

Sept  
2015

Carl was a quiet man. He didn't talk much. He would always greet you with a big smile and a firm handshake. Even after living in our neighborhood for over 50 years, no one could really say they knew him very well. Before his retirement, he took the bus to work each morning. The lone sight of him walking down the street often worried us. He had a slight limp from a bullet wound received in WWII. Watching him, we worried that although he had survived WWI, he may not make it through our changing uptown neighborhood with its ever increasing random violence, gangs and drug activity.

When he saw the flyer at our local church asking for volunteers for caring for the gardens behind the minister's residence, he responded in his characteristically unassuming manner. Without fanfare, he just signed up. He was well into his 87<sup>th</sup> year when the very thing we had always feared finally happened. He was just finishing his watering for the day when three gang members approached him. Ignoring their attempt to intimidate him, he simply asked, "Would you like a drink from the hose?" The tallest and toughest-looking of the three said, "Yeah, sure," with a malevolent little smile. As Carl offered the hose to him, the other two grabbed Carl's arm, throwing him down. As the hose snaked crazily over the ground, dousing everything in its way, Carl's assailants stole his retirement watch and his wallet, and then fled. Carl tried to get himself up, but he had been thrown down on his bad leg. He lay there trying to gather himself as the minister came running to help him. Although the minister had witnessed the attack from his window, he couldn't get there fast enough to stop it. "Carl, are you okay? Are you hurt?" the minister kept asking as he helped Carl to his feet. Carl just passed a hand over his brow and sighed, shaking his head. "Just some punk kids, I hope they'll wise-up someday." His wet clothes clung to his slight frame as he bent to pick up the hose. He adjusted the nozzle again and started to water. Confused and a little concerned, the minister asked, "Carl, what are you doing?" "I've got to finish my watering. It's been very dry lately," came the calm reply. Satisfying himself that Carl really was all right, the minister could only marvel. Carl was a man from a different time and place.

A few weeks later the three returned. Just as before their threat was unchallenged. Carl again offered them a drink from his hose. This time they didn't rob him. They wrenched the hose from his hand and drenched him head to foot in the icy water. When they had finished their humiliation of him, they sauntered off down the street, throwing catcalls and curses, falling over one another laughing at the hilarity of what they had just done. Carl just watched them. Then he turned toward the warmth giving sun, picked up his hose, and went on with his watering.

The summer was quickly fading into fall. Carl was doing some tilling when he was startled by the sudden approach of someone behind him. He stumbled and fell into some evergreen branches. As he struggled to regain his footing, he turned to see the tall leader of his summer tormentors reaching down for him. He braced himself for the expected attack. "Don't worry old man, I'm

not gonna hurt you this time." The young man spoke softly, still offering the tattooed and scarred hand to Carl. As he helped Carl get up, the man pulled a crumpled bag from his pocket and handed it to Carl. "What's this?" Carl asked. It's your stuff, " the man explained. "It's your stuff back, even the money in your wallet." "I don't understand," Carl said. "Why would you help me now?" The man shifted his feet seeming embarrassed and ill at ease. "I learned something from you," he said. "I ran with that gang and hurt people like you. We picked you because you were old and we knew we could do it. But every time we came and did something to you, instead of yelling and fighting back, you tried to give us a drink. You didn't hate us for hating you. You kept showing love against our hate." He stopped for a moment. "I couldn't sleep after we stole your stuff, so here it is back." He paused for another awkward moment, not knowing what more there was to say. "That bag's my way of saying thanks for straightening me out, I guess." And with that, he walked off down the street. Carl looked down at the sack in his hands and gingerly opened it. He took out his retirement watch and put it back on his wrist. Opening his wallet, he checked for his wedding photo. He gazed for a moment at the young bride who still smiled back at him from all those years ago.

He died one cold day after Christmas that winter. Many people attended his funeral in spite of the weather. In particular the minister noticed a tall young man who he didn't know sitting quietly in a distant corner of the church. The minister spoke of Carl's garden as a lesson in life. In a voice made thick with unshed tears, he said. "Do your best and make your garden as beautiful as you can. We will never forget Carl and his garden."

