

***“Unless the Lord builds the house, those
who build it labor in vain” (Psalm 127:1 ESV).***



By Don Gardner

For the past eight years, the Lord’s church in Cumbernauld, Scotland, has been blessed with tremendous growth, doubling in size. Throughout its lifetime, this body of believers has held Bible classes and youth activities in different school buildings and worshipped in various rented community halls, but their current worship facility is scheduled for demolition in the next few years.

This tremendous growth, combined with the planned destruction of their current facility, has made it imperative that they find a new home.

The church began its search for land on which to build a new building back in 2006. In Scotland, most land is controlled by local authorities, so the congregation approached the county, seeking to purchase land. For the next ten years, they were repeatedly told that there was no land for sale.

Then, in 2016, 3.34 acres at Auchenkilns Park were suddenly listed on the market. The land was valued at over £3,000,000 (\$4 million), but was offered to them for £600,000 (\$800,000). The church made a counteroffer of £150,000 (\$200,000) for one acre, and the realtor agreed.

It turned out that the landowner was in liquidation, and the bank was forcing him to sell his portfolio. The 3.34 acres of Auchenkilns Park was the final holding on the portfolio, and the bank wanted their money; therefore, the entire 3.34 acres needed to be sold. Eventually, a final cost of £288,000 (\$383,000), which includes 20% for taxes, was negotiated for the entire 3.34 acres. That final price was less than 10% of the land's original market value.

God had led His people to prime real estate next to the M80 motorway, Scotland’s second busiest highway, where some 80,000 cars drive every day! The land is located just 15 minutes from Glasgow, 20 minutes from Falkirk, and 40 minutes from Edinburgh.



Future home of the Cumbernauld Church of Christ

Evangelists Adam Barr and Graham McDonald traveled to the United States to raise funds to purchase the land. By December 2017, God had provided the funds, and the purchase was completed. The Lord has blessed His people with a location where the Lord’s church will serve as a beacon for the community as well as the country.

In late February of this year, Adam Barr returned to the States for five weeks to raise funds for the building, which is estimated to cost \$5 million. During that time, he met with over forty congregations or families in 11 states seeking funds for the building.

Now, you can contribute online at Mayfair.org/give with the designation “Scotland Building,” or by check payable to Mayfair Church of Christ and with “Scotland Building” on the memo line.

...but God...

By Dick Savage

“Everything that breathed and lived on dry land died. [...] But God remembered Noah and all the wild animals and livestock with him in the boat.” (Genesis 7:22, 8:1 NLT)

“BUT God” occurs about 60 times in the Bible. The number varies depending on the version we use.

As you walk through God’s great redemptive story, you see it is a story of fresh starts and new beginnings. The sin of Adam and Eve seems like the end of a very short story, but God promises that a fresh start is coming.

The global flood seems like the end of the earth, but God makes a covenant with Noah, and God’s plan marches on. The enslavement of the children of Israel in Egypt seems like the end of the people of God, but God exercises His power to give them freedom and a land of promise.

David’s sins of adultery and murder seem like the end of David’s line, from which the Messiah was to come, but God forgives and restores His king. The destruction of Jerusalem and the temple, along with the captivity of Judah, seem like the end of God’s people once again, but God leads a remnant back, restores His people, and rebuilds the temple.

You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead (Acts 3:15 NLT).

The crucifixion of Jesus seems like the end of all hope, but then comes the resurrection, Christ’s ascension, and the beginning and growth of His church. This fallen world will someday be burned up, but it will not be the end, because the new heavens and earth will rise, and peace and righteousness will reign forever.

This is what powerful redeeming grace does. It cannot and will not be defeated. God’s grace will have its way. God’s grace will win. Your struggles today are not the end. Your Lord has a plan for you. His grace guarantees a future for you.

Rest in His grace, trust, and obey. His plan marches on. You are wise to build your life, hope, and dreams on the sure foundation of God’s amazing grace.

No hope after Adam sinned, but God...

No grand redemptive plan, but God...



No surviving a global flood, but God...

