

NEW CREATION FELLOWSHIP

A Place of Love, Hope, Peace and Joy!

Historic Chelsea Country Store

Established 2015

August 29, 2023

Dear NCF Family, Friends and Partners,

Greeting from Vermont and School Year 23-24,

It has been quite a summer for us here in Vermont and in my last updated newsletter I shared with you about the July 10-11 rain and flooding across Vermont and particularly our area of Central Vermont. God touched Vermont in a special way through the work of Southern Baptist Disaster Relief, Samaritan's Purse and other faith-based disaster relief agencies as well as the Red Cross. The love of God was demonstrated across Chelsea by the care and ministry of those SBC "yellow shirts" who cleaned out mud, power washed and mitigated mold throughout our hometown, Chelsea, VT. Pray with us for continued gospel conversations and follow-up in Chelsea.

All the disaster relief work led right into our 2023 VBS Camp, August 7-10 with the mission team from Collide Church in Yadkinville, NC. They came to work with us for the second time and we had another great week of VBS although our attendance was down due to a circus camp that the schools planned at the same time. With all the "twists and turns" of conflicts, rainy weather, and schedules it was a wonderful time of reaching out to the children God provided and working side by side with God's family.

Our VBS Camp was also the final week with Kayla & Kennedy, our summer mission interns from Collide Church who joined us the first of July. We were blessed at NCF with their help through July 8 but after the flooding and the disaster relief efforts began they spent the rest of the month at a sister church in Barre working with Samaritan's Purse. It was a blessing to have their assistance and support at the beginning and end of the summer.

The following week, August 15-19, Jan and I got to be a part of the Phil Waldrep Pastor Encouragement Retreat at Sea. It was a 5day, 4night cruise to Bermuda that was provided to us at no cost other than to get to the boat in Jersey City, NJ. It was a wonderful time of rest, inspiration, fellowship and great food. On Friday we invited a group of friends and encouragers to join us as Phil Waldrep led in a marriage vow renewal for us in the chapel on the top deck. It was a great time away and was exactly what we needed after our busy summer and in preparation for what was waiting for us at home.

Many of you will remember that last October a water pipe ruptured in one of the apartments above our worship area and did quite a bit of damage. We have been in the process of settling

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with insurance and contractors to get the needed repairs made. Those were to have begun while we were gone. Due to some schedule conflicts they were not able to get started until last Wednesday at which time they began the demolition work. With the demo work other issues became apparent.

In addition to the \$62,000 of renovation we anticipated yesterday we were informed of \$14,000 worth of electrical work that is necessary to bring our building to code from previous work that had been done and today I received a quote for \$22,000 for exterior and roof work that was revealed in an area next to the renovation. To sum it all up, our \$62,000 project in one week grew to \$98,000 and all of it needs to be done now.

For the past 9 years God has met every need that we have had in ministry both for the church and for us personally and He knows all about this and can and I believe will provide the resources for this for His honor and glory. He has provided us with the cash on hand to cover this need but it will limit much of what we do on a regular basis, but will not stop NCF's ministry in Chelsea. Join us in praying for the resources we need in His timing and the patience while we wait. If you would like to make a donation or know someone who might it can be sent directly to NCF or made online on our website.

Tomorrow we officially start a new school year with Jan assisting and substitute teaching and me starting with a new bus company and driving 6 hours a day. I will continue to drive local high school students to their "choice" school but now I am driving them to our local district high school and tech center.

It is hard to believe that NCF will celebrate 8 years October 4 and in our renovated facility on Sunday, October 8, giving thanks to God for all He has done. Oh, by the way, we currently worship in the bar and grill directly behind our building through the generosity and friendship of the owner. To God be the Glory!

Thank you again for your continuing prayers, support and partnership as we faithfully serve and share God's love in Chelsea, VT.

Your church planting missionaries,

Bill and Jan Smith