

# BETWEEN SEEDTIME AND HARVEST



**Senior Adults Newsletter  
Christ Covenant Church  
September, 2017**

## GRACE TO YOU

by  
Pastor Bruce Creswell

### “They Still Bear Fruit in Old Age”

Marjorie suggested that I write a letter to my home church on the celebration of its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. What a great idea, why didn't I think of that myself? The first weekend in September, Halethorpe Community Church will host a 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. They have planned a series of events to commemorate the founding of the church and even have two hotels with special rates for outside guests. Over the next few days, my mind began to roll through the file cabinet of memories from 1963-1972. There were so many memories to sort through and then deciding what to include and how to compose it.

In expressing my regret of not being able to participate in the celebration, I opened with the words of Psalm 103:2, “*Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.*” The tidal wave of memories began to fan out to a smooth flowing stream of thanksgiving. My great-grandmother was an early member and her son, my grandfather, was the manager of the bowling alley where the church met in its early days. Then I recounted how the Lord used the church in my life.

In the summer of 1964, I went to church camp at Mt. View Bible Camp, and that very first night (August 2, 1964), the counselor shared the Gospel and though there were others in the cabin, it was like I was the only one and the Lord showed me my sinfulness and the price of love He paid on the Cross. I was never the same again! Momma wanted me to have good role models in my life and enrolled me in Christian Service Brigade (Christian boy scouts). Over the next six years, my faith was being molded by both instruction of the Word and by the example of Christian manhood as was found in Gene Hayden, Wilson Kent, and Al Heger. In 1972, three of us, Craig Kempton, Jeff Riecke, and myself, received the highest award in Boy's Brigade, the Herald of Christ.

I then shifted my thankfulness to how the Lord used the “whole” church in my growing up years. My vision for missions and the need of getting the Gospel out was reinforced every year with our mission's conference. Every crook and cranny of the church was transformed to focus on some part of the world. I remember the white polar bear up front in the church and the big balloons hanging down from the rafters! The speakers were top notch; we had many outside people to attend the conference.

That led me to reflect on the midweek prayer meeting. What a great classroom to be schooled in prayer as our folks gathered to pray. Starting out as a middle schooler, I prayed silently not quite ready to pray out loud. Eventually, I began to join those who did pray aloud. There was another school of prayer that I attended; it was at the home of Mrs. Mamie Houston, where I did her yardwork and washed her hardwood floors. Before I left to return home, we would get down on our knees and she would pray and pray and pray! We came into the

presence of God and had a direct conversation with Him! She prayed me through high school and college, prayed for me a wife and prayed me to my first church. Mrs. Houston was truly a great prayer warrior.

My foundation for God-honoring worship was formed in those early days. I remember Mrs. Catherine Henry on the organ, Mrs. Romaine Evans on the piano, and Mr. Otto Menn leading the singing, and there was always solid Biblical exposition. With great affection, I remember our interim pastor, Dr. Edgar Reibetanz, a man of the Word. His love for the hymns of the church rubbed off on me. The hymnal became my practical theology book, reinforcing the truths of God's Word in my life.

There were a number of senior adults at Halethorpe who were instrumental in my growing in the faith. Mr. Wilson Kent played the piano for the Men's Bible Class and was a leader in Boy's Brigade. One summer, I seriously considered dropping out of Boy's Brigade. Not knowing that, Mr. Kent waved me over to his house and told me how much he was looking forward to seeing me in the fall at Boy's Brigade. The Lord used his words of encouragement to keep me from dropping out. I cannot think what would have happened if he not spoken those words.

There was Mrs. Frank Phipps, one of the original members of the church. She lived across the street from me and became my first employer; I became her gardener, lawn keeper, and handyman. She taught me so much and I have great memories of her. She was almost 102 when she died in 1992 and it was an honor to have part in her funeral.

