

BETWEEN SEEDTIME AND HARVEST

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



GRACE TO YOU

by

Pastor Bruce Creswell

A REFORMED BAPTIST PREACHER NAMED SPRINKLE!

Lloyd Thomas Sprinkle

June 14, 1939 – September 26, 2019

We received a text that our friend and pastor brother, Lloyd Springle, went home to be with the Lord on Thursday. It was too late for us to drive to Harrisonburg, Virginia, as the funeral was on Saturday. He was 80 years old and had pastored 53 years at the same church he planted back in 1963, fresh out of Piedmont Bible College. His dear wife, Jackie, survives him, having celebrated 55 years of marriage.

Soon after we arrived in Harrisonburg back in the summer of 1992, an unannounced visitor showed up in my study. He was stocky-built, balding, fiftyish, with a broad smile. Stretching out his hand and in full voice, he said, "Welcome to the Valley. I am Lloyd Sprinkle, pastor of Park View Baptist." He continued to say, "Is it true, I heard you are reformed in your theology?" The rest, as they say, was history!

Over the years we became good friends, encouragers, and enjoyed blessed fellowship. We prayed together, preached together, and our wives became friends as well. His wife, Jackie, was their church organist and taught piano. She had a waiting list of students; we were thankful when our daughter, Mary, made it to the top of the list.

Back in the 60's, used theology books were cheap, abundant, and flooded the bookstores. Many rare and out of print books were discarded from seminaries that became liberal. Lloyd started buying books and began building his library. Over the years, he amassed quite a collection of over 14,000 books, including an original Geneva Bible and a 1634 Authorized Version of the Bible. Lloyd discovered a few old Puritans and Evangelical Reformed Theologians whose works were no longer in publication and felt the need to reprint and reintroduce them to the upcoming generations of pastors, and thus, Sprinkle Publications was born. Today, weekly orders are shipped all over the world and the US.

One of the authors whose works he reprinted is the Rev. Octavius Winslow. He was an Anglican pastoring in England until his death in 1870. Lloyd once again made available to the church the works of this "unknown" man of God. Since then, more of Winslow's books have been discovered so that almost all 80 of his books are back in print. I single out Winslow particularly because the Lord has used him in my own devotional life and ministry.

Although Lloyd and Jackie had no children of their own, they have many sons and daughters in the faith. He served on the board of a Christian school and was well loved by the teachers and students. Over the years, he mentored and influenced many pastors and missionaries.

(Continued on Page 2)

Outside of his love for the Word, Lloyd had a love for US history, particularly the American Revolution and the Civil War. His reprint on "The Life and Character of George Washington" is a startling contrast to the "reinvented" history that is out there today. What really spurred the reprinting of American history books was his finding of R. L. Dabney's, "The Life and Campaigns of Lt. General "Stonewall" Jackson." Originally, in 1975, he reprinted 2,000 copies and, with no mailing list, sold out in 13 months! To date, they have sold over 50,000 of this volume.

Lloyd was a gracious and gentle man. In the early days of his ministry, he was attacked for his reformed theology in the Shenandoah Valley, but he weathered the storms. He developed thick skin but maintained a humble spirit and tender heart.

His life was an example to me to press on. As I was coming into an understanding of reform theology, which resulted in coming to RT here in Charlotte, he encouraged me to press on and to know "what saith the Scriptures." He also showed me how to be content where God puts you and to be faithful in what He has called you to do, and to leave the results to the Lord who keeps the books.

Lloyd was welcomed into heaven that Thursday, September 26, 2019, with a "W. D. Degree" – "Well Done, good and faithful servant . . ." (Matthew 25:21).

Good Night, Dear Brother!

HYMN HISTORY

Peggy Dear

WE GATHER TOGETHER

No one knows who the author of this hymn was, but we can trace it to the Netherlands in the first quarter of the seventeenth century. The Dutch were praying for freedom from Spanish oppression. One Dutch city after another had been captured and sacked by the Spanish armies. Many citizens had been exiled.

