

BETWEEN SEEDTIME AND HARVEST

**Senior Adults Newsletter
Christ Covenant Church
May 2021**



GRACE TO YOU

by
Pastor Bruce Creswell

A PERSEVERING MOTHER

For me it seems the holidays have rapidly come in succession without stop: New Year's Day, three birthdays in January, Valentine's Day, two birthdays in February, St. Patrick's Day, Good Friday, Easter Sunday, three wedding anniversaries, and one birthday in April. Now Mother's Day is coming up in May.

Along with the majority who read our newsletter, my mom is in Heaven. Abe Lincoln is often misquoted or falsely attributed to saying things. He did actually say: "All that I am or hope to be, I owe to my angel mother." The Lord gives us the parents He wants us to have and to grow up under. Looking back, I marvel at Momma and how she persevered all through her life.

In the midst of the depression, her family made homemade pies and sold them throughout the factories in Baltimore. Over 700 pies were made weekly, and Momma's part was to paint the pies. As a young girl, she suffered severe earaches that damaged, unknowingly, her ability to hear. Because of this, she had a difficult time hearing and following what the teacher was saying and, without any testing, she was automatically put in a class for special needs students. (Hearing aids would have corrected her trouble.) In her day, the mindset towards people with "special needs" was "out of sight out of mind." While receiving a minimal education, she also endured her share of vicious taunting. The alienation and isolation from the so called "norm," cultivated in her a sensitivity to others in need. Knowing the pain and hurt she went through, Momma forbid us to use the word "idiot." She would cultivate this sensitivity, this awareness of the needs of others in all three of her children.

Through the ministry of her pastor, she came to know the Lord as her Savior, along with her mom and dad. The Lord gave her a heart for Him, and her journey of faith would take her through the tough times ahead.

Mom and Dad were married in the parsonage in 1952, although he was not a believer at the time. In the course of time my sisters and myself entered the picture. Several things stand out among many about Momma being momma. She saw to it that we went to Sunday school and church, even when she didn't go. We had to have our shoes polished, our Scripture verse memorized, and had to go to bed early on Saturday night. We were introduced to the Word, the church, and the Lord by Momma. This paved the way for me to go to church camp, where the Lord saved me and gave me a new heart at the age of 9. Knowing the need for me to be with Christians my age and have good role models in my life, she enrolled me in the Christian Service Brigade, a Christian scout-type organization. This became a major part in my teenage years, and I achieved the Herald of Christ, which is equivalent to the Eagle Scout. Her perseverance channeled me in the direction of the Lord.

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Growing up, we would be classified as lower, lower middle class. Mom worked to put food on the table, as dad's income was unstable. She worked in a sewing factory, a step above the old sweat shops of another generation. Catching the Number 3 bus at 5am for a 30-minute ride into Baltimore, she then would walk through an unsavory area to get to the factory. Every day from 5am to 5pm she would work in primitive conditions, clearing about \$75.00 a week. Out of that she paid bills, bought groceries, and when I went to college, she sent me \$5.00 every week! She denied herself for her children and others. Up to the end of her life, she was very free and gracious to her family, missions, and her church. It was her example of doing what you can with what you have and learning to live below your means that helped prepare me for the ministry and raising a family.

In 1986, after 34 years of marriage, Momma saw her prayers answered for my Dad. The Lord saved him, and he became a new creation. He had a severe drinking problem; he would go on drinking binges missing time from work. Things were tough and unsettling during his drinking binges. Momma would have been justified in the eyes of the world to walk away from her marriage and leave him. Yet she hung in there and was always there for him, helping him to get back on his feet after being on a binge. Their last 4 years together (dad died in 1990) were blessed; he saw and recognized what kind of person his wife, my Momma, was. Though he wasn't always there for us kids, he loved his grandchildren and doted on them. I wish they could have been around him more often.

The remaining years for Momma were filled with peace and contentment. She was able to maintain her independence and be with her children and grandchildren. When I had to tell Momma that she had been diagnosed with congestive heart failure and malignant liver, she very calmly stated, "Well, it could be worse." I prayed to the Lord that He would not let her suffer in her last days. The doctors gave her six months to live. She was discharged on Thursday and the Lord in His mercy called her home the following Monday. In my sorrow, I was thankful that she was at Home with the Lord, free from the cares and sickness of this world.

Yes, I can say as Honest Abe, "All that I am or hope to be, I owe to my angel mother." Happy Mother's Day Momma, I will see you in the morning.



HYMN HISTORY

Submitted by Peggy Dear

O FOR A FAITH THAT DOES NOT SHRINK

Just before Hebrews 11, that great chapter of faith, are two verses that speak of shrinking faith. These verses contrast the righteous person who lives by faith with the one who "shrinks back." That unusual phrase may have prompted this hymn by William Bathurst, but Bathurst wasn't concerned simply about shrinking faith, he was also interested in a growing faith.

