



It's A Wonderful Life!

Senior Adult Fellowship

April – May 2015

*Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion,
which cannot be shaken but endures forever.*

Psalm 125:1

In our last newsletter I wrote an article about trusting God when He interrupts our lives. I wanted to continue the theme of trust because I realize that there are so many times other than our lives being interrupted that we need to hold on to what we know to be true, to trust the One who is trustworthy. It may be when we are afraid, confused, dealing with grief, facing hard decisions, battling health issues, concerned about a family member or a whole host of other reasons.

Many of you may have the devotional book, “Jesus Calling”. I think this is my third time going through it because it speaks to me more than any other I have read. The reading for January 22 was so meaningful that I marked it and have looked back to it many times. I want to share with you what was written that day.

“Strive to trust Me in more and more areas of your life. Anything that tends to make you anxious is a growth opportunity. Instead of running away from these challenges, embrace them, eager to gain all the blessings I have hidden in the difficulties. If you believe that I am sovereign over every aspect of your life, it is possible to trust me in all situations. Don't waste energy regretting the way things are or thinking about what might have been. Start at the present moment – accepting things exactly as they are – and search for My way in the midst of those circumstances.

“Trust is like a staff you can lean on, as you journey uphill with Me. If you are trusting in Me consistently, the staff will bear as much of your weight as needed. Lean on, trust, and be confident in Me with all your heart and mind.”

I hope these words will encourage you as much as they did me. We are not promised a life of ease but rather are told that troubles will come. Those of us who have been living for some time know that this is true. I am so grateful that as children of God we are not left to struggle through life alone. Let's embrace those good times that the Lord allows us to enjoy and remember that we CAN TRUST HIM in the hard times.

Because He lives,
Carla Brown

The Chattanooga Guys ~ Barbershop Quartet~ April 9

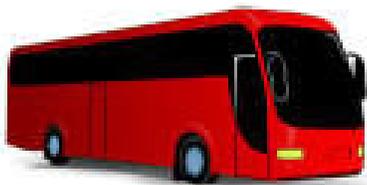
Come participate in the fun as The Chattanooga Guys join us for our April program. The Chattanooga Guys, a registered quartet since January, 2010 and a part of the bigger Choo Choo Chorus, will be performing their music in barbershop style. We'll be hearing old standards, gospel songs and some new arrangements as well.

Our programs begin with fellowship at 10:30 a.m. followed by the program at 11:00 a.m. and a delicious lunch at a cost of \$6. Please contact Janette Barnes (706-820-9029) or Rosa Wrenn (886-6349) for reservations.

Pickin' and Grinnin' and Chicken too! May 14

We end our 2014-2015 IAWL year with an "indoor picnic" at the church. Jim Palmour and Walter Forbes will entertain us with music from their guitars. You may remember Jim from last year when he joined Jay Craven. Be sure to come and join the fun.

On the Road Again ~April 16



Make plans and join us! ... Thursday, April 16th

It's A Wonderful Life! Spring Bus Trip

We will go to the 220-acre Gibbs Gardens in Ball Ground, Ga. Azaleas, dogwoods, ferns and daffodils will be blooming beautifully on Thursday, April 16th. Earlier we'll tour the magnificent 1923 pink marble Tate House in Tate, Ga., where we'll also have a lovely lunch.

We leave the Douglas Street lot at 8 a.m. and return at 6 p.m. The cost is \$75, which includes everything. Several seats still available so book yours today by calling David Cooper at 892-5550.



The Train ...

At birth we boarded the train and met our parents, and we believe they will always travel on our side. However, at some station our parents will step down from the train, leaving us on this journey alone.

As time goes by, other people will board the train; and they will be significant i.e. our siblings, friends, children, and even the love of our life.

Many will step down and leave a permanent vacuum. Others will go so unnoticed that we don't realize they vacated their seats. This train ride will be full of joy, sorrow, fantasy, expectations, hellos, goodbyes, and farewells. Success consists of having a good relationship with all passengers requiring that we give the best of ourselves.

The mystery to everyone is: We do not know at which station we ourselves will step down. So, we must live in the best way, love, forgive, and offer the best of who we are. It is important to do this because when the time comes for us to step down and leave our seat empty we should leave behind beautiful memories for those who will continue to travel on the train of life.

