

"Endings are New Beginnings"

by Dr. Foster C. Dryden, Jr.

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.... Ecclesiastes 3.1

Nine years ago I shared with the Session my intention to retire in two years (at the age of 70). One of the elders raised a concern regarding the time it would take to call a new pastor (at that time it was 3 years) since he had two family members who recently had gone through the process in different churches. The discussion continued, and in time Holton Falk came to the Session with an idea he received from the pastor at Penn Wynne Presbyterian Church to have an overlap between the retiring pastor and the new pastor.

It was five years ago in June since that idea was taken to the Commission on Ministry of the Presbytery of Philadelphia and heartily endorsed. Our COM liaison led us on this path and then as COM moderator until his term expired and new leadership took the helm. With the new leadership came new direction, and as a result, I announced to the Session and congregation my plan to retire at the end of June, which was extended to the end of August at Session's request. So, after 40 years of service, to what began as Riverview Presbyterian Church and is ending as Christ's Community Church (with a brief hiatus as Calvary-Riverview Presbyterian Church) an end is in sight with new beginnings for the congregation as well Paula and myself.

When I first spoke to the Session about retiring the thought never came to my mind that it would be another nine years before it would actually happen. Now, the time is here for an end as well as a new beginning. We have seen many endings and new beginnings over the last 40 years, the first 14 years of which was a death and dying ministry.

We grieved as many saints left these "earthly tents" to go to a more permanent dwelling with Christ. Then we entered into a period of deconstructing and reconstructing the congregational culture. With hindsight, that was another 14 years which ended with a commitment to intentional discipleship which has been evolving now for 12 years. None of these movements of the Spirit were planned with foresight, but unfolded as we continued to seek the Kingdom of God above all else.

As we began to deconstruct and reconstruct our culture (not realizing that's what we were doing at the time), we unearthed our core values: worship, fellowship, discipleship, ministry and mission. We ultimately learned the keystone to seeking the Kingdom of God above all else is discipleship. It is Jesus' last command to the Church as He ascended into heaven,

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

Matthew 28.19-20

And remember, I AM with you always, to the end of the age. What a profound Promise; Jesus is with us always! Now, as we prepare to experience another ending and another beginning, we have this amazing promise, Jesus is with us always! Let this be our common comfort and our hope as we move into our separate futures!

In Christ's love,

Bud

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**Pray the Word!
Practice the Word!
Proclaim the Word!**



*Celebration
Brunch for Bud
Sunday, August 27
Following Worship Service*



Dear Bud,

Words cannot express how grateful I am for you, not only as my husband but also as my pastor.

I greatly appreciate your leadership and ability to filter through the spirit.

Thank you for not only leading the church but also leading our family.

Thank you for being authentic and a true man of integrity devoted to God.

We weathered together the ups and downs here at "Riverview" and "Deer Creek" the past 48 years and God has always been with us.

We will miss our "family" here at Christ's Church as we move forward to new adventures in your retirement. Thank you to an amazing man of God!

Paula



Tributes from Bud's children

What do you say as a Preacher's Kid? Really, there are probably so many memories that they could fill a multi volume book series. Besides being the ultimate loving support and advocate, along with Mom, for me as a kid, there are two more recent memories that stand out. The first is my long awaited wedding on November 6, 2010. I knew from the time I was 6 years old that I wanted Dad to officiate my wedding. That was one of the best days of my entire life and the memories are still fresh in my mind. That day could not have happened the way it did without Dad. The second is the baptism of Inara. Mom and Dad made a special trip to Atlanta in late 2013 to baptize Inara. It's a special thing when GranDad is able to perform that Sacrament. There are a lot of cons to being a PK, but I'd say the pros outweigh them when you think about all the special moments in life that a Preacher Dad gets to add to them. Thanks for all of it Dad! Love you and congratulations on your retirement! ~Jennifer



Dad and the pulpit

Funny memory:

I dreaded out of town vacations because that meant dad was out of the pulpit and in the pew, with us! And if you've ever heard him sing hymns within close proximity.....

Favorite memory:

I was a teenager and if I remember correctly it was Kirkwood camp. I could be wrong about the venue, but anyhow. My peers and I were all sitting around the campfire and dad was sharing the crucifixion story in a very real and powerful way. It was the first time for me the death and resurrection of Jesus had any real meaning, because he told it in a raw way that resonated with the confusing adolescent experience.

So dad, thank you for using your voice to preach, and leave the singing to angels.

Sincerely,

Your son who you claim wasn't born, but was found in a ditch!! (family joke)

Jonathan Dryden





Tributes to Bud

"Bud, we are so grateful that you have been a part of our family for so many years. From my baptism, not long after you came to Riverview, to my daughter Phoebe's at Christ's Community Church just a short while ago, and at every step in between, you have shown us Christ's love, celebrating our joys with us and offering comfort and wisdom in our griefs. Your own walk with the Lord has been an inspiration to so many, and though you are now starting down a new path, we know that he is always beside you. Keep us always in your prayers, as you will be in ours, and enjoy a long and well-deserved retirement! -Nathan, Laura, and Phoebe Johnson"



Bud so freely shares his pastoral gifts as I can testify. During times of crisis he has been there for my family and also for friends who needed an ear and comfort. The pain of the death of a close loved one can be eased when the memorial service is such a wonderful celebration of that person's life. Although Jerry was not a member Bud still led a beautiful service when he died. He pours his heart into his caregiving. We have been truly blessed.

