

BETWEEN SEEDTIME AND HARVEST

**Senior Adults Newsletter
Christ Covenant Church
July 2021**



GRACE TO YOU

by
Pastor Bruce Creswell

OUR SENIOR FALL RETREAT October 5-8, 2021

I am thinking ahead to our annual Fall Retreat coming up in October, which is a highlight of the year. The senior retreat was well in place before I came in October 2001. Back in those early years, the retreat could take place either in spring or fall. But with the increasing number of folks going and then getting a date on the church planning calendar, we settled for the fall season. The fall season has many advantages: the weather is cooler, the leaves are changing, and school is in session. As you know, we rotate going to the mountains or to the ocean. It is a good way to accommodate everyone's preference.

For years, we went to Spring Maid Beach and enjoyed the ocean, the fine hotel rooms, and food. When the resort was sold, the new owners implemented a lot of changes. The two changes that affected us was the price increase and it was not oriented to senior adults as it had been known for. But the Lord opened the door for us to go to Fort Caswell on Oak Island. Its location and facilities have been just as nice and affordable. The little town of Southport is quaint and friendly and filled with shops and restaurants.

In the mountains, we have enjoyed Bonclarken Conference Center near Hendersonville. The dining room is just across the street. The food is very good and served cafeteria style. The lodge we stay in also has a large meeting room, where our morning and evening Bible studies meet and is our meeting room for fellowship. With the town of Hendersonville not far away, many enjoy walking and shopping in the little stores. Since lunch is on your own, there are a lot of nice restaurants and bakeries to choose from. We cannot forget, Sky Top Orchard, with their famous apple cider doughnuts, and their many varieties of apples to choose from.

Speaking about fellowship, our folks do it up right, bringing all sorts of snacks. After evening Bible study, tables are set up for hanging out and playing games. We have serious dominoes players, and there are those who organize different card and board games from Clue to Trouble, to Scrabble. Some watch the games, while others just hang out and snack. Fellowship is not restricted to inside. Some take walks around the wooded conference grounds or enjoy sitting on the porch in the many rocking chairs. We do have a fun time playing Bocce Ball on the greens.

Outside of location for our retreat, having a good Bible teacher is of primary importance. Over the years our souls have been fed from the Word by good teachers. Think back to Dick Tevebaugh, Nelson Melkus, Doug Falls, Mike Ross, John Oliver, Kris Decker, Gabe Sylvia, Paul Settles, Bruce Fiol, and Derek Wells? This year our speaker will be Dr. Paul Engle whom many have heard teach on the topics of worship and the recent Holy Land series. Along with good singing and being together around the Word, our faith has been strengthened, our hearts encouraged, and our love for Him increased.

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The retreat gives us an opportunity to get to know and to encourage each other, especially our new folks. Due to Covid, last year we had to cancel our retreat. So, this Fall it will be a special time to reconnect with each other and pick up where we left off! Apart from the morning and evening Bible study, everyone is on their own to enjoy "free time." We consciously work at keeping the price as affordable as we can. To ensure everyone who wants to go but needs some assistance, there are scholarships available.

I am looking forward to seeing you at the retreat. For those who are new or who have never been on our retreat, I want to personally invite you to join us. If you have any questions call Lucille Ruths, Retreat Registrar at 704-846-4074. For scholarship inquiries please contact Jenny Blackmon, admin assistant to Pastor Bruce, 704-708-6104.

HYMN HISTORY

Submitted by Peggy Dear



Along with several other professors from Eastern colleges, Katherine Bates was teaching at a new summer school in Colorado Springs when the group went to climb Pike's Peak. Since this was 1893, without the roads and trails we have today, that was quite a climb.

When Bates got to the top, she recalled, she "gazed in wordless rapture over the far expanse of mountain ranges and sea-like sweep of plains." She was in awe. That evening, in Colorado Springs, she wrote this hymn.

On her way to Colorado, Bates and the others had stopped to see the Chicago World's Fair, and she said, Chicago was "in no small degree responsible for at least the last stanza."

Later she wrote, "If only we could couple the daring of the Pilgrims with the moral teachings of Moses, we would have something in this country that no one could take from us."

NEWSLETTER ARTICLE DEADLINE

Articles for the July newsletter are due to Jane Yancey no later than July 20th. Please send them to her at jane@yancey.com

O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties above the fruited plain!
America, America, God shed His grace one thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea.

O beautiful for pilgrim feet, whose stern, impassioned stress
A thoroughfare for freedom beat across the wilderness!
America! America! God mend thine ev'ry flaw,
Confirm thy soul in self control, thy liberty in law.

O beautiful for heroes proved in liberating strife,
Who more than self their country loved and mercy more than life!
America! America! May God thy gold refine,
Till all success be nobleness, and ev'ry gain divine.

O beautiful for patriot dream that sees, beyond the years,
Thine alabaster cities gleam---undimmed by human tears!
America! America! God shed His grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea.

