

# **BETWEEN SEEDTIME AND HARVEST**

**Senior Adults Newsletter  
Christ Covenant Church  
December, 2018**



## **GRACE TO YOU**

by  
**Pastor Bruce Creswell**

### **BY THE MERCY OF GOD II Corinthians 4:1**

At our Presbytery worship service, we heard a very convicting and a much-needed message on “Proclaiming Christ, Not Ourselves,” from II Corinthians 4:1-6. The Apostle Paul writes in verse one, “. . . having this ministry by the mercy of God we do not lose heart.” The NIV reads, “Therefore, since through God’s mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart.” Yes, I have read this verse many times, preached it, and taught it, but I rediscovered it for the first time! Those three words “through God’s mercy,” reminded me again why I am in ministry and can continue in ministry; it is not the achievement of my gifts or abilities. Paul is humbly acknowledging his unworthiness, as mercy is shown only to the guilty, condemned, and the hopeless.

Reflecting on the manifestations of God’s mercies in my life was like unraveling a ball of string. One mercy led into another mercy which led into another mercy and on and on. No doubt there are many mercies that I have forgotten or overlooked, for His mercies never end and are new each morning (Lamentations 3:22-23).

Finally, I came to the mercy of God revealed in His boundless love to me as a nine-year-old sinner! In Ephesians 2:4-5, Paul writes, “But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved....” His mercy flows from His heart, not from anything we have done to deserve it.

As the holidays are upon us, it is a good time to reflect on His mercies and doing so “tunes our hearts to sing His praise!” God’s greatest mercy to you and me is recorded in Galatians 4:4, “But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.” God’s mercy rescued us from His justice. God the Father-- “For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might be made the righteousness of God.”

It is easy to forget His mercies regardless of age and stage of life. As our pastor brother was heralding forth the Word, the Lord in His mercy visited me, making me aware of my negligence in thanking Him for His daily mercies. Recalling His mercies also cultivates a spirit of gratitude that even sharpens our sensitivity to His goodness. As expressed in the words of Robert Robertson, “Streams of mercy never ceasing, calls for songs of loudest praise.”

*(Continued on Page 2)*

In the *Valley of Vision*, a book of beautiful Puritan prayers, is a prayer entitled:

### Divine Mercies

THOU ETERNAL GOD,

Thine is surpassing greatness, unspeakable goodness, super-abundant grace;  
I can as soon count the sands of the ocean's 'lip' as number thy favors towards me.  
I know but a part, but that part exceeds all praise.

I thank thee for personal mercies,  
a measure of health, preservation of the body,  
comforts of house and home, sufficiency of food and clothing,  
continuance of mental powers,  
my family, their mutual help and support,  
the delights of domestic harmony and peace,  
the seats now filled that might have been vacant,  
my country, church, Bible, faith.

### HYMN HISTORY

By  
Peggy Dear

### HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

Charles Wesley wrote over six thousand hymn texts, but this may have been his best. In singing this hymn, we not only join the shepherds under a canopy of singing angels, we also learn about the Jesus they proclaimed. We discover who He is and what His coming means.

Wesley's carol is filled with powerful scriptural ideas; a month could be spent exploring these stanzas. But let's focus on the last four lines: "Mild He lay His glory by, born that man no more may die, born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth." These are the reasons why Jesus came: so we would not have to face eternal death; so He could raise us with Him; and so He could regenerate us into children of God. For these and so much more, He deserves our praise. "Glory to the newborn King!"



Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King;  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations rise,  
Join the triumph of the skies;  
With th' angelic host proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

*Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King!"*

Christ, by highest heaven adored;  
Christ, the everlasting Lord!  
Late in time behold Him come,  
Offspring of the virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;  
Hail th' incarnate Deity,  
Pleased as man with men to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel.

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings,  
Risen with healing in His wings,  
Mild He lays His glory by,  
Born that man no more may die,  
Born to raise the sons of earth,  
Born to give them second birth.

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)  
Altered by George Whitefield (1714-1770)

## TAKE OFF YOUR SHOES!

*Submitted by Bob Parlante*

When we relocated to North Carolina, we learned to offer to take off our shoes before entering someone's house. For some international cultures, this gesture is automatic and not simply an offer. There's a logic associated with this practice. In the southern states, your outdoor shoes, if not removed, may track red clay residue prevalent throughout the area, onto rugs and floors. In some cultures, outdoor shoes are considered inappropriate for indoor use. Some cultures even have special shoes or slippers for indoors.

Exodus 3:5 speaks of a similar command when Moses approached the burning bush. "Do not come any closer," the Lord warned. "Take off your sandals, for you are standing on holy ground."

I have often thought about that verse. Why remove one's shoes? Some years ago, I heard a sermon on this verse which sounded logical. When you consider all the dirty and nasty places we may have walked with our shoes, the Lord's command to Moses made symbolic sense. It was a reminder that sin is incompatible with personal holiness and the presence of God.

As we face the coming holiday season, let us make a commitment to pursue holiness in our daily walk. At the same time, let us symbolically remove our shoes ... that is, try our best to remove wrong behaviors from our lives. The good news is that we don't have to accomplish that on our own. The Holy Spirit will strengthen us on our journey of holiness, but first we must make the commitment. Whenever we remove our shoes, let it be a reminder to seek forgiveness from the Lord and get back on track.

