



“The Perfect Age”

The writer of Ecclesiastes tell us: “Be happy, young man, while you are young...” (Ecclesiastes 11:9). For those of us who are older, don't you remember those good ole days of youth? You know, the days when you woke up in the morning and bounced out of bed feeling great, where now it takes a few minutes for your blood pressure to adjust, your vision to focus, and your joints to loosen before you take your first step. You know, come to think of it, as I have aged, my memory's not as sharp as it used to be. Also, my memory's not as sharp as it used to be. What is the most common remark made by 60+ year olds when they browse an antique store? “I remember these”.

Laughter is good medicine as we age. In fact, if you don't age, you are dead. But media continues to tell us that aging is something we need to turn back and advertisers try to sell us all kinds of products to help, be it facial creams, hair coloring, cosmetic surgery, or a variety of pills like Viagra and Cialis. It seems that everyone wants to be young today. Ponce de Leon was not the only one to search for the fountain of youth. It's a multi-billion dollar industry. And since we love youth so much, in converse, we despise old age.

Yet getting older has not always been a bad sign. Moses wasn't ready to be used by God until he was eighty. Abraham wasn't ready to be a dad until he was one hundred years of age. God loved to use elderly people to do amazing things. Respect for the elderly has been something God has always desired: “Rise in the presence of the aged, show respect for the elderly and revere your God. I am the Lord” (Leviticus 19:32). “Gray hair is a crown of splendor; it is attained by a righteous life” (Proverbs 16:31).

A lack of respect from the wisdom of the elderly is causing many problems today. We have removed young people from the presence of the elderly, even at church. We need to find ways to connect the elderly and the young. The young can and need to learn so much from the aged. It is time we change the image and attitudes about the elderly. “Elder” needs to once again be a term of respect, not a synonym for “old fogy.”

In some ways, we have a right to fear old age. We are drawing closer to death. The writer of Ecclesiastes wants us to respect age, but he also doesn't sugarcoat physical decline that comes with age (Ecclesiastes 12:1-8). This passage compares the decaying process of old age to the decay of seasons, days, homes, and hometowns. So if this is what we get to look forward to – who wants to go there? No wonder we want to dye the hair, have surgery, take pills, and do whatever it takes to keep this from happening. How do we balance this picture of death with having a respect for old age? We need to remember that we are more than what our bodies look or feel like. Physical decline can actually lead to spiritual growth. Pain can teach us patience. A slower pace can give us time for reflection. We need to respect the aged and recognize the loss of hearing, eyesight, speech, and agility as badges of honor.

While age is praised in Scripture, youth is not despised (Ecclesiastes 11:7-10). Both youth and old age are blessed by God. Each has its good and bad points. When young, we need to show respect for the old and enjoy good health. When old, we need to guide the young with good advice.

Mark

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Arlington Church of Christ



Our Mission: Connecting People to Jesus and one Another

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Find us on:
facebook.

Arlington Friends
Arlington Church of Christ Youth Group

Welcome

We pray you will be encouraged and uplifted
as we join together in worship.

Guest Information

- There is a **staffed nursery** available for children under age 2. There is also a **parent/child training room** at the rear of the auditorium.
- An optional **children's worship** is available for ages 3 to 8 during morning worship. Children will be dismissed before the sermon. Please pick up your child after worship
- If you are visiting, **please complete a visitor card** so we have a record of your attendance.

Weekly Meeting Times

Sundays:
Worship 10:30 a.m.
Bible Study 9:30 a.m.

Wednesdays:
Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

Weekly Statistics

	weekly budget	\$4,062
July 22	<u>attendance</u>	<u>contribution</u>
	186	\$2,876

Arlington Family Pages

Seeking to edify, educate and
inform the Family of God
Sunday, July 29, 2018

Elders: Mark Brackney Ph: 622-0376
Leland Price Ph: 925-4424
Danny Rider Ph: 705-9713
Wayne Shannon Ph: 742-0517
Gregg Summers Ph: 223-4515
David Tiller Ph: 607-1945

Deacons: Bud Norris - *Worship Participants*
Charles Owens - *Bldg & Grounds/Security/Treasurer*
Keith Tatum - *Education/Picture Board/Family Camp*
Ronnie Weldon - *Attendance/Communion Prep/Bldg*

Minister: Mark Brackney Ph: 523-1764

Secretaries: Becky Johnson Jennifer Tatum

Missionaries: Tom & Angie Langley - WEI
Tommy Drinnen - Hope Central

In Our Thoughts and Prayers: Rick Case has been diagnosed with leukemia; Marge Percell; Lydia Yarborough and Jonathan Brackney are recovering from dental surgery; Ronnie Weldon; Ben Cavin; Danny Davis; Danny Rider; Frances Maples; John Burka; Roger Mink; Terry Trent; Casey Owens; Tom & Anita Drinnen; Susan Collins.

