

Lighted Pathway

SUMMER 2016
NEWSLETTER

First Baptist Dallas 1707 San Jacinto Dallas, TX 75201

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FIRST BAPTIST DALLAS WIDOWS FELLOWSHIP
NEWSLETTER | SUMMER 2016

“THOU WILT SHOW ME THE PATH OF LIFE. IN THY PRESENCE IS FULLNESS OF JOY.” PSALM 16:11

Great is His FAITHFULNESS

In spite of the death of her husband Al Lawrence in August 2015, Charlene is filled with a sense of gratitude for family, friends and a strong feeling that God's purpose for her life is still being fulfilled. I met Charlene and Al almost 50 years ago when Charlie and I were working with them in the Bride and Groom Dept. of FBC. It was obvious that this couple was dedicated to each other and to serving the Lord.

Al from Oklahoma and Charlene from Tennessee, both grew up in homes dedicated to God's Word and Christian values. The Lord would orchestrate the events of their lives to meet, marry and build a home with five children who embraced the Christian values taught there. Charlene finished the last two years of a BS degree in nursing at Baylor Hospital in Dallas where she met Al. His MBA degree from OU brought him to Dallas to work as a CPA with Arthur Andersen Accounting Firm. He spent over 50 years working with this firm.

Charlene's church home is truly FBCD having joined three different times. First in 1954 as a single nursing student, again in 1970 after returning with her young family ages 5-12 from 7 years in New Jersey when Al was working in NYC,

and finally in 1983 from that time to the present. That's a total of 43 years. Their years here were ones of service, teaching Brides and Grooms, Young Marrieds, and others, serving as camp nurse at Mt. Lebanon and holding Children's Bible Club in their home. If you have ever been



in a Bible Study taught by Charlene, you sense her strong desire to share Biblical truth with others. In order to be the best teacher possible, she went back to school to earn a MABS degree at Dallas Theological Seminary. She believes with all her heart that we cannot serve Him apart from His Word to us.

For 20 years she volunteered at Dallas Life, stocking and providing over the counter medications to the residents. She recruited physicians, dentists, optometrists and

RNs to provide for the medical, dental and vision needs of the homeless.

In Charlene's own words we can feel her new loneliness but courage and determination to follow His will. "Sixty years of marriage memories made a lifetime of incredible blessings beyond measure. How good God has been! Now the love of my life has joined the Love of our eternal lives face to face with the Lord. I understand more clearly what God meant when He said, 'Two shall become one.' Oh the emptiness left with the enormous loss of part of yourself. Each day I look to Him for strength and guidance to find His purpose for my new life, a new normal with a heart full of gratitude."

Her family has grown to a total of 33: 5 children, 12 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren. Four Lawrence generations living, teaching and serving the Lord. One daughter and her husband serve with Wycliffe Bible Translators as missionaries in Papua New Guinea. Another daughter earned a doctorate at Dallas Theological Seminary and teaches there. She has no greater joy than knowing her children walk in truth! I thank Charlene for sharing her story and reminding us "Great is Thy Faithfulness."

Widows LUNCHEON

WITH
Dorothy Kelley Patterson

Saturday, August 20
11:30am | CenterStage

For reservations or transportation requests
call 214-969-2466 by Monday, August 15.
Valet Parking Available.



LETTER FROM JACK

DEAR LADIES,

The word “summertime” conjures up thoughts of so many different things! Picnics! Watermelons, beach, gardening, vacations, lazy, sunhats, and for me, golf hats! Whatever you’ve been doing, I hope it’s been a pleasant summer. Don’t forget to join us at the next Widows Fellowship Luncheon on August the 20th. Get your reservations by Monday, August the 15 by calling 214-969-2466.

We all look forward to welcoming back a friend and lady who literally wears many different hats! Dorothy Kelly Patterson is author of numerous books, and contributes to articles, journals, and periodicals. She describes herself as first and foremost a homemaker, and wife to Paige Patterson, President of Southwestern Seminary.

Mother of two children and two grandchildren, Mrs. Patterson has traveled to more than 125 countries and is a widely used freelance writer and speaker. We indeed tip our hats to her and anticipate a large crowd that day!

I am pleased to announce that Carol Cashman is taking responsibility to get your Lighted Pathway published and mailed. Carol has her own business, is part of leadership in the Criswell Class and a heart for this Fellowship. Betty and I are so grateful to her.

Get your reservations in! And, as Ecclesiastes 3:1 says, “There is a time for everything and a season for every activity under heaven”...

Blessings to you!

Jack
Jack Smith

“Honor widows”...
1 Timothy 5:3

PHOTOS FROM OUR LAST LUNCHEON



IT'S AUGUST - BACK TO SCHOOL MONTH!



AND I'M GOING TO TELL A BACK TO SCHOOL STORY THAT TOOK PLACE IN DALLAS, TEXAS, IN THE 1930S.

Dr. Justin Ford Kimball, who was a member of First Baptist, Dallas, and who taught a Sunday School class for many years, had finished his term as superintendent of schools. Dr. Norman Crozier was the new Superintendent and he introduced some new rules, one that didn't set too well with some parents.

