

Singing Our Lifesong
Pastor John Hicks
First United Methodist Church

Growing older. We make jokes and laugh about it. We worry and groan about it. We can try to resist it, but there's nothing we can do to stop it.

I experienced the reality of this last week when I woke up and realized I had aged a year since the day before. My friends were sensitive to my reality. I only had one candle on my birthday "pie". I choose believing in their sensitivity rather than the fact that the appropriate number of candles would have cost more than the pie and might have set off the sprinkler system! On the other hand, I also received a walking cane with a horn, magnifying glass, and a sign that stated "over the hill crossing".

These days I've noticed that I'm starting to relate more to some of the old age "gems" that come my way: "When I was young, I made a lot of faces in the mirror. Now that I am older, the mirror is getting even." "You know you are getting older when you try to straighten out the wrinkles in your socks only to find you aren't wearing any." "Look at it this way. All your life you've been taught to respect your elders. Now you are one!" "Don't despair; next to a Galapagos turtle, you are still a child."

So what do we do with our birthdays? Since we can't avoid them, we might as well celebrate them. Birthdays are mile-stones on our road of life, reminding us that we aren't home yet, but we are getting closer. Let us welcome them as melodies in our lifesong. We can't control how long our lifesongs last, but we can control how we sing them. Let us not sing them as a dirge!

Let us live for the moments we have and sing our lifesong from our hearts and not just from our lips, giving praise to our Lord who promises His abiding presence in this cantata we call life. I should add, "especially in the wrinkles and crinkles, and the aches and quakes that come with the aging process!"

"Lord, I give my life, a Living sacrifice -to reach a world in need, to be your hands and feet. So may the words I say and the things I do make my lifesong sing, bring a smile to You." (Casting Crowns)