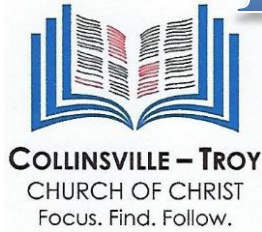


The Correspondent



SUNDAY
Bible Study 9:30 AM
Worship 10:30 AM & 1:30 PM
WEDNESDAY
Bible Study (Adult) 1:30 PM
Bible Study (All Ages) 7:00 PM
www.collinsville-troycc.org
(618) 667-6708

*For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth... in every place.
(1 Thessalonians 1:8)*

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From the Shepherd's Pen

- Jason Wright

Don't just be a Tree with Leaves. We would all agree that an apple, peach, or cherry tree that only produced leaves would be great for shade but not for what it was intended to do... produce fruit. Apply this to us as Christians as we were created to produce fruit for God, for the church. Paul addresses this in Galatians 5. In Psalm 92:12-15, David addresses the righteous and their ability to bear fruit in old age. Notice verse 14. **They shall still bear fruit in old age; they shall be fresh and flourishing.** What can we learn about bearing fruit in our older years? Please Consider.

- Moses and Aaron were 80 and 83 when they led the Israelites out of Egypt. Exodus 7:7
- Joshua and Caleb were in their late 70s and 80s while leading the children of Israel into Canaan. Joshua 14:6-11, 24:29
- Zacharias and Elizabeth became parents to John the Baptizer at a well-advanced age. Zacharias was still serving in the temple. Luke 1:7
- Simeon and Anna were two elderly believers who were waitresses of Christ being presented in the temple. Anna was at least 84 years old still fasting and praying. Luke 2
- Paul, the aged, was travelling, busy writing letters, and visiting and encouraging churches. Philemon 1:9

What about Christians today? A goal today might be to retire around age 65 after spending years of saving and planning to sit back and relax. Certainly, this is well-deserved. But where does the church fit into this plan? It is true that we may retire from our secular jobs, but what about our service in the church? Unfortunately, physical ailments may be a hindrance, but should we just retire from service in the church? Why would we want to?

The obvious answer is no. The local church needs elders and deacons Acts 14:23, 1 Timothy 3, Titus 1:5-9, 1 Peter 5:1-4. This is a great time for Christian men to lead the Lord's church. Men at this age usually have more time and more knowledge and wisdom to share. If one is not qualified, he could take a few years to grow and study and then lead. Also, one doesn't need a title to serve. Many do so behind the scenes.

The church needs the older women to teach good things and to teach the younger women. Paul addresses this in Titus 2:5. Those who do not feel qualified to teach can prepare themselves thru study and training. But wait there is more. Hospitality and benevolence, edification and evangelism, sending cards, making phone calls and visits.

God can certainly use people of all ages. Just because we "retire" doesn't mean we retire from serving Christ. Unfortunately, we cannot stop the aging process, but let's not let the aging process keep us from serving God. The local church needs elderly members to be involved and active. And the elderly members must know they are valuable and needed. May we all strive to be trees that bear more than just leaves.

2022 Theme:
More About Jesus

CONNECTIONS



The Correspondent is a weekly publication of the COLLINSVILLE-TROY CHURCH OF CHRIST. The church meets at 1400 Troy Road, Collinsville, Illinois 62234