

Moving Day with 60's Music

Christ the Redeemer Church

May 16, 2010

7th Sunday of Easter/Senior High Graduation Day

Honoring Seniors Victoria Hargroder, Jessica DiFucci, and Ashlynn Levan

John 17: 20-26

Rev Gary L. Smith

www.christredeemerchurch.com

Today's scripture reads "I pray for these..." And so we pray for our three seniors today.

Monday May 3, 2010. He moved out. I watched.

Amity wrote him on Facebook and asked him how it was going. He said, "Dad is not helping me move one box. He has 60's music blaring loudly on the Oldies but Goodies station and he is grinning from ear to ear. He never plays music that loudly."

He loaded up his truck and yelled over my music at me in my home office. I had the door closed while he was loading up his stuff in his truck. I was busy working on church stuff on the computer. He yelled and asked me if I would come out and be in some photos.

I asked him what pictures. He said, "I want a picture of my moving out. With you and me sitting on the bed of the truck." I asked, "Do I have to act sad?" He said, "Fake it." I said I would fake it.

When I got to the back of the truck and looked into the bed of the truck with his loaded stuff in it, I did not have to fake being sad. I was sad. He said, "Getting sad now?"

I said, "I am not sad at your moving out. I am sad you are not taking more of your stuff! Now go load up some more of your stuff into this truck!" We took some photos and I looked sad because he was leaving more stuff in the house than he was taking.

I bought him a vacuum cleaner that day -- \$99 on sale for \$49. Disposable vacuum cleaner. Bought him a set of cutlery knives. \$99 on sale for \$49...not bad for a 25-piece set, including steak knives and a holder for all knives. Clean and cook.

We also bought him a waffle iron. He got sentimental on me and said, "Ah, so the tradition of Saturday morning waffles can continue?" I said, "If you want to think that. I am giving this to you just to make sure you do not come here Saturday mornings for waffles. The door will be locked. Pam says she is changing the locks. Here is the recipe. Bye."

He moved. I told him to write often on emails but to not feel a great need to run home often. He had moved to Germany two years ago but moved back home. I am leery.

That night was our first night with no kids. I was so excited. Pam came home from teaching and said, "Let's go see Daniel." I said, "You have got to be kidding!"

We went to see him and his new apartment. 4th floor on the east side of the city on a hill overlooking the city of San Marcos. Balcony. Efficiency apartment. Balcony. He said, "Mom and Dad, come onto the balcony and see this view. Look, there is the movie theater. Look, I overlook the city. Look, there is the Main Building on Texas State University (where he is attending college). Look, there is your hill where you live. I can see your hill from my new place." I told him to just look at our hill and not run to it often.

Friday night we ate out and went to a play in Lockhart. A comedy about aging called "Social Security." Hilarious. Saturday evening we ate out and attended a symphony in Wimberley. That night Pam asked me "Are we going to go at this pace *every* weekend?" I said, "Pam, we have been raising kids for 29 years. We only have 30 or so good years left to make up for lost time. Buckle up. Every weekend we will do something fun." She sighed.

Saturday morning Pam and I woke up and were hungry for waffles. Our air conditioning went out on our house the night before and we were sweating in the heat. She said, "Let's go to Daniel's air conditioned apartment for waffles." I refused. We ate waffles in the heat.

Someone rang the doorbell while we were eating. It was Daniel. I yelled through the closed door and told him he could not come in. He yelled back that he just needed to get something from his room. I told him it was not his room anymore and that we had thrown everything away that he left. I opened the door. He darted into his room, got what he needed, and left quickly, refusing my offer of a waffle and refusing to step into our living room. He did not want to end up in a sermon as the kid who ran back home after moving out.

He said, "It is hot here." I told him we can not afford AC anymore. Pam said, "Can we come and eat waffles with you?" He said he was too busy to have company. He left.

He called later in the week and asked me how I was doing in a quiet house. I told him I was sleeping well, having an easier time finding food in the house, and that I am much more productive. We umpired together on Wednesday night. Someone filed a protest with the city against a call I made and the report said, "I don't remember the umpire's name but he is the old man on that father/son umpire team." I liked that.

Ashlynn, Jessica, and Victoria...I say this every year on Senior Day. This church was started for you. You come from the only church in the world that I know of that can say "We started a church for our youth." We started this church five years ago in order to make a place for you where this would become YOUR Home even before you were aware of it.

Ashlynn, it has been an honor to be your pastor and your church family while you have been in high school. I remember the day you started attending this church and attending

softball games with your father. May God bless you from this day forward and may you always remember this is Home and Family for you. We love you and pray for you. We will not change the locks. Write often and come home regularly.

Jessica, it has been an honor to be your pastor and your church family while you have been in high school. I remember the first Sunday you and your family attended this church. You came back the next Sunday, saying that you wanted to come back. May God bless you in your new life as you move to Texas A & M University, become an Aggie, and begin your studies there with a scholarship which was obtained, in part, with the help of a recommendation letter of an Aggie alum who is a member of this church. May you always remember this is Home and Family for you. Write often and come Home regularly.

Victoria, it has been an honor to be your pastor and your church Family while you have been in high school. Ski trips, camps, retreats, go-cart racing...it has all been fun to create all those memories with you. May God bless you in your new life as you begin your nursing studies at University of Texas in San Antonio. May you always remember this is Home and Family for you. Write often and come Home regularly.

Here is a Waffle Iron, a box of Bisquick Waffle Mix, and a James Avery necklace and cross for each of you. May the waffle iron help you to eat well and may wearing this cross remind you of where Home is and that God is with you each moment of your new life.

Daniel called last night and asked us if Pam and I wanted to come to his new apartment and eat dinner tonight at sunset. I asked "What are you having?" He said, "What are you bringing?" He learned quickly.

Pam and I are eating our first meal at Daniel's new apartment tonight. At sunset. New chapters in life are good. Sunsets are beautiful as long as you know a sunrise is coming the next morning. Sunset is today for you and your family. Tomorrow is a sunrise for you as you begin the next day in your new life. Amen.