No descendants for Abram, but God...

As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today (Genesis 50:20 ESV).

No future for Joseph, but God...

No Passover freedom from Egypt, but God...

But God led the people around by the way of the wilderness toward the Red Sea. And the people of Israel went up out of the land of Egypt equipped for battle (Exodus 13:18 ESV).

No journey through the Red Sea, but God...

No manna in the wilderness, but God...

No tabernacle of worship or forgiveness, but God...

No crumbling walls of Jericho, but God...

No defeat of the Midianites, but God...

No victory over Goliath, but God...

No new beginning for Jonah, but God...

No walking out of the fiery furnace, but God...

No safety in the lion’s den, but God...

No prophets, priests, and kings, but God...

No hope for the line of Judah, but God...

No Messiah born to Mary, but God...

No Word becomes flesh, but God...

No Living Water, but God...

No Bread of Life, but God...

No Passover Lamb, but God...

No cross of forgiveness, but God...

No victorious resurrection, but God...

No royal ascension, but God...

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No gift of the Holy Spirit, but God...
No forgiveness for Peter, but God...
No rescue on the road to Damascus, but God...

But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God (1 Corinthians 2:10 NKJV).

No written revelation, but God...
No great and precious promises, but God...
No new life in Christ, but God...
No community of faith, but God...
No reconciling mercy, but God...
No rescuing conviction, but God...
No heart transformation, but God...
No fresh mercies for each day, but God...

But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8 ESV).

No endless love, but God...
No hope in the valley but God...
No humility on the mountain, but God...

My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever (Psalm 73:26 ESV).

No strength in weakness, but God...
No enduring faith, but God...
No willing obedience, but God...

No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it (1 Corinthians 13:10 NKJV).

No fight against temptation, but God...
No final defeat of sin and Satan, but God...

But God raised him from the dead (Acts 13:30 ESV)

No resurrection, but God...
No secure destiny, but God...
No forever kingdom, but God...
No glorious wedding feast, but God...
No victory songs of the redeemed, but God...
No new heavens and earth, but God...
No peace and righteousness forever, but God...



"Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins. You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil - the commander of the powers in the unseen world. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God. All of us used to live that way, following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature. By our very nature, we were subject to God's anger, just like everyone else.

But God, He is so rich in mercy, and He loved us so much, that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's grace that you have been saved!) For he raised us from the dead along with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ Jesus. So, God can point to us in all future ages as examples of the incredible wealth of his grace and kindness toward us, as shown in all he has done for us who are united with Christ Jesus. God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago" (Ephesians 2:1-10, NLT).

A Prayer for Today: God, help me to build my life, hope, and dreams on the solid and sure foundation of Your amazing grace. When I experience loss and heartache, remind me from Your Word that suffering is only temporary because Your peace and Your righteousness will reign forever. I need that constant reminder because, as a sinful person, I am prone to forget. May I continually and purposefully rest in Your grace, trust Your heart, and obey Your commands. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

“Gray hair is a crown of glory; it is gained in a righteous life” (Proverbs 16:31 ESV).

In this issue of “JOY in the Journey,” we continue our series on Mayfair’s Senior Members, who truly wear a “Crown of Glory.” This month, we learn more about Ray Carlisle.

Ray Carlisle

By Don Gardner

Rayon (Ray) Hughes Carlisle was born on September 8, 1934, in Crowder, MS, a small town in Quitman County in the Mississippi Delta, to Rayon Hughes Carlisle, Sr. and Irene Nelson. Irene’s family had moved in 1918 from Greensburg, KY, to Quitman, where Ray Sr. was born and raised. Years later, the two met and then married in 1932.

About a year after Ray was born, his family moved west to Los Angeles, CA, then a year later to Oakland, CA. Ray Sr. and Irene added to their family with the birth of Ray’s younger sisters, Beverly in January 1937 and Mary in March 1949. Both sisters have passed away.

The family lived in a one-story duplex across the street from Zion Lutheran Church, where Ray attended grammar school. The school had only two classrooms, one for grades one through four and the other for grades five through eight. After finishing grammar school, Ray moved to McClymonds High School and graduated in June 1951.