Sue Parker



Bud, thank you so much for being our pastor, sharing your wisdom with us, listening to our problems, celebrating our joys, commiserating with our sorrows, and pointing us to God for so many years. You are a good and faithful servant and God has made your work fruitful indeed. Enjoy retirement and I suspect that God has a plan for you ahead!

Tracy Johnson

Well... What can we say about Bud? Bud has to be the sincerest man of God we know. His love for the Lord and willingness to help others also grow in the ways of the Lord are models for all to emulate. We will never forget how he welcomed us to Riverview. He embraced us with open arms, and he nurtured us along the way. He became my (David) mentor. When I became Pastor of Christ's Presbyterian Church in South Philly, he was there. We shared our struggles and joys as co-laborers in ministry. I could call him at a moment's notice, and he would hear me out. I have looked up to Bud for years and I am eternally grateful for how he spoke into my life and showed me what it means to be a disciple and man of God. I am filled with joy because I know Bud and Paula have worked tirelessly and now can rest and enjoy their grandchildren.

Our kids will always say that Pastor Bud is their Pastor, their 2nd favorite Pastor to their dad. He always accepted and loved them. If they had fundraisers, Bud always contributed. Bud was an extended family member to us.

Melissa loved being a part of the session. Studying with Pastor Bud about how to be a disciple of Christ was life-changing. Bud will always be the support we needed through everything. We love you and Paula dearly!

Love,

David, Melissa, Noe', Emanuel, and Kaya



What can I say about a boss who has been so much more; a listening ear, a counselor, an encourager and a friend. From the moment I interviewed for the job with CCC, I felt we had the same spirit, and the past nine years have proven that over and over. Thank you, Bud, for the long conversations (I'm sure there were times it felt more like I was your patient than your employee :)), the spiritual lessons and on-going support and understanding.

You have served the Lord and countless others with deep compassion, dedication and generosity; CCC will not be the same without you.

You have planted seeds of hope and love in numerous lives; you have consistently disciplined, and you truly made an undeniable difference in the lives of many, that is your legacy.

As the story of your life opens to the next chapter may God continue to bless and watch over you and Paula.

Congratulations on your retirement.... It is well deserved!!

"You have planted and watered, God gives the increase." (**1 Corinthians 3:6**)

best
BOSS
ever

Linda Evans

Scripture Truisms from Bud's Sermons

John 17:17: "Sanctify them in truth. Your Word is truth."

"Folks" here are a few of the scriptural truths Bud has shared over the years:

1. Being "in Christ"
2. Seeing the world through Jesus' eyes
3. It's simple, but it's not easy
4. Pray the Word, Practice the Word, Proclaim the Word
5. The Messenger is the Message
6. To Know Christ and Make Him Known (Bud led the Session to adopt this Vision statement)

The Liberian community gave us this truth:

In all things, ***in all things***:

God is good.

All the time.

All the time.

God is good to me.

Following his Doctor of Ministry studies in Feminist Theology, he had a inkling that before him lay a path to a deeper, truer spiritual life. Below is some of the signature literature that shaped Bud's spiritual formation journey. Bud often quoted in his prophetic witness the truisms of these authors:

John Omen, "Grace and Personality"

Oswald Chambers, "My Utmost for His Highest"

Adrian Van Kaam, "Personality and Religion", Spiritual Formation textbooks for the Epiphany program

Dallas Willard, "The Divine Conspiracy", "Renovation of the Heart", "Hearing God", "The Great Omission"

Richard Foster, "The Celebration of Discipline", "Streams of Living Water"

Henri Nouwen, "In the Name of Jesus", "The Wounded Healer"

A W Tozer, "In Pursuit of God"

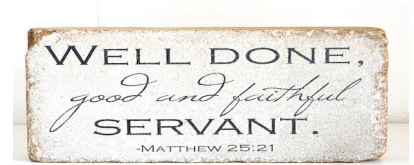
St. Augustine, "The Confessions"

John Woolman, "Journal and Essays"

Debbie Engell



Christ's Community Church has been privileged to walk in a spiritual formation journey that has spanned four decades. Dr. Foster (Bud) C. Dryden joined the Riverview Presbyterian Church in 1983. He has shepherded the worshipping community through four decades of his 48-year ministry. During the span of his journey with us, we have evolved and grown in our Christ-like identity. When Bud, Paula, Jennifer and Jonathan arrived in April, 1983, we were known as Riverview Presbyterian Church following a challenge to the initial name of the First Presbyterian Church of Drexel Hill. In 2010, the name of the church changed to Calvary-Riverview Presbyterian Church signaling the merger of Calvary-Highland and Riverview Presbyterian. The two congregations heeding the Holy Spirit united in worship and ministry. There was a sense that the true identity of the church had not yet been made complete. The Session met and worked toward a new name for several years before the Spirit affirmed the true church identity as Christ's Community Church at the Riverview Avenue Community Center. Two of Bud's truisms is that the church is each of us. We are the messengers who are the message. The sanctuary became known as the worship center and the building became the community center and we (people) are the church.



