

Our TTC family has lost a dear friend and brother this week. Ricky Sparks, the TTC Treasurer, passed away suddenly on Tuesday, September 11, 2018. Another reason to remember 9-11. When you lose a good friend suddenly, it's hard to find the words to convey to the world how you felt. And with our close running family, we all are experiencing a great loss. This past Saturday, Ricky was doing what he loved, running. We gathered at Bower's Park to run a 5K, and I got my usual "fist bump" from Ricky. When he came around one of the turns, he tossed me his very sweaty shirt, which told me, I'd see him at the finish, and I did. He crossed the finish winning the Male Grand Master's trophy. I'm betting God was waiting on Ricky at the finish line on Tuesday.

When the news hit on Tuesday, Terri Huddleston shared with me, 2 Timothy 4:7, that states: "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." If you knew Ricky, well, this sums him up pretty well. A man of faith, a man of compassion, a man so proud of his family, a man who loved his friends, and a man of competition. We are all better people for having Ricky in our lives.

I was talking with Ricky at the Yeah Yeah Yeah Yeah 5K in August about finding items along the roads when we run. We both said we had a bank set aside that we put all our money in when we got back from a run. I came across a story that I think we should all remember throughout the remaining time we have on this earth. It will now forever remind me of Ricky.

### **Pennies from Heaven**

**I found a penny today just laying on the ground. But it's not just a penny this little coin I've found. "Found" pennies come from heaven that's what my Grandpa told me. He said angels toss them down. Oh, how I loved that story. He said when an angel misses you, they toss a penny down sometimes just to cheer you up, make a smile out of a frown. So don't pass by that penny when you're feeling blue. It may be a penny from heaven that an angel tossed to you."**

So, when we all go out for a run and we are lucky enough to find that penny, remember that's probably Ricky cheering you on to finish that run.

Ricky's funeral is **Friday, September 14, 2018, at 2 p.m. at Calvary Baptist Church**. Visitation will be from 12 to 2 prior to the service. If you can make it, please go. If you can't, please say a prayer for Ricky's family.