The following spring another flyer went up. It read: "Person needed to care for Carl's garden." The flyer went unnoticed by the busy parishioners until one day when a knock was heard at the minister's office door. Opening the door, the minister saw a pair of scarred and tattooed hands holding the flyer. "I believe this is my job, if you'll have me," the young man said. The minister recognized him as the same young man who had returned the stolen watch and wallet to Carl. He knew that Carl's kindness had turned this man's life around. As the minister handed him the keys to the garden shed, he said, "Yes, go take care of Carl's garden and honor him." The man went to work and, over the next several years, he tended the flowers and vegetables just as Carl had done. In that time, he went to college, got married, and became a prominent member of the community. But he never forgot his promise to Carl's memory and kept the garden as beautiful as he thought Carl would have kept it.

One day he approached the new minister and told him that he couldn't care for the garden any longer. He explained with a shy and happy smile, "My wife's just had a baby boy last night, and she's bringing him home on Saturday." "Well, congratulations!" said the minister, as he was handed the garden shed keys. "That's wonderful! What's the baby's name?" "Carl," he replied.

**Life is a onetime offer. Use it well.**



# Annita & Bill Wiese Celebrating 62 years

A corner of the fellowship room was decorated beautifully to celebrate Annita's & Bill's 62nd Wedding anniversary Sabbath the 15th.

Born in Lansing, MI and Charlotte, MI, 28 miles apart. We met in Berrien Springs, MI, were engaged 3 weeks later and married four months after that. Annita's graduation--5 years for a nursing degree at Emmanuel Missionary College, now Andrew's University. Bill graduated at Pacific Union College on a GI Bill with a Graphic Arts degree.

Time changes things! hundreds of music records and CD's. With computers and a myriad of other changes and extensions. The world has marched by with changes in the last 60 years since we met.

God has been good to us through it all! We have lived in Michigan two different times, Hawaii, Washington state, West Virginia, Maryland, Korea, Indonesia and Alabama, for more than 30 years!

What a story, what an adventure! We are glad to be living and well--even if we are fading a bit! Our children are a joy to us: Brenda Palmer--in the business world, ASI and Haiti. Lorelee ministered to the young people and to the older ones in our society. Calvin, medical (CFO at sunbelt hospital system and a researcher in the medical field. Claire, medical RN and diabetic educator. And Crystal, our foster daughter for many years. We had her from her 8th birthday until after graduation from college. At that time she was the only foster child the General Conference had ever taken into the mission field. She had an RN at the time she left us.

We are thankful for God's leading and providing for us through the years, Thankful for the Clanton Church which has been a strength to us for a long time. God is so good! "A three-fold cord is not easily broken." Thank you for the impact of your lives on ours.

Bill and Annita Wiese

# PASTOR'S CORNER

## With Him Forever!

For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. —James 4:14

In 1859, during the turbulent years prior to America's Civil War, Abraham Lincoln had the opportunity to speak to the Agricultural Society in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. As he spoke, he shared with them the story of an ancient monarch's search for a sentence that was "true and appropriate in all times and situations." His wise men, faced with

this heady challenge, gave him the sentence, "And this, too, shall pass away."

This is certainly true of our present world—it is constantly in the process of deterioration. And it's not happening just to the world; we also face the reality in our own lives that our days are numbered. James wrote, "For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away" (James 4:14).

Although our current life is temporary and will pass away, the God we worship and serve is eternal. He has shared that eternity with us through the gift of His Son, Jesus Christ. He promises us a life that will never pass away: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

When Christ returns, He will take us home to be with Him forever!

Awake, my soul and sing  
Of Him who died for thee,  
And hail Him as thy matchless King  
Through all eternity. —Bridges/Thring

**For hope today, remember the end of the story— eternity with God.**

*INSIGHT:* The New Testament book of James is often compared to the Old Testament book of Proverbs. Both contain a great deal of practical instruction about daily life lived in faith. Proverbs says that if we acknowledge God, He will direct our paths (3:6). Today's passage reminds us of the same idea. While cautioning us that our lives are fleeting (James 4:13-14), James comforts us with the knowledge that we are in God's hands (vv.12,15). He is the one who saves, and it is by His will that we live our lives.

