

## Collection of short stories reflects touching moments in life

Chris Pepple's book, *Look to See Me: A Collection of Reflections*, has people talking about how the stories have impacted their lives.

This "Collections of Reflections" comes from years of observing and listening to voices that often go unheard and lives that go unnoticed. Pepple, Lipscomb writer/editor and Harpeth Hills member, combines her ministry with her writing talents to capture moments in life that are touching and honest. The "slice of life" short stories give the reader a glimpse into lives of ordinary women who walk through life with an extraordinary determination. The women in each story will seem familiar to each reader. Each woman in these stories walks through life with a unique yet universal story of faith, courage and love.

In speaking about the stories in her new book, Pepple states, "I wrote the stories in my book because I believe every person has a story to tell—every person has a voice to be heard. We forget

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Chris Pepple writes from the heart. Her "slice of life" stories draw the reader in and touch you with their honesty.

As a freelance writer, her works have appeared in many local and national publications. She is also the mother of two wonderful daughters who delight her with their own faith, courage and love.

This book is available in the Harpeth Hills library.

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# ACT III

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## Legacy Fund Proposed

As the work of the Resource Center on Aging continues to expand, we are announcing the creation of the LEGACY FUND.

### What is proposed and why?

*The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it.— Psalm 24:1*

In reflecting upon this truth, the elders at Harpeth Hills are announcing the creation of the Legacy Fund to serve as a receptacle to assist both Harpeth Hills members and other Christians in fulfilling their need to be good stewards over God's blessings. The Legacy Fund will be designed as a complete program to provide both:

- ◆ Education about the Christian obligation of stewardship and alternative ways to meet those obligations
- ◆ A mechanism for receiving gifts and distributing those gifts to appropriate recipients.

### Education

The Legacy Fund initiative will be based upon an educational program to teach Christians more about:

- ◆ Their stewardship obligations
- ◆ Ways to meet those obligations while at the same time meeting their other financial and family obligations
- ◆ How the Legacy Fund (as well as other appropriate vehicles) might help them achieve their objectives

These programs will be developed and presented by qualified individuals whose exclusive role will be strictly educational. Materials and introductions used in these programs will take appropriate care to communicate that no particular person or service is being endorsed.

### How will the fund be managed?

The Legacy Fund and related educational programs will be overseen by the Elders of the Harpeth Hills church. The Fund is not intended to replace our obligation to give for the regular works of the church nor is it designed to supplement the congregation's yearly financial commitments. The Legacy Fund will be separate from the general operating funds of the congregation, will be reported on separately, and have different (albeit, in some cases, similar or related) objec-

tives. There will be regular reporting on Fund size and activities

### Issues to be considered...

Because of the unique nature of this fund, new policies and procedures will need to be adopted to guide the management of this fund. Some examples of issues that would need to be addressed by policy include:

- ◆ Receipt and disposal of in-kind contributions
- ◆ Guidelines on acceptable assets
- ◆ Policies requiring independent, third-party investment management
- ◆ Guidelines on due diligence for new and existing recipients
- ◆ Policies regarding disposition of funds directed toward specific recipients where those recipients no longer exist
- ◆ Procedures for identifying new charitable areas
- ◆ Policies and guidelines on permissible investments

Rollout of the Legacy Fund is scheduled for Spring, 2008.

# Life After 60

We live in a youth-oriented culture, and older individuals are often overlooked. However there is a societal shift that looks positively to life after sixty as a period of continued growth, productivity, and enjoyment. Our challenge is to pursue and embrace the second half of life with curiosity, challenge, and fulfilling activity.

Aging involves predictable developmental transitions. Society magnifies the challenges of aging and associates aging with problems. A more balanced view sees these challenges as predictable, normal transitions. Despite the stereotype of seniors living for years in institutions, most live independently much of their lives with family members providing some assistance.

"Quality of life" is typically defined as a person's health and the ability to perform daily activities. However, the narrative of our life explains much more about the quality of our life. It is a powerful testimony of who we are. Mentoring through storytelling connects us to people

in the present as well as to people in our past. We have a sense of well being and belonging when others know who we are by the stories we tell.

What are your beliefs about the transitions in life after age sixty? In your community are seniors respected or avoided? Some cultures and communities value seniors, age, and wisdom while others avoid and ignore those in their second half of life and its transitions. Just as laying good foundations is important in the early years of one's life, continuing to grow and embrace life is essential to finishing a life well-lived.

