

BETWEEN SEEDTIME AND HARVEST

**Senior Adults Newsletter
Christ Covenant Church
July 2019**



GRACE TO YOU

by

Pastor Bruce Creswell

THESE FORTY YEARS

Mom and Dad celebrated 38 years of marriage, and Carolyn's Mom and Dad celebrated 31 years of marriage. So for Carolyn and me to celebrate 40 years of marriage is a milestone for our families! Now I realize that our community currently has 38 couples who have been married 50 years or more and others who had been married that long.

Like many of you, these 40 years have gone by f-a-s-t! Praying for my wife started when I was about 13 years old. Characteristics and virtues to be found in the future Mrs. Creswell were regularly added to the list. When her father placed her hand in mine on June 9, 1979, I knew the Lord had given His very best to me.

These forty years have testified to us of the Lord's faithfulness and of His mercies. Starting out teaching in a Christian High School was preparation for both the ministry and being a parent. The senior pastor told me that teaching and communicating with teens would aid in my pastoral and preaching ministry (that's for another article). I was greatly dependent on Carolyn's coaching on leading and teaching teenagers.

Our first church was in West Virginia where we would spend the next ten years. We arrived with Mary, 18 months old, with one on the way, and a month later, Carolyn's bed-ridden mother. The parsonage was next to the church with the back porch butting up against the side of it. It was a new experience for all of us, yet with quietness of heart, Carolyn glided into her role as a wife, mother, and daughter with grace and strength. She made our house a home and a haven of rest amid normal children and a dying mother-in-law. The Lord showed us how to live below our means and then watched Him supply our needs! As parents, we made the sacrifices for our children's schooling, piano lessons, and camp.

When we moved to Harrisonburg, Virginia, our children were in the church-school (we had more rules than students)! Carolyn added church secretary and teaching to her responsibilities. Again, living below our means and making do with what we had made great teaching lessons for the kids. We witnessed the goodness of the Lord in so many ways both for our physical and spiritual needs. It was during our ministry here that we made the biggest decision since our marriage - to resign from the pastorate and go to seminary.

The last 18 years of these 40 years have been here in Charlotte at Christ Covenant Church. Apart from seminary, they all have been focused on the Senior Adult Community. We have thoroughly enjoyed serving the Lord and you folks - there is no desire or sense of call to minister elsewhere. Our children are all grown up and married and we have one grandchild. Carolyn has added 2 new roles since being here: mother-in-law and grandmother! Lord-willing she will be relinquishing the role of math teacher in the next year or two.

(Continued on Page 2)

These 40 years, Carolyn has had one role that has grown out of her role as a wife. She has been an instructor of Christlikeness in her thoughtful response to my dumbness, in her patience to my child-like behavior, in her servant's heart in assisting my pastoral ministry (not every pastor has a pastor's wife), and in her unconditional love despite my moodiness and self-focus. When I stop to think how she has put up with the likes of me, warts and all, these 40 years, I am reminded of how much the Lord has put up with me (and He knew me before I was born). Thank You Lord for these 40 years of marriage to Carolyn Main Creswell!

P.S. Carolyn and I thank you for your presence at our surprise 40th luncheon and for the many cards received. The kids kept this from us as well as you! In the words of Paul in Philippians 1:3, We "thank our God upon every remembrance of you."

HYMN HISTORY

Peggy Dear

BATTLE HYMN OF THE REPUBLIC

Julia Ward Howe wrote these lyrics during the heart of the Civil War. She sent the words to the *Atlantic Monthly* magazine and received an honorarium of five dollars. But the money wasn't her concern. Her purpose was to provide some wholesome lyrics for the tune "John Brown's Body Lies A-Moldering in the Grave." She accomplished that and more. When President Abraham Lincoln first heard the hymn, he asked to have it sung again. Soon the entire nation was singing the song.

The text is filled with Biblical allusions. The expression "grapes of wrath" refers to Revelation 14:19; the sounding trumpet is probably from Revelation 8. For the Christian, the message of the song is that God's truth is eternal. Although circumstances may appear overwhelmingly difficult, God will still accomplish his purposes, and his truth will endure. Nations may rise and fall but God's truth remains forever. "His truth is marching on."

Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord,
He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored;
He hath loosed the fateful lightning of His terrible swift sword--
His truth is marching on.

*Glory! glory, hallelujah!
Glory! glory, hallelujah!
Glory! glory, hallelujah!
His truth is marching on.*

I have seen Him in the watch fires of a hundred circling camps,
They have builded Him an altar in the evening dews and damps;
I can read His righteous sentence by the dim and flaring lamps--
His day is marching on.

He has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never sound retreat,
He is sifting out the hearts of men before His judgement seat;
O be swift, my soul, to answer Him! be jubilant, my feet!
Our God is marching on.

In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea,
With a glory in His bosom that transfigures you and me;
As He died to make men holy, let us die to make men free,
While God is marching on.

JULIA WARD HOWE (1819-1910)



REAL ID

Submitted by Beth Sulzmann

Soon passengers on airplanes will be required to have "Real ID." That includes a regular passport or a special marking on your valid driver's license. This will start on October 1, 2020, but it is a good thing to get the special mark on your driver's license now so you will be prepared to fly when the time comes.