Ray enlisted as a Marine in early 1954, becoming an electronics repairman. He remained in the telecommunications and electronics field for the remainder of his 27 years in the Marine Corps, retiring as a Major in August 1980. During his career with the Marines, Ray was stationed at Guantanamo Naval Air Station during the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962 and served two tours in Vietnam in 1965 and 1969.

Ray was being transferred to San Diego, CA, when he met his future wife, Lee Holt, while they were attending a party at the home of some mutual friends. Lee was born in Glendale, CA. They eloped two weeks later and were married in Las Vegas, NV.

Ray and Lee were together for 65 years until she passed away in April 2024. Ray says, not only was Lee his wife, but also his best friend on earth. Together, they had three children: Toni Marie, born in



Ray Carlisle

1959; David Alan, born in 1962 in San Diego; and Teri Lee, born in 1963 in Great Lakes, IL.

Ray began working toward a degree in Mathematics at Cypress Junior College in Cypress, CA, which he later completed at California State University-Long Beach in February 1972 under the Marine Corps “Bootstrap Program.” He then earned a master’s degree in computer science from the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, CA.

In June 1976, Ray began his next-to-last tour in the Marine Corps when he was assigned to teach mathematics (analytic geometry, calculus, and differential equations) to some of the top students in the country at the United States Naval Academy, where he remained until June 1979. Ray says it was an interesting time for his family as they were surrounded by families from several countries, including Japan, Eng-

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land, Portugal, Mexico, and France. The Academy taught academics, seamanship, and other subjects related to naval life. He says, "I always found it interesting to hear the polyglot languages that our children managed to converse in."

After retiring from the Marine Corps, Ray accepted a job with TRW in Bailey's Crossroads, VA, while living in Manassas, VA. In the fall of 1981, TRW transferred Ray to Huntsville. Later, he went to work for Teledyne Brown Engineering in 1985 and completed work on his doctorate in Engineering Management. In 1999, at age 65, Ray retired to the golf course.

Ray and Lee had attended Baptist churches in San Diego and elsewhere but were never fully committed to their doctrine. They visited some of the Baptist churches in the Huntsville area but were disappointed at the lack of gospel preaching. One Saturday in December 2001, they mentioned this to their next-door neighbors, Hulan and Frances Smith, who attended Mayfair. Frances mentioned the good gospel preaching of Gary Bradley, and Ray said they might try that sometime. Hulan's response was something like: "We leave at eight-thirty, and I will drive." Ray and Lee never regretted accepting the offer, and both were eventually baptized into Christ: Ray in November 2003 and Lee in the spring of 2005.

Ray says he is blessed to have served in several capacities while at Mayfair, but we have been blessed by his service. His first assignment at Mayfair was to turn out all the lights in the building each Sunday night.

He and Lee started the Military OutReach and Encouragement (MORE) Ministry in 2003, at the start of the Iraq invasion. About thirty brothers and sisters served by writing letters of encouragement to troops on the ground. At that time, Ray was asked to serve as a deacon.

Following the passing of Lem Tipton in 2007, the elders asked Ray to take over Lem's role as Senior Adults Minister. Ray describes that as "a very fulfilling service since we provided a monthly lunch for our seniors, including those in Mayfair Towers." In 2009, Joe Hendrix, who was an elder at that time, asked Ray to work in the World Bible School program, where he still serves.



Ray & Lee Carlisle in earlier days

In addition to his involvement in WBS, Ray also teaches in the rotation for the Lifesavers Class. Ray's favorite passage in scripture is found in Paul's letter to the church at Ephesus: *"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them"* (Ephesians 2:8-10 ESV).

SENIORLIFE

The mission is to strengthen, encourage, and comfort older members of the Mayfair congregation and provide opportunities to give or assist others as needed.



SeniorHelp is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit, DONATIONS are tax-deductible and always welcome to further our mission of assisting seniors.