There was a group of 12 senior adults, who called themselves, "The Disciples." They met for prayer and Bible study on Saturday nights. Included in that group were Willie and Myrtle Fulkoske, Leonard and Violet Truitt, Kent and Mary Keene, Lorraine Murray and Clarke Poole, and Ethel Coffran. They prayed for me and loved on me as one of their own. They took me to Sandy Cove, Word of Life Camp, and the Christian Admiral and on numerous picnics.

There is another couple that bears mention, Marjorie and Carrow Tolson. All the way till their death we stayed in touch. I met Carolyn through them. They were humble and godly people. All through my college years and into my pastorates, they were a constant source of encouragement.

What shall I say, there are so many others whose lives reflected Jesus Christ and have spurred me on to love and good works. The steadfastness of faith that I witnessed as a young man in those who are now with the Lord, has served to encourage me and remind me to be faithful throughout my ministry.

Drawing my letter to a close, I mentioned my ministry as pastor to the senior adults at Christ Covenant Church. There is a saying that "people are the same everywhere, only the names are different!" I look out in the senior adult community here and I see those who remind me of the folks that I grew up with at Halethorpe Community Church.

There is one senior adult, who is a member here, who was at Halethorpe Community Church when I was there, *Marjorie Kempton*. What a rare privilege to pastor someone who was active in the church where I grew up. In fact, Marjorie Kempton was also at church camp the week I was saved in 1964! Her presence and active involvement at 93 years old is a blessed reminder of the Lord's goodness.

As I look back over the host of senior adults who "reinvested" in a young boy over 50 years ago, they are still having "fruit" accrediting to their account in Heaven. Whatever fruit has abounded from the ministry which the Lord has called me to, those seniors have part in the reaping. Their "reinvestment" in me was out of love for their Lord and for me, not for rewards or recognition. I did appreciate all that they did for me at the present, but I am more appreciative of what they did for me because of where I am today in my walk with the Lord.

So may I encourage all of you who are "reinvesting" in the lives of others to "*not grow weary in well doing, for in due season we will reap if we do not give up*" (Galatians 6:9). Remember the words of C.T. Studd, "*Only one life twill soon be past, only what's done for Christ will last.*"

Thank You Lord for Halethorpe Community Church!  
Thank you, Marjorie for your suggestion.

## HYMN HISTORY

by  
Peggy Dear

### JESUS LOVES EVEN ME

I am so glad that my Father in heaven  
Tells of His love in the Book He has given;  
Wonderful things in the Bible I see,  
This is the dearest, that Jesus loves me.

*I am so glad that Jesus loves me,  
Jesus loves me, Jesus loves me.  
I am so glad that Jesus loves me,  
Jesus loves even me.*

Though I forget Him and wander away,  
Still He doth love me wherever I stray;  
Back to His dear loving arms would I flee  
When I remember that Jesus loves me.

O if there's only one song I can sing  
When in His beauty I see the great King,  
This shall my song through eternity be:  
"O what a wonder that Jesus loves me!"

Philip Bliss, the author of this gospel song, had attended a service in which the song, "Oh, How I Love Jesus" had been sung over and over again. He had nothing against that song, but he thought, *Haven't I been singing enough about my poor love for Jesus? Shouldn't I rather sing of His great love for me?* Then thinking about Romans 5:5, which speaks of how dearly God loves us, he wrote "**Jesus Loves Even Me.**"

A few years later, a woman in Scotland told of how God had used this hymn to win her husband to Christ. Her three year old daughter couldn't remember much of the song, but she remembered the line, "Jesus loves even me." The mother had tried to get her husband to attend an evangelistic meeting, but he refused. Then one day when he came home from work, he was met by his little daughter. He picked her up, and she threw her arms around him, saying, "Daddy, Jesus loves even me." She paused and then added, "And, Daddy, Jesus loves even you." The father was touched by the simple words. He attended the meetings and gave his heart to Jesus.

## JOY SINGERS

by  
Hilda Torres



Joy is a state of happiness which comes from the Lord. It is a spiritual experience. "*These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.*" John [15:11](#).

