

THE TEAM MEMBER THAT BEN DAVIS DID NOT MENTION!

After reading what Ben had written for this Winter issue of SeniorLink News, it became obvious that someone especially important was missing. Every successful organization has an organizational chart listing each person's responsibilities. Ben did an excellent job giving you that information. However, Ben did not mention his responsibilities as SeniorLink Coordinator. You see Ben each month because he is the Master of Ceremonies for our SeniorLink dinners. This includes making announcements, reminding everyone of future events and making sure our dinners run smooth and timely. Ben, also and probably most importantly, gives directions regarding when and how to proceed to the buffet tables to prepare our dinner plates. However, he does much more than what you witness at our dinners. We know you enjoy reading the Coordinators Corner articles Ben contributes to our newsletter each month. Ben is also in charge of our monthly leadership team meetings where we discuss our plans for each month and for the future. Lastly, Ben provides his strength, help and his dad's truck during our TBCH needs and Christmas gift bags drives. Ben is always willing to offer help when and where needed, with a smile. We are grateful for our SeniorLink Coordinator, the glue that keeps us together.

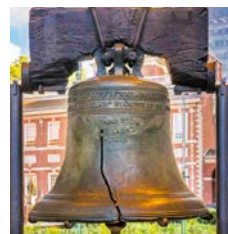
CELEBRATION OF BIBLICAL MARRIAGE RECEPTION



On October 23rd an elegant reception was held to honor seven couples who this year are celebrating 50 years of marriage. Wilson Hall was transformed into a beautiful wedding reception venue, each table with a gorgeous flower arrangement, gold and white place settings with a wedding cake in the center of the room. Music from 1972 was presented by Steve Smith. A big thank you Linda True and Beth Davis, co-leaders, their team and Kitty Montross for an evening to remember.

LET'S TRAVEL TOGETHER AGAIN!

By Tom Vasser



Join us in the spring for SeniorLink's next extended travel opportunity as we visit Pennsylvania's Amish Country, see "Moses," and tour Historic Philadelphia, all certain to provide another memorable experience.

This awesome trip includes:

- Comfortable motor coach transportation
- Five nights lodging (Three of the nights will be in Lancaster, Pennsylvania)
- Eight meals (Five breakfasts and three dinners)
- Tickets to see "Moses" at the Sight and Sound Theatre in Lancaster
- A show at the Magic & Wonder Theatre
- Guided tour of Philadelphia including Independence Hall, Betsy Ross' House, the Holocaust Memorial, the Liberty Bell, the Mint, and more!
- Shopping at the Kitchen Kettle Village
- A guided tour of Lancaster
- Admission to The Amish Experience Theatre and "The Amish Country Homestead"

Here are the details:

The trip is from Monday, April 24, to Saturday, April 29, 2023.

The cost is \$700 per person double occupancy.

\$75 is required down payment-balance is due before the SenoirLink Dinner on February 16, 2023

To reserve your seat, contact Tom or Pearl Vasser at 615-776-2853 or at tomvasser@yahoo.com

SENIORLINK NEWS

Brentwood Baptist Church | 7777 Concord Road, Brentwood, TN 37027

WINTER 2022

THE FIRST FRUIT JAZZ PROJECT

By Bob Jones



Something new and exciting is planned for the SeniorLink Fellowship Dinner on Thursday, January 19, 2023. First Fruit Jazz Project is a unique blend of jazz, gospel, funk, and improvisational rock. Keyboardist Mark Cherry felt that, while traditional gospel hymns were rich in their lyrical content, the melodies and chords accompanying them were sometimes unable to match the emotion of the lyrics. Mark began creating new instrumental jazz arrangements of hymns, transforming them into compositions that would emphasize the true passion of their lyrics and bring fresh energy. Time for a band! Mark gathered drummer Mike Hunter and saxophonist Alan Cannady to form what would become First Fruit Jazz Project, which would have its first public performance in 2004. In 2015, David Cox joined the band on bass guitar to form what is the current rendition of the band.