Mentoring provides an opportunity for those engaged in life after sixty to support one another through the natural and predictable stages of senior living. These conversations stimulate discussions of life review and self esteem that help seniors live better and purposefully in the present. By

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engaging in peer mentoring seniors experience a sense of life integrity and greater satisfaction with their lives. Seniors also provide encouragement to one another for success in the developmental tasks of the second half of life. Both

younger and older seniors become a valuable resource of wisdom and support for one another.

It is not the intent to have a hierarchy of mentoring from a "more experienced" mentor to a "lesser experienced" mentee. Seniors experience various life changes and events at differing times and with differing sequences. One senior already may have life experience with which the other senior has little experience. At other times they may both be equally experienced and may simply share and enjoy their journey and stories together. The mentoring relationship is more like hiking where one person at times may be in the lead and at other times both may be walking side-by-side.

Our lives are shaped by our relationships with others. Peer mentoring provides another opportunity to be shaped by conversational friendship. Listening to someone share the story of his or her life and telling our story enhances the quality of life of both individuals. We remember with integrity, pride, and humility our life, our loved ones, our blessings, and our continuing journey of becoming who we are.

*—Dr. Ed Gray, Harding University Graduate School of Religion*

**Editor's Note:** Dr. Gray has authored a conversation guide entitled: "Senior-to-Senior Mentoring: 12 Conversations for Active Living." We are exploring ways to include this in our Resource Center program. Of interest - Dr. Gray is Pat Whitfield's brother.

## Reflections of Joy: Women's Ministry Draws Strength through Intergenerational Relationships

The women of Harpeth Hills have joined together to create bold, innovative opportunities for study, service and support. The list of exciting options includes a Sunday morning Bible class, book clubs, Monday Bible studies, a pregnancy loss support group, a spring retreat and Thankful Thursdays. This list was not created to try to create a "busyness" among Harpeth Hills women. The options were created after months of prayer, planning and listening to the needs of the congregation and designed to meet the needs of women, above all advancing His kingdom through all that is planned.

Some of these programs are continuations of ongoing classes enjoyed through the years, while other programs are in their infancy. A unique

feature of all the programs is the opportunity to develop intergenerational relationships. This intentional approach to study, service and fellowship helps to keep people from feeling isolated in the church and opens up moments where new relationships can flourish.

"All of our groups are quite diverse in the age of participants," said Gail Powell, a steering committee member for the women's ministries. "The women of our church and community are developing intergenerational ties which are enriching our community, our congregation and the lives of individuals who are participating. Even our steering committee is intergenerational. We have women who range from their 20's to their 80's. Actually, every decade in that span is represented on our committee."

Many of the programs are growing so rapidly that the committee must revise plans to accommodate more participants. The April retreat, for example, was originally designed for 125 people, but when 250 women signed up, new plans were quickly made. New programs are also possible. The pregnancy loss support group arose because of a specific request from a member who had the confidence to request fellowship as she faced a trying time in life. As other needs arise, other programs can be designed to meet those needs.

Flyers are available at Harpeth Hills which further detail the opportunities available through Reflections of Joy women's ministry.

### 1 Cor. 13 Christmas Edition

"If I decorate my house perfectly with plaid bows, strands of twinkling lights and shiny balls, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another decorator.

If I slave away in the kitchen, baking dozens of Christmas cookies, preparing gourmet meals and arranging a beautifully adorned table at mealtime, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another cook.

If I work at the soup kitchen, carol in the nursing home and give all that I have to charity, but do not show love to my family, it profits me nothing.

If I trim the spruce with shimmering angels and crocheted snowflakes, attend a myriad of holiday parties and sing in the choir's cantata but do not focus on Christ, I have missed the point.

Love stops the cooking to hug the child.

Love sets aside the decorating to kiss the husband.

Love is kind, though harried and tired.

Love doesn't envy another's home that has coordinated Christmas china and table linens.

Love doesn't yell at the kids to get out of the way, but is thankful they are there to be in the way.

Love doesn't give only to those who are able to give in return but rejoices in giving to those who can't.

Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never fails.

Video games will break, pearl necklaces will be lost, golf clubs will rust. But giving the gift of love will endure." —from Unknown source, featured in Ms. Cheap's Tennessean column Dec. 25, 2006