

RETIREE CONNECTION

Warmest greetings from your friends at Servant Solutions!

We are proud to be your partner in ministry - whatever that ministry may look like in your “retirement” years. As a participant with the Servant Solutions Retirement Plan, you have a well-established organization standing with you. You’ve relied on us for many years to help you save and invest and now we stand ready to assist you in retirement. If you should have any questions about your account, please don’t hesitate to contact us!



“I do feel like my old self, but I want to feel like my young self!”



LEAVES, NEIGHBORS, AND CREATIVE CONFRONTATION

BY REV. DR. C. MILTON GRANNUM

One morning I preached a message on creative confrontation. I emphasized that life has conflicts, that simply avoiding conflicts is not

always an appropriate Christian response, and that peace is not the absence of conflict, but rather a deep settled confidence that one has chosen the most appropriate options and attitudes in the conflicts of life.

The sermon seemed to strike a responsive chord in many of the congregation. One of the men remarked to me later, “Pastor, I think that is one of the best sermons you have done in three and a half years.”

After the service we brought a friend home for dinner. On the ride home, we discussed the need of Christians to learn to express themselves and their feelings honestly and even if it means respectful and creative confrontations.

On arriving home, we noticed that someone had dumped several high piles of leaves on the side street by our home. Who could have done a rotten thing like that? I thought.

My sons and I had spent most of Saturday raking our leaves. The city trucks were coming to remove them, and so we worked hard all day. Because we were unable to get our leaf blower started, we had been forced to use rakes and work much harder than we would have ordinarily. Most of our neighbors were using their leaf blowers while we raked and raked and raked some more.

We had left home for church Sunday morning with a real sense of pride that all the leaves were raked and gone. Imagine our surprise and frustration when we found that someone had dumped all those piles of leaves—probably at the same time I was preaching about creative confrontations, about not allowing ourselves to be used as doormats simply because we are Christians!

“What are you going to do about it?” my wife asked.

[continued on page 3](#)

