8:30 a.m. Food Pantry		10:00 a.m. Marvell Worship
Saturday	Fellowship Hall Rented	

ATTENDANCE		STEWARDSHIP REPORT	
Lexa Worship	3	2022 Budget	\$193,280
Marvell Sunday School	31	Needed each week	3,717
Marvell Worship	79 + 122	Received this week	3,480
WOW & Youth	18	Capital Improvements	50
		Food Pantry	50

BIRTHDAYS

- May 19 – Katherine Ashcraft
- 21 – Debbie Hayes
- 22 – Audrey Davidson
- 24 – Bobby Dubach, Tisha Hall

Sunday – May 22
River of Life
Revelation 21:10; 21:22:5