

**Senior Adults Newsletter**  
**March 2026**  
**Christ Covenant Church**



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**GRACE, GRIT, GRACIOUSNESS = GRATITUDE**

**By Pastor Bruce Creswell**

She was known by everyone as **“the oldest member of the church.”** To some she was their banker from years ago. To the ladies at Bible Study Fellowship, she was their teacher. To her family, that is, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great grandchildren she was affectionately their **“Golly.”** To her daughter she was **“Mother.”** To the rest of us she was **“Maxine”**.

At 102 and a half, you usually outlive most of your family, friends, neighbors and the seniors in your Sunday School Class. Your sphere of contact narrows down to your doctor, your pharmacist, and a few remaining family members and perhaps a friend who is 5 years younger than you! How easy is it then, to become isolated, forgotten, and just another name on the church prayer list.

So, the danger that can follow is to become self-focused, to lapse into self-pity, and even worse just give up and lose interest in life itself. Joy soon evaporates into staleness. Your mind becomes vulnerable to unreal imaginations floating into the “twilight zone,” or hibernates and you check out of everyday life.

That was not the case with **Maxine**. Well, some of it is. She did outlive her siblings, some friends and neighbors and many in her Sunday school class! But she did not lose her zest for life,



**Maxine Pangle, 1923-2026**

even though she was looking forward to seeing her Savior. Her mind and her memory were ever sharp. Some of that might be attributed to good genes but also is due to the devoted love and care given to her by her daughter, **Sabra**. Not only did she move in to care for her but moved her office there as well. Looking after mother and working was an ongoing full-time commitment.

Over these twenty-five years, **Maxine's** heart was aflame for her Lord, her family, and her church. The flames kindled from her heart were "grace," "grit," and "graciousness." All three of those words begin with "gr" and those three words blended produced another word beginning with "gr" → "gratitude."

The flame of **Grace** illuminated her pathway from growing up in a wonderful Christian home with parents who loved their 5 children unconditionally, lived out their faith, and encouraged them to follow the Lord. The flame of God's saving Grace was made real in her heart at the age of nine with the assurance that Jesus was her Lord and Savior. Increasingly, she grew more aware that the Sovereign God was in control of her life and learned to rest in Him. Till she reached Heaven's shore, it was Grace that led her all the way.

The next 93 years the flame of **Grit** shone through the many challenges, sicknesses, death of loved ones, and monetary setbacks that came her way. Her first husband was killed in an industrial accident at the age of 27, leaving her and their 5-year-old daughter. Cancer then took her second husband, her daughter, **Brenda**, a son-in-law, and would come to afflict herself and daughter **Sabra**. Life wasn't easy, but by God's grace and the loving support of family and church she persevered and faced the tests and trials head on. Through each challenge, trial, and testing, her faith became stronger, her heart stayed tender and her spirit gracious along with a sense of humor that was infectious.

Some would become bitter, hardened, and self-focused going through all that **Maxine** faced over the years. For her, the flame of **Graciousness** melted any bitterness, hardness, and self-focus from taking hold. **Graciousness** → the quality of being kind mixed with a warm, welcoming nature towards others was witnessed both by the church and the world. Over 20 years in Bible Study Fellowship, encouraging ladies to study their Bibles and to grow in their walk with the Lord. Over 40 years in the world of banking, she had a loyal base of customers and colleagues that encountered this genuine characteristic in her. Being her shepherd, I never noticed any trace of bitterness or selfishness or self-focus.

When you mix Grace, Grit, and Graciousness together, there is this attitude of **Gratitude** that shines brightly in one's heart as was witnessed in **Maxine**. You couldn't be in a conversation with her too long, without hearing a note of thanksgivings or praise to the Lord. Over the years, many of us have received a note, card, or letter of encouragement from her. After reading her note(s), not only were you encouraged but your focus was realigned on the goodness of the Lord and praising Him.

Reflecting on Grace, Grit, Graciousness, and Gratitude lived out in a life of faith reminds us to **"...run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith"** Hebrews 12:1-2.

**Good night, Maxine, we will meet you in the morning!**

## **HYMN HISTORIES**

**By Peggy Dear**

**Isaac Watts** was disturbed with "business as usual" Christianity. He knew that the only way Christians could be shaken out of their lethargy was if they had a fresh touch of the Spirit. Just as Jesus is described as both a meek lamb and a fearsome lion, so the Holy Spirit is described as both a dove and a fire. Sometimes Christians need to experience the Holy Spirit as a gentle dove, but often we need to know him as a roaring fire.