KATHERINE LEE BATES (1859-1929)



Submitted by Dot Branson

Trio's Restaurant
Friday, July 9th
11:15 am

The Senior Ladies' Luncheon will be at Trio's Restaurant on Friday, July 9th, at 11:15. **Please note the change of time!** The Restaurant is located at 10709 McMullen Creek Pkwy. (off Hwy. 51). Please mark your calendars, and plan to join us for a great time together with Christian Sisters. If you have questions, please contact Dot Branson.

MEN'S MONTHLY LUNCH

Submitted by Dave Ruths

Park Place Restaurant
Friday, July 16th
11:30 am

Gentlemen,

I look forward to joining you for great brunch/ lunch fellowship and teaching by Pastor Mo Up De Graff on **Friday, July 16th** at the **Senior Men's Lunch @ 11:30 AM, Park Place Restaurant, 2021 Park Rd.**

UNCLAIMED PROPERTY

Submitted by Alona Waddine

The Unclaimed Property Division (UPD) of the North Carolina Department of State Treasurer has recently launched an effort to return unclaimed money back in the hands of its rightful owners. Unclaimed property can be items such as uncashed checks, forgotten bank accounts, utility deposits, life insurance policies, stocks, bonds, and other funds that have been abandoned and no owner could be found. The funds were turned over to the above-mentioned office by a company that did business with you at one point in time, and when that company could no longer contact you, by law they were required to send the money to the State Treasurer for safekeeping.

It is a simple process to check to see whether the State may be holding funds for you, and you can make a claim to receive your funds. Visit **NCCASH.com**



Join us for the summer Ice Cream Social on Friday, July 16th from 1:30-3pm in CLC5&6! Pastor Bruce is buying for everyone. Please sign up so we may have enough ice cream and toppings for all.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0444aaaf2ea2fc1-icecream>

Senior Adult Fall Retreat
In Beautiful Flat Rock, NC
October 5-8, 2021

Guest Speaker: Dr. Paul Engle

Meet new friends and get re-acquainted with old friends, as we enjoy time in the mountains with each other and the Lord.

Retreat Cost includes:

Room, Three Breakfasts, Three Dinners, and Retreat Incidental Costs. Lunches on own.

Single Person Room Rate: \$299
Double Room Rate: \$185 per person
Couples Rate: \$370

Motel/Hotel-style lodging. All rooms have double or queen beds. Disability accessible rooms available.

- **Payment Secures Reservation. Full payment due by August 31.**
- *Please make checks payable to Christ Covenant Church, and mail or give to Lucille Ruths, Retreat Registrar. Questions? Please contact Lucille at 704-846-4074 or lmruths@gmail.com*
- *Please write Senior Adult Retreat in the Memo line.*
- *Scholarships available upon request.*



By Chris Williams

A SHORT HISTORY OF AFRICA

By Roland Oliver and J. D. Fage

A Mousetrap for Darwin (Michale J. Behe Answers his Critics)

by Michael J. Behe

*“You’re the Word of God the Father from before the world began;
Ev’ry star and ev’ry planet has been fashioned by your hand.
All creation holds together by the power of you voice.
Let the skies declare your glory; let the land and seas rejoice.” (Getty and Townend)*

In 1996 Behe wrote the book, “Darwin’s Black Box” arguing, based on formal scientific evidence, that some biological structures in living cells were unlikely to have been fashioned by Darwinian Evolution; that is, by random mutation and natural selection. According to this theory of Evolution, it is thought that all life forms could be accounted for through natural, mechanical forces. Behe’s book challenged Darwinism and immediately created a significant stir among evolutionary scientists and biochemists. The controversy has continued for decades.

Now, some thirty years later, Dr. Behe brings us up to date on what has happened since “Black Box...” was published.

The subtitle to the original Black Box book is, “The Biochemical Challenge to Evolution.” Truly since that time there have been many challenges leveled, but the challenges were not directed at Darwinian Evolution. The challenges have been leveled at Behe himself, yet he has sought to diligently reply to each and every one. This is the compilation of those many challenges and his interesting and thorough replies.

The book’s tone is combative, and at times sarcastic. Behe does not take these attacks lying down and his sharp wit makes for interesting reading. The quality of his writing is good - the one thing that keeps you going through what is otherwise a technical jungle.

His assertion regarding Darwinian Evolution is that some biological structures and features at the cell level are far too complex to have been produced by any conceivable gradual process governed by random mutation and natural selection over millions of years. Behe says, “such structures and features are irreducibly complex and are evidence of “Intelligent Design” (ID). The title of the book mentions a “mouse trap” which Behe uses effectively to illustrate the idea of ID. The half dozen parts that make up a mousetrap must all be made according to specification and must all come together at once to make a device that actually works. Such a thing cannot be made gradually since unless it is complete it cannot fulfill a useful function.