Today, arrangements continue to evolve and take new paths, making each listening experience new and fresh. "What if we did this?" is often heard in rehearsals. Along with hymn arrangements, original compositions have also been added to the band's repertoire. First Fruit Jazz Project has performed at many benefits, festivals, and venues in the Middle Tennessee area, including the Main Street Jazz Festival in Murfreesboro, Arrington Vineyards in Arrington, and Jazz On The Cumberland in Nashville.

MEDITATION MOMENT

By Richard Carnes

Let Us Go To Bethlehem: The greatest event in history had just happened! The Messiah had been born! For ages the Jews had waited for this, and when it finally occurred, the announcement came to humble shepherds.

Our first picture of Jesus is as a baby in a manger, but it must not be our last. The Christ child in the manger has been the subject of a beautiful Christmas scene, but we cannot leave him there. This tiny, helpless baby lived an amazing life, died for us, ascended to heaven, and will come back to this earth as King of kings. Christ will rule the world and judge all people according to their decisions about him. Do you still picture Jesus as a baby in a manger—or is he your Lord? Make sure you don't underestimate Jesus this Christmas season. Let him grow up in your life. (Life Application Study Bible)



ON THE CALENDAR

DECEMBER 2022

Brentwood Breakfast Club

Thursday, December 1 | 8:30 AM
Cracker Barrel | Cool Springs
Reservations not required

No SeniorLink Leadership Team Meeting
No SeniorLink Fellowship Dinner
In December

JANUARY 2023

Brentwood Breakfast Club

Thursday, January 5 | 8:30 AM
Cracker Barrel | Cool Springs
Reservations not required

SeniorLink Leadership Team

Monday, January 9 | 9:30 AM
Room 2006, Connection Center

SeniorLink Fellowship Dinner

Thursday, January 19 | 5:30 PM
Wilson Hall | Cost: \$10.00
RSVP by Sunday, January 15
Online at BBC, or to Carolyn Simmons
at 615.310.9543

DECEMBER & JANUARY HUMOR



"Pumpkin season is over. Eggnog season is over. Now it's ham hock season."



IF THERE'D BEEN THREE WISE WOMEN INSTEAD.



Left to right First row: Gayle Moyer Harris, Lorraine Quist, Pearl Vasser, Carolyn Simmons, Linda True, Shelia McCulloch, Kitty Montross, Gayle Haywood.
 Left to right Second row: Don Quist, Tom Vasser, Ben Davis, Richard Carnes, Bob Jones

TEAM (Terrific Efforts Attained by each Member) *By Ben Davis*

I have been longing to write this article, because this will be about your SeniorLink leadership team. We have a great group of folks who chairs several committees that makes everything you see, hear, experience, and taste happen as it relates to SeniorLink events. The most visible thing we do is our monthly SeniorLink fellowship dinners, so let's start there.

SeniorLink Fellowship Dinners:

Every single meal that is prepared by our wonderful kitchen staff (Andy and Nathan) is set months in advance by Pearl and Tom Vasser. Careful consideration about the month's meal is based on the time of year, happenings in that month (like 4th of July) and your input as to the food that is served. One item that is now a staple each month is a salad option, because you told us that you would like to have that. Pearl and Tom do a great job doing this and if you would like to help them by serving on their committee let us know.

Now getting all that food ready for you to eat is a big task and we need to know how many are coming. Many of you get a phone call the week before our meeting to see if you are attending. Carolyn Simmons and her team are the ones who do that. She and Randall are the first folks you meet at our dinners, and they will have your name tags ready and help you with most questions you might have. Even if you register online (which is the preferred method), Carolyn will have the information so we can make a meal for you. Want to help? Just ask her!

And how about those decorations! Much time and talent are donated by Linda True and her team in putting together the table decorations to accent the meal or what's going on that month, for example, flowers for the spring meals, St. Patrick's Day items, and colors of all kinds based again on the month. Linda welcomes anyone who would like to help with ideas and setup for each SeniorLink fellowship dinner. Want to help? Just let us know!