Beth reports that it took her four months to get some of her certified verification so that she could get the Real ID stamp on her license. She wanted to give a "heads-up" to others so that they have plenty of time to locate things like an original Birth Certificate and certified Marriage Certificate for women to prove their married name.

You can get this done at any DMV during their regular hours.

Notice from TSA:

"Beginning October 1, 2020, every air traveler 18 years of age and older will need a REAL ID-compliant driver's license or another acceptable form of ID to fly within the United States.

REAL ID-compliant cards are generally marked with a star located in the upper portion of the card. If you are not sure, contact your state driver's license agency on how to obtain a REAL ID compliant card."

NEWSLETTER ARTICLE DEADLINE

Articles for the July newsletter are due to Jane Yancey no later than July 20th. Please send them to her at jane@yancey.com



The monthly newsletters can be found at the church website on the Senior Adults webpage under Senior News. Hard copies can also be picked up at the Welcome desk on Sundays.

HOW WIDE, HOW LONG, HOW HIGH, AND HOW DEEP HIS LOVE IS!

Charles Spurgeon

"May you have the power to understand, as all God's people should – **how wide, how long, how high, and how deep His love is!** May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully."
Ephesians 3:18-19

The love of Christ in its sweetness, its fullness, its greatness, its faithfulness – surpasses all human comprehension. Where shall language be found – which could describe His matchless, His unparalleled love towards His redeemed people? It is so vast and boundless that, as the swallow but *skims* the water, and dives not into its depths – so all descriptions of Jesus but touch the surface, while immeasurable depths lie beneath. Well might the poet say, "O love – you fathomless abyss!" for this love of Christ is indeed *measureless* and *fathomless*; none can attain unto it!

Before we can have any right idea of the love of Jesus, we must understand His previous *glory* in His height of majesty--and His *humiliation* upon the earth in all its depths of shame.

But who can fathom the **majesty** and **glory** of Christ, when . . .

He was enthroned in the highest heavens;
He was very God of very God;
He made the heavens and all the hosts thereof;
His own almighty arm upheld the spheres;
the full chorus of the hallelujahs of the universe
unceasingly flowed to the foot of His throne;
He reigned supreme above all His creatures, as
God over all, blessed forever!
Who can fathom His height of glory then?

And who, on the other hand, can fathom how low He **descended?**

To become a *man* was something--to be a man of *sorrows* was far more.
To bleed, and die, and suffer--these were much for Him who was the Son of God; but to suffer such unparalleled agony, to endure a death of shame and desertion by His Father--this is a depth of condescending love which the most inspired mind must utterly fail to penetrate!

Herein is love! and truly it is love that surpasses knowledge!

O let His love for such unworthy sinners as us, fill our hearts with adoring gratitude.

SENIORS MONTHLY FELLOWSHIP ACTIVITIES

FRIDAY LUNCHEON

Our monthly Friday lunches have been suspended for the summer months. They will resume in the fall.



By: Dot Branson

July 12th, 11:30 am
Trio's Restaurant

The Ladies Luncheon will be Friday, July 12th at Trio's Restaurant at 11:30. We will especially enjoy celebrating with the ladies who have July birthdays. Please plan to join us!

MEN'S LUNCH

By: Dave Ruths

Friday, July 19th, 11:30 am
Park Place Restaurant

We welcome the Senior Men to their monthly lunch at Park Place Restaurant at 11:30 AM on July 19th. This is a good time of fellowship with one another while we enjoy lunch together. Plan to come!



JOY SINGERS

Joy Singers will not meet during the summer months. They would love for you to join them in the fall!

Coram Deo Sunday School Class:
Sundays: 9:00 AM, WC 201 (Choir Room)



Pastor on Call: (704) 708-6101

Pastor of Senior Adults and Visitation:
N. Bruce Creswell
bcreswell@christcovenant.org
Study: (704) 708-6106

Newsletter Editor:
Jane Yancey
jane@yancey.com

Jenny Blackmon, Assistant to Pastor Bruce:
jblackmon@christcovenant.org
(704) 708-6104

Christ Covenant Church
800 Fullwood Lane
Matthews, NC 28105

JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 7 Rosemary Adams
- 8 Ben Jolley
- 8 Joy Jones
- 9 Barney Megargee
- 10 Peggy Dvorak
- 12 Donna Robart
- 12 Jan King
- 12 Sara Ann Keaton
- 15 David McArthur
- 18 Dan O'Neil
- 20 Maxine Pangle
- 24 Hugh Wise
- 27 Nancy O'Neil
- 27 Scottie Lochhead
- 28 Gay-Ellen Fisher
- 28 Mark Barlaan
- 29 Dottie Grinnell



JULY ANNIVERSARIES

- 4 Colin and Virginia Gardiner
- 8 Henry and Bette McClain
- 20 Dan and Nancy O'Neill
- 22 Mo and Janie Up De Graff
- 26 Tom and Anne Hopkins