We thank each person for being one of the passengers on our train. Lastly, we thank God for this journey on the train of life.





April

- 2 Annette Craig
- 4 Gay Tucker
- 6 Sue Harrison
- 8 Lillian Barnett **“100 years old”**
Ron Kohlin
- 11 Barry Heywood
- 12 Mary Clark
- 13 Al Lutz
- 16 Rosemary Robertson
- 17 Doug Dennett
- 20 Freda Bell
Tom Hays
- 22 Marge Franklin
- 26 Connie Crawford

May

- 4 Dot Styers
- 6 Gil Knier
- 7 Pat Thatcher
Jean Hawkins
- 10 Carolyn Morrow
- 11 George Glass
- 15 Evelyn Bannister
- 16 Doug Powell
- 18 Kitty Stone
- 19 Paul Ritch
- 20 Fred Seepe
Carolyn Thatcher
- 21 Michael Myers
- 24 Bettye Seepe
- 25 John Barnes
Elizabeth Simonds
- 28 Anne Allen
Lamar Fossett
Joan Heywood
- 31 Betty Sue Watson



We extend our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of those who have passed away.

Family and friends of George Grant
 Dianne McKinnon, death of her son
 Shirley Deems, death of her sister
 Wilma Dietzen, death of her husband Bill
 Betty Winston, death of Ralph’s nephew
 George Glass, death of his cousin
 Herman Weaver, death of his wife Suzy
 Family and friends of Charlotte Blocker
 Family and friends of Helen McRee



- | | |
|--|-----------------|
| Gerry Allen | Lee Anderson |
| Betty Ball | Peggy Ballman |
| Gene Campbell | Cecil Culpepper |
| Wilma Dietzen | Bashie Evans |
| Bruce Gibson | Catherine Helms |
| Nancy Jones | Gil Knier |
| Doris Mantooth | Fred Moore |
| Bettye Seepe | Curtis Smith |
| Therese VanWickler | Martha Whaley |
| Mary Ruth Venable | Ruth Wolf |
| Paul & Joyce Ritch | Mary Wright |
| Rosemary Robertson | |
| Kay Sullivan's mother | |
| Floyd & Annette Craig's son | |
| Jay & Kathleen Craven | |
| Lennette Glass's sister Mary Ann | |
| Jane Fitzpatrick’s granddaughter | |
| Sarah Camp’s granddaughter | |
| Caregivers who lovingly care for loved ones. | |

Pastor's Prayer Corner

Sanctification and Beef Brisket

Romans 12:1 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.
Romans 12:2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Can you smell that? Yes, just reading the words “beef brisket” causes my mouth to water. Brisket is the poor man’s prime rib. Brisket is a relatively inexpensive cut of beef that has a tough, chewy texture. But by cooking it at a low temperature (200 degrees), for a long period of time (an hour per pound), along with a generous spice rub (kosher salt, pepper, cumin, oregano, chili powder, garlic powder...okay that’s all I can tell you of “The Right Reverend’s Rub” recipe) you will have a piece of meat that almost melts in your mouth. The layer of fat over the meat actually helps to tenderize it as it cooks, kind of a self baste.

Psalms 63:5 My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food,
and my mouth will praise you with joyful lips,

This lowly second cousin to the prime rib is now able to exceed it in flavor and is quite satisfying. If we were asked to select the meat that most represented our life, I’d pick the brisket. Of course, you vegetarians and vegans must select your tasty veggies from your garden. I speak of the brisket because during the cooking time the meat is literally transformed from tough to tender.

God works in our hearts in a similar way.

The eternal love of God touches our lives in His electing grace. And God’s eternal love is continuously manifested during our lives as He transforms us into the image of Jesus. Being transformed into the image of Jesus is a lifetime endeavor. The Holy Spirit initiates and completes the sanctification process within believers. He accomplishes this in our lives as we are baptized, read the Bible, pray, observe the Lord’s Supper, worship God together at church, and as we struggle together all while cooperate with God the Holy Spirit in obedience. Eugene Peterson calls this “A Long Obedience in the Same Direction.” Surely this is an intellectual endeavor, as God transforms our thinking with His word and Spirit, but it is much more than that. Sanctification engages us body and soul. A Christian’s growth in Jesus Christ is more than a mere academic experience of making sure that we read our Bible every day, even though reading our Bible everyday is an excellent spiritual discipline. We are actually changed or transformed over the years from the inside out as we behold Jesus (2 Corinthians 3:18) and continually live our lives in God’s care.