SERVE ONE ANOTHER IN LOVE
GALATIANS 5:13

Please make checks payable to SeniorHelp.

The Role of Advanced Practice Providers in Modern Healthcare

By Tami Harvell, MSN, RN, FNP-BC

Advanced Practice Providers (APPs)—a category that includes both Nurse Practitioners (NPs) and Physician Assistants (PAs)—are highly trained medical professionals who play a pivotal role in today's rapidly evolving healthcare landscape. These providers deliver high-quality care across a wide range of clinical settings, from primary care to specialized medical services. Understanding their roles, training, certification, and scope of practice is essential to appreciating how they contribute to the broader healthcare system.

Levels of Nursing Practice

Nursing includes several levels of licensure, each requiring the successful completion of a licensing exam and ongoing continuing education to maintain practice.

Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs) typically complete a one-year Practical Nursing Program and must pass a licensing exam for practical nurses. They provide basic nursing care under the supervision of Registered Nurses (RNs), physicians, or APPs. Their responsibilities often include monitoring patients, administering basic treatments, and assisting with activities of daily living.

RNs have a broader scope of practice. They generally hold either an associate's or a bachelor's degree in nursing and must pass a licensing exam for registered nurses. RNs assess patient conditions, administer medications, coordinate care, and educate patients. They typically work under the supervision of physicians or APPs, though they exercise considerable clinical judgment within their role.

Nurse Practitioners: Advanced Clinical Nursing

An NP is an RN who has completed advanced clinical education and training, typically at the master's or doctoral level. In addition to passing the RN licensing exam, NPs must also pass a national certifying exam in their specialty area.

NPs combine the foundational principles of nursing with the ability to diagnose illnesses, order and interpret diagnostic tests, and develop comprehensive treatment plans. Their practice emphasizes both clinical

expertise and preventive care. Many NPs work autonomously or in collaboration with physicians, depending on the laws of their state and their specific clinical setting.

NPs specialize in areas such as family medicine, pediatrics, adult-gerontology, psychiatric-mental health, or women's health. While their education focuses on a specific population, they may work in various healthcare environments, provided their work stays within the scope of their training. For example, a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner would not treat adult patients without additional training and certification.



Physician Assistants: Medical Model Clinicians

PAs are another category of APPs, trained to practice medicine in collaboration with physicians. Their education follows a medical model similar to that of doctors, preparing them to work in a wide range of specialties, including surgery, emergency medicine, and internal medicine.

PAs typically enter a master's-level PA program after earning a bachelor's degree and gaining healthcare experience. These programs last about 2–3 years and include rigorous coursework in medical sciences and clinical rotations across various specialties. After completing the program, PAs must pass a national certification exam and engage in continuing medical education to maintain licensure. Recertification is also required every 10 years.

PAs conduct physical exams, diagnose and treat illnesses, prescribe medications, assist in surgeries, and deliver preventive care. While they usually work in collaborative settings, some states are expanding their legal authority for more independent practice.

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Certification and Regulation

Both NPs and PAs must pass national certification exams and meet continuing education requirements to remain in good standing. Certification ensures that APPs meet the professional standards necessary to provide safe, evidence-based care.

In the case of NPs, certification is typically granted by organizations such as the American Association of Nurse Practitioners, or the American Nurses Credentialing Center. PAs are certified by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants.

APPs vs. Physicians: Training and Scope of Practice

Although APPs and physicians often perform similar functions, important differences exist in terms of training, autonomy, and legal responsibilities.

Physicians (Doctors of Medicine and Doctors of Osteopathic Medicine) complete undergraduate studies, medical school, and residency programs—a process taking 7 to 11 years or more. In contrast, APPs will complete 6 to 8 years of education and clinical training. Physicians practice independently in all states and settings. Nurse Practitioners may practice independently in states that grant Full Practice Authority, while Physician Assistants generally work under the supervision of a physician, although legislative changes in some states are expanding their autonomy.

