

GRANDMA'S HANDS

Grandma, some ninety plus years, sat feebly on the patio bench. She didn't move, just sat with her head down staring at her hands. When I sat down beside her she didn't acknowledge my presence and the longer I sat I wondered if she was OK. Finally, not really wanting to disturb her but wanting to check on her at the same time, I asked her if she was OK. She raised her head and looked at me and smiled. 'Yes, I'm fine, thank you for asking,' she said in a clear voice strong.

'I didn't mean to disturb you, grandma, but you were just sitting here staring at your hands and I wanted to make sure you were OK,' I explained to her. 'Have you ever looked at your hands,' she asked. 'I mean really looked at your hands?' I slowly opened my hands and stared down at them. I turned them over, palms up and then palms down. No, I guess I had never really looked at my hands as I tried to figure out the point she was making.

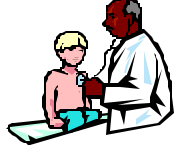
Grandma smiled and related this story:

'Stop and think for a moment about the hands you have, how they have served you well throughout your years. These hands, though wrinkled shriveled and weak have been the tools I have used all my life to reach out and grab and embrace life. They braced and caught my fall when as a toddler I crashed upon the floor. They put food in my mouth and clothes on my back. As a child, my mother taught me to fold them in prayer. They tied my shoes and pulled on my boots. They held my husband and wiped my tears when he went off to war. They have been dirty, scraped and raw, swollen and bent. They were uneasy and clumsy when I tried to hold my newborn son. Decorated with my wedding band they showed the world that I was married and loved someone special. They wrote my letters to him and trembled and shook when I buried my parents and spouse.

'They have held my children and grandchildren, consoled neighbors, and shook in fists of anger when I didn't understand. They have covered my face, combed my hair, and washed and cleansed the rest of my body. They have been sticky and wet, bent and broken, dried and raw. And to this day when not much of anything else of me works real well these hands hold me up, lay me down, and again continue to fold in prayer. These hands are the mark of where I've been and the ruggedness of life. But more importantly it will be these hands that God will reach out and take when he leads me home. And with my hands He will lift me to His side and there I will use these hands to touch the face of Christ.'

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Sick Annette Shrader will be going to UVA on August 15 for tests.



Eric Earnhart's sister, Kim, received good results from her recent test.

Shirley Baker, Mandy Tyler and Bobby Paxton are all home and recovering from their recent stays in the hospital.

Continue to remember in prayer: **Marguerite Charles, Margaret Kratz, Betty Jenkins, Lynn & Mary Anderson, Crawford & Martha Keith, Mariam Majors.**

Happy Birthday this week to:

Michele Earnhart—8/13
Caleb Guard—8/14
Marie Campbell—8/14
Jack Cook—8/15
Madolia Rosette—8/16
Grat Tucker—8/17



Happy Anniversary this week to:

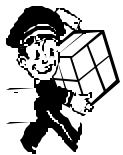
Glenn & Jo Hartman—8/10
Norris & Velda Gearhart—8/16
Shree & Raymond Lowe—8/16
Greg & Jo Ann Edwards—8/17
Jeremy & Jessica White—8/17



AUGUST ITEMS FOR THE

STAFFORDS: Flavorings (almond, butter, lemon) and slivered almonds.

Give your items to Jeanny and she will ship them over!



MILITARY

Kyle Nester— in Iraq

Erich Felps—in Iraq

Chris Coleman—in Iraq



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I will never look at my hands the same again. But I remember God reached out and took my grandma's hands and led her home. When my hands are hurt or sore or when I stroke the face of my children and husband I think of grandma. I know she has been stroked and caressed and held by the hands of God. I, too, want to touch the face of God and feel His hands upon my face.

- Author unknown

Start With Yourself

Author Unknown

When I was young and free and my imagination had no limits, I dreamed of changing the world. As I grew older and wiser, I discovered the world would not change, so I shortened my sights somewhat and decided to change only my country.

But, it too, seemed immovable.

As I grew into my twilight years, in one last desperate attempt, I settled for changing only my family, those closest to me, but alas, they would have none of it.

And now as I lie on my deathbed, I suddenly realize: *If I had only changed myself first*, then by example I would have changed my family.

From their inspiration and encouragement, I would then have been able to better my country and, who knows, I may have even changed the world.

Being Polite

I walked with a friend to the newsstand the other night, and he bought a paper, thanking the owner politely. The owner, however, did not even acknowledge it.

"A sullen fellow, isn't he?" I commented as we walked away.

"Oh, he's that way every night," shrugged my friend.

"Then why do you continue being so polite to him?" I asked.

And my friend replied, "Why should I let him determine how I'm going to act?"

F Y I For Your Information

EDP MEETING

The EDP Meeting will be today at 4:00 in the fellowship room.

IN-HOUSE SUMMER SERIES

Be here this Wednesday night to hear Eric Earnhart as our special guest speaker!

Here's a list of other speakers for this summer: Don Pettit, Tom Shoulders. Make your plans now to be here to encourage these men!