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Sorry, I couldn't find a new one of Emma. Hadn't seen this one yet.

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## ***Our mission given to us by Jesus Christ in Matthew 28: 19 - 20.***

### **The Sabbath school is part of the mission of the church.**

The Sabbath school is an important branch of the missionary work, not only because it give to young and old a knowledge of God's word, but because it awakens in them a love for its sacred truths, and a desire to study them for themselves; above all, it teaches them to regulate their lives by its holy teachings. TSS 109, 110

There are sacred responsibilities entrusted to Sabbath school workers, and the Sabbath school should be the place where, through a living connection with God, men and women, youth and children, may be so fitted up that they shall be a strength and a blessing to the church. They should help the church upward and onward, as far as it lies in their ability, going from strength to greater strength. TSS 92

Superintendents and the workers in our Sabbath schools have a very important, broad field to cultivate. They need to be baptized with the Holy Spirit of God, that their minds may be impressed to use the very best methods, and follow the best plans to work wholly successful. TSS 83

The Sabbath school is not only responsible for teaching biblical truths and reporting on missions. It is to be part of the mission of the church. The Sabbath school is the branch of the mission of the church that is responsible for nurturing of new members, visitation of members of the Sabbath school classes, as well as contact and visitation of missing members.

The Sabbath School Council meeting began planning and organizing our department. The following superintendents were given additional responsibilities in order that the department be more efficient in functioning as a supportive branch of the mission of the church:

- Brenda Davis - General Assistant Superintendent and Membership Superintendent -
- Judy Peck - Evangelism Assistant Superintendent
- Gary Linkous - Hospitality Assistant Superintendent
- Kay Suddeth - Special Events Assistant Superintendent

Next month we will meet and clarify what we are going to do and how we are going to improve each of these goals.

Presented by Kay Cheser - Head Sabbath School Superintendent

### **Why Attend Sabbath School?**

Editor: Blackmer

My local church Sabbath School superintendent recently asked me to share with the congregation why Sabbath School is important. In preparing for that short talk, which primarily addresses adult Sabbath school, I asked others for their point of view. Although most told of ways Sabbath school is a blessing to them, some admitted that they seldom attend. So perhaps a brief reminder of a few of the benefits of Sabbath school will also be helpful to Review readers.

Sabbath school:

- ◆ Builds faith through Bible study and helps unify members worldwide.
- ◆ Provides fellowship with like-minded believers in a small-group environment.
- ◆ Provides a "safe place" to express views and ask questions without fear of ridicule.
- ◆ Has a consistent world mission focus and helps finance missions.
- ◆ Reminds us that mission is also found in our own backyard. Class members often find it easier to reach out as small groups to the community as well as to inactive members.
- ◆ Helps members gain insights into the Bible from other's viewpoints and knowledge.
- ◆ Helps us become more disciplined in personal Bible study.
- ◆ Provides opportunities to discuss practical applications of Scripture.
- ◆ Connects people with the source of true authority—the Bible.

James White wrote the first Sabbath school lessons in 1852, publishing the first four in the initial issue of the Youth's Instructor that same year. The concept of Sabbath school grew from there. It seems it was the Lord who led White to bring this most effective method of teaching, likely because He knew His people would benefit from regular group Bible study as well as personal study.

***So what about this week's Sabbath school - will you be there?***

**September**

**Birthdays**

- 3- Kay Cheser
  - 5 - Todd Abbott
  - 8 - Sam Smith
  - 17 - Brian Waddell
  - 19 - Sue Mims
  - 20- Olan Suddeth
  - 23- Makaylynn Sanders
  - 28- Kay Suddeth
- Happy Birthday to each of you.

