

PRIME-TIMERS

News and Views for Senior Adults at Waterview Church of Christ

Editor: Betty Sue Hunter

Feature Editor: Gloria Black

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

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Shirley Oler		3-03
Fran Yanigan		3-03
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Ann Scott		3-06
Lester Balcom		3-08
Lee White		3-12
Bill Smith		3-12
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Roy Davis		3-16
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June Lewter		3-18
Sarah Ard		3-19
Charla Stigers		3-20
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Howard Ryals		3-30
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Charles Franklin	3-31	

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

Durwood & Louise Pickle	3-16-91
John & Darlene Hodge	3-19-48
Ken & Eudena Sewell	3-20-54

PRIMETIMERS LUNCHEON

Our monthly luncheon will be in the South Wing on Sunday, February 17, after morning worship. Please bring a dish and come enjoy the good food and fellowship.

SPEAK UP! I CAN'T HEAR YOU!

If you are hearing impaired or know someone who is, you should be made aware that the State of Texas will assist you in receiving a special telephone that will aid you at no cost! If you are interested in finding out more about this, contact Lester Balcom at 972-396-5063.

BILL AND COO

(2008 Valentine from Gloria Black)

Love, we were such a pair, you and I, that
When it came time for us to say "Goodbye"
We couldn't find the words,
And we just sat like two Love-Birds—
You with your wing around my shoulder,
My head upon your chest.
We just sat there growing older, defying
Trouble to bring struggle to our love nest.
I wanted to say how you lifted me
And made my heart soar,
With you God had gifted me,
And I could not ask for more.
Our songs are just the sweetest to recall;
But we both knew that the "Swan's Song"
Is the final song for all.

SPRING FLING

The Spring Fling will be Saturday, March 1, 6 p.m., in the South Wing. Come and enjoy the fellowship, entertainment and food. Sign-ups will be at the transaction counter. Be sure to sign up so we can prepare enough food.

RELATIVELY SPEAKING
(Velma Reagan-A Lifetime of Ministering to Her “Kindred” Spirits)

Velma Reagan was born in Sweetwater, Texas, and schooled in Ralls, Crosbyton, Lamesa and Lubbock. Daddy, Jesse Ross, was a cotton ginner; and they moved a lot. Mama, Lucy, was blessed with four girls and two boys. As the baby, Velma says she was “picked on” by her siblings—teasing with amusing capers like dressing her up in Grama’s clothes and shoving her into view of visitors. She took all of this as normal.

Her mother was a homemaker and proud of her brood reared in town. Her kids were once written up in the paper because all six had not missed a single day of attendance and were not once tardy. Velma went to Lubbock High and Texas Tech and taught school for two years in Muleshoe. She burned out early and quickly shook the dust of the educational system. Twenty-seven years later she retired from the Continental Insurance Company in Dallas as a statistician.

Velma came to seek her fortune in Dallas, where she met the love of her life, Bill Reagan. He had been a pilot in World War II and was employed by American Air Lines. She keeps a bulging box of his medals—The Bronze Star, American Theatre Ribbons and his Purple Heart. She said he was handsome beyond belief –polite, intelligent, with a terrific sense of humor and a dynamite smile. He attended Denton Teacher’s College and Texas A&M and retired as a real estate broker. After 47 years of marriage, he died in March 1998. His military funeral was a family affair, too. Bill’s nephew conducted the service, Velma’s nephew assisted and her brother handled interment.

She still resides in their lovely first home on Scottsdale in Richardson. They were childless, but her relatives filled their lives with special needs and excitement. Her family is loaded with ministers—brother Bob is a retired minister and two of his sons are Church of Christ ministers, one in Minco, Oklahoma, and one in Friendswood. In the end, the kid who was teased and displayed held all the hands, executed wills and attended all the funerals and reunions.

Her sister, Nita, phones her every day from Lubbock. “Velma, when are you coming to see me?” “I just got back from seeing you, Nita.” “Well, come tomorrow.” “I can’t, it’s too far.” “Well, how far is it?” “330 miles.” “Oh, well I’ll see you tomorrow then.”

The last Christmas Velma went to Nita’s house, the nephew and wife, Cindy, were to bring the presents and food, but Roger got sick and they couldn’t come. Few groceries had been bought, the weather was terrible and “I thought we were going to starve to death”; but two days later the package arrived and they had a great Christmas.

