Team,

I am recapping some of the decisions and developing decisions from conversations as to how we recognize our graduating seniors.  Our goals are:

* Recognize them in a worship service, let their parents prayer a blessing prayer over them and have the congregation pray for them
* Help parents encourage their children spiritually when they leave home  “Leaving home with a faith that sticks!”
* Cast a vision for other significant spiritual encouragers to be mindful of checking on them in the years after high school
* Give every senior a Bible from the church, yet marked with special verses by their parents and other significant relatives to personalize it
* Give any senior who would like a blanket ($10) that is monogramed with their Bible verse of choosing.

Highlights thus far:

* June 4th is date set.  9:00 worship service for blessing.  10:45 brunch for seniors, family and spiritual encouragers.  15 minutes of teaching and exhortation. In Haven.  Cost:  free will donation.
* Promo piece written by Roger and edited/approved by Mike week of March 5.  “Circle the date”.  More information follows as we get closer.
* Bibles are available and can be picked up any time after March 5th if they want to write messages in them or mail them to relatives to do the same.  Mike has about 30 nice Bibles in storage that had been donated and will pass those along.
* Blankets can be ordered directly by emailing Deb McCaslin.  Cost is $10.  Include name and scripture written out.  Orders by May1st.  Then ultimate last deadline is May 25th.  Last year we had 16 blankets requested in February, 16 blankets in May and an additional 3 that came in after everything was over.  Deb agrees that it is probably a good idea to limit the blankets to those who actually request them.

In conclusion:

* Let’s make a big deal about our seniors, but not just recognizing their graduation.  Let’s honor them by pointing them toward their future and helping them now have conversations and decisions that will help their faith stick with them after they leave home.

Roger