

June 25, 2020

Good morning, Everybody.

What a really blessed, inspirational service last night. Thank you from all of us to the quickly formed committee (Nathan Arnold, Rachel Dahlhausen, and Martin and Rebecca Grove) who helped us have a memorable way of representing briefly but warmly the many memories, blessings, and indebtednesses that we all have to the Davises. And thanks so much to all who participated so well.



One of the best parts was that somehow it was kept a secret from Dr. Davis. Not from Leslie; yesterday afternoon the committee had to let her in on the fact that something special was happening that night. The Vincents had been commissioned to take the Davises out for supper, and then just sort of shepherd both of them down to church. But Leslie wouldn't cooperate! Turns out that her sister was flying in for a visit last evening, and Leslie wasn't planning on attending the service, and, of course, couldn't be gently persuaded (smile). But it turned out alright. She probably did better having a little time to compose herself ahead of time.

This coming Lord's Day evening the Davises will tell us goodbye. Dr. Davis is going to play both an organ and a piano number for us. And I'm working hard at trying to get him to sing. Why not? It just seems as though we ought to be able to get a song out of him after all these years. I think he owes it to us (smile).

That Elusive Photograph

Well, it's time to find out who knows what. The picture I sent Tuesday has evidently regenerated a lot of older brain cells that some of the longer-term folks assumed would never live again. But lights started blinking on all over the county, and lots of folks found out that they're still really sharp. How encouraging!

So I'm going to give you the answers to the six questions from Tuesday's letter. But then there's been some behind the scenes discussions going on; including last night in the auditorium after the service, so we'll have bonuses as well. Let's see how we did.



1. Who's the young couple at the center (he's wearing the blue shirt)?

Everybody should have gotten this: Pete and Leslie Davis.

2. Who's the other couple (he's wearing the white shirt and tie)?

Everybody should have gotten this: Gene and Bonnie Merkle (who, by the way, just celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary!).

3. Who's the woman in the foreground (whose face is only half shown)?

Not many would know this. The consensus is that it's Vicky Leabeater (Varville was her maiden name at the time).

4. Whose home is this?

This is the Tiptons' house. Pastor Tipton was our College and Career Pastor, and Mrs. Tipton made their home a hub of really happy times, not just for the C&C folks, but for many of the rest of us.

5. What is the woman in the white blouse eating?

This *is* a difficult one. There's a tie of two answers. Either some kind of dipping chip, or a french-fry. Doug Becker thinks the former. Leslie, for some inexplicable reason, can't remember. Why not?

6. How much did the man in the blue shirt weigh?

Ready for this? Somewhere in the 170's. He says that this was his weight for many years. I think he said, 172.

Now for a bonus. Who's the man on the left, who is turned toward Gene Merkle? Several folks think that it's Mark Barnett during his lonely, threadbare years before he met Valorie. Might be. Maybe he can let us know.

A bonus, bonus. Who's the man between Gene Merkle and Mark Barnett (if it is lonely him)? Several folks think that it's Jack Hill.

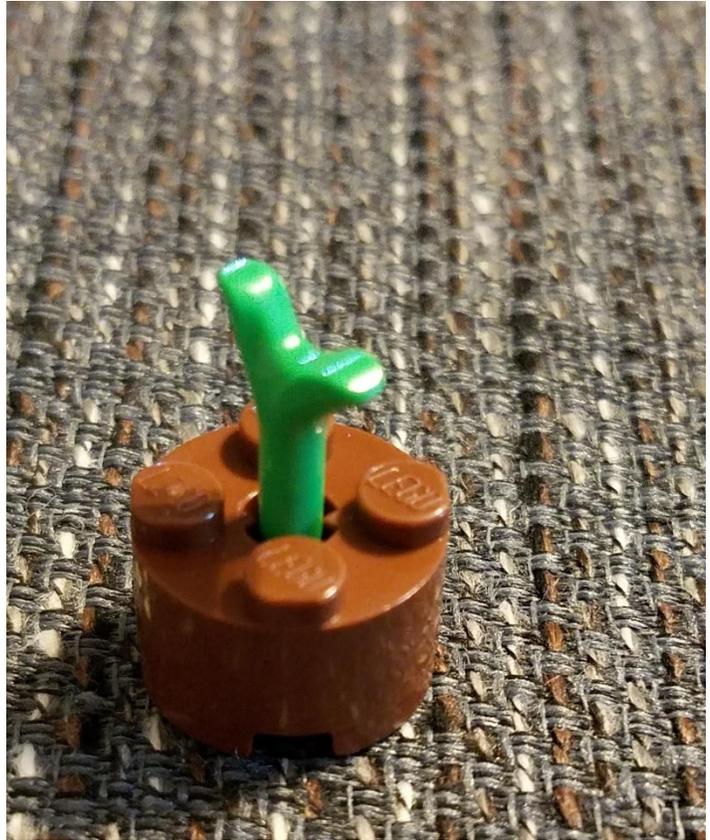
And now for the question that lets us in on just *how long* some of us have been hanging around with each other. Hard to believe! But the Davises said last night that this had to be right around 1985. Truly a magnificent run with Pete and Leslie.

Onward, Forward.....

The older folks in the church have these kinds of precious memories. But the younger folks are coming along, and they're making their own portfolios.

For instance, Megan Davis sent a picture of a Lego "stump and shoot" that Ellie (aged 10) had made in response to the Psalms series. Might it be that twenty

years from now she and the children of some of the rest of you will be pulling out photos like this and reminiscing about the blessings they enjoyed from their earliest childhood? May the Lord, please, so bless them! May the church be stronger, more Christlike, and more spiritually-minded and vibrant in the years to come than it is today. And may today's children have nothing about any of us to regret when they look back in the future. *Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love* (1 Corinthians 16:13-14).



*So shall thy children hope in God and not forget His name,
But follow in the ways of Him Who ever is the same.*

~“Give Ear Unto God’s Holy Word.” Nathan Arnold (b. 1977)

Praying for You Today,

Pastor Minnick