

Tales of The Chronologically Gifted

Upcoming Adventures of the Sheep and Shepherd

May - June - July 2009

Dear Church:

We are doing FUN things. We are doing some epic things. What the Sheep and Shepherd ministry is about is providing fellowship, fun, food, and educational opportunities for our older church members in pleasing and sometimes really expansive environments. Twice a month we are making outings; one to a local event here in town, and then another one as a day trip to some place interesting here in the Southeast. We are now including the whole planet in our range of activities. We will keep the rest of you envious with reports in Electric Grace and via Sheep and Shepherd's own group list. We will accept temporary ex-officio memberships from younger congregants if a given outing is compelling.

International Travel Dinner – Anderson, South Carolina - Saturday, May 16th 6:00 PM

We will convene at Craig Johnson's house (2819 LeConte Rd) on Saturday for a pot luck international dinner. We already have some interesting food commitments. I have invited some seasoned travelers from one of my university classes. I will provide wine and liqueurs and a main Italian dish. Participants are asked to bring books, photos, DVDs, oral tales, video tapes, music, or whatever else they wish in order to share the magic of a favorite place visited. Call 617-9190 for navigational assistance. Cost of event: none.

Downtown Sounds – Anderson, South Carolina - Thursdays through August 20th, 6:30 PM

We will convene on the left side of the courthouse under the trees about 6:30 PM. Cerulean evening skies and free live music and good nearby eateries will make the evening fun, if you show up. Bring some snacks or beverages to share if you feel inclined. Victoria Tea Room on corner of court house square has killer salads available for carry out on Thursday evenings. End time of event: 9 PM. Cost of event: free or \$7 if you go get those salads.

Georgia Aquarium – Atlanta, Georgia - Tuesday, May 26th 7:45 AM

We will convene at Grace Church parking lot on Tuesday at 7:45 AM to journey to Atlanta to spend the day in the Georgia Aquarium. The aquarium has some impressive new acquisitions and an 8 million gallon central tank with sharks and whales. This journey will include admission to the aquarium, transportation via new 15 passenger van, and parking. Lunch will be at concessions in the aquarium. Dinner will be at the Sun Dial Restaurant on the 80th floor of the Westin Peachtree Hotel. We expect to return to Anderson about 8 PM. We already have commitments for 15 participants. Cost of Event: \$38 plus cost of lunch and dinner.

Ben Long Frescoes Tour – Glendale Springs, West Jefferson, Montreat, North Carolina - Monday-Tuesday, June 15th and 16th 8:00 AM

We will convene at Grace Church parking lot on Monday June 15th for a journey up the Blue Ridge Parkway to Glendale Springs and West Jefferson near the Virginia state line. There on Monday afternoon we will visit two carpenter gothic wood churches built 100 years ago. These active Episcopal parishes contain world renown frescoes created by Ben Long using the techniques of Michelangelo. Dinner and lodging will be in West Jefferson. Lodging will be in a grand house built in 1872. Full American breakfast is included. Tuesday we will travel to Montreat via the Parkway and visit a mountain gothic church built in 1996 to frame a commissioned fresco of the Return of the Prodigal Son. Estimated total

cost of event including meals, lodging, and transportation is \$130. Return to Anderson will be around 9 PM on Tuesday. Call Craig Johnson at 617-9190 for details.

Hermitage Museum, St. Petersburg, Russia - Wednesday June 24th through Monday, July 13th

We are stretching a bit here!! Twenty days. We leave Anderson midday Wednesday to arrive in the Atlanta airport for an overnight flight via British Airways to London. Arrival in London is 10 AM. We will have Thursday and Friday for London sightseeing. Saturday June 27th we will take the train from Victoria to Dover and embark on a 13 day ship's journey across the Baltic Sea that will include calls at Copenhagen, Berlin, Estonia, and culminate at St. Petersburg, Russia where two days will allow for visits to the Hermitage and the Winter Palaces of the czars. We will make a point to have a slow leisurely gaze upon Rembrandt's "Return of the Prodigal Son." The westward return by sea will include calls at Helsinki and Stockholm. Return to London July 9th where five days will allow for leisurely day trips to Canterbury, Cambridge, Oxford, or Windsor. We will stay in the Victoria Belgravia area of London in a small hotel within walking distance of the House of Commons and Westminster Abbey. Return to Atlanta via British Airways on Monday afternoon July 13th. This journey will require the ability to walk extensively in European and Russian cities with uneven surfaces and deal with 8-9 hours of time zone changes. Current passport must be in hand already as journey commences seven weeks from this writing (5-7-9). This journey has just been committed and space paid for so it is a definite go. Estimated total cost of event: \$3000.00, including virtually all meals, transportation, airfare, and accommodation, most at 4.5 star grades. Call Craig Johnson at 617-9190 if you are spontaneous, impulsive, and want to see and experience truly expansive environments. You will have the opportunity for ball room dancing most nights.

State Museum – Columbia, South Carolina - Friday, July 24th 8:30 AM

We will convene at the Grace Church parking lot on Friday at 8:30 AM for a two-hour journey to Columbia for a visit to the state museum. We will plan on lunch at Harry's or another fine eatery within walking distance of the museum. Estimated total cost of the event: \$32 including lunch, museum admission, and transportation. We can arrange for wheel chairs for those who wish to conserve themselves on roaming in the museum. Call Craig Johnson at 617-9190 for more details. I don't plan to answer the phone from June 24th through July 13. I will leave it to you to guess what a roaming call on Verizon to Estonia or St. Petersburg would cost per minute.

Blue Ridge Mountain Experience – Upstate, South Carolina - Tuesday, July 28th 9:00 AM

We want to provide pleasing and enlarging experiences that do not require a lot of money or physical ability. We will visit the World of Energy Museum, visit White Water Falls and then share a picnic lunch there. Following lunch we can then visit Highlands, NC and do a bit of antiquing (window shopping). Yes!! Shopping!! The total cost of this outing can be well below \$20 if participants help out on food sharing. If you buy silk oriental carpets or Sheridan sideboards, you must use your own credit card or wire transfer numbers. 617-9190 for factoids.

IN THE FUTURE:

Rome, Spain, coastline of Italy, 2 weeks. October 15th on a newly launched ship from Rome. Estimated cost is \$2000. This would include all meals, transportation, entertainment, airfare and accommodation on what will probably be ranked as a 5 star ship. Cheap right now because of swine flu spook. This will probably last but a week or two at this price.

Blessings, Craig Johnson