Physicians manage highly complex or rare conditions, lead specialized care teams, and often serve as academic educators and research leaders. APPs are well-prepared to manage common and chronic conditions, but they typically defer more complicated cases to physicians and are not permitted to lead certain medical subspecialties or surgical procedures independently.

Overlapping and Distinct Services

APPs and physicians share many clinical responsibilities, including:

- Diagnosing and treating illnesses and injuries
- Prescribing medications
- Ordering and interpreting diagnostic tests
- Providing preventive care and patient education
- Managing chronic diseases
- Assisting in surgical procedures (particularly PAs)

However, APPs are generally not authorized to:

- Perform complex surgeries independently
- Lead highly specialized medical teams in subspecialties like oncology or neurosurgery
- Supervise or train medical residents (a role typically reserved for physicians)
- Practice independently in states without Full Practice Authority (for NPs) or physician collaboration (for PAs)

The Value of APPs in Healthcare

Numerous studies have demonstrated that APPs provide high-quality, safe, and cost-effective care, particularly in primary care and chronic disease management. Their presence improves healthcare accessibility, especially in underserved or rural areas, and contributes significantly to patient satisfaction and outcomes.

As demand for healthcare services continues to rise due to aging populations and provider shortages, APPs are poised to take on even greater responsibility in the healthcare delivery system. Their unique blend of autonomy, collaboration, and patient-centered care, positions them as essential members of today's healthcare workforce.

Conclusion

Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants are indispensable to modern healthcare. Their rigorous training, clinical versatility, and patient-centered approach enhance access to care and promote system efficiency. While their roles differ from those of physicians in terms of training and legal authority, APPs are essential to meeting the growing and complex needs of patients across diverse healthcare environments. As healthcare continues to evolve, the contributions of APPs will remain at the forefront of high-quality, collaborative care.

Mayfair Assistance Helpline

If you require assistance with home maintenance, automotive repairs, or transportation needs, please call the phone numbers below and leave a message and you will be contacted for details:

256-881-4651 (during church office hours)

256-704-3384 (nights, weekends or holidays)

Our God Is Good - All The Time

By Denton Kimbrough

When I reflect on my life, I am reminded of what David penned in the Psalms:

*"Let all that I am praise the Lord; with my whole heart, I will praise His holy name. Let all that I am praise the Lord; **may I never forget the good things He does for me**" (Psalms 103:1-2 NLT).*

God has certainly been good to me and blessed me beyond measure. We often see the popular slogan on hats and T-shirts that reads "Life is Good." I submit to you that life is good because our **God is good**. I love what Solomon said in Ecclesiastes:

"For he will not much remember the days of his life because God keeps him occupied with joy in his heart" (Ecclesiastes 5:20 ESV).

I can say, with most of you, that my life has not always been easy and certainly not without struggles, but it has always been good! I was born in Florence, Alabama, in 1953. My Dad was a hard worker. He worked for TVA in coal-powered steam plants until he retired. Dad never went to college, but on the job, he learned all there was to know about the production of electricity. To learn and refine his trade, our family had to move numerous times to different places where he worked in different steam plants. Even though we moved often, Dad always had his eyes set on returning home to Tuscumbia, Alabama, in Colbert County, where he was born and raised.

When I was in the fourth grade, Dad had the opportunity to transfer to TVA's Colbert steam plant. We packed up (again) and made the move from Kingston, Tennessee, to Tuscumbia, Alabama.

Dad built a house for our family on Hawk Pride Mountain just outside Tuscumbia. It is ironic that from that land on the top of the mountain, you could look over the valley below and see the steam plant where he worked. We lived and grew up on that mountain in the house that he built with his own hands. Life was simple there. My Dad loved the outdoors and grew a garden every year.

I am blessed that I lived in a home where God and family were most important. Strong values such as commitment, contentment, and consistency were modeled and taught by my Dad and my Mom. Our



family loved our church, the Tuscumbia Church of Christ, and were always there for services, including the times when the mountain road was frozen and we mostly slid there. Those trips on those slick roads were the beginning of my learning how to pray! At age 12, I was baptized at this church.