But a few years later, the Spanish overlords were being driven out. Night was ending; the dawn was coming. This hymn was written to give thanks for the victory that was almost in sight. For these Dutch believers, "the wicked oppressing" were the Spaniards, who would "now cease from distressing." There was no doubt that God should receive the glory for the victory.

Life is often like that. The victory may still be around the corner, but that should not keep us from giving thanks. For Holland, a golden age of prosperity--of world exploration, of artists like Rembrandt and scientists like Leeuwenhoek--was only a few decades away. And blessings like these are merely a foretaste of what God has for us in the future.

NEWSLETTER ARTICLE DEADLINE

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

We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing;
He chastens and hastens His will to make known;
The wicked oppressing now cease from
distressing,
Sing praises to His name: He forgets not His own.

Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining,
Ordaining, maintaining His kingdom divine;
So from the beginning the fight we were winning:
Thou, Lord wast at our side, all glory be Thine!

We all do extol Thee, Thou Leader triumphant,
And pray that thou still our Defender wilt be.
Let Thy congregation escape tribulation:
Thy name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!



OH, STAND AND WONDER!

(Submitted by Pastor Bruce Creswell)

Thomas Brooks,
"The Crown and Glory of Christianity"

"Behold what manner of love the Father has
 bestowed upon us--that **we** should be called the
 sons of God!"

1 John 3:1

It is an infinite condescension in God to honor us
 with the title of *sons*, and therefore we should never
 think of it, nor ever speak of it--but with much
 amazement. O sirs! what matter of admiration is
 this--that the great and glorious God, who has many
 millions of glorious angels attending Him--that He
 should . . .

look upon all redeemed people as His sons,
 and love them as His sons,
 and delight in them as His sons,
 and clothe them as His sons,
 and feed them as His sons,
 and protect them as His sons,
 and stand by them as His sons,
 and lay up for them as His sons,
 and lay out Himself for them as His sons;
 that those who have not deserved . . .
 a smile from God,
 a good word from God,
 a bit of bread from God, or
 a temporal blessing from God,
 should be made the sons of God!

What manner of love is this--that those who have . . .

so highly provoked God,
 walked so disobediently and contrary to God,
 were so exceeding unlike God,
 preferred every *lust*, and every *toy* and *vanity* before God,
 fought many years under Satan's banner against God,
 refused all the offers of mercy that have been made by
 God,
 that those who have deserved to be . . .
 reprobated by God,
 damned by God, and
 to be thrown to Hell by God--
 that *these* should be made the sons of God!

Oh, stand and wonder!

Oh, stand and admire the freeness of His grace,
 and at the riches of His grace!

"How great is the love the Father has lavished on us,
 that **we** should be called children of God!" 1 John 3:1

BOOK REVIEW

By Chris Williams

Churchill – Walking with Destiny

By Andrew Roberts

Viking 2018

I have always wanted to read a book about Winston Churchill, British Prime Minister during World War 2, but where to begin? I suppose there are hundreds of titles about this important man. When this comprehensive one volume biography came out, I finally decided the time had come. Glad I made that decision. It is a big book of 982 pages but worth the effort; not just long but heavy to hold! Better use a table or lap.

Born in the late 19th century he was shaped by the wars of his youth; the Boer war of South Africa and the First World War. His goal in life was always to follow in his father's footsteps and enter politics. But with his strong views on military preparedness, he was unpopular during the years of Nazi appeasement leading to the start of World War 2. When Hitler invaded Poland in 1939, the views of Churchill were vindicated, and he began his inevitable ascendancy to Prime Minister.

The book is sub-titled "Walking with Destiny," and truly God prepared this man for the crucial leadership. Churchill had all the gifts needed for his time. His heroism and courage are legendary and vividly described by Roberts. Churchill's special gift was the written and spoken word that became key to motivating all the allies during the dark days of Nazi aggression.