If the messenger is the message, spiritual formation and the practice of spiritual disciplines has fostered a deeper understanding of what it means to thrive in Christ. The ground-breaking works of Dallas Willard, "The Divine Conspiracy" and Richard Foster, "The Celebration of Discipline" are the foundations for our spiritual growth. The works of Fr. Adrian Van Kaam and Dr. Susan Muto underpin the anthropology of formation. We continue to explore the depths of scripture and faith through the "Good and Beautiful God" series of author James Bryan Smith, Willard's teaching assistant and founder of the Apprentice Institute at Friends University, Wichita, Kansas.

Faith is not without works that are the outward expression of God's love for the world He created. Bud advocated for social justice in the community. The ministry to the homeless involved community groups and other churches for nearly thirty years. The roots of the ministry began as Shepherd's Place offering food and overnight shelter. Challenged by the township, the church made and won the legal case. The ministry continued in cooperation with the Southeast Delaware County Mental Health Association until the pandemic provided housing for the homeless beginning in 2019. Also suspended during the pandemic was the hundred+ meals prepared and served at the 63rd Street Life Center. Today, meals are prepared and provided for the Life Center residents, a ministry we are delighted to continue with enjoyable fellowship in the kitchen.

Bud has welcomed everyone into the worshipping community. Over the years, the congregation has expanded culturally to include members from African, Hispanic and Asian nations. Bud has been counselor, mentor, and advocate for all tackling the toughest issues including the Black Lives Matter and #MeToo movements. "Waking Up White" by Debbie Irving opened us to begin to understand the inequities that are cultural and politically systemic. We strive for unity in Christ.

We are most unified in Christ in worship. Worship is central foundation that binds us together. In worship, through song, story-time, scripture, and sermons, the message of the Christ's life, death, and resurrection bring us new life and strengthen us to meet the challenges before us.

We salute Bud for his faithful gospel witness. He is the messenger of the message in thought, word, and deed. He has brought this flock of disciples through challenging times and given us the foundation to carry Christ forward as the embodied church. I know I write for all of us how grateful we are for your steadfast faithfulness to Christ and to us. We treasure you in our hearts. "His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant." (Matthew 25:23)

Debbie Engell

"As You Travel from This Place"

Words and music by Jim Strathdee

As you travel from this place our love is with you.

When you journey near at hand or far abroad.

All the life we've shared together will continue,

As you grow in the knowledge,

Learn of the wisdom,

And live in the spirit of our God.



***To know Christ and
make Him known!***

**Christ's Community Church
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Sunday worship

9:30 a.m.

Worship Service

In-Person and Zoom



AUGUST

August 13 Heidi Hamilton
Don West
August 16 Jonathan Dryden
August 18 Sekela Mwantembe
August 29 Loretta Hartnett
August 30 Eli Johnson

The Viewpoint is a publication of
Christ's Community Church at the
Riverview Avenue Community Center
Dr. Foster C. Dryden, Jr., pastor;
The Rev. Robert Eyre, associate pastor for
missional outreach;
Linda Evans, editor

August

Weekly/Monthly Meetings

Sunday	9:30 a.m.,	Informal Worship Virtual Worship Service
Tuesday	7:00 p.m.,	Al-Anon in the Parlor
	7:00 p.m.,	NA in Fellowship Hall
Wednesday	7:00 p.m.,	NA in Fellowship Hall
Thursday	7:00 p.m.,	NA in Fellowship Hall

August

August 1, Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Finance Team Meeting
August 5, Saturday	9:00 a.m., Men's Fellowship
August 6, Sunday	8:00 a.m., Breakfast in Fellowship Hall
	9:30 a.m., Worship Service
August 7—13	Bud's Vacation
August 13, Sunday	9:30 a.m., Worship Service
	The Rev. Rob Eyre Preaching
August 15, Tuesday	September/October Viewpoints
	Deadline
August 19, Saturday	9:00 a.m., Women's Bible Study in the
	Library
	9:00 a.m., Men's Fellowship
August 20, Sunday	9:30 a.m., Worship Service
	<i>August Birthday Celebration</i>
August 27, Sunday	9:30 a.m., Worship Service
	<i>Celebration Brunch for Bud after</i>
	<i>Worship Service</i>

Dates to remember:

September 3, Sunday	Breakfast in Fellowship Hall
September 4, Monday	Labor Day Holiday—Office Closed
September 8 and 9	Church Mouse