Joy, joy to the world.....!!! It is with joy that the youngest (seniors) in church meet every Monday afternoon to sing praises to the Lord, in the prayer chapel. It has been a pleasure since I retired to join this group of happy joyful singers.

Our sister Pam transmits her joy as she plays the piano for us to raise our voices in song to the Lord. Breathing exercises is our warm up along with prayers. Prayers that the Lord God Almighty answers, almost instantly, I would say. One day we were only 3 or 4 and Pam said "Let's pray for more people to come." As we were praying, more people started arriving. It was a real testimony of the Lord's power.

I encourage you to come and join the most joyful group you can imagine. Besides the singing, we pray, laugh a lot, and certainly, once in a while, share snacks. There is no age requirement to singing praises to the Lord God Almighty. Your spirit will be filled with Joy, the joy of the Lord.

Rehearsals begin on Monday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, in the WC Prayer Chapel from 1:30 – 2:30 pm. We would love to have you join us!

### SUNDAY MORNING STUDIES

**Chris Williams** will finish teaching the series on the Book of Romans.

Following that, **Pastor Bruce** will be teaching from the book of Numbers.

We look forward to these studies which are so inspiring and uplifting for our daily walk with Jesus.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

by  
Fran Wise

**Angela and Bob Parlante** have been a part of our class for a short time. They are affectionately called 'A and B' by Bruce. Bob is a retired pastor from New Jersey.

They have two daughters and sons-in-law at Christ Covenant—Lisa and Fritz Menchinger and family and Christa and Paul Walther and family. Their granddaughter, Abby Minnick, is on staff at Christ Covenant with Campus Outreach. Their son and daughter-in-law and three grandchildren are still in New Jersey where their son is a church planter.

They live in the same neighborhood as Stephen and Roma Thompson. They are looking forward to making more friends and participating in our activities.

**La Trell Ross** is a friend of Alona Weddine. She discovered two former high school classmates at a recent summer luncheon for ladies—Judy Pinkard and Pat Moore.

La Trell is one of the ladies who works in the children's ministry to provide care for the children of ladies who attend a weekday or evening Bible study. She also provides child care for Sunday evening service. We are most grateful for her care of our covenant children.

She has two sons and three grandsons.

She has chosen Christ Covenant as her new church home and we welcome her to our family.

**Linda Avery** has recently retired from the healthcare industry and is settling into new routines for this time in her life.

She has a son who lives in the Matthews area.

She enjoys traveling, gardening and photography.

She has been a member of Christ Covenant for 20 years and joins good friends such as Liz West, Dot Branson, Paul and Peggy Dvorak and she is looking forward to making new friends in our class.

**Pat Moore** joined our class several months ago, and shortly thereafter had a double total knee replacement. She has now fully recovered and is looking forward to becoming more active in the class.

She has two sons who live in the area and five grandchildren which is shown by her email address 'pats5gk@'.

She retired from her job as accountant and bookkeeper in 2013.

She lives on the same street in Indian Trail as Nellie White, a member of our class.

We hope you will take time to find these new members and welcome them with southern hospitality.

## FALL SENIOR RETREAT

Fort Caswell Conference Center  
100 Caswell Beach Rd.  
Oak Island, NC 28465 (near Southport, NC)

Tuesday, October 24<sup>th</sup> – Friday, October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Cost: \$225.00

Speaker: Mike Ross

Cost includes 3 nights lodging, dinner on Tuesday, breakfast and dinner on Wednesday and Thursday, and breakfast on Friday morning. Deposits of \$115.00 were due to Dave and Lucille Ruths on August 20<sup>th</sup> and the balance is due on Sunday, September 25<sup>th</sup>. Checks should be made out to Christ Covenant Church.

## ENFOLD COMMITTEE

by  
Fran Wise

*"Hello, my name is Fred, welcome to our class."*

Do you feel welcomed when you come to our Sunday School Class? That was the question on the minds of several seniors in the Coram Deo Class a few years ago.

