

Koinonia Senior Care encourages home visits that focus on the social, spiritual, and significance support of our homebound seniors and their caregivers, wherever they call home.

www.kscare.org
316-209-9028

KSC CONNECTION



Koinonia Senior Care Newsletter **July 2022**

Making Today Count

The older I get, the more I seem to encounter death of friends and family. I take time to reflect on their life and then ponder what my epitaph would be and what legacy I will leave. I resolve to focus more intently and creatively on how to live life, one day at a time. I think of Jesus' words in John 10:10

*The thief comes to steal, kill, and destroy;
but I have come to give life and give it abundantly. - Jesus*

Whether the thief comes by way of diagnosis, feeling disconnected, or death of a loved one, we have the gift of life and influence today. As a follower of Jesus, who is the giver of eternal life, we can choose to **make today count** with creativity and purpose. The story of Roy Kelly is an example of creativity in the light of his diagnosis with terminal cancer. After some time, he and his wife chose to throw a party and invite all their friends. During the festivities, Roy announced his purpose in the party, stating that it was a cancer party and that he and his wife decided to start an organization called MTC **Make Today Count**. He made each guest present a charter member.

As Christians, how can we creatively **MAKE TODAY COUNT** in the battles we are facing? What does that look like in your life? I would like your feedback for an anonymous series on **Making Today Count**.

Philippians 4:1-9 passage gives us a good start to **Making TODAY Count**

1. Stand strong in the Lord. Do not be moved by the circumstances of life. Recognize the evil ploys of the enemy to steal, kill, and destroy.
2. Strive for unity with our brothers and sisters in Christ.
3. Sing to the Lord always. Listen to Christian music throughout the day..
4. Seek gentleness in every relationship and conversation today.
5. Saturate today in prayer with a heart of gratitude. Then experience peace.
6. Seize the six anxiety-busters. Think on what is true, honorable, right, pure, lovely and admirable. *And the God of peace will be with you.*



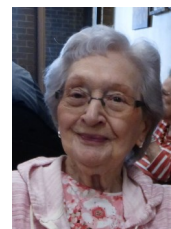
JULY

- 4 Independence Day**
- 6 KSC Support & Training**
- 13 Waxing Wednesday**
- 14 Empowered Seniors**
- 27 Blessing Gift Make & Take**
- Thursdays @ 3:00 Bible study at Oxford Grand**

NOTE: Hymn Sings will resume in September.

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Do you know a homebound senior who would enjoy a *Blessing Gift* and the devotion?  
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“Aunt Babe,” our guest columnist, writes about her reflections on life. She is 98 years young and is still using her gifts to bless others. She is an inspiration to me because she lives in a land of silence since her hearing loss 7 years ago, yet she so wisely encourages others to **“keep a song in your heart.”** See her article on **page 2.**



Aunt Babe's Reflections

Summertime of Yesteryear

Often I think about our early years of summer with sunshine bright and clear. Us younger kids stayed out of doors a good bit of the days, and our deep tans showed it. I recall my teacher saying to me, "My, Ellis Marie, what a nice tan you have!" As a seven year old, I tried to smile and be happy, but I was very embarrassed. I thought being tan for a girl was not being pretty. You see my mother had a grown up in a time when girls kept their skin as fair as possible. The never ventured outside without having all their skin covered well, for only fair skin was beautiful!

There are also other things I'm recalling about summer as many other things were in the offering—ice cream, socials, picnics, and pony parties are just a few I recall—but they will have to wait for another time.

Caregiver Corner of Praise

[Thank You, Lord by Chris Tomlin](#)

Thank You Lord for the small things, like me and her on the porch swing;
For summer nights and fireflies and the sound of my old six string.

Blessings, on blessings, on blessings, on blessings, if I still got breath in these lungs. And that's all I need to get down on my knees and be thankful for all that He's done.

CHORUS: For my mama, for my friends, for Your love that never ends. For the songs that make us dance on this ol' dirt floor. For my babies, for my girl, for the way they changed my world. Waking up today, yeah, I just gotta say, Thank You Lord. Yeah, I just wanna say, Thank You Lord (oh, now)

Thank You Lord for the hard times. For lighting the way in the dark times. For pulling me in, forgiving again the times that I took it too far, I gotta thank You for keeping me humble; for picking me up when I stumble. And although I change, You stay the same, and I don't say thank You enough.