I graduated from Deshler High School in 1971 and then attended David Lipscomb College (which is now Lipscomb University). I am blessed that I was afforded the opportunity to attend Lipscomb. My time at Lipscomb changed my life in so many ways. The Bible teachers at Lipscomb greatly helped shape and form my life for the better. As a young child, I dreamed of being a dentist. My dentist in Tuscumbia helped lead me into the field of dentistry. Lipscomb gave me the education and preparation I needed to be accepted into dental school, and for that I am grateful. I graduated from Lipscomb in 1974 and was accepted into the University of Alabama School of Dentistry in Birmingham.

I believe that God intersects our lives with other people for a purpose. Nothing with God is by happenstance or accident because **our God is good - all the time**. While at Lipscomb, God brought Martha Gist and me together. **Other than my relationship with Christ, there is no greater blessing in my life than Martha**. We were married in Scottsboro, Alabama (her hometown), in 1975. On June 8th, this year, we celebrated 50 years of marriage. I cannot adequately express how much she means to me. She has always been right by my side, encouraging me

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every step of the way.

In the Old Testament, it was said of Jonathan that he encouraged his friend (David) in God. Martha encourages me in God every day, and for that I am grateful. Martha loves the Lord, our church, and our family. She loves people and never meets a stranger. Life truly is good, especially when it is shared.



Martha & Denton Kimbrough

While in dental school, Martha and I attended the Homewood Church of Christ, where we were heavily involved with the Inner City Ministry and the bus ministry. It was such a blessing for us to be involved together in these service efforts.

During my time in Dental School at UAB, I became close friends with my classmate, Stan O'Donnell. We forged a friendship that I value to this day. After spending much time together in our four years of dental school, we graduated and decided to come to Huntsville and begin our practice of dentistry together. Stan grew up in Huntsville and was raised here; I knew no one in Huntsville. It is clear that God was with us. Stan and I worked together for 44 years helping meet the dental needs of many in the Huntsville area. **It was such a blessing being able to serve side by side with him for all those years.** He and I continue to be best of friends, and I thank God for him. We retired together in April 2022. Retirement has been such a gift and a real blessing, allowing me

to serve more and spend more time with my family.

These 47 years in Huntsville have been such a blessing for Martha and me. We raised our family here. Our three children (Andy, Anna, and Allyson) were all born here. Andy and his wife, Bethany, live in Huntsville and have two children, Drew and Elizabeth. Anna and her husband, Ben, also live in Huntsville and have three children who are triplets (Abbie, Bailey, and Noah). Allyson and her husband, Cole, live in Franklin, Tennessee, and have three children, Brynlee, Landon, and Emma Jean. Our kids and grandkids are so special to Martha and me. We delight in our family and thank God for them.

Another great blessing that Martha and I treasure is our church family at Mayfair. The love we have for our church family and the life we share with our church family have been instrumental in bonding us closer together. So much of what we do and who we are is because of our Mayfair family. I have had the joy and privilege of serving as a Shepherd of the Mayfair church for 31 years. It is such a joy to serve with godly men whom I love and respect so much.

It has been faith-building to see the ways God has blessed our Mayfair family through the years. I have seen His guiding hand at work time and time again. He has been so faithful. My prayer is that God will gift Martha and me with more years of service to God and His church and that the unity and growth of His church at Mayfair will continue for generations to come.

May God bless each of you as we journey together toward that heavenly home prepared for each one of us. And, on that journey, may we never forget that **our God is good - all the time.**



The Kimbrough Family



By Holley Tew

Divorce is such an ugly word. Even the force with which it is spoken – di-VORCE, with that V digging into your bottom lip – is absolutely jarring. A devastating and painful process, divorce shatters dreams and families, yet it is something we as a Church Body rarely discuss. It's uncomfortable and difficult to talk about messy things. It's often not a purposeful choice to exclude painful topics; sometimes, it's just easier to put those matters aside and focus on some of the greater joys and steps of Christian living.



