



The Voice of  AVENTURA

# THE CROAKER

Volume 33, Issue #11

## President's Letter:

Dear Aventurites,

Let me say first, 'Happy Thanksgiving'. It was good to see all the new and old faces at the last reunion. I look forward to seeing everyone again.

I don't know how it is with you, lately when I go into a store I hear everyone telling me that I need more stuff. I have to think that maybe I need less of some things though, and more of Christ in my life. Life has been hectic, you feel like you need to go faster, make more money, get more stuff. What Christ tells us is to slow down, spend more time with other believers, to love each other, and (here is the big one) to keep forgiving each other. The non-believers will see that we are not like others if we do these things.

For a last thought, think about what you are thankful for. I am thankful that I know Christ and for my family.

Love in Christ,

*Matt Johnson*

Aventura President

## Upcoming Reunions and Other Dates:

### November Reunion:

Saturday, November 23, **6:30pm Assembly meeting before Reunion with important things to discuss!**

New Anglican Church, Oakville, CT

**Please consider bringing a favorite snack or soda to share! 😊**

## **Prayer Requests:**

Please feel free to send prayer requests to our 'prayistas':

- Barb Clavette ([JEClavette@snet.net](mailto:JEClavette@snet.net) or 482-0172)
- Sandy Miller ([SanJeanM@AOL.com](mailto:SanJeanM@AOL.com) or 482-5601)

They will pass the appropriate ones along to the Croaker to be listed here and send out emails to the prayer chain. Be sure to let them know if you wish to remain anonymous or if you don't want the prayer published at all.

## **Web Stuff to Note:**

Art Richards and Rachel LePine are currently redesigning the [Aventura site](#). Let us know what you'd like to see on the new site by messaging us on [FaceBook!](#)

**Like what you see in the Croaker? Have something you want to share? Got a Bible study planned? Contact Rachel LePine to see your news in the next issue!**

Please pray for these weekends!

Oct 10 – 13 TN **Cursillo** Co-Ed Weekend

October 24 – 27 Men Indianapolis **Great Banquet #85**

October 25 – 27 **Kairos** Outside of Central Indiana #6

October 31 – Nov 3 Women Indianapolis **Great Banquet #86**

Nov 7 – Nov 10 Northern VA Men's **Great Banquet #47**

Nov 7 – Nov 10 **Men's Faith Walk**, Jackson #1 TN

Nov 14 – 17 Northern VA Women's **Great Banquet #48**

## **Directions to November Reunion:**

*New Hope Anglican Church, 900 Main St, Oakville, CT*

on Rt. 73 near the Watertown/Oakville(Waterbury) Line in Steele Brook Commons across from Ro's Pizza next to Adams Honda Motorcycle Dealership

From the North, head southwest on Rt. 6 from Thomaston (exit 38 off Rt. 8) In the center of Watertown, turn south onto Rt. 63/ Main St. Bear left at Carvel onto Rt. 73. It will be on your left, approx 1/2 mi

From the south, head northwest on Rt. 73/Watertown Ave. (exit 35 on Rt. 8) Church will be on your right in approx 2.5Mi

***And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*** Colossians 3: 17

It's hard to believe the weekend is over. All those months of preparation and it's done in 2 days. I accepted the position of Coordinator and before I knew it the team meeting process was beginning and then I blinked my eyes and the weekend was upon us. Even though my perception of the journey seemed short there was plenty that happened during that time. The make up of the team was not finalized until just before the weekend. Our chief faced health issues that caused her to have to drop off the team just prior to the weekend. This and many other "challenges" were faced along the way. In and through it all, our God was absolutely faithful. I was blown away by the flexibility of the team and their willingness to step up to the plate and do what needed to be done without reservation. God provided for us every step of the way. As I reflect upon this journey I am reminded of one of the wonderful ways that God works in these types of experiences: When brothers and sisters in Christ work side by side to accomplish the purposes of God there is a level of closeness that is not often experienced any other way. We are also drawn closer to God as well.

By the time the weekend arrived I felt like I was on auto-pilot (or should I say God-pilot) as I watched God do amazingly more than we could have asked or imagined (Eph 3:20). I watched as the guests who started out the weekend with "fear and trembling" turned into sheep in the arms of their master as He carried them to the flock. Not being at a specific table for the weekend allowed me the privilege of being able to see the work that God was doing at **each** table. I watched as relationships began and blossomed as the weekend progressed. I saw the shy and reserved open up like blooming flowers. I watched as tears flowed and healing began, as God moved and lives were changed. There was not a moment on that weekend where God was not present. He met us at every turn. I had a front row seat as God transformed lives right in front of me.

Since the weekend I have been asking God, as I often do, is there a life lesson in this? How should the experience of these weekends affect the way we live outside of the weekend? Is it possible to walk everyday with an awareness of God's presence and an intimacy similar to that which we experience prior to and during the Aventura weekend? And is it possible to see God move as powerfully in the lives of those we know and love like we experience on these weekends? God knows there is a world of hurting people out there who could use a touch of His spirit. I believe the answer lies in our relationship with God through His Son Jesus. How hungry are we for Him? Does He have top priority in our lives? The Psalmist says it well in Psalm 42:1, "As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God." Can we relate to that verse? Is He the desire of our hearts? If He is truly our hearts desire and we avoid letting worldly temptations crowd Him out of our lives, we will walk in His spirit and know the intimacy that Jesus had with His Father when He walked this earth. And then we can know that He will use us to accomplish His wonderful purposes not only in our lives but in the lives of those around us. In all of this He is glorified.

In His service,

Your Brother in Christ signing off,

Greg Gibbons

## **Servants of Aventura:**

**President** Matt Johnson (203) 206-4935

**Treasurer** Amanda Morse

**Corresponding Secretary** Arthur Richards Jr.

**Recording Secretary** Sara LePine (203) 573 1780

**Publications** Rachel LePine (203) 573-1780

**Information & Registration** Art Richards Jr. (860) 307-4806

**Reunions** Sandy Miller (860) 482-560

**Prayista** Barb Clavette (860) 482-0172

Sandy Miller (860) 482-5601

## **Miscellany:**

- For information on Aventura, contact Art Richards at [Registration@AventuraCT.com](mailto:Registration@AventuraCT.com) or call (860)-307-4806.
- To put something into the Croaker, email Rachel LePine at [Publications@AventuraCT.com](mailto:Publications@AventuraCT.com) or [rachel.lepine@rocketmail.com](mailto:rachel.lepine@rocketmail.com) .
- Follow us on Twitter [@AventuraCT](https://twitter.com/AventuraCT)
- For people who have been on an Aventura weekend, join AventuraCT on [Facebook!](https://www.facebook.com/AventuraCT)