

# BETWEEN SEEDTIME AND HARVEST

*Senior Adults Newsletter  
Christ Covenant Church  
September 2020*



## GRACE TO YOU

by  
Pastor Bruce Creswell

### SENIOR ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL RESUMES!

We did not anticipate that we would be out of church so long. It has been *over five months* since we have met for Sunday school. It looks like we will be under some form of restrictions for a while.

As your pastor, I want you to know how much I have missed our class, fellowship, and worship together. With many of you, I am praying that a vaccine will be developed, and this virus will be under control.

#### **I want to share with you an opportunity that we have for the seniors to have Sunday School!**

We will have a live Sunday School class that will be taped weekly, each Thursday, from 4-5pm in the Sanctuary. While practicing social distancing and the wearing of masks, we will occupy the center two sections of the Sanctuary, and I will be teaching in front of the communion table. Our commitment to a rigorous program of best practice safety measures on campus includes emphasizing the 3 W's of wearing masks, waiting 6 feet apart, and washing hands.

Since bulletins are once again being printed for morning service, we will have class notes along with hymns for you to pick up on Thursdays, and music! Pam Eash will be playing for us. We will continue to use the same format for class: Greetings, Announcements, Prayer Requests, Singing, and Teaching. For members of our class that do not feel comfortable venturing out, we plan to have the Senior Adult Sunday School Class on the church's website on Sunday mornings at 9am.

The blessing of having it in the Sanctuary allows for a greater number of seniors to assemble. Having it in a classroom would limit us to only 10 people. If you feel comfortable in coming out on Thursday at 4pm to the Worship Center, **our first class will start on Thursday, September 10<sup>th</sup> at 4pm** and will be weekly (exception: Thanksgiving Day) ending December 10<sup>th</sup>. For those who are unable to get out, you will be able to join us online each Sunday, starting September 13<sup>th</sup>.

Our prayer is that our folks will enjoy connecting with each other and be encouraged in the Word and glorifying God in our worship and fellowship. We will have an **ongoing sign up on the website for those who are coming to the live class**. If you have any questions, or to register for a date, please call our admin, Jenny Blackmon, at 704-708-6104. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0444aaaf2ea2fc1-senior>

Someone suggested that we should call our Sunday School, "Thursday School" instead!  
Looking forward to connecting with you all.

With Thanksgiving,  
Pastor Bruce

## HYMN HISTORY

*Submitted by Peggy Dear*

### OPEN MY EYES THAT I MAY SEE

God calls us to employ all our senses as we strive to seek and serve him. We must keep our entire beings---our bodies and our souls---tuned to God's every communication and prompting. In our busy lives we often miss the quiet promptings of God's Spirit. And when we do hear God speak, we often ignore the message. "I'm too busy now," we say, "I have more important things to do." This hymn calls us to watch, listen, and act on what we have seen and heard, sharing it with others.

Clara Scott, the writer of this hymn, was a music teacher who composed a great deal of instrumental and vocal music. She began teaching music when she was only eighteen at a small high school in rural northwestern Iowa, and that is where she spent most of her life. But God expanded her ministry through her instrumental and vocal compositions. She became known for her book of anthems, *The Royal Anthem Book*, which she published in 1882. Her eyes and ears were open to God's leading, and she was ready to obey. We should be ready to do the same. (The Complete Book of Hymns. Peterson)

Open my eyes, that I may see  
Glimpses of truth Thou hast for me;  
Place in my hands the wonderful key  
That shall unclasp and set me free.  
Silently now I wait for Thee  
Ready my God Thy will to see;  
Open my eyes ---illumine me, Spirit divine!

Open my ears, that I may hear  
Voices of truth Thou sendest clear;  
And while the wave-notes fall on my ear,  
Ev'rything false will disappear.  
Silently now I wait for Thee,  
Ready, my God, Thy will to see:  
Open my ears---illumine me, Spirit Divine!

Open my mouth, and let me bear  
Gladly the warm truth ev'rywhere.  
Open my heart and let me prepare  
Love with Thy children thus to share.  
Silently now I wait for Thee,  
Ready, my God, Thy will to see;  
Open my heart---illumine me, Spirit Divine!

*Clara H. Scott (1841-1897)*

### WE ARE PRAYING FOR OUR CHILDREN

Every August in an evening service we have a special time of prayer for all our students and teachers and schools as they get ready for the new school year. Considering the recent regulations, we are having to change the format of that service. With many not able to attend the service, we have included the prayer we use by Amy Carmichael. She did not have biological children of her own but was Amma (mommy) to hundreds who were delivered to Dohnavur Fellowship and raised there. Her prayer reflects the heart of a parent and grandparent.