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

FROM JANUARY 2023 THROUGH JUNE 2023

for those celebrating their 50th, 55th, 60th and 60+ years

73rd

Billy L & Mardena E. Adams 4/28/1950

72nd

Charles B & Dorothy J Ridgway 1/26/1951

Carl L & Ruth A Ramsey 4/21/1951

70th

Donald L & Gloria R Collins 1/16/1953

David D & Patsy J Hamlin 6/14/1953

Rolando E & Bernarda B Bacani 6/20/1953

G David & Jeanette P Cox 6/26/1953

69th

Gale & Marelyn Hency 1/1/1954

Carl M & Elizabeth Hazel 4/24/1954

Robert L & Joane K Neace 6/27/1954

68th

Arley K & Ruby G Cravens 2/4/1955

Ronald E & Jean Williams 6/10/1955

Rodney F & F Ilene Bargerstock 6/11/1955

James Joe R & Doris Daniels 6/17/1955

67th

Georgia E & Robert M. Hall 6/3/1956

Loren C & Elouise C Sutton 6/8/1956

G Lewis & Carol Y Kujawski 6/16/1956

Lovell J & Shirley A Sorrell 6/23/1956

66th

Albert H & Linda L Le May 2/23/1957

James S & Gerrilee C Moore 4/20/1957

Carl E & Joyce F Phipps 5/19/1957

Norman S & Marjorie A Patton 6/15/1957

65th

Alva S & Gloria R Tilman 4/5/1958

Alfonso F & Tomasa Hernandez 5/20/1958

Marvin D & Joan J Brunson 6/8/1958

Gary W & Stella F Ausbun 6/18/1958

Clayton E & Betty L Shriver 6/21/1958

J Benjamin & Marjorie M Chandler 6/22/1958

64th

Wendell G & Donna L Magner 3/1/1959

George W & Naomi L Warson 3/6/1959

Dorcas C & Joseph W Mc Allister 4/3/1959

Dwight L & Sylvia K Grubbs 6/2/1959

Charles B & Zona M Gray 6/6/1959

Thomas J & Bernice H Bunting 6/7/1959

Johnny W & Deloris L Myers 6/30/1959

63rd

Leslie E & Martha S Lanham 1/22/1960

Mary M & Albert G Ross 3/12/1960

Michael D & Patricia L Conley 4/17/1960

Kresten & Lenora Rae Norholm 6/10/1960

David L & Shirley S Coolidge 6/11/1960

62nd

Thomas H & Caroline A Pelt 3/12/1961

Paul J & Gail L Smith 3/22/1961

Samuel B & Mary Davis 4/8/1961

Joseph L & Linda N. Downs 6/1/1961

James L & Judith Powell 6/9/1961

Harriet J & Robert J Whipple 6/24/1961

Dennis V & Patricia L Tyler 6/25/1961

61st

John E & Judith D Boedeker 4/13/1962

Lorin W & Lois E Myers 6/9/1962

James D & Donna Walls 6/16/1962

Donald E & Mary M Talley 6/17/1962

Acy J & Joyce Gibson 6/29/1962

60th

Donald E & Delores M Unsell 1/19/1963

Laura June & Stephen E McCart 1/25/1963

Judith K & Vernon W Witte 1/26/1963

John H & Jane A Silvey 2/10/1963

Carol B & Melvin J Robinson 2/14/1963

Benjamin F & Sylvia A Ellis Jr 4/6/1963

Patrick A & Patricia O'Brien 4/27/1963

Isaac C & Lela Turner 5/18/1963

Larry E & Grace S Bashaw 6/1/1963

Michael J & Anna R Bailey 6/8/1963

Gary G & Beverly A Swogger 6/15/1963

55th

Larry J & Connie M Mobley 1/20/1968

Ralph P & Janice F Barclay 1/27/1968

Harold E & Marsha L Frame II 3/29/1968

Roy & Sharon Maxwell 5/25/1968

Thomas W & Carole D Bates 6/1/1968

Francis N & Lloyd N Peters 6/1/1968

Lester R & Verna F Benson 6/8/1968

Connie R & Gail W Bless 6/8/1968

Donald L & Sue Jeffers Jr 6/22/1968

Alan J & Deborah J Thomas 6/22/1968

50th

Robert E & Debera Brown 1/3/1973

Robert & Viola T Simmons 1/29/1973

Mark F & Sharon F Matthews 4/2/1973

Arthur E & Suetta R Clawson 4/26/1973

John R & Dianna Sutton 5/5/1973

Cloyd R & Brenda Lowe 5/23/1973

William P & Catherine Ellen Means 5/23/1973

David H & Kathy Jo Simpson 5/26/1973

Randall K & Phyllis J Cook 6/1/1973

James S Beck III & Martha B Beck 6/2/1973

Jay R & Ellen L Reagan 6/9/1973

Terry L & Marjorie L Brown 6/15/1973

Larry L & Rena S Lautaret 6/15/1973

Philip & Doris Conklin 6/16/1973

Glendon K & Bonita I. (Bonnie) Cox 6/20/1973

Michael & Nancy H Kernutt 6/22/1973

Bruce A & Janet L Hess 6/23/1973

W J & April C. Kimble 6/23/1973

Linda J & David A Rudawitz 6/23/1973

Wilfred V & Arlene Meeds 6/30/1973

Please let us know of any major or minor changes to your account, such as death of your spouse, change of address, or change of banking information. Our contact information is on the first page of this newsletter or you can send a note to Servant Solutions, P.O. Box 2559, Anderson, IN 46018

“I’ll think about it and decide,” I replied.

Of course, I thought I knew exactly who did it. It was our new neighbor. In fact, he was in his backyard, still blowing his leaves. “How am I going to deal with this man?” I wondered aloud. He and his family had just moved into the neighborhood and seemed very unfriendly. He must have done it!

As I calmed my spirit and settled down with the newspaper while dinner was being prepared, my wife asked me a very perceptive question: “If a member of our church had sought your counsel on that problem, what advice would you have given based on today’s message?”

I got her message. I decided I had to act. “I’m going over there right now to confront him on this matter,” I said.

“I’m going with you,” my wife said.

I would rather she had not decided to come with me. I might have gone halfway and then decided to make a more “spiritual” response, such as, “I’ll leave him to God,” or “Sometimes one has to suffer for Jesus’ sake,” or “He’s probably my thorn in the flesh.” My wife’s decision to come with me meant that I had to go all the way and see the thing through. She was forcing me to practice the morning’s message.

