Landmark Church June Update

 Pastor Andy’s Sabbatical

This summer will mark the eighth anniversary of our Pastor Andy Rutherford leading our congregation. Upon the recommendation of The Ministry Vision Team (*church board)* of Landmark Church in partnership with Alabama South District Superintendent Mark Berry, Pastor Andy has accepted their invitation to take a six-week sabbatical to begin Tuesday, July 4, 2017 and return Tuesday, August 15, 2017.

# What Is Sabbatical?

*From the Manual of the Church of the Nazarene*, *Paragraph 129.10*: In order to encourage a healthy pastoral ministry and strong spiritual life of the pastor, the church board in consultation with the district superintendent should provide a sabbatical leave for the pastor during each seventh consecutive year of service in one congregation. The timing and duration of the sabbatical shall be determined in consultation with the pastor, church board and district superintendent. It is strongly urged that the pastor’s salary continue in full and the church board provide for pulpit supply during the sabbatical period.”

# Meet our Preaching Pastor:

 We are blessed to welcome Rev. Dan Casey and his wife Sharon to serve Landmark Church while Pastor Andy is away. Rev. Casey served the Church of the Nazarene for many years as Senior Pastor in strong and effective churches. Although recently retired, he now works to support local churches like us, to provide leadership and counsel. Rev. Casey will arrive on Saturday each week and will be available to meet with anyone who has a need on Saturday or Sunday before returning to their home in Pell City, AL. Take time to get to know the Caseys and pray for their ministry to us. We believe that God will do great things in our lives and the life of Landmark through Rev. Casey’s ministry. Don’t miss a week of his leadership and preaching. You will be blessed!

**Administrative Information:**

While the Pastor is away we will shift our administrative and pastoral functions and responsibility to our lay leaders who are well equipped to handle any need that may arise. If you have a need during the regular workday, please contact Debra in the church office at 334-297-4200 and she will handle your requests and contact the appropriate person for follow up. If after hours, please contact Brad Tankersley, Ministry Vision Team secretary at 706-304-7018 or Scott Denney 706-575-9374. Whether it is a hospital emergency or other need, they will be ready to assist or make sure the right person is contacted to help with your need or request.

**Prayer Guide for Pastor Andy:**

The following is a prayer acrostic of the word SABBATICALdesigned to guide you in your prayers for Pastor Andy while he is away. Keep a copy of this near by and let the Holy Spirit guide you as think on these words and phrases and apply them to Pastor Andy.

**S – Serenity/strength/spirit** – pray that this time of sabbatical will provide times of serenity for Pastor Andy and his family. That his/ their spirits will be strengthened.

**A – Application** – pray that the things he does while on Sabbatical will bring application to all of his life; as a person, husband, father, son, brother, son-in-law, friend, and follower of Jesus.

**B – Break** - pray for Pastor Andy to be able to truly break from being a “pastor” during these weeks and rediscover what it means to be a child of God.

**B – Built Up** – May God build into Pastor Andy all that is needed to help him fulfill his role as God’s child and the many roles he serves in life as mentioned under “Application”.

**A – Adoration** – Pray that Pastor Andy and his family will find times of refreshment in worship as they focus on Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

**T – Togetherness** – Pray for special times of togetherness as a family for Pastor Andy and Gena, Luke and Sydney while they are away.

**I – Insight** – May the Lord grant Pastor Andy insight into his own spiritual life that will strengthen his ministry however He leads.

**C – Cares** – Pray that Pastor Andy will be able to turn completely loose of all the cares and burdens he carries as a Pastor during this time of renewal.

**A – Answers** – May God give Pastor Andy the answers to whatever questions he may have on his heart during this time away as he seeks quiet times with Jesus.

**L – Love/Lead** – May this sabbatical help Pastor Andy to see the love God has for him and his family, and that he will return renewed in his spirit to once again take up his leadership role in Landmark Church.