Grace and peace to my brothers and sisters here at FELC!

Ah, summer at last! And thank goodness we have normal summer temperatures. This is the time we’ve been waiting for: a time for cookouts, vacations, fishing, gardening, yard work. For more years than I can remember, my family has taken the last two weeks in July for vacation time. Both Royce and I have our birthdays during that time, so that’s probably how it started. No doubt I asked Royce what she wanted for her birthday, and she said….let’s go someplace, visit relatives, see sights we’ve never seen before. So this year, we’re going to visit family in Illinois, Wisconsin and Michigan. Vacations are a chance to relax and be renewed, strengthened, enlivened. After all, we all know all work and no play…. I pray you will be able to take some time away this summer so that you can return to us relaxed and ready to work with the rest of us in our Mansfield mission field. Exciting things are beginning to happen this summer at First English. We are changing the focus of how we look at our mission. Rather than being focused on bringing people into First English, we are beginning to look at our mission field and ask ourselves, “How can we reach out with the love of Jesus more than we already are?” To help us to be more Missional, our council agreed to increase Becky Pittman’s hours. Our Early Learning Center is also thinking of ways to go out into our neighborhood. We are having a Day of Prayer in June and the Ohio NALC Region is coming here in October! These are all signs that we are healing as a congregation and as a mission base. Well done, First English! There’s lots to do this Fall and we need to your help. So relax this summer, remember our weekly worship and our financial needs which go on no matter what. When we work together, led by the Holy Spirit, First English will continue to heal and increasingly be a blessing to the people around us. Please pray for our young people, especially for Shelby and Quentin as they enter the military.

Blessings all! Pastor Tim