Pastor’s Pen by Nathan Custer

The Spiritual Discipline of Aging

Have you ever looked at a kindergartener and thought, “Oh to have THOSE problems again! Yes indeed -- when the worst part of the day was the teacher taking away the glue stick I was about to eat – THOSE were the days!” Ha! Aging puts things in perspective in a way that other things can’t. You look forward to getting older so that you can have more freedom and self-determination, only to learn the cruel lesson that eventually our bodies wear out and limit our freedom and create increasing dependency on others! I’m reminded of the challenges of aging when it’s extra cold outside....and when the Super Bowl players look younger and younger to me...!

When I began church ministry in my early twenties I thought that by the time I was 85 or so I would be the most amazing person ever – perfectly kind and loving and encouraging all the time, having grown spiritually so much that I was nearly Christ-like. I later learned that I didn’t realize the number of obstacles life throws at us as we age. Friends and family and pets die. Illnesses come and linger. Injuries occur and don’t fully heal. Bones and eyes and ears weaken. And Satan, well, he loves it. Some of his best work is done on and through us when we thought we’d be beyond his temptations. I underestimated the rigor of the journey of life that is more akin to a hiking trail that looks steep at first, seems to level off a little bit, only to take a sharp turn into the steepest climb just as we’re getting tired.

So fellow traveler, I pray for you to have strength for today, taking one day of time, not worrying about tomorrow since it will have its own
troubles *that don’t need to be faced yet*. 2 Thessalonians 3:3 says “But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen you and protect you from the evil one.” If you never were weak you would miss out on the experience of God strengthening and protecting you! 2 Corinthians 12:9 says, “he said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.” Declare Christ’s power in your areas of greatest weakness – right now – literally declare it – NOW – for He is ready to help NOW! Sometimes you have to participate in faith via your declaration and prayers and belief, so do not delay. Today is your day to receive the strengthening of God’s Spirit!
FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2  Catherine Smallwood
   Mary Gallogly
4  Ronnie Ardrey
6  Barb Herron
   Barb Gray
13  May Parrott
16  Martha Smith
18  Elaine Mohler
24  Judy Fisher
   Carolyn Ardrey
25  Sue Graham

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

6  Larry & Debbie George

You still have time to purchase Marysville Winter Bluegrass Concert Series Tickets for only $90! That's right - all four shows at a discounted rate!

This offer is only good until the night of the first concert Michael Cleveland & Flamekeeper on 2/18/2022.

Michael Cleveland & Flamekeeper - February 18th 2022
Rhonda Vincent & The Rage - March 18th 2022
Jo Mullins & The Radio Ramblers - April 1st 2022 (Rescheduled date)
Larry Sparks & The Lonesome Rambler - April 22nd 2022
We came to Marysville in 1985. We were in our fifties. Maybe some details of our younger years will help you know us better.

Don and I were born in Pennsylvania, Don in Grove City and I in New Castle. Only 25 miles apart, but we didn't know each other then. Don's Dad, an engineer, was transferred to Cooper-Bessemer in Mt. Vernon, Ohio. My Dad was a doctor. Both our Mothers were housewives. That's the way it was then.

We met at Muskingum College in 1947. In the Spring of 1950, several of us were talking in the hallway of one of the buildings. I said to one of the guys, "What would you think of a guy who stole a girl's car?" At home, I drove a 1936 Dodge Coupe. My Dad was bedfast then and Mom didn't drive. Don had a 1936 Dodge Coupe. That got Don's attention and we talked cars for a bit. Later, he asked me to a dance. That was the beginning. We wrote to each other all summer and Don came to New Castle twice. At Christmas, we got engaged. We got married on March 30, 1951 and graduated in June. In August, Don went into the Marines. While he was away, I worked as Therapeutic Dietician at the local hospital in New Castle. Don was discharged in August 1953 and went to work for Cooper-Bessemer in Grove City. Just before Christmas, I quit at the Hospital. "No wife of mine is going to work!" That's the way it was back then. In August of 1954, Don went to work for Kaiser Aluminum in Newark, Ohio. All three of our children were born in Newark. In 1961, we built a house in Harbor Hills on Buckeye Lake. We had been somewhat active in the Methodist Church in Newark. When we moved, we joined the First Community Church at Buckeye Lake. We were quite active there. Don was Church Treasurer and an usher. I was active in the Women's Missionary Society.
I sang in the Choir and, when the Director left, I took that job. In 1980, Don was transferred to Bedford, IN as controller at that plant. I sang in the Choir and Don was an usher at the Methodist Church. While in Bedford, we learned to Square Dance. When we came to Marysville in the Fall of 1985, after Don retired, we had instant friends in the Village Squares. Don worked at Automotive Testing Labs until 1992. Back to Bedford. One of my friends and I decided to go to Europe in the Spring of 1985. I was able to visit my English pen pal whom I had been writing to since the 40's. She and her husband visited us four times, once here and three times at Campgrounds in North Carolina, Florida and Texas. We were full time campers then. In 1995, we went on the road full time in our motorhome. Our daughter and family sold their house and moved into ours so we didn't have to get rid of things. Unfortunately, our grandson, Cory Siegle, passed away with Muscular Dystrophy in 2005. In 2011, we came home and sold our motorhome. We volunteered in the Church office, sorting through old papers to be copied onto the computer to free up storage space. We had a great time with Sharon and Loretta. We have enjoyed being part of FUMC, though not as active as when we were younger. Old age and health issues have slowed us down considerably. Our health has deteriorated this past year and we don't go out much. We really appreciate being able to attend Church on line. The many technical changes in our lifetime have been amazing. We have been so blessed. Don and I celebrated our 70th Wedding Anniversary on March 30, 2021. We're aiming for our 75th. Only God knows if we'll make that! I hope this has helped you know us better. We really like being members of Marysville FUMC.
### First United Methodist Church, Inc.
#### 2022 Operating Budget

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**Average Weekly Need**

$ 24,403.85

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**Thank you!**

**THE ORGAN CONSOLE IS FULLY FUNDED!**

- **$151,750.00 (PAID-OFF)**
**THANK YOU!** Your mustard seed faith giving in December was amazing and the largest on record. The 2021 giving was more than the 2021 projected expense budget so we were able to use the overage to pay off the organ console in 2021. Yea God!

In 2022, we are hoping to take the next step and bear fruit in our community—*the fruit that will last eternally!* We are already seeing God at work with Outbreak (5th & 6th grade) averaging over 40 kids each week. This is more than before the pandemic!

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**Payoff of Organ Console through Dec 2021**

$151,750.00 (PAID-OFF)

**Giving vs Budget Year to Date Dec 2021**

- Giving YTD: $1,170,908
- Budgeted Giving YTD: $1,140,000

**Giving vs Expenses Year to Date Dec 2021**

- Giving YTD: $1,170,908
- Expenses YTD: $1,120,944
God's Love Never Fails