At the time Bathurst wrote this hymn, he was working on a sermon called "The Power of Faith." His text was Luke 17:5, where the disciples ask Jesus to increase their faith.

Today our clothing is supposedly "guaranteed not to shrink." In this hymn, William Bathurst writes of a faith that is guaranteed not to shrink. It is, he says, "a faith that shines more bright and clear when tempests rage without. That, when in danger knows no fear, in darkness feels no doubt."

Do you have that kind of faith?

Scriptures: Luke 17:5-6; Ephesians 6:16; Hebrews 11:38-39

O for a faith that will not shrink tho' pressed by
many a foe,
That will not tremble on the brink of any earthly
woe.

That will not murmur or complain beneath the
chastening rod,
But in the hour of grief or pain will lean upon its
God.

A faith that shines more bright and clear when
tempests rage without,
That, when in danger, knows no fear, in darkness
feels no doubt.

Lord, give me such a faith as this, and then,
whate'er may come,
I'll taste e'en now the hallowed bliss of an eternal
home

William Hiley Bathurst (1795-1877)

MAY SENIOR ADULT LUNCHEON

***Friday, May 7, 2021, 11:30am
at the JAARS Center, Waxhaw, NC***

Our Senior luncheon in May is at JAARS. We will meet in the JAARS Center lobby and then head to the cafeteria for lunch. The cafeteria offers sandwiches, soup, salad, and hamburgers for approximately \$6 per meal.

Afterwards, tour the Alphabet Museum, visit the Book Store & Gift Shop, or walk around the campus. The Mexico-Cardenas Museum is closed for renovation. JAARS is following Covid protocols. Please wear masks while on property.

Space is limited, *please RSVP by Monday, May 3rd* in order to provide an accurate headcount to JAARS. We have quite a few former and current missionaries that are affiliated with JAARS, which stands for Jungle Aviation and Radio Service. "From pilot training and mission aviation services to remote technology and communications support, we provide off-the-grid logistical solutions that help make Bible translation possible."

Register at the link below or call Jenny Blackmon, ministry administrator (704-708-6104) for assistance.
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0444aaaf2ea2fc1-jaars>

For more information: <https://www.jaars.org/>



Submitted by Dot Branson

Trio's Restaurant
Friday, May 14th
11:30 am

The Senior Ladies' Luncheon will be at Trio's Restaurant on Friday, May 14th, at 11:30. The Restaurant is located at 10709 McMullen Creek Pkwy. (off Hwy. 51).

Please plan to join us for great food and sweet fellowship. If you have questions, please contact Dot Branson.

MEN'S MONTHLY LUNCH

Submitted by Dave Ruths

Park Place Restaurant
Friday, May 21st
11:30 am

We had a great time together, with some welcome new participants, over great > lunch > fellowship and > teaching by Pastor Mo Up De Graff! on April 16th, and we will continue the **Senior Men's Lunch** on **FRIDAY, May 21st**, at **11:30 AM** at **Park Place Restaurant (PPR) 2021 Park Rd. (Mark your calendar, your hand, or whatever works best.)**

PPR is on the right, shortly past Black Lion and Aldi's, and **just** past a Storage business on right also. Do avoid passing it; because the turnaround and, then, left turn-in across traffic can be challenging. We plan to continue on Third Fridays for future 2021 months. I – actually, we all - look forward to seeing you!

NEWSLETTER ARTICLE DEADLINE

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

**HANDYMAN MINISTRY IS READY
 TO SWING HAMMERS**



Dave McArthur and Mo Up de Graff are forming a team to assist the senior adult community with basic home repairs. Clients are asked to buy repair materials but there is no cost for labor. Dave remarked, "Our new team is excited to use our handyman skills to minister to the senior adult community."

To request a repair consultation, please contact Jenny Blackmon, Ministry Admin, at 704-708-6104, jblackmon@christcovenant.org

Please contact Dave or Mo at the numbers below to add your handyman skills to the team.

David McArthur, 404-234-0833,
davidmcarthur3@outlook.com

Mo Up de Graff, 828-508-1697,
mo1udg@gmail.com

SAVE THE DATE!

Senior Adult Retreat
October 5-8, 2021

Bonclarken Conference Center
 in beautiful Flat Rock, NC

Guest Speaker:

Paul Engle

Book Review

By Chris Williams

The Johnstown Flood

by David McCullough.

Simon and Schuster, 1987

This book has been in print since first published in 1965. This latest paperback edition, published in 1987, includes a new forward by the author, with interesting background on his life experience that led him to write it.

