

BETWEEN SEEDTIME AND HARVEST

**Senior Adults Newsletter
Christ Covenant Church
May 2019**



GRACE TO YOU

by
Pastor Bruce Creswell

“CONVERSATIONS WITH JESUS”

This was the title for the 2019 National Conference of the Gospel Coalition which met in Indianapolis, Indiana the first week of April. Over 8,000 were in attendance, hailing from every state and from every continent. It was an impressive sight when I turned around to see this vast multitude singing. We were fortunate to have down-front reserve seating made available by our own senior pastor! Can you imagine having to sit on the top row all the way back in the Convention Center?

Bernie and I arrived Sunday evening – no, we didn't get lost – we flew and found that our hotel was in walking distance of the center. It was needed for us to get there the night before so we could rest and be ready first thing Monday morning. The rest of the guys came in on Monday morning.

It has been at least 10 years since I attended a conference out of state. In the early days of my ministry, I would go to one or maybe two conferences a year. As a solo pastor, it was encouraging to have my soul fed by God's servants, as well as being together with brothers who also served in ministry. It seemed the very word I needed to hear regarding my own personal walk with the Lord and pastoring the flock would be addressed. Coming back, my vision of the work would be renewed, my heart was infused with God's grace to labor on in the work, and I had a greater desire to know the Lord more.

As the day of departure grew nearer for the conference, I was finding reasons to back out. They were all justifiable, and if they were all used, my conscience would have been appeased--sort of:

First, my conscience would not be fully appeased because I knew the Lord had led in making the decision to attend the conference. To stay back would be disobedient, and the Lord would not be honored. There would be opportunities for my soul to hear the Word at this time in my life.

Second, my conscience would not be fully appeased because I knew that I needed to "come apart" from the ministry and "rest awhile." There is an old song, (so old that I doubt anyone in our community would even know it) entitled, "Who Takes Care of the Caretaker's Daughter?" The caretaker is so busy in his job of caretaking that he neglects the care of his own daughter. How can I shepherd the senior community effectively if I neglect the spiritual maintenance of my own soul!

(Continued on Page 2)

Each of the guest preachers were assigned to preach on a conversation Jesus had in His earthly ministry. The opening message of John Piper, followed by Tim Keller and Lig Duncan, made much of Jesus Christ and the Gospel. Yes, I heard these texts before and even preached them myself, but the Spirit of God spoke and opened my eyes again to see the Greatness of Christ and His reaching down to save me from my sin. I needed to be reminded of His great love expressed in His sacrifice. Once again on Tuesday, the Word was opened to us by Dr. Charles and our own Dr. DeYoung. It was good to be able to hear and for the Holy Spirit to do His office work in our hearts.

On Tuesday afternoon, we had the opportunity to choose 3 breakout sessions. The one that was beneficial to me was "Faithful Endurance." It was a panel discussion made up of seasoned pastors, addressing various challenges that pastors are called to face and work through. The audience was composed of many young pastors just getting started. Listening to these men who have been there and done that was an encouragement to them starting out and to me to finish well.

Returning home to Charlotte, I am grateful that I went and more so that once again the Christ of the Gospel humbled my heart.

HYMN HISTORY

Peggy Dear

BE STILL MY SOUL

About a hundred years after the time of Martin Luther (1483-1546), Europe was in sad shape. The continent was racked by the Thirty Years' War, which pitted Catholics against Protestants. The Lutheran church had lapsed into formalism and dead orthodoxy. People had stopped going to church.

Then God raised up what is known as the Pietist Movement, a movement that was characterized by music, personal holiness, and missionary zeal. In the midst of this time of turmoil and discouragement, Katharina von Schlegel noticed the verse in Psalm 46 that says, "Be still, and know that I am God."

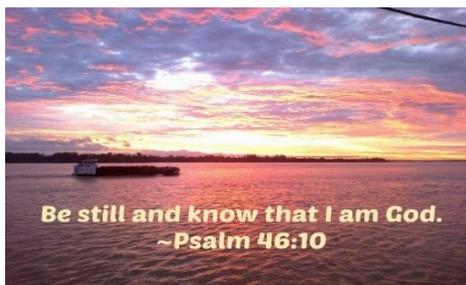
As God spoke to her, she wrote this great hymn. Whatever your circumstances, whatever your problems, you can find comfort in these great words.

Be still, my soul! the Lord is on thy side;
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;
Leave to thy God to order and provide;
In every change He faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul! thy best, thy heavenly Friend
Through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

Be still, my soul! thy God doth undertake
To guide the future as He has the past.
Thy hope, thy confidence let nothing shake;
All now mysterious shall be bright at last.
Be still, my soul! the waves and winds shall know
His voice who ruled them while He dwelt below.

Be still, my soul! the hour is hastening on
When we shall be forever with the Lord,
When disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,
Sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.
Be still, my soul! when change and tears are past,
All safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

Katharina Amalia Von Schlegel (1697 - ?)
Translated by Jane Laurie Borthwick (1813-1897)



WRITING THE CONSTITUTION

The Return of George Washington 1783-1789
By Edward J. Larson, Harper Collins, 2014

*The Summer of 1787:
The Men Who Invented the Constitution*
By David O. Stewart, Simon and Schuster, 2007

These two books cover the events following the defeat of the British at the end of the American Revolution. Both are well written and extremely interesting.

Though George Washington retired to his large plantation in Virginia and, as it would seem, to separate himself both from war and politics to focus on his farming (which he did energetically and intelligently), he continued correspondence with numerous leaders as the form and structure of the United States government was being discussed. George was fully engaged in discussions on federal versus state authority and used his experience in war to form his opinions. For example, during the war he was continually frustrated in his inability to secure from Congress the funds to pay his troops. Congress, on its part, was not stingy but had no leverage or force of law to require the states to pay what they owed. This was one among many dysfunctional aspects of the existing government structure that influenced the thinking of the founding fathers and produced our constitution.