Roberts focuses narrowly on Churchill's unique contributions. He resists the temptation to chase details about the Battle of Britain and the submarine battle in the Atlantic. There are lots of other books that cover these subjects. He illuminates Churchill's amazing sense of adventure, innovation, his political sense of the public's fears, and his amazing ability to speak to those fears with insight and courage. World War 2 was a new kind of war involving big mass-produced deadly technology that the Allies were frantically trying to master. These new machines of war needed innovative minds in order to use them effectively. Churchill was among the leaders in this effort.

Churchill was probably not a Christian though he was used in a powerful way to preserve our western Christian culture and traditions.

2020 PCA WOMEN'S CONFERENCE "Hinged"

Submitted by Alona Weddine

Christ Covenant Church is hosting **HINGED, the 2020 PCA Women's Conference January 31-February 1st.**

Spots are filling up fast, so register now! There are Friday and/or Saturday attendance options and reduced registration for high school and college students! For details and registration, visit <https://pcacdm.org/hinged-conferences/>.

CHRISTMAS IN A BOX GATHERINGS

Submitted by Alona Weddine

Host a Christmas gathering to engage and share the Gospel with neighbors and friends. It is a simple, fun, and an easy way to start or build on relationships with other women.

What will be provided in your box:

- A hostess letter with ideas and instructions
- Party theme ideas
- Fun Christmas conversation starters
- Simple ways to share the Gospel at Christmas
- Information about the outreach and aspect for Changed Choices

To sign up to host a gathering...contact Karen Chambers at kchambers@christcovenant.org.



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1	Leon Schanely
3	Margie Ross
6	Jane Gray
6	Charlie Maurer
9	Janie Up De Graff
12	Patty Marion
13	Renee Seel
14	Ruth Mangum
15	Steve Thompson
17	Mary Newton
17	Barbara Smith
18	Barbara Dustin
23	Carolyn Dellinger
26	Betty Williams



NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARY

30 Norm & Dee Petty

STEM CELL TRANSPLANT FOR MY BROTHER RON

By Fred Kinney For the Glory of God

In April 2018, my youngest brother, Ron, called to tell me he had been diagnosed with a life-threatening pre-leukemia condition by the name of Myelodysplastic Syndrome (MDS). MDS is part of a group of cancers where immature blood cells in the marrow do not mature to become healthy blood cells. Early on with MDS, there typically are no symptoms. With progression, some of the symptoms experienced are tiredness, shortness of breath, easy bleeding and frequent infections. The disease can only be cured by a successful cell transplant, preferably donated by a sibling. Ron asked if I would be tested to see if I could be a stem cell match. By God's Grace, my stem cells were a 10-point match (on a scale of 10)!

After months of preparation, in June 2019 the Medical staff at Levine set the procedure for August 7, 2019. At that point, Ron was in stage 4 of MDS. In late June, the medical staff did a biopsy to determine Ron's readiness for the procedure. Unfortunately, within a couple of days he was battling a serious infection at the biopsy site. After several more weeks in the hospital, things improved and we were given a new target, October 1st!

Ten days before the transplant, in an interview with my Levine doctor, he said the donor stem cells are smart and go right to the marrow space of the patient and get to work producing new white and red blood cells and platelets. Ron had high doses of chemotherapy and radiation in order to treat the cancer and kill his bone marrow prior to the transplant. Giving the patient the stem cells after the chemo and radiation serves to rescue the patient with the healthy stem cells. The hope is that the healthy donor immune system can attack any stray cancerous stem cells in the patient that survived the preparative regimen.

There is another amazing detail. Ron and I have different blood types. The Medical team said in coming months Ron's blood type will become the same as mine.

Zero Day finally arrived, and Ron and I both were ready for this! I arrived at 6:00 AM and was prepped for "Apheresis" the preferred name for collection of stem cells. I was in a private hospital room. The staff made me as comfortable as possible while placing a large catheter in a vein in my neck. As blood flows through the Apheresis Machine, stems cells are collected, (about 6 million of them) and they are collected in a plastic bag like an IV bag. The Apheresis Machine started my part of this procedure at 9:00 AM and completed at 1:45 PM. After finishing this phase, the medical staff, Barbara, and I had a short celebration at the completion of a part of this miracle. The staff signed a certificate to me.