In 1965 it was his first attempt at a book; it was highly successful. As you may know he is a wonderful and gifted writer. The narrative grips the reader from the first sentence.

The flood occurred near Pittsburg in 1889, during a sustained rain storm and the bursting of an earth fill dam upstream from Johnstown. It is estimated that some 2,000 people died out of a regional population of 20,000, but an exact count could not be made due to the utter chaos of the flood. It was considered at the time to be the biggest event since the assassination of Abraham Lincoln 24 years prior. The drama of the event is heightened by the facts and personalities surrounding the bursting of the South Fork Creek dam and the exclusive fishing club that owned it.

The narrative is gripping, and a difficult loss of life is depicted. Nevertheless, it is an education in a significant American tragedy, a demonstration of human endurance, and it presents a high standard of research and clear writing style.

This is a secular book so don't expect the author to be kind to Christian faith. He tends to discount any spiritual purpose in tragedies such as this (re. Luke 13:1-5). But we know better. Life is fragile, and man is fallible in his careless rebellion and presumption upon God's grace. Christians must see beyond the mechanics of these things to discern the need to cling to our Lord in all occasions, good or bad. And, like the parable of the ten virgins, be ready at all times to be transported to heaven.

I previously reviewed "The Pioneers" by the same author. I can testify that his quality of writing has remained intact through these many decades. He has excellent books on the American Revolution, John Adams, Harry S. Truman, Theodore Roosevelt, and the building of the Brooklyn Bridge. I highly recommend all.

Happy 100th Birthday, Bob Black!

May 19, 2021



This month Bob Black will celebrate his 100th birthday! If you remember in the June 2019 newsletter, we did a feature story on Bob entitled, "BOB BLACK: Christ Covenant's Oldest Member." He still holds that title. Currently, he resides at Carrington Place and, due to COVID restrictions, visitation is limited to immediate family. His younger sister and church member, Maxine Pangle, who will be 98 in July, is faithful to visit him.

We would like to shower Bob with cards from the senior community for his special birthday. Please send a card to: Bob Black, Carrington Place, 600 Fullwood Road, Matthews, NC 28105-2659.



MAY BIRTHDAYS

3 – Ann Mudge
 5 – Angela Pacey
 7 – Lyndon Kelly
 8 – Hutch Hutchinson
 9 – Susan Randolph
 9 – Carson Weaver
 10 – Jim Stevenson
 18 – Kass Goebel
 18 – Rosalie Kirkley
 18 – Judy Massengill
 19 – Bob Black
 19 – Miriam Jones
 22 – Diane Dworek
 23 – Biff Bracy
 24 – Finn Solheim
 24 – Fran Wise
 25 – Liz West
 26 – Barbara Church
 26 – Angela Parlante
 29 – Henry Mills
 30 – Gordon Jacobs
 31 – Dee Lamb



MAY ANNIVERSARIES

3 – Ron and Annie Melton
 9 – Mitch and Leslie Allison
 13 – Stu and March Carroll
 22 – Jim and Susan Parrish

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 7	JAARS Day and Lunch
June 4	Senior Adult Luncheon
July/August	Summer Social TBA

Coram Deo Sunday School Class:

Currently meets in the Sanctuary on Thursdays at 4:00 pm and is also live-streamed on

You Tube:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/christcovenantpres>

Vimeo:

<https://vimeo.com/christcovenantchurch>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/ChristCovenantChurchPCA/>

Pastor on Call:

The Pastor-on-Call line is no longer be in service. If you need immediate pastoral assistance, please contact your Shepherding Elder. Thank you!

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WHO IS JESUS CHRIST?

NOTE: Jim Stevenson's daughter sent this poem that Jim had written out over 60 years ago. She said it has meant much to him over the decades. She added that he enjoys the senior adults monthly newsletter and thought this poem might be a worthy addition. Jim will be celebrating his 95th birthday on May 10th. THANK YOU, JIM, and Happy Birthday!

Many people ask, "Who is Jesus Christ?" Many years ago a pastor in Northern Ireland, William Mullen, answered that question in his poem, "God Manifest in the Flesh."

God manifest in the flesh!
O wonder to behold;
Creative power within the breast
That felt the blast of cold.
God in our likeness made!
O may we understand,
The one who made the wondering worlds
Appears as lowly man.
He stood within the realm
He fashioned with a thought,
His creatures gazed upon Him,
Alas, they knew him not;
They cried out for His blood,
His claims cast out as dross,
They spat upon His princely face,
They nailed Him to the cross.
But He made the tree for that cross of wood;
He made the hill on which it stood;
And in some hidden vein of land,
He made the steel that pierced each hand.
He made the sun that hid its face;
He made the fathers of that race,
Who in their hatred knew Him not;
He made the friends who with Him fought,
And there in death He made a way
Back to Himself Eternally.