



The Chimes

September 2011



THE FOUR LIVING CREATURES

SISTER BRIGHTLY: I really enjoy Dr. Younce's Wednesday evening series on Revelation.

DR. B: We are fortunate to have a master teacher whose knowledge and power-point presentations help clarify the message and meaning of "God's Last Word".

SISTER BRIGHTLY: By the way, some of the words we read in Revelation remind me of the hymn *Holy, Holy, Holy*. Besides the three Holy's, which open each stanza, there are other phrases from Revelation such as "casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea."

DR. B: Good memory of the hymn, Sister Brightly. As a matter of fact, down through the centuries the book of Revelation, with its poetic imagery and symbolism, has inspired hymn writers, composers, and artists. Handel, for example, toward the end of his great oratorio, *Messiah*, composed the majesty chorus "*Worthy is the Lamb*" based on words from Revelation.

But I am especially interested in the four living creatures, because of their impact on Christian art. Do you recall Dr. Younce's remarks about them?

SISTER BRIGHTLY: Yes. He told us about the four living creatures with eyes front and back, and six wings each. In appearance, one resembled a lion, another an ox, the third had the face of a man, and the fourth was like a flying eagle. He even mentioned the four living creatures described by Ezekiel.

DR. B: They remind me of those imaginary creatures created by artisans from ancient cultures. Around 700 B.C., for example, the Assyrians put together a "winged, human-headed bull" made of limestone, over thirteen feet high. And why might the Assyrians have created such a creature?

SISTER BRIGHTLY: Probably because the wings would represent mobility, the human head, intelligence, and the torso of the bull, strength. But what impact did the four living creatures of the Bible have on Christian art?

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DR. B: Well, in the first place, a relationship was established between the living creature and the gospel writers. Let's start with Matthew. Because his gospel begins with genealogy, with the human lineage of Jesus, a man is the symbol for Matthew. Mark's symbol is a lion, the king of the desert. It is linked to Mark's reference to a voice crying in the wilderness. For Luke we have an ox which is connected to the sacrificial duties of Zacharias the priest. And finally, there is the eagle of John portraying his elevated and soaring word.

SISTER BRIGHTLY: And where will we see these symbols?

DR. B: They frequently appear in the illuminated medieval gospel books. Monks would copy the texts of the four gospels, and draw the symbols on the pages. There were also sculpted versions of the symbols. Above the main door of the cathedral at Chartres, a town southwest of Paris, sculpted figures of Matthew's man, Mark's lion, Luke's ox, and John's eagle are clearly visible.

SISTER BRIGHTLY: I even saw a beautifully carved wood eagle at a church. It was on the lectern from which the preacher spoke. From now on, given what you told me, it will not only be an eagle, but a reminder of John's soaring "In the beginning was the Word".

DR. B: Well spoken, Sister Brightly. Symbols have their own kind of message that words alone cannot convey.

THANK YOU

Dear Friends,

Thank you all for your wonderful support and encouragement to me while I served as your interim pianist. Every Sunday was a joy to play in your services.

Working with Mary Couey and the choir was a special blessing. I am most appreciative to Mary for offering me this opportunity.

I must say that I thought God brought me to First Baptist to play the piano—but that was just to get me in the door! I soon discovered God's real purpose was to hear Dr. Younce! His messages and solid Bible teaching rekindled in me my love for reading and studying the Word. He woke me up from my spiritual stupor! Thank you, Dr. Younce!

I also want to thank you for your generous and unexpected love gift. You are a special group of people, so kind and loving. I love you all and will continue to pray for you. I will visit soon!

Yours truly, Vickie Broadway

Memorials

*A gift in memory of
Edith Cole
was received from Cel Bailey.*

*"My aunt Edith loved her church
even though she was unable to
attend during the last few years of
her life. I still use one of your
church cookbooks that she gave me."*

*Joy & Blessings,
Cel Bailey*

Thank You

*Your kind and thoughtful expression
of sympathy is deeply appreciated
and gratefully acknowledged.
Thank you for the peace lily.
The Family of Joe Smith*



*Rejoicing with
Miss Emma Younce
on her profession of faith in
our Lord Jesus Christ.*

**Please pray for your
Pastor Search Committee.**

- Ann Crenshaw
- R.T. Burroughs
- Audrey Franklin
- Judy Loewen
- Barbara Pulliam
- Barbara Sanderson
- John Warren

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Hours of Worship & Activities

Sunday
9:30 AM Sunday School
10:45 AM Morning Worship
4:45 PM Choir Practice
6:00 PM Evening Worship

Tuesday
9:30 AM Nursing Home Visitation
12:00 PM Fun & Fellowship/Gym

Wednesday
6:00 PM Prayer Meeting
6:00 PM Team Kids

Thursday
12:00 PM Fun & Fellowship/Gym

Other Opportunities for Service

Brotherhood - Meets at 7 a.m. the 4th Sunday of each month in the Fellowship Hall.

WMU - Meets the 1st Wednesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Lunch immediately following the meeting.

**SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAY'S!
OH HAPPY DAY!**

Day

- 1 Russell Stone
- 6 Amanda Stone
- 6 Bea Risher
- 6 Cyndi Parker
- 8 Marie Tynes
- 8 Steve Skipper
- 8 Fayette Corlett
- 9 Jimmy Neal
- 10 Johnny Butler
- 11 Shanna Seals
- 17 Ramona Litton
- 17 Dianne Clark

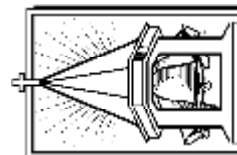


Day

- 17 Wilburn Keith Miller
- 19 Marie Cantrell
- 19 Sammy Hill
- 19 R. T. Burroughs
- 23 Judy Wakeland
- 25 Ruth Parker
- 25 Ellen Hyer
- 25 Pat Swanzy
- 26 Eric Reddick
- 29 Judy Loewen
- 29 Randy Taylor

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Return Service Requested



CONTACT INFORMATION

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