SeniorLink News:

The SeniorLink newsletter, now titled the SeniorLink News, is first available at our fellowship dinners and covers the following months' events, menus, opportunities for service, and oftentimes humor. It is then distributed throughout the areas of the church for other senior adults to read. And who does that wonderful publication? Many years ago, Don and Lorraine Quist agreed to be in charge of publishing this newsletter to keep our senior adults informed, and about ten years ago, they were joined in this effort by Gayle Moyer Harris. These incredible people get everything ready and together so that when you attend a SeniorLink fellowship dinner, for example in January, you will have what is going on for our February dinner/meeting. If you have a talent in this area Don, Lorraine and Gayle would really like for you to contact them. We can always use more help!

Entertainment/Program:

Speaking of the SeniorLink News, you will also find out from the newsletter what our entertainment or program is going to be the next month. I am so glad that we now have Bob Jones in charge of locating and booking the talent we enjoy at each dinner. He has been a great addition to our team. With his background, he quickly stepped right into this position, and you have already enjoyed several of the programs he has brought us. And like every committee, Bob is open to folks who would like to help or know about programs that would be good for our group.

Spiritual Development:

Another item that is now in our newsletter is an article titled "Meditation Moment" written by Richard Carnes. As a recent addition to our leadership team, Richard's background made him a great fit for this committee. In addition to his monthly article of inspiration and encouragement, he arranges for a person to lead us in prayer at the start of our monthly fellowship dinners. He often engages staff members of Brentwood Baptist who may have not been on board very long to introduce themselves and bless our meal, thus providing us a great way to learn about them. Richard is working on possible Bible studies and welcomes any suggestions you may have regarding our Spiritual Development.

Projects/Missions:

Shelia McCulloch pulls a double duty and does it very well. We have several mission projects that we as SeniorLink do every year. Shelia heads up our Needs Drive (formerly known as paper drive) for the Tennessee Baptist Children's Home (TBCH) and teams up with Linda True for our Christmas Gift Bag project (formerly known as Christmas Stocking). TBCH depends on the generosity of Brentwood Baptist to provide for the paper items and money to help them with that need. Our drive accounts for almost one-half a year of supplies for them! But not only that, Shelia is our SeniorLink leadership team secretary. For over two years she has done a fantastic job taking notes during our meeting and getting them out to us, so we remember what we talked about the month before!! Behind every good organization is a good secretary and she is excellent.

Also pulling double duty (actually much more than just double duty) is Linda True who not only uses her talents to decorate for our SeniorLink fellowship dinners but is instrumental in the organization of our annual Christmas Gift Bag mission. Linda and her helpers prepare samples of how to fill the gift bags with appropriate items, establish times and places for the distribution and collection of the gift bags, pack boxes for delivery to Copper Basin, and then ensure their safe arrival in time for Santa to help the needy families there. She usually oversees providing at least 600 filled gift bags each year! This year Linda and Beth Davis were co-team leaders for the Celebration of Biblical Marriage Reception. Interested in helping with either of our missions? Let us know.

Fun Times/Trips:

Want to go on a trip with us? Another neat thing about SeniorLink is we do go on trips, sometimes just for the day and other times on overnight trips. But they don't just happen. No, they are created and organized by Tom and Pearl Vasser. Over the years we have been to Branson, Missouri, The Ark in Kentucky, to see Ray Stevens perform, just to name a few of the more recent ones. We are so fortunate to have Tom and Pearl not only research these trips, but plan for just about every detail. And what great fellowship we have! They are always open to suggestions, and several of our recent trips have come from you.

BBC Staff Support:

All of this is supported by Gayle Haywood and Kitty Montross. Because of their assistance, guidance, and leadership the SeniorLink ministry just keeps on going and they keep us going in the right direction. They as staff members are very helpful and supportive of us.

As you can see from above, there is a LOT of work that goes on for YOU to enjoy fellowship and support missions through the SeniorLink ministry. Good organizations have one thing in common, experienced people doing a job they like doing so many can benefit. That is what we have. But good organizations also plan for the future and that is where you come in. Think about helping in an area that you have some expertise in, join us and the rewards for all of us will be great!

I am very proud of our team; I am very humbled that I get to lead such a mission in our church for this age group. Each of the above people makes it very easy!

(Please see page 4 for the TEAMS comment.)