



December 6, 2020

Weekly Newsletter

The Preacher's Post – *Darin Kennedy*

When I get the Christmas stuff up from my basement, I like to do some basement cleaning. I get behind the shelves and clean out the cobwebs, throw some stuff away, and organize some things. We are not people who keep a lot of things, but you know how it piles up whether you intend it or not. It is also a time when “your life passes before your eyes,” as things from the past get handled that haven’t been seen in a year and won’t be seen for another. My baby shoes along with my sons’, videotapes of our wedding and our sons’ sonograms, favorite books and toys from childhood that we hope to show our grandchildren, my first couple of CDs, my Pete Rose autographed book, my old Rubik’s Cube and baseball glove are all special to me even though I have not used them or watched them or listened to them in years. They are still with me though because they have a connection to the past. Yes, many things go into the trash through the years. I had a baseball signed by a former NL MVP, but I really didn’t know him or care about that team, so it’s been with all the other baseballs for throwing around the yard. I’m not going to save the hair that came from my 61st haircut or anything like that. But some things connect more deeply and are worthy of protecting and saving, along with moving from place to place.

What do you hold on to? What seems to be most important? On what moments have you built your life? Those moments most often do not have a physical souvenir for keeping in the basement, but the memory is very tangible and real, as if you could store it in a box. I have sermons that I remember as if it were yesterday, although they were decades ago: Fred Craddock’s “Don’t Cut Down the Family Tree,” Neil Lightfoot’s “Leaving You an Example,” Charles Siburt’s “When the Father Comes Home,” and Rick Atchley’s sermon for my mother’s funeral. I have personal comments from people that will never leave me: the “Amen” Shawn Jones gave me after my first sermon in Timothy Class

(age 10), the encouragement of Tom Sutton after my sermon in high school, “You read the Bible well,” and the “I love you’s” from people through the years that had no blood relation to me but saw me as their child. The basement treasures also include afghans made by my grandmother, baby quilts made by the mother of Aki, a young woman from Japan who lived with us for some months, a dresser and stool made by my grandfather, old coins from my other grandmother, and the Hardy Boys books my mother helped me to collect. All of these carry little value apart from their connection to my memories of special people who have helped me to become the man, husband, father, preacher I am today and who I continue to become even at 51 years old.

I hope you also have these valuable memories that continue to work powerfully for good in your life. But it is also never too late to make a foundational memory for yourself and for others. A Bible verse memorized and taken to heart, a specific compliment given as encouragement, a stranger met and his or her story heard, a walk taken on a new path, a gift given of little monetary value but of immense emotional connection, and a spiritual conversation of the deep things of God are all ways of calcifying moments in time that can be preserved, stored, treasured, and moved from place to place, situation to situation, and generation to generation—moments that enable one to meet other moments with strength, wisdom, and joy.



Prayer Requests

Wainscott family – is on the mend from COVID, **Mark and Flora Swartz's** son in law (Jeremy Braden) – had surgery for a herniated disc, **Carol Hendrix** – has terminal cancer (she is not taking any treatments). She's not in any pain. Her daughter is staying with her, **Marcella Hedges'** son in law (Bud Mosely) – is in the hospital with blood clots, **Sydney Kerley's** friend (Aaron Derringer) – passed away after a battle with COVID. Aaron leaves behind a wife and 5 young children, **Mark and Flora Swartz's** son (Mark D) – is in the hospital recovering from fluid buildup and infection around a shunt in his brain. He had surgery to remove the shunt and is being monitored while he heals. He will have another surgery to replace the shunt as soon as his body is ready. **Mary Ellen Myers's** friend (Patricia Lands) – was recently diagnosed with COPD. She is the primary caregiver for her elderly mother and has a lot of responsibility to shoulder through this diagnosis, **Cathy Eldridge** – **UPDATE:** She is currently recovering at home. Please continue to pray for her recovery and health, **Susan Foster** – is recovering from knee replacement surgery, **Pat Kreisel** – is experiencing some back pain and is limited in her mobility, **Larry Sullivan** – is recovering from shoulder replacement surgery, **Joe Harber's** wife (Charlotte) – is suffering from some ongoing health issues, **Hannah Guntert's** grandmother (Wanda Thomason) – has been diagnosed with breast cancer. **UPDATE:** She is currently in the hospital with COVID, **Mitch and Peggy Rush's** granddaughter (a family from East Independence church) – is suffering from a severe head injury. She is 6 years old. She was in a car accident. **UPDATE:** She is able to eat and drink on her own now and is expected to leave rehab facility on Dec 15th, **Stormy Cook's** brother (Ralph) – has been put on a liver transplant list, **Buddy and Sharon Self's** daughter (Lisa Self) – has a blood clot and fluid in her lungs. She is slowing regaining her strength, **Shirley Simmons** – is recovering from open heart surgery, **Kelly Seuferling** – is recovering from breast cancer related surgery. **UPDATE:** she will start chemo on December 29th, **Flora Swartz's** friend (Joanie Green) – **UPDATE:** She finished chemo! She will go back for scans and checkup in January, **Andy Hester**, **Joel Morehead**, **Bruce Keeton**, **Will Kreisel**, **Lena Bramlett**, **Dave Nash**, **Jurhee Bench**



Birthdays: December 6th – 12th

Gerri Hasty – 7th

Russ Simmons – 7th

Conner Brotherton – 8th

Marie Nash – 9th

Renee Wubbenhorst 9th

Brent Hall – 10th

Christian Gurski – 11th

Stacey Wubbenhorst – 12th



Christian Gurski is turning 16!!!

Conner Brotherton is turning 20!!!

Old photographs - Lucian Milasan © 123rf.com

The word PRAYER written in wooden type drawer -enterline © 123rf.com
children read a bible on the bed – Volodimir Kalina © 123rf.com
Certain images and/or photos in this presentation are the copyrighted property of 123RF Limited, its contributors or its licensed partners and are being used with permission under the relevant license. These images and/or photos may not be copied or downloaded without permission from 123RF Limited.