Velma still keeps in touch with Bill’s relatives in Georgia, Oklahoma and Texas and makes all the reunions. Bill’s aunt was given a 100th birthday party, and that spry lady had over 100 guests show up (no small feat when contemporaries are gone). Bill’s niece’s mother died and the niece latched onto Velma for mothering. She calls every week between Nita’s calls.

When Velma went to visit her brothers, she went to the UFO Museum in Roswell, New Mexico; and she is convinced there is something up in the sky besides clouds.

She has a niece who is getting her Master’s Degree in Colorado Springs. She met a gentleman friend on the internet who is getting his PhD in New York. They were going to get married through the mail, but sanity prevailed and they were married in Colorado by her Dad, who is a minister.

Velma makes candy for the Richardson Police and Parks departments every year at Christmas. Sometimes they get anxious and call to see if she’s well and if the goodies are forthcoming. “Don’t worry,” assures Velma, “I can sandwich you in between my trips to Lubbock!”

--Gloria Black

LIVE A LIFE OF LOVE

One never knows what tomorrow may bring, so live life to its fullest today.
Enjoy the treasures that God gives you and never give in to dismay.
Don't let the dark clouds get you down, be happy and carefree in mind,
Each dark cloud has a silver lining that He will help you find.
Always look for the good in others; life will hold happiness for you.
Love and goodness will always make dark skies a brighter blue.
Love each other as God has loved you and peace you will have to share.
Know that whatever tomorrow brings you will be safe in God's loving care.
Walking down life's road, I have found so many lovely things to see,
Simple worthwhile gifts of God that can't be bought by you or me.
The warmth you feel when someone smiles, the brightness of Heaven's stars above,
And God's greatest gift of all, so warm and free, His everlasting love.

His love in the Smile Greeters' faces shows not only His love, but His greatness, too.
Our love and a smile,
Hattie D and Nina

MEDICATION

A distraught senior citizen called his doctor's office. "Is it true," he wanted to know, "that the medication you prescribed has to be taken for the rest of my life?" "Yes, I'm afraid so," the doctor told him. There was a moment of silence before the senior gentleman replied, "I'm wondering then just how serious my condition is because I noticed the prescription bottle is marked, "NO REFILLS"!"

REQUIREMENTS

God can find us in sorrow's deepest well.
He can snatch us from disaster's plunge.
He can keep us from the fires of hell,
And all our sins expunge.

God can help us bear all pain.
He can turn our lives around—
Make all losses into gain,
And put our feet on higher ground.

But we must pray for Faith, His gift;
And emerge in the font of Life
To feel the force of an angel's lift
And relief from earthly strife.

With Faith we gather Hope and Love,
And pursue prescribed commands.
We assume the spirit of the dove,
And share His word in all the lands.

--Gloria Black

SENIOR'S PRAYER

Oh, God we ask not for easier tasks,

We ask for stronger aptitudes and greater talents to meet the tasks that come our way.
Help us to help others so that their lives may be made easier and happier.
Strengthen our confidence in our fellow man.
Give us strength to live according to the Golden Rule and enthusiasm to inspire those around us.
Give us sympathy to lighten the burdens of those who suffer
And a spirit of joy and gladness to share with others.
Amen

START NOW, KEEP GOING, NEVER QUIT

Recently a lady of 102 years who had been golfing since her twenties made a hole in one on Bidwell Park Gold Course in Chico, California. Elsie McClain searched for the ball a bit before one of her friends found it in the bottom of the cup.

As we go through the stages of life, many things distract us from our goals. This is especially true in the Lord's service.

When we are young, we might think that we cannot make a difference—we will have to wait until we grow up. Sometimes this attitude is reinforced by dismissive adults. Paul had a different perspective when he wrote to young Timothy, "Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but rather in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity, show yourself an example of those who believe." (1Timothy 4:12)

When we reach adulthood and start a career or a family, we may think ourselves too busy to serve God, considering all our other responsibilities. Jesus said concerning those obligations, "Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you." (Matthew 6:33)

When we get the kids reared or we retire, perhaps we get the notion that it is time to sit back and take our ease---despite the extra time available. The Lord reproves us: "Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life." (Revelation 2:10)

At whatever stage in life you are—when it comes to Heaven's work—start now, keep going, and never quit.

Robb Hadley

I USED EVERYTHING

When I stand before God at the end of my life
I would hope that I would have not a single
Bit of talent left and could say,
"I used everything you gave me."
--Erma Bombeck

"Love comforteth like sunshine after rain." ---William Shakespeare