Friends and Loved ones: Sara Sykes' brother, Ted Fields; Mark's dad, Jerry Brackney; Laura Owens' dad; Gordon Norman; Michael Maddox; Shane Mink; Edith Weldon's friend, Linda Graybeal; Missy Essary; Deb & Rob Colones; Greg & Lisa Dyer; Faith Tindell; Heather Ream's mom, Linda; Janie Johnson's mom; David Hunter; Sheila Riggs co-worker, Amy Smith; Tracy Hart; Brad Owens; Ben Ream's friend, Alice Bowen; Tina McDougal's dad, Joyce Sanders' dad struggling with dementia; Cheryl Cassidy having back issues.

Shut-ins: Rosaline Davis; Lynda Elliott; Edna Hullender, at Tennova NHC; Peggy Mehlhorn; Kathryn Norman; Jessie Rutherford; Dan Trent.

Missionaries: Tom & Angie Langley; Tommy Drinnen.

Coming Soon

- Please take a moment to **pick up a card or two** to mail this week from the Card Ministry table. 
- **Fifth Sunday Celebration of the Arts**, tonight at 6 p.m. Come for a night of singing or sharing your favorite song, reading spiritual poetry, or sharing a work of art or picture you took. God gave us the arts to glorify Him and encourage others. Please bring finger foods or a favorite dish to share afterwards. 
- **New Wednesday night series** on the Holy Spirit begins August 1, 7 p.m.
- **YPYF small group**, Sunday, August 5, 5 p.m.
- **Small groups**, Sunday, August 12, 6 p.m. 
- **Men's group at Shoney's**, Thursday, August 16, 8:30 a.m.
- **Connection Sunday**, August 19, 5 p.m. Please bring finger foods to share. We will get to know three more of our Arlington members. 
- **Fourth Sunday Fellowship**, August 26. Please bring food to share. Our visitors are invited to join us for lunch.

Family News

Sermon Topics Today Sunday Morning:

*Study in Ecclesiastes continued -
"The Perfect Age" Ecc. 11:9*

Sunday Night:
Celebration of the Arts 6 p.m.

SERVING THE ASSEMBLY TODAY:

Serve @ Table:

Jedidiah Cavin, Bruce McQuaig
Joshua Brackney, Jonathan Brackney
Kevin Gillispie, John David Potter

Opening Prayer: Will Simon

Preside at Table: Leland Price
Greeters: B Floyd & G Thompson
Nursery: L Burbano & H Monroe
Security: R Riggs & B Campbell

HAPPY BIRTHDAY BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

July 30 Lisa Potter
Aug 2 John Potter
Aug 4 Tim Mallicoat
Aug 5 Angela Riggs
Aug 5 John Hoff

Happy
Birthday!!

Family Matters

*Mark
your
calendar*

There will be a **taco bar** after morning worship on Sunday, August 5, and then Wayne Shannon will show the **video "Chasing the Dragon"** and lead a discussion about the prevalence and danger of drugs in our culture. There will be babysitting for younger children. There is sensitive material covered so a mature audience is requested. Please sign up on the hall board if you plan to attend. Older middle school and high school students and their parents are especially encouraged to attend.

Dr. Joe Beam will be presenting a weekend seminar titled: **Love, Sex and Marriage** at the Hardin Valley Church of Christ on August 10 from 7 to 9:30 p.m. and August 11 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Early registration fee is \$20 per couple by July 18th. Late fee is \$30. Snacks and lunch will be provided. Register at:

hvcocmarriage.eventbrite.com.
Also, sign up so we know who is going and can possibly carpool.

Prison Ministry Conference at Hardin Valley Church of Christ on Saturday, September 15, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. This is a free conference to discuss methods of expanding/coordinating inmate/prison ministries. See board for more details