Behe gives other vivid examples and analogies which I will leave to the reader to discover; but his argument is sound and convincing. The continuing challenge from Darwinists is that Behe is simply a creationist and is promoting the Christian dogma concerning God and creation. But Behe is clear. He does not take a position on who or where the intelligent designer is. His science of ID stops short of such identification because, as he says, that is beyond science. Evidence of ID is there scientifically but science cannot identify the source of the design.

This is perhaps a subtle distinction, but he drives this point throughout the book as his critics repeatedly accuse him of being a closet creationist.

The encouragement for us Bible believing Christians is that Darwinian Evolution continues to experience growing skepticism coming from within science itself. Not many of you may read this book, but be assured, science is not about to take over the business of understanding the nature and origin of life. It never was able to do so, though Christians perhaps feared so. Know this: God invented life and sustains it by the “power of his voice.”

BOOK REVIEW

Submitted by Steve Sperry

AGING WITH GRACE FLOURISHING IN AN ANTI-AGING CULTURE

*By Sharon W. Betters and Susan Hunt
Published by Crossway: 2021: 178 pages*

This timely book is mainly directed toward older Christian women, but it could as well be worthwhile for older Christian men. It could be considered as a topic for a small group study or even as an at home devotional resource for a married older couple. Betters and Hunt have developed their work around the wisdom of Psalm 92 and Titus 2, offering a path for flourishing spiritually to the end of mortal life regardless of declining physical and mental stamina. A reading of the book's *forward* by *Karen Hodge* *compels one to investigate the entire work.*

The reader will find, for application to our modern "anti-aging" culture - - - an analysis of God's instructions to the Israelites during seventy years of captivity - - - to live, flourish and multiply as they waited and hoped in faith for promised redemption and return to their Jerusalem home. And how the older women among them (Matriarchs of the Old Testament) would likely have served as anchors in God's promises for those born during that time under captivity having never experienced life in the Palestine their parents had known.

In addition to the Matriarchs of the Babylonian exile, highlighted in the book are Godly older women recorded in Scripture who modeled the principles of aging and flourishing with grace: Sarah - - Elizabeth - - - Anna - - - Naomi.

Chapter 5 looks into the concept of older women "flourishing" as being something "more about *BECOMING* than about *DOING*". Many readers should find this chapter enlightening and encouraging.

The book gives the reader a reminder that God, in His sovereignty, does not burden believers with adversity that they cannot handle with Him at their side. Finally, it could be described as a reflection (in a more specific sense) about how older women can glorify God according to the Shorter Catechism response to question number one: that "The chief end of Man is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever."

The book includes discussion/reflection questions at the conclusion of its 8 chapters.



JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 – Patsy Rider
- 7 – Rosemary Adams
- 8 – Carol Faber
- 9 – Barney Megargee
- 12 – Sara Ann Keaton
- 12 – Jan King
- 15 – Wendy Klipp
- 15 – David McArthur
- 16 – Patrick Hogan
- 17 – Grace Barlaan
- 18 – Dan O'Neil
- 20 – Carol Marzahn
- 20 – Maxine Pangle
- 24 – Hugh Wise
- 27 – Nancy O'Neil
- 27 – Bill Scott
- 28 – Gay-Ellen Fisher
- 31 – Bruce Hansen



JULY ANNIVERSARIES

- 15 – David & Angela Pacey
- 20 – Jim & Patti Prieb
- 20 – Steve & Patsy Rider
- 22 – Dan & Nancy O'Neil
- 22 – Mo and Janie Up De Graff
- 23 – Myron & Mary Guthrie
- 26 – Tom & Anne Hopkins

Coram Deo Sunday School Class:

Currently meets in the Sanctuary on Thursdays at 4:00 pm and is also live-streamed on

You Tube:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/christcovenantpres>

Vimeo:

<https://vimeo.com/christcovenantchurch>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/ChristCovenantChurchPCA/>

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THE WORLD IS MINE

Author Unknown

Today, upon a bus, I saw a very beautiful woman
And wished I were as beautiful.
When suddenly she rose to leave,
I saw her hobble down the aisle.
She had one leg and used a crutch.

But as she passed, she passed a smile.
Oh, God, forgive me when I whine.
I have two legs; the world is mine.

I stopped to buy some candy.
The lad who sold it had such charm.
I talked with him, he seemed so glad.
If I were late, it'd do no harm.
And as I left, he said to me,
"I thank you, you've been so kind.

It's nice to talk with folks like you.
You see," he said, "I'm blind."
Oh, God, forgive me when I whine.
I have two eyes; the world is mine.

Later while walking down the street,
I saw a child I knew.
He stood and watched the others play,
But he did not know what to do.
I stopped a moment and then I said,
Why don't you join them dear?"

He looked ahead without a word.
I forgot, he couldn't hear.
Oh, God, forgive me when I whine.
I have two ears; the world is mine.

With feet to take me where I'd go.
With eyes to see the sunset's glow.
With ears to hear what I'd know.
Oh, God, forgive me when I whine.
I've been blessed indeed, the world is mine.