Still Drawing Pictures *by Rocky Hails*

Flying in Pairs

The Old Farmer's Almanac says "Birds singing in the rain indicates fair weather approaching" and "If crows fly in pairs, expect fine weather; a crow flying alone is a sign of foul weather."

Such folklore is reflected in the Will Rogers quote about Oklahoma weather, that "If you don't like the weather in Oklahoma, wait a minute and it'll change." That's kind of how I feel about putting out a calendar for the continued return of the Life Adult ministry—"wait a minute and it'll change," but I sure like to plan and change the plan, rather than run without one!

We were delighted to enter into our ministry's calendar as we enjoyed the singing, playing and eating at the "No Bus Jubilee" in mid-April (complete with Ed handing out luggage)! It was wonderful to see so many being refreshed! So what is next? Let's take a quick look.

Coming up very soon will be the Life Adult Luncheon on Sunday, June 13 immediately after the service. We will be bringing in the meal. The ministry will cover the cost of this meal, but you do need to sign up for it at the Welcome Center. Please take note also, that the location for the luncheon will be in Herndon Hall, Room #407, due to the student ministry gathering to leave for Mission Arlington in the Cafe.

Looking unto Him,
Rocky

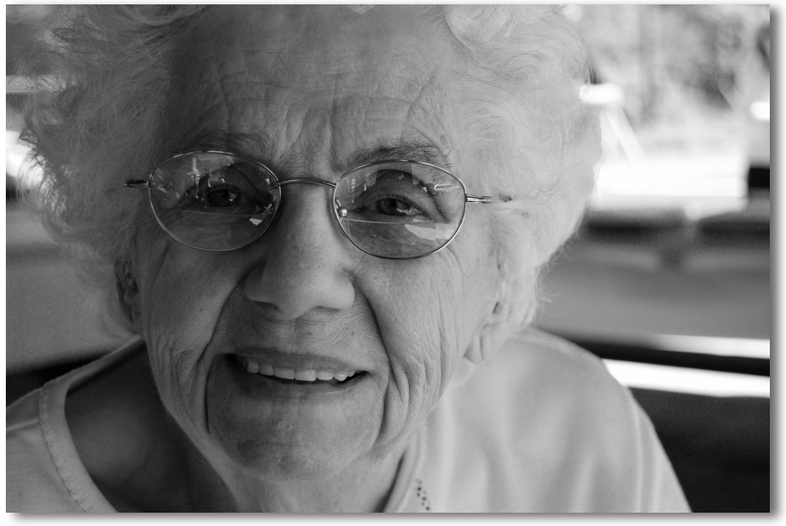
"The Plan"

Sunday, **June 13**	Life Adult Luncheon
Sunday Evening, **August 15**	"Hymns to Hamburgers"
Friday Evening **September 17**	Life Adult Retreat
Sunday, **October 10**	Life Adult Luncheon
Sunday, **November 14**	Life Adult Luncheon
Sunday, **December 5**	Life Adult Christmas Lunch

We are once again able to welcome so many of our brothers and sisters who can, back to seeing each other face to face. What a joy that is! I came across this article and appreciated the valuing of our layer of the congregation at Heritage and the emphasis it placed on the ongoing necessity for our efforts to engage and thrive.

7 Reasons Your Church Needs Senior Adults

by Tony Wolfe



I was talking with a friend a not long ago—a young pastor. He shared an honest concern I remember mulling over myself in the pastorate. As the church was beginning to reach young couples, students and children, the senior adults felt less and less valuable. They believed "their time" had passed them by in the life of the church and their ministry had now been relegated to nothing more than watching and waiting.

The Life Adult Ministry at Heritage is dedicated to being a path for the next generation to follow in delighting in God and declaring His glory! Our aim is to 1) continue to invest our lives in deepening our intimacy with Christ Jesus, our Savior and 2) enhance our ability to minister to others through Gospel-centered lives that embrace God's Word. We pray our lifetime of experiences and gifting blesses our families, our church and the world around us.

Upcoming Events

Life Adult Luncheon
June 13

Hymns & Hamburgers
August 15

Life Adult Retreat
Sept 17

HERITAGE
BAPTIST CHURCH

I shared with my pastor friend some memories from when I was a child. My Dad was a pastor. There were plenty of young adults and young marrieds in our church. But for some reason, the people I remember to this day—the ones who left a Jesus-shaped impression on me as a boy—they were all old. Every one of them. Even as I type this 30 years later, their faces flash across my mind. As a child and a youth, I did not despise senior adults. I valued them. They tended to love a little more deeply, to be present a little more frequently, and to listen and speak a little more empathetically. Mr. Rogers. Mr. Kendall. Mrs. Ada. Mr. Billy. Mr. Fred. Mrs. West. I remember wanting to be like them when I was a child. Thirty years later, I still do.

Senior adults are vital to the health and ministry of the church. A thriving senior adult ministry has very little to do with health fairs, trips to Branson, or forty-two and backgammon. Rather, a thriving senior adult ministry facilitates an atmosphere where older men and women can be intentional about reproducing themselves in the lives of younger church members.

