

First Family News

Our Second Century

September 2017

Rethinking Retirement

As you can imagine, the idea of retirement has occupied a lot of my recent ponderings. What's next? I wonder if I should buy a larger sailboat and spend more nights at the lake? Maybe I should sale my Z and buy a more comfortable car for travel? Do I really need to get rid of that last BMW "superbike" sitting in the garage due to my age? Should I buy another dog since I have more time and would Sandy still be around after I entrained that thought?



But even the idea of retirement at a certain age is a relatively recent phenomenon. For thousands of years, the retirement plan for most senior citizens consisted of working the crops or herding sheep until keeling over or, if you couldn't quite push the plow or keep up with the flock anymore, moving in with the kids who, by law, had to take you in ("Honor your father and mother," and all that).

The Methuselah-like ages reported in Genesis notwithstanding, the average life expectancy of most people in biblical times was most likely in the 20s due to disease, malnutrition, traumatic childbirth for women and almost constant warfare for men. According to the estate-planning firm E.F. Moody, life-expectancy figures remained virtually unchanged for most of human history. In ancient Greece, for example, life expectancy was 20. When the Declaration of Independence was signed, life expectancy was still just 23; the median age was 16. Even as recently as 1900, most Americans died by age 47. In 1870, only 2.5 percent of all Americans made it to age 65. It's no wonder that, until relatively recently, retirement was a word mostly associated with going to bed — and hoping one would wake up.

Recent data says that life expectancy has climbed to 79.2 years, up from 59.2 in 1930. This number continues to climb. And I have to ask myself, can ***I really retire in a few months?***

With all these changes in life expectancy — not just the quantity but also the quality of life — perhaps I need to rethink this whole (senior citizen) thing. After all, there are some vocations from which I can never really take a permanent vacation. Take parenting, for example. Sure, we raised our kids to be independent, but even when they're adults, we're still Mom or Dad for life (even as you pray they won't move back in with you). Perhaps the most permanent lifelong vocation, however, is being a disciple of Jesus: a vocation from which you never really retire.

I have to wonder what Jesus' first disciples were thinking when he invited them to "come and see" not only where he was staying but also what he was going to be about (John 1:39). The synoptic gospels are a little more specific about Jesus calling the disciples from one vocation to another: from fishing for fish to fishing for people, and from collecting people's taxes to collecting their lost souls, for example. "Follow me" and "Come and see" are both commands and invitations to check out a new vocation and lifestyle that would trump the old.

In most places, 21st-century Christians don't have quite the same sense of urgency as did those early disciples. Our lives are longer due to better health, and our financial and personal security aren't threatened on a daily basis. We have the ability to go where we want when we want, and we tend to see retirement as an opportunity to kick back and enjoy the fruits of our labor.

Problem is, the call of Jesus to follow has no expiration date — and no gold watch as a reward for doing one's time. The work of the kingdom is ours to do whether we're 7 or 70. Living life with an eternal perspective means we see our whole lives as belonging to Christ from beginning to end.

For me, it's a great time to renew the call of Jesus to "Come and see!"

Jay

The Georgia DOC Forum for October

Learn what's new, what's working, what's getting results and what's about to happen! Help celebrate Clergy Appreciation Month in October.

Be sure to check <http://www.gadisciples.org/> for all the latest news.

Georgia Disciples Men's Rally

The Disciples Men of Georgia will have one combined Men's Rally this year. The date is October, 14, 2017 and will be hosted by First Christian Church, Griffin, Georgia. The registration will begin at 9:30 A.M., rally will start at 10:00 A.M., and lunch will be served following rally for a minimal cost of \$ 8.00 per person. Our keynote speaker will be Rev. Jay White, minister at First Christian Church in Lawrenceville. The worship in song will be led by Bob Grant, Region Moderator and member of First Christian Church in Griffin. This will be a great time for fellowship and renewing our commitment to the men of the Georgia region. Please plan to attend. You can register at <https://goo.gl/7Po2vG>.

Leadership Council Meeting

Sunday, October 1, 2017 – 6pm

Annual Fall Youth Rally

Sandy Springs Christian Church will have the youth rally on November 5th from 4-6:30 pm.

September Birthdays

3 Donna Baber
15 Donna Nielsen
17 Elizabeth McElhanon
24 Tadd Huff
25 Mary Jo Alvord
25 Leona Chamberlain
26 Willis Ramirez
28 Al Taylor
28 Mary Kate Westbrook

September Anniversaries

28 Bill & Donna Nielsen

Other News

Please sign up to help in worship through December. Schedules available in the gathering area.

Choir practice has resumed for the Fall on Sundays 5-6:00 p.m. Come join in!

The YMCA early learning program has resumed activities at LFCC on Monday and Wednesday mornings.

Serving at the Table in October

Elders: Karen Jensen & Jimmy Peeples

Deacons: Pamela Evatt-Machado

Communion Preparation: Mary Jo Alvord

Worship Helpers

October 1: Scripture Reading – Dorrie Toth
Communion Meditation – Elizabeth McElhanon

October 8: Scripture Reading – Anna Harrison

October 15: Communion Meditation – Connie Thompson

October 22: Scripture Reading - Marilyn Parks

Communion Meditation – Joey Baker

October 29: Scripture Reading – Joey Baker



First Christian Church (DOC)

3495 Sugarloaf Parkway

Lawrenceville, GA 30044

(770) 963-9922

lgafcc@gmail.com

<http://lawrencevillefirstchristian.org/>

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jay White

Music Director: Kim Peeples