One stanza that is often omitted from this hymn is "Father, and shall we ever live/ At this poor dying rate, / Our love so faint, so cold to Thee, / And Thine to us so great?" It was this contrast between our love for God and God's love for us that disturbed **Watts**. He knew that only the fire of the Spirit could kindle our hearts into deeper love.

### **COME, HOLY SPIRIT, HEAVENLY DOVE**

*Come, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove,  
With all Thy quickening powers,  
Kindle a flame of sacred love  
In these cold hearts of ours.*

*Look, how we grovel here below,  
Fond of these earthly toys.  
Our souls, how heavily they go,  
To reach eternal joys.*

*In vain we tune our formal songs,  
In vain we strive to rise.  
Hosannas languish on our tongues,  
And our devotion dies.*

*Father, and shall we ever live  
at this poor dying rate,  
Our love so faint, so cold to Thee,  
And Thine to us so great?*

*Come, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove  
With all thy quickening powers,  
Come, shed abroad a Savior's love  
And that shall kindle ours.*

*Isaac Watts (1674-1748)*

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## Book Review

### THE REAL CHARLIE KIRK by Dick Morris

The author describes this iconic, historical 31-year-old this way: *“The voice that changed history will change the future”*. This is quite a compliment for a man we now know more about as a martyr than as a living legend.

**EARLY YEARS** begin October 14, 1993, in a suburb of Chicago where he was born to a middle-class family defined by hard work, patriotism and faith. His father was an architect and his mother a homemaker. **Charlie’s** public high school could be described as diverse and culturally divided. At 6 feet, 5 inches, his dream was basketball stardom, but that goal vanished, so he excelled in history, political science, public speaking, debate and scouting where he became an Eagle Scout.

Involvement in politics began as a 17-year-old as he did volunteer work for GOP campaigns stuffing envelopes, knocking on doors and handing out fliers. He quickly recognized the disconnect between grass roots energy and the political establishment and saw the great opportunity of giving American conservatism a new style.

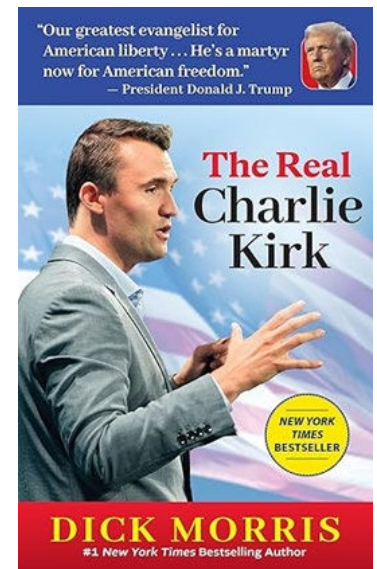
Then, at 18 years of age, his essay criticizing liberal bias in high school textbooks was published by Breitbart news and gave him national exposure. In 2016 at age 19, he addressed the Republican National Convention, followed up by a repeat address in 2020. In 2017 Forbes Magazine listed **Charlie** as one of the Forbes 30 Under 30 as most influential in America. In 2018 Turning Point USA campus tours were launched, experiencing great success.

Educationally, **Charlie** considered universities as indoctrination centers for liberal ideology and decided to forego college. Conversely, the leading conservative college in America is Hillsdale College near Chicago, so **Charlie** took 30+ online courses there, focusing on the Constitution, Christianity, American history, etc. This armed him with the knowledge to debate anyone (without any notes).

**TURNING POINT USA’s** genesis was tough, as one might expect, and included beat-up old cars, cheap motels, and being hosted by volunteers. **Charlie** drove home his points on limited government, free speech and individual liberty. While the early gatherings were small, **Charlie** always displayed a unique ability to listen and “won” many debates with highly decorated/degree holding professors. It was evident that everything in his life had prepared him for this mission in these theological and cultural war zones. Ivy League school administrators were not overly receptive.

TV, radio and podcast exposure increased dramatically, and Newsmax provided much needed impetus. Strangely, Fox News basically ignored his powerful message until his assassination was impossible to ignore, and his message began to be mainstream.