As a little girl, dreaming of marriage and a family, I never imagined my name would be associated with such an ugly word. But here I am, a lifetime later, living in that reality. And the truth is, we live in a broken world full of broken people and broken choices. Sometimes those broken choices impact our lives in unimaginable ways. Ways that affect our marriages, our children, and our hearts and minds.

Divorce can be such a lonely and chaotic season of life, and I am blessed to say that I could not have made it without my Lord and my Church Family. Through that valley of trauma and devastation, the Lord showed me His Gentleness and Faithfulness, and He showed me that I was not on my own in this process. The tender and empathetic embraces of those who had gone before me in this season, as well as the faithful and loving Body here at Mayfair, assured me that I didn't have to go it alone. And little by little, I was able to learn how to heal. It was an

exhaustingly slow process, with years of prayers and counseling and tears. But the Lord brought me out to the other side.

And that is why DivorceCare is such an important ministry here at Mayfair. It is an opportunity for those experiencing the loss of divorce to recognize that they are not alone and others have gone before, and with the Lord's help, have come out on the other side. There is healing after the long nights of tears. There is Hope. The Lord's Hope. With a group of Fellow Believers who do not judge, but who welcome you with open, loving arms.

Each year in January, Mayfair hosts a 13-week DivorceCare class and support group devoted to processing through the grief of divorce. In this class, you find a group of caring individuals who have been through the heartache you find yourself in. People who have navigated this particular valley and understand this season of life. A community to walk alongside you through what may be the most difficult situation you have ever faced. And that is what a Church Family is supposed to be! A no-matter-what, even-if, with-you-through-it-all kind of Family.

In the past two years of beginning the DivorceCare group and curriculum, there has been such a positive response from our Huntsville community, and the Lord has touched many lives with His Healing through this process. I am reminded of the following scripture: *"See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland"* (Isaiah 43:19 NIV). The Enemy intends these painful experiences for evil and destruction, but the Lord can and does use them for His Good. Blessed be the Name of the Lord.



Getting to Know Your Elders

We continue our series on getting acquainted with our Mayfair elders by learning about Darryl Wortman and his family, their history, and how they came to be at Mayfair.

Darryl Wortman

Serving as an elder at Mayfair has been one of the greatest blessings of my life. It's a sacred responsibility—one I carry with a deep sense of gratitude. This church family has poured so much into my life and that of my family, and I count it a real privilege to help shepherd the congregation we love.

Faith and family have always been closely connected in my life. I was born on a Sunday afternoon—September 18, 1960—in Nashville, Tennessee. My doctor, John Cayce, was also a member of our church, the West End Church of Christ. He delivered me at 5:19 p.m. and still made it back to church that evening to announce my arrival from the pulpit! That story's a favorite in our family—and it's a fitting reminder of how deeply our lives have always been intertwined with the church.

I'm the oldest of three boys and grew up in a loving, Christ-centered home. My parents, Chuck and Annette Wortman, made sure that no matter where we lived, we stayed connected to a local church, and we moved several times during my childhood. From Nashville to Charlotte, then Kingsport, and finally Chattanooga, we were always part of a faith community. Each new place brought friendships and experiences that helped shape who I am.

I was baptized at age 12 at the Northeast Church of Christ in Kingsport. That moment marked the beginning of my personal walk with Jesus, though I had already been surrounded by strong spiritual influences at home and church.

One of the most pivotal experiences of my life came in 1978 when our family joined a year-long mission trip to Birmingham, England. I was 18 years old, and that year changed me. I got to see what it means to serve the Kingdom in a different culture—to support struggling churches, share the gospel, and live intentionally for Christ. That experience planted seeds in my heart that are still growing today.

After returning to the U.S., I started college at David Lipscomb College. It was there that I met Cindy Daugherty, a first-year student from Lewisburg, Ten-



Darryl and Cindy Wortman

nessee. She was kind, funny, smart, full of faith—and she laughed at my corny jokes. I was hooked. We were married on August 28, 1982, and I can honestly say that next to my decision to follow Jesus, marrying Cindy was the best decision I've ever made.