From that question came the vision of the 'Enfold Committee'. To enfold means to welcome, to embrace and to get to know. As a result, a group of dedicated seniors put into place several activities which would assist our class in enfolding new and current members.

Our first task was to start having two greeters at our entrance every Sunday. This group has contributed greatly to the first step of enfolding.

The next area addressed was Fellowship luncheons/dinners where a small group of seniors meet in homes for a delicious meal and Christian fellowship. These now meet twice a year with excellent participation.

We also set up homebound visitation and follow up care. Active class members are paired with those in need of that care.

Our committee members formulate and carry out the plans for the first Friday luncheon for all seniors. We meet nine times a year.

In addition we started the ladies second Friday luncheons which are held at different restaurants where we celebrate all the birthdays of that month.

This group also supports the Bless Back Ministry by collecting and cleaning empty prescription bottles. These are brought each Sunday and subsequently taken four times a year by members of Christ Covenant to a medical clinic in Haiti. We bring 200+ bottles a month which results in considerable savings for the ministry.

Bruce's vision for compiling short autobiographical stories into a notebook was realized in September 2015 when our 'Senior Stories' were published with 50 life stories, and other writings by our class members. As of this writing, we have 62 life stories. It is a treasure, and we encourage others to add their life stories.

Lastly, our members work together to make and carry out plans for the Christmas Dinner. It is the most anticipated event of the year, which includes music, a speaker, and delicious food.

*"Good Morning, my name is Sam. Thank you for welcoming me to your class."*

We express thanks to the following seniors for their participation and help with the above tasks:

### Enfold Committee:

Bruce Creswell  
Jennifer Dean  
Dot Branson  
Miriam Jones  
Mary Newton  
Ruth Mangum  
Dave Ruths  
Lucille Ruths  
Beth Sulzmann  
Liz West  
Fran Wise  
Hugh Wise  
Jane Yancey

### Greeters:

Dot Branson  
Buddy Cole  
Fran DiAndrea  
Barbara Kinney  
Fred Kinney  
Bob Smith  
Alona Weddine  
Jane Williams  
Ted Williams  
Hugh Wise  
Jane Yancey

### Bless Back Ministry:

Fran DiAndrea  
Paul Dvorak  
Peggy Dvorak  
Joe Morris  
Roma Thompson  
Mary Webb  
Jane Williams  
Fran Wise

## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS



1	Mary Webb
6	Frances Lee
14	Jerry Pinkard
15	Bernie Coleman
17	Toni Broome
18	Ora Johnson
18	Lou Walters
20	Carolyn Creswell
20	Jane Fryling
20	Betty Hough
23	Linda Eppley
23	Tom Hopkins
23	Susan Sperry
24	Jim Stoudenmeier
29	Ann Hopkins
29	Carol Zachary

### 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 Creswell4

[bcreswell@christcovenant.org](mailto:bcreswell@christcovenant.org)

Study: (704) 708-6106

### Jennifer Dean, Assistant to Pastor Bruce:

[jdean@christcovenant.org](mailto:jdean@christcovenant.org)

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### Newsletter Editor:

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### Christ Covenant Church

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Matthews, NC 28105

## SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARY



10 Russ and Linda Eppley

### LOW COUNTRY BOIL and BURGER BAR

**Friday, September 15<sup>th</sup>  
5:00 pm**

in the Youth Area of the CLC

\$10.00 per person  
to be given to Dot Branson  
by September 3<sup>rd</sup>

The food will be delicious with  
sweet tea and fellowship.

### LADIES LUNCHEON

**Friday, September 8<sup>th</sup>  
11:30 am**

Trio's Restaurant  
10709 McMullen Parkway  
Charlotte, NC (*off Highway 51*)

Please join us for a great lunch  
and sweet fellowship.

### MEN'S LUNCH

**Friday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>  
11:30 am**

Park Place Restaurant  
10517 Park Road, Charlotte