The Bible is clear that senior adults are not just to be respected because they are "old." Rather, they have an important place in the life of the local church. Here are 7 reasons your church needs senior adults.

1. They have wisdom gained through experience (Job 12:12, Proverbs 23:22-23)
If younger men and women in the church would learn to capitalize on the wisdom of experience possessed by senior adults, they may be able to avoid many pitfalls of the faith and of the ministry.

2. They're Involved in ministry opportunities (Psalm 92:12-15)
Honestly, there are some ministries of the church for which senior adults are better suited than younger men and women. They have more time. They have more life experience. They often have an extensive network of relationships within the community (family, friends, and business connections) that young people do not. Senior adults can and should still "bear fruit in old age, healthy and green."

3. They pass down a legacy of faith (Psalm 71:17-18)
Many senior adults have stories of God's faithfulness to them through the years that younger families desperately need to hear. If we do not provide avenues for senior adults to share their stories of God's faithfulness to younger church members, we are robbing the next generation of the proof of God's power and strength through all circumstances.

4. They transmit timeless truth (Titus 2:1-7)
You know as well as I do that the longer you study God's Word, the deeper and richer His eternal truth becomes to you. Similarly, the longer you apply God's Word to your Christian walk, the more pervasive the truth of the gospel becomes in every area of your life. Many older men and older women, through decades of faithful study and application of God's Word, have an intimacy with God to which younger men and women need to be exposed.

5. They've experienced faith through trials (Psalm 37:25)
When a young Christian is seriously struggling through circumstances that test faith, he or she needs an older Christian to walk with him through the fire. The senior adult psalmist writes, "I have not seen the righteous forsaken or his children begging for bread." In moments that feel like forsakenness and depravation, senior adults can testify that time will prove God's faithfulness.

6. They can teach lessons in respect and honor (Leviticus 19:32, Proverbs 16:31, 20:29, 1 Timothy 5:1-2)
As God molds and shapes the Christian in the image of Christ, one thing we all need to learn is how to respect and honor our fathers.

Scripture is clear that this is a timeless teaching, for all generations. How will your congregants learn to respect and honor senior adults if they are not an active part of the body-life of your church?

7. They appeal from a genuine heart of love (Philemon 9-10)
Things need to happen, and time is of the essence. I get that. Young men and women can have a tendency to be forceful in their appeals. But as Paul did in his old age, senior adults often have a gentleness about them that has been forged in the fires of hurt, sorrow, pain, and faithfulness over the period of decades. No one is better suited to appeal from a genuine heart of love than a gracious man or woman who has walked a thousand miles in a thousand pairs of shoes.

Senior adults are not the church of yesterday. Until the day God calls them home, they are the church of today. The truth is, as time progresses each generation will one day become the senior adults in the church. They are not a burden. They are a gift from God. You need them and they need you. Value them. Respect them. Love them. Lead them.

Article by Tony Wolfe, reprinted from the *Southern Baptist TEXAN*

Dr. Tony Wolfe is the Director of Church Relations at the SBTC. Previously, he spent 18 years serving churches in TX & LA in the areas of Music/Worship, Education, Christian Counseling, and the Pastorate. He holds degrees from Lamar University, Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He has authored several books and is a regular contributor to Lifeway's Deacon Magazine and other denominational media outlets. Tony and his wife Vanessa were married in 2001 and have two sons, Ethan and Aaron. They love to fish, golf, and cheer on their LSU Tigers every football season.

Memorial Day and Standing Stones

When we look at Memorial Day, a day dedicated to the remembrance of those fallen in war, a day to remember the sacrifices that assure us continued freedom. Though it may include parades, or cemetery observances, or moments of silence, it most surely must be more than welcomed holiday trips, parties and barbecues.

On the website *That the World May Know* by Ray Vander Laan, we are reminded of another type of Memorial Day, a more ancient remembrance. We read:

"The Hebrew word translated "standing stones" is massebah and means "to set up." The Israelites followed ancient customs by setting up standing stones as a reminder of God's covenant and supernatural acts on their behalf.

"On several occasions, the Bible mentions significant events that were commemorated with standing stones: Jacob set up stone pillars at Bethel in order to remember his powerful dream, in which God reaffirmed his covenant with him (Genesis 28:18-21, 35:14-15). Moses built twelve standing stones at the foot of Mount Sinai after receiving the Ten Commandments and other laws (Exodus 24:2-4). The Israelites erected standing stones to remember their miraculous crossing of the Jordan River (Joshua 4:2-3, 8-9).

"In the New Testament, Peter builds on standing stone imagery when he describes believers as "living stones" (1 Peter 2:5). Peter probably wanted his readers to think of themselves as living standing stones—people who live out their faith so boldly that others take notice. As living stones, Christians should proudly tell about the difference that God has made in their lives."

As we remember those who have given their lives for our physical and national freedom, let us use this opportunity to recognize the Standing Stone who gained our eternal freedom from the penalty, the power, and the presence of sin. He is the Testimony of God's covenant, His Word, His supernatural provision for crossing from death to life, abundant and eternal.