

PRIME-TIMERS

News and Views for Senior Adults at Waterview Church of Christ

Editor: Betty Sue Hunter

Feature Editor: Gloria Black

-Senior News, Jan. 2008

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PRESCRIPTION FOR AGING WELL

Contribute your talents to the world.
Nurture your sense of humor.
Have interests outside yourself.
Deal with anger and let it go.
Invite young people into your life.
Be feisty.
Stay connected with friends and family.
Always remember what it's like to play.

MY FAVORITE THINGS

Julie Andrews

To commemorate her 69th birthday, actress/vocalist Julie Andrews made a special appearance at Manhattan's radio City Music Hall for the benefit of the AARP. Following is one of the numbers she performed from the "Sound of Music," with the lyrics she used:

Maalox and nose drops and needles for knitting,
Walkers and handrails and new dental fittings,
Bundles of magazines tied up in string, these are
a few of my favorite things.

Cadillac's, cataracts, hearing aids and glasses,
Polident and Fixodent and false teeth in glasses,
Pacemakers, golf carts and porches with swings,
these are a few of my favorite things.

When the pipes leak, when the bones creak,
when the knees go bad, I simply remember my
favorite things, and then I don't feel so bad.

Hot tea and crumpets and corn pads for bunions,
No spicy hot food or food cooked with onions,
Bathrobes and heating pads and hot meals they
bring, These are a few of my favorite things.

Back pains, confused brains, and no need for
sinnin', and we won't mention our short
shrunk frames, when we remember our
favorite things.

When the joints ache, when the hips break, when
the eyes grow dim, Then I remember the great
life I've had, And then I don't feel so bad.

-Submitted by Gene Perkins

BABY DAY AT WATERVIEW

Fourteen new babies at Waterview and their families were honored on Sunday, January 27, 2008, during the morning worship service and at a luncheon that followed. Those babies honored were: Travis Adkins, Rayna Chang, Corwin Couch, Andrew Foster, Mateo Giovanni Gentile, Andris Stasys Heft, Holly Elizabeth Hill, Carter Jackson Kirby, Cyrus Hunter Lauderdale, Bekah Ayane Emmali Marr, Alexandra Elizabeth Reeves, Ava Robertson, Addison Michelle Shepherd, and Lucas Philip Singleton.

HOPEFUL NOTES

Public Broadcasting has done it again! On February 28th, they showed the New York Phil-harmonic Orchestra under the baton of Loren Mazaal playing in the Great Hall of North Korea. This is the first friendly nod in decade from this secretive self-contained nation.

They showed the immaculate streets and disciplined people; but the tall buildings were not lit up at night to save electricity. They showed thousands of students in colorful costumes doing interesting synchronized acrobatics for their leaders to watch approvingly from high balconies. They say their leader is a wonderful orator, but he never speaks. After 900 invasions to their country, they trust no one.

The North Korean anthem was played first, then ours. The audience stood in silence and then applauded with polite reservation. The “New World Symphony: which includes our adaptation of “Going home, going home—I’m just going home” may not have moved them; but I sure teared up. Gershwin’s “American in Paris” seemed to please them, and they appeared to GET IT! They loved a spirited Russian piece and stood up in appreciation.

There were side-snippets on the TV piece showing Diane Sawyer trying to elicit some off-beat asides from the High School class; but the kids were totally indoctrinated and only smiled politely and sang their country’s praises. The reporters were not allowed to interview in the country-side (where thousands are said to be starving half the time). This Country is totally isolated from the rest of the world, and the people exude at least a superficial joy in their independence from foreign influences.

The orchestra played the “Candide Overture” in memory of Leonard Bernstein as an encore piece and then “AIRUNG,” a Korean native folk song which they adored.

Hopefully our symphonic visit will breach some psychological gap that might bridge a political chasm and prove that music is indeed the universal language that will some day bring a dialog of mutual cooperation.

North Korea will go to London to play next. There is hope to be noted. It is a thing of wonder and a wonderful thing.

-Gloria Black

A BLACK ROSE

A request has been made by one of our PrimeTimers to profile Gloria Black, our beloved feature editor who delights everyone with her prose and poetry in our newsletter each month.

Gloria Rose Black was born in Ironton, Ohio, in 1930—just in time for the Great Depression-- to Carlene and Harry Von Kennel. She was educated at Chillicothe High School, Bowling Green State University and Ohio State University. She spent 15 years working at Southwestern Life Insurance Company and 13 years at Behavioral Sciences Research Press.

She has lived in Ohio, Kentucky and Texas and vacationed in New York City, Canada and Cumberland Falls, Kentucky.

Gloria enjoys playing bridge, bad poetry, books, music, her children and grandchildren, and feature writing for our PrimeTimers newsletter. She is a member of Red Hatters and a valuable contributor to our Wednesday morning Ladies Bible Study class. She also “loves opera and flying kites.”

While visiting a girl friend when she was in the 8th grade, she met her future husband, John Anderson Black. John and her friend’s brother were supposed to “kid-sit” them; but they went out the front door to see girl friends while she and her friend went out the back door to watch the “divine” Jon Gant play the pinball machine at Machant’s candy store. Seven years later they met again at a sledding party, and things just went downhill from there. They were married in 1951.

They had 3 children—Chris, Dave and Phil, who Gloria says “raised us really well.” She acts as the Easter Bunny each year, and she delights in having her 7 grandchildren come to her place with their parents to hunt Easter eggs, eat ham, sweet potatoes, deviled eggs and bunny cake. She said one rabbit cake she made looked so vicious they called him the “Rabbit from Hell.” She stated that she hopes the Bunny can rise to the occasion this year, as she is getting long in the tooth!

John and Gloria were married for 49 years, but he fell victim to Parkinson’s disease and passed away in 2000. Observers at Waterview remember the constant, loving care she gave him until the end.

Gloria was reared Catholic, but she has been a member of the Church of Christ at Waterview for 20 years. Her contributions to our newsletter have been awesome, and our thanks are unending (as we hope her articles will be).

-Betty Sue Hunter

YOU NEVER KNOW

Phil Sanders

You never know when someone observed an act or heard a message or allowed a seed planted in his or her heart to grow. You may go for years thinking that you have failed to reach or touch someone you love, only to find that your love and efforts have made a difference.

When should we quit praying for the lost? Never. When should we decide that someone will never come to know the truth? Never. When should we give up on the wayward? Never. When should we quit reaching out to others? Never. You never know.

God works when we sleep (Mark 4:26-29). The events of this life can touch people in ways that we never imagined. We must not lose heart that God is able to open doors for the Word in ways we don't understand (Acts 14:27). Rather than trust only what we see, let us trust God to work His will in this world.

You never know when you forgive another what good may come from it. You never know when you give another a second chance or go a second mile what opportunity for good may arise. You never know when you hold your tongue from evil what door you may keep open for another time.

You never know how a call or a card or an encouraging word may lift a spirit, may give a little hope, or may comfort a broken heart.

You just never know. But we can know one thing: every good thing we do makes a difference to someone. Our labor for the Lord is never in vain (1 Cor. 15:58). It may not change a life, but it could change an attitude. It may not reach a soul, but it could move that person a little closer to the Lord.

Paul said, "Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary" (Gal. 6:9). It is easy to assume that because nothing visible is happening that nothing is happening at all. It may be the case that something marvelous is happening, but we don't know it yet. Some things take time.

-Search Magazine, Jan. 2008

QUOTES

People can live through hardship, but from hard feelings they perish.

-Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

In the final analysis, the one quality that all successful people have...is the ability to take on responsibility.

- Michael Korda, Publisher