**JESUS CHRIST** was always his guiding light as he emphasized the authority of scripture, the reality of sin and redemption, and a mission-oriented outlook. He believed America’s greatness could only



be achieved by adherence to biblical principles. He believed only spiritual revival can lead to the political saving of America. Being a strong pro-life advocate, he often referred to Psalm 139.

Listed are three of his direct quotes:

- *“Any encroachment by governments that required citizens to act against their conscience is a step toward tyranny”.*
- *“Marriage must be protected because it is the moral fabric of the nation”.*
- *“If Christians don’t engage, then, darkness will prevail”.*

**CRITICS** say his political message weakens Christianity into a political agenda, but there is no doubt he’s mobilized the young people into being a powerful Christian influence on America which is now a highly secularized nation.

**IMPACT** has been huge. In September of last year there were already 900 Turning Point USA college chapters and 1200 high school chapters with 250,000 students. Since Charlie’s death, there have been 50,000 + inquiries to start a new chapter. Young voters will define America’s political future, and the polling numbers suggest a tremendous surge in the interest level of this group, especially young men who no longer feel voiceless. There’s a new realization that at the heart of American political life is a spiritual foundation. Moral decay must be defeated by the elevation of Christian values. The task is not easy because of the existing cancel culture which is hostile to the truth, and is led by the misguided LGBTQ, radicals, and the gender clowns.

However, **Charlie’s** vision is very much alive, and his influence has been magnified by his death. Christ will be at the center of America’s worldview! Turning Point USA leadership is in the capable hands of **Erica**, his wife, and a highly organized and dedicated team as America seeks to find God.

*“If we don’t engage, darkness wins!”*

This book, published in January 2026, is an easy read, but so profound, and is available from Amazon.

Submitted by Hugh Wise, March 2026

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A graphic with the words "Book Review" in a white, serif font, set against a background of a wooden bookshelf with several books.

**Plain Mr. Knox**  
by Elizabeth Whitley  
Scottish Reformation Society, 1972

**John Knox and the Reformation**  
by D. M. Lloyd-Jones and Ian H. Murray  
Banner of Truth Trust, 2011

After reading all about **Anne Lock** in the previous book review, I got curious about **John Knox** who was such a close letter-writing friend of **Anne Lock**. The first book above I found in my library; its source unknown. The second book was purchased a few weeks ago as an expansion of

understanding of this important man in the history of the church. **Anne Lock** is cited in both these books which reinforced the notion that she was an important supporter of the new reformation started by Luther only a few decades earlier.

The **Whitley** book is published by the Scottish Reformation Society and as such it is, I think, intended for the Scottish audience. It contains many Scottish words and idioms that makes it a challenge to read. I did not realize how foreign many of these words would be to me. Still, it gives a very detailed history of the life and times of **Knox**. It also includes more personal details about **Knox** and his interaction with friends and fellow citizens. A shortcoming of the book is that it assumes more knowledge of the history of the 16<sup>th</sup> century and geography of Scotland than I had. So, I had to do quite a bit of research to figure out what was going on. There were a lot of “Marys” in that day: Mary Tudor queen of England, Mary of Guise, queen of Scotland who is also called Regent of Scotland, and Mary Stewart queen of Scots. Then there is the fact that some of the kings and queens of Scotland were also related to Henry VIII of England and things get more complicated. For example, James V of Scotland became James I of England.

The second book consists of three articles. The first two are written by **Martin Lloyd-Jones**, the third by **Ian Murray**. The **Lloyd-Jones** articles read like he preached, rhythmic and almost poetic. **Lloyd-Jones** speaks of **Knox** as the originator of Puritanism and is focused on the theological issues rather than the flow of events. I mentioned this origin of Puritanism in the review of **Anne Lock**; she was also an early progenitor of the Puritan movement. But **Knox** established a determined and firm opposition to the perceived Catholic/Protestant weakness in the Church of England. It was a time of oppression against strict adherence to Biblical authority and official opposition to private Bible study.

Scotland had been allied with the French from the 13<sup>th</sup> century as a counter to English expansionism. This alliance brought with it French kings and queens as well as Roman Catholicism with French military occupation. The history of the reformation there is much about the breaking of this alliance. The history and politics of this time is complicated but out of the growing conflict the French sought to capture and imprison any protestant leaders they could find. Thus in 1547, about the time Henry VIII died, **Knox** was taken captive by French forces as he and other Protestants took refuge in Edinburg castle. He, now in his thirties was made a galley slave. Two years later he was released in a prisoner exchange and went back to Scotland to continue his ministry.