FALL LADIES CLASS

There will be a Wednesday night ladies' class offered during the fall quarter in the fellowship room. Class will begin on Wednesday night, September 9. Different ladies have volunteered to teach the class, focusing on *"Everything I Needed To Know, I Learned From The Bible."* Please sign up on the bulletin board if you plan on attending. See Jeanny if you have questions.

FALL PRIMARY TEACHERS

All lesson plans, activities and etc. from last fall need to be e-mailed to Tom Richardson or Danny Guard by August 31. Give all visuals to Tom.

PRIMARY TEACHERS MEETING

There will be a primary teachers meeting on Sept 7 at 4:30 in the fellowship hall. Second & Third Grade teachers are in charge of snacks!

Recent Responses: Luke Guard & Amanda Brown

Team 1 (Simms) will be having a get together at Jim & Rosemary Bush's on Saturday, August 16 at 4 PM. Save the Date!! Sign Up sheet is located on the board! Everyone is invited! -



Teens



The young men will conduct the services on August 31. Make plans now to attend and support our fine young men—they do a great job!

WOW

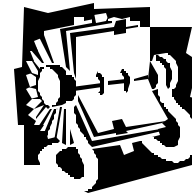
The WOW GROUP will meet on TUESDAY, August 12, at 10:30 AM.

Please sign up on the WOW board for the video Auto-biographies being done by Richard Simms.

New Addresses:

Caleb & Carrie Guard
Removed per privacy policy,
(See hardcopy)

Bobby & Peggy Paxton
Removed per privacy policy,
(See hardcopy)



I am on vacation this week and Mickie Janney will be filling in so send all announcements to her at office@westsidecofc-salem.com

August 2008

Dog Days

Announcements Mike Durham
Song Leader (AM) Jeff Durham
Opening Prayer (AM)
8/3 Barry White
8/10 Jim Bush
8/17 Herb Baker
8/24 John Black
8/31 Josh Whitlow
Preside at Communion Don Pettit
Serve Table Bob Martin AC Janney
 Glen Hartman Bradford Durham

Closing Prayer
8/3 Grat Tucker
8/10 David Brown
8/17 Jim Cooke
8/24 Wayne Dixon
8/31 Ethan Rogers
Song Leader (PM) David Brown
Opening Prayer (PM)
8/3 Jim Harrington
8/10 Danny Guard
8/17 Roger Mays
8/24 Greg Edwards
8/31 Jerry Anderson
Scripture Reader Sam Valentine
Closing Prayer (PM)
8/3 Shawn Simms
8/10 Eric Earnhart
8/17 Bob Garby
8/24 Charlie Maness
8/31 Jason Oldham
Serve Table (PM)
 Mark Brooks Glenn Gabbard

Song Leader (Wed) Josh Whitlow
Prayer (Wed)
8/6 Tom Richardson
8/13 Greg Edwards
8/20 Fred Altizer
8/27 Squeaky Valentine

Open/Close Bldg Jim Harrington
Greeters White Gearhart
Nursery Attend S. Neighbors M. Pettit
Ushers Richard Simms Curtis Oakes
Handouts Roger Mays Mitch Jearls
 Sam Valentine Cameron Brown
Alternates Lyn Shrader
Prepare communion
 Jeanny Gilpin Pat Gwaltney
Cards & Pencils
 Jimmy Harrington & Dylan Tyler

Last weeks attendance 8/3&6/08
 Bible Class—154 Worship Service—171
 Sunday Eve.—139 Wednesday Eve.—158
 Contribution—\$6354

Number 2932
August 10, 2008

Most of us have heard of the “dog days of summer.” They occur during the hottest and muggiest time of the season. They are defined as “the period between early July and early September when the hot, sultry weather of summer usually occurs in the northern hemisphere.” The Farmer’s Almanac lists the traditional timing as being the 40 days beginning with July 3 and ending on August 11. But, from where did the term come? Why do we call the hottest part of summer “dog days?”

Ancient cultures drew images in the sky by “connecting the dots” of the stars. They differed from culture to culture. Today we know them as constellations. One of the constellations is Canis Major (the big dog). The brightest star in it is Sirius (which also happens to be the brightest star in the night sky). It is so bright that the ancient Romans thought the earth received additional heating from it. In the summer, the “dog star” rises and sets with the sun, and these ancients believed that its heat added with that of the sun and created the stretch of hot, sultry weather. The 40-day period was marked by this conjunction of the “dog star” and the sun. Although it is certainly the warmest period of the summer, the heat is not due to the added radiation from a far-away star, regardless of its brightness. No, the heat of summer is a direct result of the earth’s tilt.

All the hype about “global warming” these days would tend to make us believe modern summers are warmer than ancient summers. The truth is, summer has always been warm and winter has always been cold. God made it that way. The sun and moon were created to provide light and “seasons, and for days and for years” (Gen. 1:14; cf. Ps. 74:17). As long as the earth stands, these will be in place (Gen. 8:22). Man’s actions will not change what God has put in place. Are some summers hotter than others? Absolutely. Are some winters colder than others? Most certainly. But, man is not causing these differences and man’s actions will not change them one way or the other. The “dog days” of summer will be around as long as the world stands; and, so will the cold winds of winter.

-Eddy