Until Dr. Crozier's term, a child went to school when the parents decided he should go. But, now, in the 30s, Dallas was growing, so Dr. Crozier ruled that first graders had to be six years old by the first of September to enroll.

That was just fine for everyone except for the kids born in September. I was born September 14, so I could not enroll. I was going to be a whole year behind! At least that was what my parents thought, so by the time I was four years old I began to hear talk at home about having to go to a private school.

I heard, “Should we send her to a private school or hold her back?”

I decided from the talk, both could be bad.

Not to worry! My parents decided to send me to one of the new “one year” private schools. Here's what happened. Smart ladies started schools in their living rooms to make extra money during the depression. I enrolled in Mrs. Gardner's school on the corner of Vickery and McMillan. It was great. For the first four weeks, we didn't learn anything. We just had birthday parties.

These “school” ladies worked with the district so that we kids coming from these schools would be prepared for the second grade at public school.

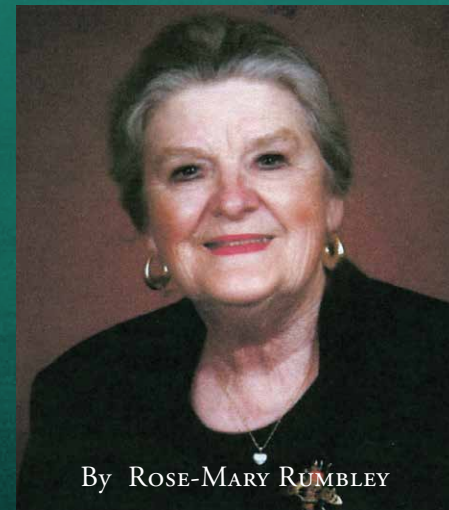
Meanwhile, Dr. Crozier had problems with parents who lied about their child's birth date. Parents who did not have the money for a private school and who didn't want to hold their child back, began to lie about the child's birth date.

Dr. Crozier had to get tough and demand that a birth certificate be brought to school with the child. When I was writing the history of the Dallas Schools, I found that Dr. Crozier's secretary was in charge of checking birthdays, especially the suspicious ones of kids born on the thirty-first of August. Dr. Crozier would check with her.

“Any more Ananiases today?” he'd ask.

Now, he was not referring to the good Ananias in the Bible who baptized Paul after he had healed him from his temporary blindness. No! Dr. Crozier was speaking of the Ananias in Acts 5, who with his wife Sapphira, dropped dead after they lied about the amount of money that they were giving to the church.

Dr. Crozier didn't wish death upon these prevaricators—he just didn't want them to bring a kid to school unless that child was six by the first of September.



By ROSE-MARY RUMBLEY



Rose Talks

Laura Bush and daughter, Jenna Bush Hagar, have written a delightful children's book titled, OUR GREAT BIG BACK YARD.

Laura and daughter want children to read this book and celebrate the 100th anniversary of the National Parks. With one swipe of the pen, Teddy Roosevelt, made Yellowstone Park a haven for tourists along with the bears, wolves, and geysers.

But there is another message in the book. It's the story of a family--mother, father, son, daughter--who go on the “Great American road trip.” The little girl doesn't really want to go. She would love to stay at home with her friends. And too, she made it perfectly clear that if she went on the trip she would have her iPad with her at all times.

The mother is not pleased, but the family leaves for the vacation with the little girl in the back seat of the car glued to her iPad. (Do you have any grand children in this condition?)

The family visit two national parks and the little girl is still clutching her iPad. The illustrations are terrific.

So what happens? They get to Big Bend where the stars are the major attraction. I have never seen stars in the heavens like those you see at Big Bend.

The little girl sees the stars and packs up her iPad. God's glorious heavens will always cause us to bow to his creation.

THOUGHTS FROM JIM

Our program for the last luncheon was a real treat. I was blessed by the music of Randy Wills and Spoken For. But the highlight for me that day, apart from being with all of you ladies, was finally meeting Charlie Campbell. It was very special to have Charlie and Dixie with us for lunch and then to hear Charlie sing. It was a great day to be together and I am looking forward to being with you again on August 20th.

Before our next luncheon, we will have our Old Fashioned Revival beginning on Sunday morning, August 14th. Dr. Ron Herrod will be our preacher and the Southern Gospel Men's Trio Greater Vision will provide our music. Dr. Herrod has some strong ties with First Dallas. He was

Ryland Whitehorn's pastor when Ryland was ordained as a young minister in Louisiana. And our own Larry Walker was on a mission trip in India with Dr. Herrod when the Lord called him home. Dr. Herrod is now an itinerant evangelist based in Sevierville, TN.

Dr. Herrod and Greater Vision will lead us in both morning services on August 14th and on Sunday evening at 6:00 and Monday and Tuesday evenings at 6:30. We are planning an old fashioned ice cream social immediately following the Sunday evening service at 7:30 in CenterStage. I hope you will be able to join us for this meaningful series of meetings. You are in my prayers and I thank you for your prayers for Nan, me and our family!