*Father, hear us, we are praying,  
Hear the words our hearts are saying,  
We are praying for our children.*

*Keep them from the powers of evil,  
From the secret, hidden peril,  
From the whirlpool that would suck them,  
From the treacherous quicksand pluck them.*

*From the worldling's hollow gladness,  
From the sting of faithless sadness,  
Holy Father, save our children.*

*Through life's troubled waters steer them,  
Through life's bitter battle cheer them,  
Father, Father, be Thou near them.*

*Read the language of our longing,  
Read the wordless pleadings thronging,  
Holy Father, for our children.*

*And wherever they may bide,  
Lead them home at eventide.*

By Amy Carmichael,  
from *Toward Jerusalem*

## Save the Date for September Senior Adults Fellowship!

### **Friday, September 11: Fall Kick-Off Dinner**

*Join us outside of the Lower CLC Youth Area for our first fall gathering. We will meet on the patio and under tents in the grassy area. A homemade picnic dinner will be served at no charge. Seating will be available.*

*In order to meet the governor's gathering requirements of 25 people outdoors, **there will be two seatings: 4-5:30pm and 6-7:30pm.** This will allow time for folks to come and go. Registration is required to attend. Please wear masks.*

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0444AAAF2EA2FC1-fall>

### **Wednesday, September 23: "Getting to Know You" \*\* in the Lobby**

*Our class will meet in the three lobbies of the Worship Center (north, south, and main) from 4:00-5:30pm. Each person will receive a number when they arrive and when your number is called, will progress to the next lobby to visit with a new group of smiling faces or should it be smiling eyes?*

*Registration is limited to 10 people per lobby, to meet the governor's gathering requirements. A light refreshment will be provided. Please wear masks.*

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0444AAAF2EA2FC1-getting>



**\*\*Can you name that tune?**

Please sign up to attend for both socials by calling Bruce's admin., Jenny Blackmon, at 704-708-6104 or on SignUp Genius Links above.

### **BARLAAN COLLEGE FUND**

As you know Mark, Josie, Grace, and Jameson have been faithful and active in our Sunday School class and in our community. To express our love and appreciation for him, we would like to make a class gift in his memory. There has been a *Go Fund Me Account* set up for the Barlaan Family, for Grace's and Jameson's college education. What better way to remember Mark than to invest in the education of his children. Do continue to pray for Josie, Grace, Jameson, and the older girls in their grieving.

Lucille Ruths is our point person regarding our donations. So, if you would like to contribute:

- Make your check out to **Lucille Ruths**, in the "memo" section "**Barlaan Family Fund.**"
- Or if you want to give a cash gift, put it in a sealed envelope with your name at the top.
- You can mail your gift to Lucille Ruths or come by the white house and give it to our admin, Jenny Blackmon.
- *Please do not send cash in the mail.*
- Lucille Ruths address is: 737 Plantation Estates Dr, F-402, Matthews, NC 28105
- Lucille will record the giver and the amount of each gift.
- Lucille will send the memorial gift from the Senior Adult Sunday School Class to the Go Fund account.
- *We will be receiving gifts till September 30.*



## MEDICAL MISSIONARIES Scott and Jennifer Myhre



There is no group we would rather have praying for us than the Seniors at Christ Covenant Matthews!! So let us start by deeply thanking you for allowing us this re-introduction. We are Judy Aylestock's daughter and son-in-law, Drs. Jennifer and Scott Myhre. Almost 27 years ago we moved to Uganda, East Africa, to serve as medical missionaries with Serge, and we are still here because of the faithful prayers of people like you. By God's grace through those prayers we raised four children here, have treated uncountable patients, created programs for HIV, Nutrition, and other public health needs, survived war and Ebola, and, as leaders, helped expand the work in East Africa to 10 teams in 5 countries. For the last decade we have also been Area Directors, mentoring teams who translate the Bible, plant churches, train pastors, invest in education, staff hospitals, provide medical education and discipleship, establish businesses for the poor, build clean water systems. . . . all with the purpose of reaching marginalized people with the good news that Jesus has defeated death and invites them into God's family.

We started in 1993 in Bundibugyo, on the Uganda-Congo border, spent 2011-18 in Kenya, and since January 2019 have been back here in Bundibugyo. Right now we wear several hats: doctors in the Ugandan district hospital (Scott is a Family Medicine doctor focusing on OB care, Jennifer is a pediatrician); Chairing the board of our mission's secondary boarding school here, Christ School Bundibugyo; serving as Team Leaders for our Uganda team; and serving as Area Directors for East and Central Africa for Serge. That means our days are a complex jumble of dozens of complicated patients and few resources, plus dozens of meetings, Zooms, emails, prayer, Bible study, responsibilities, and then the minutes squeezed out to connect with our two mothers and our kids in America. We truly love this life lived on the edge. We consider it a privilege to touch the sick and needy and pray over them, while also being part of such a big-picture movement of God's Kingdom around the world.