Now, at 3:00 PM, we were off in two big wheelchairs, manned by staff members, taking us quickly from the Levine Cancer Center to CMC/Atrium Main (a long hike by wheelchair), where the stem cells were presented, this time to Ron. Two nurses immediately started the flow of stem cells which were given to him by an IV. That took about one hour.

As of this writing, it is day 18 since the stem cell transplant. In the last two days, Ron has progressed enough that nurses are disconnecting his IV meds.

His white blood cell count has gone from .01 up to .4 and is rising. We are thankful for the good news. No release date from the hospital for Ron has been set yet. Our families give thanks to God and to all who have faithfully prayed for Ron. Please continue to lift Ron up to God.

God has blessed medical science by revealing the stem cell transplant procedure. But there is nothing as amazing as Jesus Christ, The Son of The Living God, submitting himself to be crucified for us on the cross of Calvary. There, He willingly shed His Precious Blood and Became the Supreme Sacrifice for our sins.

This whole process has been humbling and awe inspiring to me. It has constantly reminded me of these powerful scriptures and beautiful hymn:

Psalm 139:14 "I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well."

Hebrews 9:22 "Indeed under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins."

1 Peter 1: 18-19

"knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, but with perishable things such as silver and gold 19) but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot"

Ephesians 2:13 "But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been bought by the blood of Christ."

"What can wash away my sin? Nothing but the blood of Jesus;
What can make me whole again? Nothing but the blood of Jesus."
Written by hymn writer, professor and Baptist Minister, Robert Lowry in 1876

SENIORS MONTHLY FELLOWSHIP ACTIVITIES

NOVEMBER LUNCHEON

Submitted by Mary Newton

November 8, 2019

12:00 Noon

CLC 5 and 6

How marvelous to have such a great turnout for our October Seniors luncheon! Do we dare hope for a repeat performance in November? We will be meeting the **second** Friday due to the Seniors Retreat.

The menu will be a beef and vegetable soup with homemade bread.

If anyone has a delicious apple recipe he or she would like to make for our next luncheon, we have apples to give to you in your endeavor. I would ask that you call Martha Ann Harris (704 608-4000). She will supply your need. We are counting on you bakers!



By: Dot Branson

November 15th, 11:30 am

Trio's Restaurant

Please note the date change.

The Ladies' Luncheon will be on the third Friday in November, the 15th, at 11:30 at Trio's Restaurant. The address is 10709 McMullen Creek Pkwy. (off Hwy. 51). Please plan to join us for great food and fellowship.

MEN'S LUNCH

By: Dave Ruths

Friday, November 15th, 11:30 am

Park Place Restaurant

The senior men's lunch will be held on Friday, November 14th, at 11:30 at Park Place Restaurant on Park Road across from the entrance to Atrium Health Pineville. Come enjoy the good food and fellowship and Mo Up De Graff's sharing with us from the Word.



JOY SINGERS

Let's create a joyful noise to the Lord! **Join the Joy Singers!** Rehearsals are **Mondays** from 1:30 – 2:30 pm in WC105. They will be singing at the evening service on November 10th. Please contact Pam Eash with questions at pameash@gmail.com.

Coram Deo Sunday School Class:

Sundays: 9:00 AM, WC 201 (Choir Room)

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**CHRISTMAS DINNER**

Friday, December 6th

6:00 pm

CLC

The Annual Coram Deo Sunday School Class Christmas Dinner will be a special occasion that you do not want to miss!

We will enjoy a specially prepared celebration dinner. The program will be the Nathan George family in concert. And . . . the traditional **12 Days of Christmas** will also be sung. If you have never attended one of these dinners, you will enjoy being a part of this event,

The cost is \$12.00 per person and Lucille and Dave Ruths will begin selling the tickets on Sunday, November 3rd.