**Knox** was a very powerful preacher and had great influence over people and events by individual messages that came at pivotal times. His attacks on the Roman Catholic Mass were pointed:

***“Who burdened us with all these ceremonies, prescribed fasting, compelled chastity, unlawful vows, invocation of saints and with the idolatry of the Mass? The devil, the devil brethren...” (Whitley p47)***

The battle he was waging was not just about church doctrine and the correct understanding of Biblical teaching. With the prevailing entanglement of church and state, these issues struck at the heart of governing power structures. This is why the intensity of the confrontation with its militancy seems strange to us. Yet the battles in those decades were important and laid the foundation for our liberty to worship God in freedom today.

**Submitted by Chris Williams, March 2026**

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**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME CHANGE**

**\*\*\*\*\* MARCH 8 \*\*\*\*\***

**SPRING FORWARD**, if you go to bed at 10:00pm change your clock & watch to 11:00pm, (your iPhone, iPad and laptop will figure it out for themselves).

I'm always reminded of the quote, supposedly attributed to a wise old Indian chief – *“only a white man would cut one foot off one end of a blanket, sew it onto the other end and think he then had a longer blanket.”*

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**March Senior Ladies Luncheon**

The Ladies' 'Luncheon will be on Friday, March 13th at Trio's. The address is 10709 McMullen Creek Pkwy (off Hwy 51) at 11:15. Please let Dot Branson know that you plan to join us. We love to eat, talk, and celebrate!

**March Senior Men's Luncheon**

The CCC "Senior Men's Lunch" will be Friday, March 20th at 11:00 (arriving a little earlier helps us get parked and order by 11:15), at Park Place Restaurant 10517 Park Rd. Join us for a good, encouraging time gathered with your Christian brothers for great food and fellowship and Pastor Mo's devotional.

**Baby Blessings**

**Congratulations to Harry & Emma Ovey on the birth of their second son, Caleb James, on February 10<sup>th</sup>, weighing 8' 7 oz.**



*(Harry serves as a pastoral intern to the Senior Adults.)*

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**March 6<sup>th</sup> Senior Adults Luncheon**

**featuring Supported Workers**

**11:45 AM social/ 12 Noon Lunch**

**CLC 5&6, \$7/person**

**Menu: Chicken piccata with noodles, salad, bread, dessert**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0444A>

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Harriett Carney	Mar 04
Beth Sulzmann	Mar 06
Lisa Kinney	Mar 09
Diana Sylvester	Mar 11
Donn Toney	Mar 11
Norm Petty	Mar 12
Terry Crimm	Mar 14
David Pacey	Mar 16
Al Reinken	Mar 20
Michael Woodall	Mar 22
Ruth Whittington	Mar 24
Cameron Ely	Mar 27
Norma Kirkpatrick	Mar 27
Bill Kolinger Jr	Mar 29
Jane Price	Mar 31

Robert & Rosemary Adams	Mar 04
David & Karen Henry	Mar 06
Daniel & Barbara Daloia	Mar 08
Dale & Teresa Yurkovich	Mar 14
Joe & Judy Massengill	Mar 15
Joe & Lu Murray	Mar 16
Bill & Karen Grindstaff	Mar 17
Lance & Donna Whitehead	Mar 18
Joe & Pat Wall	Mar 20
Steve & Susan Sperry	Mar 21
Bruce & Jaye Hansen	Mar 29

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**MARCH SENIOR ADULT ACTIVITIES**

**Sunday School, Sundays, 9:00 am**  
**WC201/Choir Room**  
**Prayer Meetings, Tuesdays,**  
**7:00 – 8:30 pm, WC105**  
**March Luncheon, Friday, March 6**  
**11:45 am, CLC 5&6**  
**Ladies Luncheon, -- Friday, Mar 13,**  
**11:15am**  
**Trios Restaurant, McMullen Creek**  
**Men's Luncheon, Friday, Mar 20, 11:15 am,**  
**Park Place Restaurant**

**Save the Date:**  
**Fall Retreat @ Bonclarcken,**  
**October 13-17, 2026**