It is normal for the Holy Spirit to produce more of the fruit of the Spirit as we mature. For example, we literally become more humble. Sinclair Ferguson says, “Humility in Scripture is the fruit of grace, not of fear.” God’s love makes a person more humble. Humility isn’t that awkward feeling we get after we have sinned, causing us to mope around with our head down feeling like a failure. Humility isn’t feeling useless and insignificant because we sense that we are inferior to others. True humility grows in us over the years as we see how great and glorious God is, and then view our life in the light of His greatness. So be encouraged as we live our lives as sacrifices to God. He delights in His children as we, by His grace, are being sanctified. As we feel the heat of this life, realize that we are being transformed into the image of His Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ.

In His grip, Pastor Tim
Tim Tinsley
Senior Pastor

Praying Hands ...

Back in the fifteenth century, in a tiny village near Nuremberg, lived a family with eighteen children. Eighteen!

In order merely to keep food on the table for this mob, the father and head of the household, a goldsmith by profession, worked almost eighteen hours a day at his trade and any other paying chore he could find in the neighborhood.

Despite their seemingly hopeless condition, two of the elder children, Albrecht and Albert, had a dream. They both wanted to pursue their talent for art, but they knew full well that their father would never be financially able to send either of them to Nuremberg to study at the Academy.

After many long discussions at night in their crowded bed, the two boys finally worked out a pact. They would toss a coin. The loser would go down into the nearby mines and, with his earnings, support his brother while he attended the academy. Then, when that brother who won the toss completed his studies, in four years, he would support the other brother at the academy, either with sales of his artwork or, if necessary, also by laboring in the mines. They tossed a coin on a Sunday morning after church. Albrecht Durer won the toss and went off to Nuremberg.

Albert went down into the dangerous mines and, for the next four years, financed his brother, whose work at the academy was almost an immediate sensation. Albrecht's etchings, his woodcuts, and his oils were far better than those of most of his professors, and by the time he graduated, he was beginning to earn considerable fees for his commissioned works.

When the young artist returned to his village, the Durer family held a festive dinner on their lawn to celebrate Albrecht's triumphant homecoming. After a long and memorable meal, punctuated with music and laughter, Albrecht rose from his honored position at the head of the table to drink a toast to his beloved brother for the years of sacrifice that had enabled Albrecht to fulfill his ambition. His closing words were, "And now, Albert, blessed brother of mine, now it is your turn. Now you can go to Nuremberg to pursue your dream, and I will take care of you."

All heads turned in eager expectation to the far end of the table where Albert sat, tears streaming down his pale face, shaking his lowered head from side to side while he sobbed and repeated, over and over, "No... no... no... no."

Finally, Albert rose and wiped the tears from his cheeks. He glanced down the long table at the faces he loved, and then, holding his hands close to his right cheek, he said softly, "No, brother. I cannot go to Nuremberg. It is too late for me. Look... Look what four years in the mines have done to my hands! The bones in every finger have been smashed at least once, and lately I have been suffering from arthritis so badly in my right hand that I cannot even hold a glass to return your toast, much less make delicate lines on parchment or canvas with a pen or a brush. No, brother... for me it is too late."

More than 450 years have passed. By now, Albrecht Durer's hundreds of masterful portraits, pen and silver-point sketches, water colors, charcoals, woodcuts, and copper engravings hang in every great museum in the world, but the odds are great that you, like most people, are familiar with only one of Albrecht Durer's works. More than merely being familiar with it, you very well may have a reproduction hanging in your home or office.

One day, to pay homage to Albert for all that he had sacrificed, Albrecht Durer painstakingly drew his brother's abused hands with palms together and thin fingers stretched skyward. He called his powerful drawing simply "Hands," but the entire world almost immediately opened their hearts to his great masterpiece and renamed his tribute of love "The Praying Hands." The next time you see a copy of that touching creation, take a second look. Let it be your reminder, that no one - no one - ever makes it alone!



**It's A Wonderful Life!
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This newsletter is prayerfully prepared for:

