**Wrinkles**

**Another sticker insists: “If You Don’t Have Wrinkles, You Haven’t Laughed Enough.” *(Red O’Donnell, in Nashville Banner)***

**As the children observe the car that is all dented in many places, Dolly says to her brother Billy: “That car must be really old. It has lots of wrinkles.” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

**The wrinkles and creaky joints that come with aging may one day be optional. Scientists at the National Cancer Institute have found that aging may be halted or even reversed at the cellular level. When people grow old, the study shows, the walls of the nuclei in their cells lose their perky, round shape and become wrinkled and weak. The weak membranes allow damaging agents to get inside the nucleus to the cell’s DNA, where, studies have shown, resulting mutations lead to physical aging. Now, researchers Tom Misteli and Paola Scaffidi have shown that by blocking a specific protein called lamin A, they can reverse nuclear wrinkling. When they blocked the protein in the cells of elderly people in the lab, the cells plumped back up to their youthful state. “You can take these old cells and make them young again,” Misteli tells Nature. The next step, researchers say, is a drug that blocks lamin A in animals, so that the effects on an entire body of cells can be evaluated. *(The Week magazine, May 19, 2006)***

**Clarence Darrow, late in life, was persuaded to sit for his picture. When it was shown to him, he didn’t like it. Never one for pretense or sham in any form, he told the photographer, “I don’t want it. You have taken out all the lines in my face that it took me fifty years to place there!” *(Bits & Pieces) 1109119***

**Rose and friend: “We’d like senior citizen discounts, please!” Movie attendant: “Your unwrinkly faces don’t look very senior to me!” Rose and friend: “Our elbows are quite elderly!” *(Pat Brady, in Rose Is Rose comic strip)***

**Wear a smile and have friends; wear a scowl and have wrinkles. *(George Eliot)***

**As I hurried to the shore during a vacation in Maine several years ago, I caught sight of an Ogunquit Baptist Church sign. Reading its message caused me to chuckle and slow my pace so that I began savoring the quaint streets along the way. I like to remember that sign during the winter holidays. When I becomehurried and start losing track of the season’s meaning, I imagine accepting its invitation: “Wrinkled with Care? Come in for a Faith Lift.” *(Elizabeth Cavanaugh, in The Saturday Evening Post)***

**In my older face, I see my life. My face carries all my memories. Why should I erase them? *(Diane von Furstenberg, in NPR.org)***

**Years may wrinkle the skin, but to give up enthusiasm wrinkles the soul. *(Samuel Ullman, poet)***

**I was putting moisturizer on my face when my little girl asked what I was doing. I explained that the cream was good for wrinkles. "It's sure doing a great job, Mommy," she replied. "You're getting lots of them." *(Patricia G. Ruth, in Ladies'' Home Journal)***

**When grace is joined with wrinkles, it is adorable. There is an unspeakable dawn in happy old age. *(Victor Hugo)***

**When Mick Jagger insisted that his wrinkles were actually laugh lines, jazz singer George Melly replied, "Surely nothing could be that funny." *(Reader's Digest)***

**If you laugh a lot, when you get older your wrinkles will be in the right places. (Andrew V. Mason, in Reader's Digest)**

**Son to his Mother: “I think the perfect age to be is eighteen. I used to think it was seventeen, but eighteen is way better. At eighteen you’re more worldly, you’re a legal adult, you can vote, sign a lease. It’s like nineteen, but without all the wrinkles.” *(Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman, in Zits comic strip)***

**It’s fun to be ninety-one because you’re elevated to sainthood, though you’re still ornery as ever. Everyone rushes to seat you and you’re served first. Honorary membership is easier than active membership. And wrinkles are okay. *(Faye Field, longtime Guideposts contributor)***

**With mirth and laughter let old wrinkles come. *(William Shakespeare)***

**MARGINAL NOTE: “Smile and rest your wrinkles.” *(Country Extra magazine)***

**Ask Doctor Ernie: “Dr. Ernie, why do they say time is like a river?” Dr. Ernie: “Because the longer you're in it, the more wrinkled you get." *(Bob Thaves, in Frank & Ernest comic strip)***

**If a woman is meant to have wrinkles, they should at least be put on the soles of her feet. *(Ninon de Lenclos, 17th century French lady of fashion)***

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**Youth is not a time of life, it is a state of mind. People grow old only by deserting their ideals and by outgrowing the consciousness of youth. Years wrinkle the skin, but to give up enthusiasm wrinkles the soul. You are as old as your doubts, your fears and your despair. The way to keep young is to keep your faith young, your self-confidence young, and your hope young. *(Dr. L. F. Phelan)***

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