Throughout this period George Washington was a strong, if quiet, influence. And it appears that even when the new federal system of government was being "invented," George Washington was universally considered the one and only choice for the first U. S. President. George presided over the Constitutional Congress in Philadelphia during the long and hot summer of 1787, but was for the most part silent, acting as a true moderator to keep the business moving along without expressing his opinion or pushing the debate in any biased way. My admiration of the man increased greatly.

The second deals with just the three months of 1787 during which the Constitution was actually written. Every patriotic citizen of this country should read this! Out of the complex power structure and competition of the time, a document was formed that seems to have balanced all the various competing pressures. The south wanted more state power, while the northern states

generally saw the need for more central authority in order to maintain a single cohesive nation.

Among many issues that are worthy of consideration in this is the institution of slavery. Slavery, as it were, was the "elephant in the room," that no one wanted deal with.

After weeks of work on the basic structure of the constitution, it was time to put it all in a single document. For this task a "Committee of Detail" was empaneled to write a first draft. "The committee's work was the most important single undertaking of the summer," (p164) according to the author. The committee was led by John Rutledge of South Carolina. He was an able man in every respect but, of course, he was determined to preserve the state's right to hold slaves. This institution of slavery then became incorporated in the document; an incorporation which the author notes led inevitably to civil war 74 years later. Many of the men in the Constitutional Convention were themselves slave holders. A few were adamantly opposed to it. But because of the fear of fracturing the tenuous unity of the diverse states, the subject was not directly addressed. During the ensuing refinement and debate, "John Rutledge would not discuss the morality of slavery, an argument he could only lose." (p204).

This flaw in an otherwise Constitution of great wisdom and balance, prompted me to reflect on our current political situation regarding the issue of abortion. Like slavery, legalized abortion is a moral issue that the "pro-choice" forces refuse to debate because, as with slavery, it is an argument they cannot win. The lesson from this may be that nations and people seem always to have a moral blind spot. This is, no doubt, consistent with the fall of man. But now our hope of discernment is in the hands of God and suggests an avenue for prayer: that God would open our hearts and minds to see our need of Him.

Chris Williams



SENIORS MONTHLY FELLOWSHIP ACTIVITIES

FRIDAY LUNCHEON

Friday, May 3rd
12:00 Noon
CLC 1

Our own **Nathan George** will be speaking at our May Seniors Luncheon, and it will be a "Pot Providence," as Miriam so aptly calls it. The weather should be beautiful, and it is a given that you will bring something absolutely delectable to share. So often we hear that others wish they had the recipe, so if you happen to have it available and can bring it, we can always make a copy to share. We so hope you will ALL be able to attend.



By: Dot Branson

May 10th, 11:30 am
Trio's Restaurant

Ladies, our May Luncheon will be on Friday, May 10, 2019, at 11:30 at Trio's Restaurant at 10709 McMullen Creek Pkwy (off Hwy. 51). Please join us and encourage someone else from our class to come enjoy the good food and sweet fellowship.

MEN'S LUNCH

By: Dave Ruths

Friday, May 17th, 11:30 am
Park Place Restaurant

Men meet on the 3rd Friday of each month for food and fellowship. Plan to join in this time together.



JOY SINGERS

Joy Singers meet every Monday 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.

NEWSLETTER ARTICLE DEADLINE

All articles for the June newsletter should be submitted to Jane Yancey no later than **May 20, 2019**. Please send your articles to her at jane@yancey.com



MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Ann Mudge
- 9 Carson Weaver
- 10 Jim Stevenson
- 15 Bob Mantell
- 18 Judy Massengill
- 19 Bob Black
- 19 Miriam Jones
- 23 Biff Bracy
- 24 Finn Solheim
- 24 Fran Wise
- 25 Liz West
- 26 Angela Parlante
- 30 Gordon Jacobs
- 31 Dee Lamb



MAY ANNIVERSARIES

- 9 Mitch and Leslie Allison
- 22 Jim and Susan Parrish

MEET OUR NEW MEMBER

Submitted by Dot Branson

We welcome **Janine Green** to our class. A native of Poland, she came to the US as a child. She and her husband moved to the Charlotte area in 1983 after retiring from General Motors Corp. in Detroit, Michigan. They enjoyed travel, golf, music, and entertaining family and friends until his passing 15 years ago. Janine loved gardening and helping friends in the upkeep of their yards and was also involved in a number of volunteer opportunities until moving to Plantation Estates in June of last year.

She has attended the senior retreats with our class for several years and has developed friendships within the group, as well as a desire to know and serve the Lord better. After a long journey, her faith grew, and she developed a direct, personal relationship with her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and became a believer on December 28, 2018. She believes the truth of God's Word is preached at Christ Covenant and has become a regular at Sunday School and Worship Service. We are thankful that the Lord, in His Providence, led Janine to join the CCC family.

Coram Deo Sunday School Class:

Sundays: 9:00 AM, WC 201 (Choir Room)

Pastor on Call: (704) 708-6101

Pastor of Senior Adults and Visitation:

N. Bruce Creswell

bcreswell@christcovenant.org

Study: (704) 708-6106

Newsletter Editor:

Jane Yancey

jane@yancey.com

Jenny Blackmon, Assistant to Pastor Bruce:

jblackmon@christcovenant.org

(704) 708-6104

Christ Covenant Church

800 Fullwood Lane

Matthews, NC 28105

**REMEMBERING OUR MOTHERS
AND THOSE WHO ARE MOTHERS
ON MOTHER'S DAY**



**REMEMBERING OUR VETERANS
ON MEMORIAL DAY**