Please do pray for us. 2020 has been a wearying year of uncertainty just as it has for all of you. We are so grateful that our mothers have fared well, and our kids are in stable places. Uganda has had closed borders and enforced strict lock-down for 139 days now; if we have to get back to America urgently, it could take a week or two to arrange, and we might not be able to return. So, we thank you for your prayer and friendship for our family, and we ask that God keeps them all safe and well. Secondly, pray for "compassion stamina" (a phrase our team coined) to shine God's love when we are stretched, tired, overwhelmed. Thirdly, pray for wisdom as we seek to humbly lead others with grace that points them to Jesus. Please feel free to follow our blog, <http://paradoxuganda.blogspot.com/> for more stories, find us on Facebook or Instagram (JAMyhre), or email me [jmyhre@serge.org](mailto:jmyhre@serge.org) to ask to be on bimonthly email updates.

## Welcome!

Please welcome **John & Carol Faber** to the Senior Adult Community. John has recently been ordained as Elder and is assigned to our class. The Faber's have been part of Christ Covenant since 2015.

## NEWSLETTER ARTICLE DEADLINE

Articles for the October newsletter are due to Jane Yancey no later than September 20<sup>th</sup>. Please send them to her at [jane@yancey.com](mailto:jane@yancey.com)

## MEN'S MONTHLY LUNCH

*Submitted by Dave Ruths*

Although Park Place Restaurant could/would host us, there will be no Senior Men's Lunch (Monthly, 3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays at 11:30 AM) in September.

With a view toward a potential mid-September further 'opening' and relaxing of restrictions needed, but with deference to each one's judged necessary precautions for our age group, I would greatly appreciate receiving an email stating your (each interested seniors man) present view and personal expectations of how you might then view attending a first "Post-COVID19 Reunion Lunch" at Park Place Restaurant on October 16<sup>th</sup> @ 11:30. The context for this concept and your response would be that: (a) the NC Governor's rules support this concept, and (b) there has been no significant upturn in valid infections detected as a percentage of numerical testing, OR some other apparently ominous indicator.

Please e-mail me ( [dwruths@gmail.com](mailto:dwruths@gmail.com) ) your indicative but non-committal position on this, as soon as comfortable but latest by September 18, so we can appropriately communicate within the October News Letter. Thank you.



## SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 5 Ronnie and Gay-Ellen Fisher
- 5 Dana and Dee Lamb
- 10 Russ and Linda Eppley
- 12 Biff and Nan Bracy
- 28 Joe and Linda Morris



## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Mary Webb
- 2 Jack Burkhart
- 2 Janine Green
- 3 James Goebel
- 4 Marty Haigh
- 4 Dana Lamb
- 6 Frances Lee
- 6 Ron Melton
- 9 Bob Mantell
- 10 Dee Petty
- 13 Billie Quesnel
- 13 Danks Seel
- 14 Jerry Pinkard
- 15 Bernie Coleman
- 16 Sue Swansby
- 17 Toni Broome
- 17 Brenden Kelly
- 18 Ora Johnson
- 18 Lou Walters
- 20 Carolyn Creswell
- 20 Betty Hough
- 20 Jimmy Wentz
- 22 Carol Mantell
- 23 Linda Eppley
- 23 Tom Hopkins
- 23 Susan Sperry
- 23 Pat Moore
- 24 Ken Dobbs
- 24 Jim Stoudenmier
- 26 Bob Parlante
- 29 Anne Hopkins
- 29 Linda Morris
- 29 Carol Zachary



**Coram Deo Sunday School Class:**

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

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

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**JOURNEYING ON****LORD OF THE CLOUD AND FIRE,**

I am a stranger, with a stranger's indifference;

My hands hold a pilgrim's staff,

My march is Zionward,

My eyes are toward the coming of the Lord,

My heart is in Thy hands without reserve.

Thou hast created it,

redeemed it,

renewed it,

captured it,

conquered it.

Keep from it every opposing foe,

crush in it every rebel lust,

mortify every treacherous passion,

annihilate every earthborn desire.

All faculties of my being vibrate to Thy touch;

I love Thee with soul, mind, body, strength,

might, spirit, affection, will,

desire, intellect, understanding.

Thou art the very perfection of all perfections.

All intellect is derived from Thee;

My scanty rivulets flow from Thy unfathomable fountain.

Compared with Thee the sun is darkness,

all beauty deformity,

all wisdom folly,

the best goodness faulty.

Thou art worthy of an adoration greater than

my dull heart can yield;

Invigorate my love that it may rise worthily

to Thee,

tightly entwine itself round Thee,

be allured by Thee.

Then shall my walk be endless praise.

*-The Valley of Vision*