CHORUS

Praise up. Eyes closed. One thing I know, I just wanna thank You Lord, thank You Lord (thank You Lord) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xOgAmQvOUM0>



Opportunities

4 U held at

Tyler Road Baptist Church

571 S. Tyler Road

BLESSING GIFT

Make-&-Take

Wed. July 27 @ 1:00

TRAINING & SUPPORT

July 6 @ 1:00

Take the [brain tour](#) online from Alzheimer's Assoc. Just click [here!](#)
Access many virtual groups across the state & country. Contact locally at 316-267-7312

1820 E. Douglas, Wichita, KS

EMPOWERED SENIORS

July 14

[Aging in America](#)

Watch past seminars on their YouTube channel or

Fridays @ 8:30 p.m. PBS
Repeats Sat. @ 3 on 8.1 &
Sundays @5:30 on 8.2

Thank you

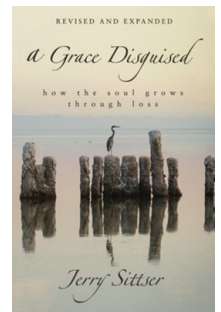
**for the numerous
donations
in memory of**

Wilma Brisco

GROWTH in the Garden of Grief

When I think of the many who gave their lives so that we can have the freedoms we have in America, I am deeply humbled. I can't imagine the feeling of hearing that knock on the door and receiving the news that a loved one was killed in battle. The news is heart-wrenching and forever changes the lives of loved ones. The grief and sadness don't go away like many would like it to, because grief is a healthy sign of deep love for someone. If you didn't love, you wouldn't grieve.

I recently read a book by Jerry Sittser called *a Grace Disguised*. I recommend it highly and have even ordered it for a few of my friends working through complicated grief. I have expounded a bit on his analogy of grief that I hope some of you find helpful now or in the future as you process grief of a loved one.



Recognizing that grief really never entirely leaves the soul can help us discover that we can GROW our soul until it is capable of mourning and rejoicing simultaneously. The analogy Sittser uses is when a huge tree has to be cut down in the yard and all that is left is the stump. The memory of this beautiful tree may be that the kids used to climb it, swing from its branches, or perhaps it was a fruit tree that a loved one used to pick from to can their delicious preserves. Whatever the memory, the tree may have been old, diseased, or struck by lightning, leaving only a stump to remember it by. Every time one looks in the yard, there is that visual reminder. I will close with Sittser's beautiful and helpful grief explanation:

Eventually, however, I decided to do something about it. I landscaped my backyard, reclaiming it once again as my own. I decided to keep the stump there, since it was both too big and too precious to remove. Instead of getting rid of it, I worked around it. I planted shrubs, trees, flowers, and grass. I laid out a brick pathway and built two benches. Then I watched everything grow. Now, three years later, the stump remains, still reminding me of the beloved tree I lost. But the stump is surrounded by a beautiful garden of blooming flowers and growing trees and lush grass. Likewise, the sorrow I feel remains, but I have tried to create a landscape around the loss so that what was once ugly is now an integral part of a larger, lovely whole.” (pp.31-32)

Christine spoke recently on this and called it, *GROWTH in the Garden of Grief*, with GROWTH being an acronym with 6 ways to grow. Christine welcomes the opportunity to talk with groups on this, and other topics. She can also help those grieving find *GriefShare* support groups nearby.

The Ragged Old Flag—by Johnny Cash

I walked through a county courthouse square. On a park bench, an old man was sittin' there.
I said, "Your old court house is kinda run down." He said, "Naw, it'll do for our little town."
I said, "Your old flag pole is leaned a little bit, And that's a ragged old flag you got hangin' on it."
He said, "Have a seat," and I sat down. "Is this the first time you've been to our little town?"
I said, "I think it is." He said, "I don't like to brag, but we're kinda proud of That Ragged Old Flag

"You see, we got a little hole in that flag there, When Washington took it across the Delaware.
and It got powder burned the night Francis Scott Key sat watching it, writing "Say Can You See"
It got a rip in New Orleans, with Packingham & Jackson tuggin' at its seams.
and it almost fell at the Alamo beside the Texas flag, but she waved on though.

