

From This Corner

## SECOND THOUGHTS ON TURNING 60

Larry Baird

Recently our youngest son married a wonderful young woman in a joy-filled Christian celebration of marriage. Brenda and I feel blessed as both of our sons are now married to people we love and respect, and their marriages hold much promise for continued blessings.

Many pictures were taken at the wedding. This brings me to the only place where I have any second thoughts. The last few years, and certainly in these very recent photographs my eyes have lingered on an older gentleman. The older gentleman on close examination turns out to be the groom's father. I say this objectively because sometimes when I look at such images what I see does not immediately compute. In my mind's eye I still appear the way I did when I met my bride ..... tall, dark hair, and thin.

There have been an increasing number of things that could have and should have brought me to a measure of reality. For instance when I was fitted for my tuxedo the child who measured me suggested "a relaxed fit" would be most appropriate. "What about one cut like my sons are getting?" "I don't think so sir." It turned out this meant my suit would have ample room. Another is that I am convinced photographs make me look grayer than I am. Never mind that one very white patch of hair on the side.

So what does this mean for this pastor and Superintendent who in truth does not want to be in denial? I think the Psalmist echoes my thoughts in Psalm 71, verses 17-18 :

Since my youth, O God, you have taught me,  
and to this day I declare your marvelous deeds.

Even when I am old and gray, do not forsake me, O God,  
till I declare your power to the next generation, your might to all who are to come.

Turning 60 in August. Reality check: done. No second thoughts. I'm ready Lord.