## NEWSLETTER ARTICLE DEADLINE

All articles for the January newsletter should be submitted to Jane Yancey no later than

***December 20, 2018***

[jane@yancey.com](mailto:jane@yancey.com)

## GOD SENT US A SAVIOR

*Submitted by Miriam Jones*

If our greatest need had been information,  
God would have sent us an educator.

If our greatest need had been technology,  
God would have sent us a scientist.

If our greatest need had been money,  
God would have sent us an economist.

If our greatest need had been pleasure,  
God would have sent us an entertainer.

But our greatest need was forgiveness,  
so God sent us a Savior.

*Roy Lessin*

## TWO TREES

I see two trees on Christmas Day—  
One bright—so bright that I  
Can scarcely see the other one  
Etched 'gainst a darkened sky.  
The one so beautiful and gay  
And trimmed with loving care  
With tinsel and with colored lights –  
The other rough and bare.

The one with fragrant, piney scent,  
And needles green as moss –  
The other stripped of all its boughs  
And shaped into a cross.  
The one by wide-eyed children watched  
In wonder and surprise --  
The other watched by evil men  
With hard, malicious eyes.

The arms of one bear gifts of love –  
The other – can it be?  
The other bears the gift of God  
That He sent down for me!  
And suddenly my eyes behold  
In that old rough-hewn tree,  
An unsurpassing loveliness  
Because Christ died for me.

*Ida Eastman  
(Mother of Joan Botzko)*

## SENIORS MONTHLY FELLOWSHIP ACTIVITIES



### **SENIORS CHRISTMAS DINNER**

**Friday, December 7<sup>th</sup>  
5:30 pm**

You will not want to miss the event of the year! This special time will be held in the CLC. The cost is \$12.00 per person, and includes a wonderful meal of chicken piccata, roasted potatoes, vegetable medley, salad, artisan rolls, and delicious homemade cakes. There will be light appetizers prior to the meal. Our speaker is Mo Up De Graff and special music will be provided by Sabra Romeo.



*By: Dot Branson*

**December 14<sup>th</sup>, 11:30 am  
Trio's Restaurant**

The Ladies Luncheon will be Friday, Dec. 14th at 11:30 at Trio's Restaurant at 10709 McMullen Creek Pkwy (off Hwy. 51). Please join us for great food and fellowship. We will be celebrating December birthdays.

### **MEN'S LUNCH**

*By: Dave Ruths*

There will be NO Men's Monthly lunch in December. The monthly lunches will start again on Friday, January 18, 2019 (3<sup>rd</sup> Friday) at Park Place Restaurant at 11:30 am. Best Wishes to All for a Blessed Christmas and New Year 2019.



### **JOY SINGERS**

Joy Singers will not meet in December. Rehearsals will begin again on Monday, January 7<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 pm. Plan to join us as we lift our voices in praise to our Lord and Savior and prepare music for nursing homes and Sunday evening services.



## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Frances DiAndrea
- 6 Judy Pinkard
- 6 Bill Powis
- 6 Vicki Evans
- 7 Harriet Marshall
- 8 David Cullen
- 12 Tim Roberts
- 12 Chris Williams
- 16 Terri Theyson
- 18 Jim Mangum
- 18 Joe Morris
- 19 Martha Ann Harris
- 19 Lorraine Umanos
- 22 Henry McClain
- 24 Jennifer Dean
- 24 Erma Roberts
- 25 Elaine Deaner
- 27 Lucille Eubanks
- 27 Louise Griffin
- 27 Susan Parrish
- 28 LaTrell Ross
- 29 Virginia Gardiner
- 30 Lynn Sistare
- 31 Steve Gooch



## DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 Ted and Jane Williams
- 16 Butch and Sandi Barkman
- 29 Fred and Jean Depp
- 30 Chris and Betty Williams

## THIS, TO ME, IS CHRISTMAS

A precious baby – born to die,  
Born for men to crucify,  
That He might men justify!  
This, to me, is Christmas.

Angels hovering near the earth,  
To announce the Savior's birth,  
Thus, at last, man's soul knows worth,  
This, to me, is Christmas.

God's redemptive work begun  
In the gift of His dear Son,  
Glorious phenomenon!  
This, to me, is Christmas.

Ida Eastman  
(Joan Botzko's mother)

*Merry Christmas*



***Come!***

***Let us worship***

***the King!***

**Coram Deo Sunday School Class:**  
Sundays: 9:00 AM, WC 201 (Choir Room)

**Pastor on Call:** (704) 708-6101

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## *This Christmas*

*Let's share the love of Jesus,  
A blessing from above,  
A good deed to remind us  
Of His never-ending love.*

*Let's share the love of Jesus,  
To people on the street,  
The waitress and the mailman,  
Every person that we meet.*

*Let's share the love of Jesus,  
The gift that never ends,  
And walk within His mercy,  
With family and friends.*

*Let's share the love of Jesus,  
Across the land and sea,  
For His everlasting love  
Is the best gift there could be!*