**Anniversaries**

- 7-Roy & Brenda Davis
- 30- Walter & Myrtis Kohler

Clay and I were married 53 years. We met for the first time when we were both 18 (even though we were both born in the same clinic and delivered by the same doctor) We got married a year later. That was Bill Wood, former Youth Director that I worked 15 years with. I was amazed at how many people came. It reminds me of how many special times we had and friends we made. We were blessed. Becky Grice sent me these pictures after I had printed and sent out the August Newsletter, told her I would put them in the reminiscing section this month. Thanks Becky for sharing with us. Yes, we were blessed to have been/and to remain part of your "Family of God". Love to you, Brenda

**Calendar of Events**

**Weekly:** Prayer Meeting: Tuesdays at 7pm

Jail Ministry: Sundays 6:30pm at the Clanton Jail

**Monthly:** Tennis Shoe Sabbath: 1st Sabbath each month, after lunch. Come help us make Kingdom Friends for God.

Book Group: 2nd Sabbath After Lunch in the Teen Room.

Sabbath School Visitation: 3rd Sabbath each month.

Nursing Home Visitation—4th Sabbaths

**Speaker Schedule tentative so far:** 9/5 Lary Petty, 9/12 Bryan Danese, 9/19, Elder Gary Strunk, 10/3 Pastor Rodriguez, 10/10 Tom Bates, 10/17 Elder Livermore, 10/24 Chip Anderson, 10/31 Pastor Rodriguez including Communion



Websites that Bill Weise has set up for everyone & would like special prayer about the responses from these sites.

[www.steppingupward.org](http://www.steppingupward.org) [www.eqwhiteclassicquotes.org](http://www.eqwhiteclassicquotes.org) <http://www.grandmastidbits.org>

We have a website!! <http://clantonsda.org/>, Tony Plier has posted sermons, music & a lot of info, look under News to find this publication on line each month. We have all the issues for this year 2015. Thanks for communicating and sharing what you want to put in the Newsletter each month. Don't forget it is YOUR/OUR newsletter...

Spend Time with Your Father— Have you spent time with your Father today, Pouring out your soul to Him as you pray? Did you quiet your spirit so you can hear The wisdom He gives freely when you draw near to His presence as you seek His face? Your Father gives so much mercy and grace. If you spend time with your father and are willing to obey, He will brighten the road leading the right way. By Benita / Shared by Sue Mims



## Kay 3's Vegan Recipes -

### Sliceable Vegan Cashew Cheese [Gluten-Free]

- 1/3 cup raw cashews [Soaked overnight in a cup of water]
- 1 heaped Tbsp + 1.5 tsp nutritional yeast
- 1 clove garlic (you don't want this to be a garlic cheese)
- 1.5 tsp starch of your choice (Tapioca/Arrowroot/Corn)
- 1.5 tsp agar agar powder
- 1 Tbsp + 2 tsp juice from lemon
- 1/2 cup + 1/2 cup water
- Salt - to taste



**Preparation:** In a saucepan, mix agar agar in 1/2 cup water. Keep aside

Discard the water from cashews. Rinse them really well. Add cashews to a food processor with nutritional yeast, garlic, starch, salt, lemon juice & 1/2 cup of water. Make a very very smooth paste.

Add the cashew paste to agar agar mixture. Bring this to boil on a low-medium heat until it forms a thick pancake-batter consistency. Quickly transfer to ramekins. This quantity makes one full ramekin and another 1/2 ramekin sized cheeses. Refrigerate for an hour. Carefully remove from the ramekin and enjoy. Consistency will be that of silken tofu [A hard-jelly consistency]

### **Gulf States Women's Retreat (associated with Women's Ministries)**

**will be October 2-4 in Springville, AL. (more info to follow)**

The speaker will be Becky Rogers, and more details will follow on this.

**Labor Day** is observed the first Monday of September.

It is a day to celebrate the American labor movement and the achievement of workers.

It also marks the end of the summer season. It is a federal holiday.

All government offices and many businesses are closed.

### **Return Address:**

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**To:** «AddressBlock»