As we crossed the street, we saw the neighbor in his open garage at the back of his house. Some of his leaves were in piles in front of his house. They, too, were oak leaves like the piles by my house.

“Hello,” I shouted.

I knew he heard me, but he did not reply. He looked, and I waved. Still no response.

“I am going to deal with this right now,” I decided as we marched up his long driveway toward him.

“Hi,” I began, “I am Dr. Grannum, your neighbor

across the street. This is my wife. We just drove in and noticed that someone has dumped several huge piles of leaves on the street by the side of our house.”

“Yes,” he replied, “and I actually saw the person who did it. It was a young fellow in a blue truck. I think he does landscaping around here. I lost my cool with him this morning when I saw him doing that. I rushed out of my house and ran over to stop him from dumping the leaves there. The only reason I let him go is because

he convinced me that he had spoken to the city truck driver. The driver told him he could dump them there since the city trucks would be returning to pick up the rest of the leaves. But I told the young fellow to find somewhere else to dump any more leaves.”

“Well,” my wife remarked, “we are glad you

were here to stop him. We really appreciate that. By the way, I’m Hyacinth.”

“And I’m Milton,” I added.

“I’m Bob,” he replied.

We crossed the street and started back to our home. My wife broke the silence. “What conclusions might we have made had we not gone over?” she asked.

“Well,” I said, “we could have left him to God, felt persecuted as Christians, suffered for Jesus’ sake, felt socially or racially abused, and felt the need to keep our eyes on him and his family for the next five years.”

On our return to the house, our dinner guest asked, “How did it go?”

My wife was quick to respond: “Well, he went over as Dr. Grannum and came back as Milton.”

Bishop Dr. C. Milton Grannum and his wife, Rev. Dr. Hyacinth Bobb-Grannum, are the founding pastors of the thriving New Covenant Church of Philadelphia. Article originally published in the August 16, 1987, issue of Vital Christianity. Republished by permission.

If a member of our church had sought your counsel on that problem, what advice would you have given based on today’s message?

Servant Solutions
P O Box 2559
Anderson, IN 46018

DECEASED

(REPORTED TO US JULY THROUGH DECEMBER 2022)

Arnbrister, Daniel	94	Johnson, Jean	92	Smith, Dorothy K.	93	Tuttle, Raymond J	105
Benson, Esther	104	Johnson, Margaret	92	Smith, Jordan D	83	Watson, Lynda	77
Burchett, James	90	Johnson, Mildred	87	Steadman, Jacqueline L	63	Whitener, Russell	75
Burnett, Alma T.	67	Kendall, Janice D	94	Stewart, Ben E.	94	Wiles, Billy J	90
Brewer, Billie J.	79	Kirkpatrick, Noreda	91	Stewart, June A.	89	Worden, Linda M	86
Bugg, Andrew	92	Landis, Bonnie	77	Swann, Lonnie	97	Wright, Marilyn Y	86
Carrell, Robert	78	Lawrence, Robert R	78	Swords, Virginia A.	91	Van Hassel, George	81
Collins, Beverly G	76	Lewis, Juanita	88	Tinker, Judith	86		
Conley, Rosemarie	79	Lewis, Mark	62				
Dardoufas, Jillian	36	Little, John W	92				
DeYoung, Arnold	89	Lloyd, Mary L.	74				
Downey, Eddie L.	91	Mitchell, Robert D.	83				
Estep, Alma J.	90	Nunneley, Esther M.	99				
Fall, Grant E	87	Palmer, Eva J	87				
Farmer, Gertrude	87	Reinholz, Carlton	89				
Forsberg, Vern L.	97	Reynolds, Rosalyn R	78				
Gatton, Walter	100	Riggs, Robin	67				
Hook, Edward C.	97	Schroeder, Julie	56				
Howe, Gordon	90	Settlemyre, Thomas	79				
Humphries, Jerome W.	89	Shields, Beatrice	90				
Hunter, Paul	89	Slagle, H. Peter	90				
Johnson, Dale	91	Smith, Donald J	96				