We moved to Cookeville, Tennessee, where I earned my degree in electrical engineering and Cindy earned her business degree from Tennessee Tech. Our first home was in the cinderblock married student housing, nothing fancy, but full of love and shared purpose. We were welcomed by the Jefferson Avenue Church of Christ, where we quickly got involved in youth ministry. Several older couples “adopted” us, and their encouragement made a lasting impression on both of us.

After graduation, we moved to Dallas, Texas, to begin our careers. We joined the Highland Oaks Church of Christ, a large and active congregation where we got involved with the youth group, a young marrieds class, and a life group. Most of our friends were also newlyweds without kids, so we were always up for something fun in Big D. Those

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were good years—full of growth, laughter, and community.

In 1988, we moved to Huntsville, Alabama. We were thinking about starting a family and wanted to be closer to home. I was offered a job with a local engineering company that supported DoD and NASA programs, and Cindy began working with the UAH Teachers in Space program. One of our first goals was to find a church home, and from the beginning, Mayfair felt like the right fit. We jumped in, got involved, and never looked back.

I served as a deacon for many years, especially with the youth ministry, and those relationships helped form deep bonds with both young people and their families. Mayfair became more than a church—it became our extended family. It's where our kids were raised in faith, where Cindy and I found lifelong friends, and where we've been continually challenged to grow and serve.

God has blessed us with three incredible children: Chase (born in 1988), Grant (1990), and Sarah (1995). As adults, they've each married wonderful spouses—Jessica, Clare, and Carter—and now we have six beautiful grandchildren: Pierce, Hazel, Hudson, Margot, Clark, and Luke. Grandparenting is pure joy. There's nothing better than playing, laughing, and just soaking up time with our growing crew.

Over the years, we've been influenced and encouraged by so many godly people—our parents, our church family at Jefferson Avenue and Highland Oaks, and the faithful friends we've made here at Mayfair. We've also been blessed to serve with Baja Missions for more than 15 years. That work has kept me grounded in the mission of the church and continues to remind me that the Kingdom stretches far beyond our walls.

In 2012, I was asked to serve as an elder at Mayfair. It wasn't something I said "yes" to quickly—I spent time in prayer and sought advice from people I trust. I'd seen my dad serve faithfully as an elder, and his example had a lasting impact on me. I kept coming back to *Galatians 6:10 (NASB)*: "So then, while we have opportunity, let's do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith." That verse still shapes how I think about leadership and service.

Being an elder is both joyful and humbling. The joy comes from serving alongside godly men who love the Lord and this congregation. I've learned from their wisdom and been strengthened by their prayers. The humbling part is learning to let go and trust God with the things I can't control. This role has taught me a lot about patience, listening, and waiting for His timing.

One of my passions is teaching. For many years, I've taught Bible classes for children, youth, and adults—and in every case, I've learned more from preparing and sharing than I could've expected. God's Word never stops teaching us. I love being part of those "aha" moments when Scripture comes alive in someone's life.

If we haven't had a chance to talk, I hope we do. God wired us for connection. Whether it's a hallway conversation, a Bible class discussion, or just sitting around with coffee, I'm always up for meaningful conversation—especially when it points us back to God's goodness.

As I look to the future, my prayer for Mayfair is simple but heartfelt: that we will remain rooted in the Word, unified in love, and focused on making disciples. I pray that we'll continue to equip believers, send servants, and serve our community with grace and truth. Most of all, I pray we reflect Jesus in everything we do.

Mayfair's Walk4Water—Sunday, September 28.

Walk4Water, sponsored by Healing Hands International of Nashville, TN, brings awareness to the fact that families in many impoverished nations walk up to four miles for clean, usable water. It also raises funds necessary to dig water wells to serve those who live in such places.

Mayfair hosted its first Walk4Water event in April 2023, with over 300 participants raising \$139,546, enough to build 18 wells. Mayfair will again host a Walk4Water event, Sunday, September 28.

A half-mile course will be laid out around the Mayfair campus, and participants will be encouraged to walk up to 4 miles (8 laps) to understand what many families around the world do to have drinking water.