She got cut with a sword at Chancellorsville, and she got cut again at Shiloh Hill.
There was Robert E. Lee and Beauregard and Bragg, and the south wind blew hard on That Ragged Old
Flag

"On Flanders Field in World War I, she got a big hole from a Bertha Gun,
She turned blood red in World War II. She hung limp, and low, a time or two.



She was in Korea, Vietnam. She went where she was sent by her Uncle Sam.
She waved from our ships upon the briny foam and now they've about quit wavin' back here at home.
In her own good land here she's been abused. She's been burned, dishonored, denied an' refused,
And the government for which she stands has been scandalized throughout the land.

And she's gettin' thread bare, and she's wearin' thin, but she's in good shape, for the shape she's in.
Cause she's been through the fire before and I believe she can take a whole lot more.
So we raise her up every morning and we bring her down slow every night,
We don't let her touch the ground, and we fold her up right.
On second thought I DO like to brag cause I'm mighty proud of That Ragged Old Flag!"

The video accompanying this song is worth the time to look up and watch or ask someone with internet to show it to you: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o0Jl2qOFOJk>

Be sure and request one of Koinonia Senior Care's July *Blessing Gifts*, which includes an American Patriotic Song Medley for your singing enjoyment!

July's Touch Someone Challenge

There's nothing like the breathtaking enjoyment of sponsored fireworks shows around town. Consider taking your senior family member or friend to enjoy the show. They might need to take out their hearing aids as the BOOMS can be pretty loud! Keep them safe, cool, and hydrated, too! Share Johnny Cash's video with them, too. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o0Jl2qOFOJk> Happy 4th!



Keep Your Fork. The Best is Yet to Come!

The single, long-stemmed rose placed in my mother-in-law's hands in her casket was a beautiful and meaningful gesture because she loved roses. I recently read the following [fork story](#) and its meaningful gesture for those hungry to spread hope.

A woman was diagnosed with a terminal illness and given three months to live. She asked her pastor to come to her home to discuss her final wishes. She told him which songs she wanted sung at her funeral, and what scriptures to read, and which outfit she wanted to be buried in.

Then she said, "One more thing. I want to be buried with a fork in my hand."

The pastor was surprised. The woman explained, "In all my years of attending church socials and potluck dinners, I always remember that when the dishes of the main course were being cleared, someone would inevitably lean over and say, 'Keep your fork.' It was my favorite time, because I knew something better was coming, like velvety chocolate cake or deep-dish apple pie -- something wonderful. So, I want people to see me there in that casket with a fork in my hand and wonder, 'What's with the fork?' Then, I want you to tell them, 'Keep your fork, because the best is yet to come.'"

The pastor's eyes welled up with tears of joy as he bid the woman goodbye. He realized that she had a better grasp of heaven than he did, and knew something better was coming.

At the funeral, when people asked him why she was holding a fork, the pastor told them of the conversation he'd had with the woman before she died. He said he could not stop thinking about the fork, and knew they probably would not be able to stop thinking about it, either. He was right. Keep your fork. The best is yet to come. <https://creativeworshipsnss.blogspot.com/2020/12/save-your-fork.html>



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*I have kept young trying
never to lose my childhood
sense of wonderment.*

Helen Keller

More inspiration @ www.kscare.org

 www.facebook.com/kscare

This newsletter has articles of encouragement for widows, homebound seniors, caregivers, and the local church/community who reach out to the needs of widows, caregivers & homebound seniors, wherever they call home.

OUR MISSION

Christian Fellowship
Activities
Respite
Equip Volunteers

**Enriching the lives of
homebound seniors and
their caregivers, and
inviting our community to
join us.**

Community Projects
Action Opportunities
Resources
Education & awareness

OUR MOTTO

To captivate our community
with the character of Christ
through compassionate
CARE

Board of Directors

Rhonda Turner
Gwendolyn Lewis
Chris Dennis
Lyle Jones
Michael Priddle
Teresa Hatfield

Officers

Christine Brisco Dawn Roberts

KSC is a 501c3

OUR VISION

To be a model com-
munity of churches,
neighbors and
businesses who
bring moments of
joy, honor, help and
hope to widows, the
aging and their care-
givers through per-
sonally providing
CARE for those God
puts in their path.