

Today's Scripture June 4, 2023

PASSAGE: Ruth 1:1-22, *Flush or Busted?*

TEACHER: Dave Gibson

Bulletin Updates

IRENE ROARK CELEBRATION OF LIFE HAPPENING JUNE 5

Sherri Roark Bowman's mother, Irene Roark, went to sleep and woke up in the arms of Jesus on May 20th. You are welcome to celebrate Irene's life with the family at Cole Community Church on Monday, June 5 at 11 A.M. A lunch reception will follow.

SUNDAY SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE SUMMER

We have a few spots to fill for summer Sunday School helpers. Please sign-up online at colecommunity.org/volunteer-needs if you have availability.

CHURCH MEETING RECORDING AVAILABLE

If you missed our last church meeting on May 21, you may request the video link from the elders by emailing elders@colecommunity.org.

Financial Update

as of May 30, 2023

Last Week's Giving	\$5,101
YTD Spending	\$201,803
YTD Giving	\$207,934

Give online at
colecommunity.churchcenter.com/giving

Elder Updates

Proverbs 19:21 reads, "You can make many plans, but the LORD's purposes will prevail."

As you know, we have been meeting with the Elders at the Pursuit regarding the possibility of bringing our church bodies together as one. Early on during these meetings, we elders of Cole spent much of the time just pouring out our sadness about what had happened to us and our Cole Church body. The elders at the Pursuit understood us, and we felt greatly encouraged despite our situation. Because of their willingness to let us share, we were able to start moving forward with merge conversations.

Since that time, and during the most recent months, we began to discover that there were clear differences in our vision and purposes. We at Cole have realized that we really do want to stay at our current location and wait on the LORD for His direction for our church body. We do feel that a merge is necessary for us, but we now feel strongly that we should be the receiving church for a church merge. And we believe that our body needs to see all our elders on any future merged elder board. We want to fulfill the responsibility that God has entrusted to us to care for the flock that we love and that He has blessed us with. We also desire to serve the community surrounding our church location. The Pursuit has expressed their vision to serve the community around their church location and desires to stay where they are.

As a result, we now recognize a clear leading from the LORD that Cole Community Church and The Pursuit are not to merge together. We have shared this decision with the elders at the Pursuit, and they have expressed their understanding.

However, we also recognize that we have entered into a very special relationship with the Pursuit during this process, and we do not want to separate from something that God has clearly joined together. We have asked the Pursuit, and they have agreed, to continue to share life and ministries together. We desire to continue to explore opportunities to share together. Certainly the men from both churches would desire that. We know that our men want to continue to meet on a monthly basis, and come together this winter for another Retreat in McCall. But while remaining separate, we hope to share more with each other in the future.

We also want to express to our church body that even though this discovery time with the Pursuit has not resulted in a decision to merge, it has not been a waste of time. As we have shared our thoughts and our hopes about the possibility of merging our churches, we both have been able to learn more about ourselves and each other. God doesn't waste anything. For us, we are learning the meaning of Proverbs 19:21. We are learning that it's ok to make plans, but to be mindful that the LORD has purposes for everything and to be prepared to make adjustments.

In Him,

Jim, Jim, Josh, and Mike
Cole Community Elder Board