

# **BETWEEN SEEDTIME AND HARVEST**

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



## **GRACE TO YOU**

by  
Pastor Bruce Creswell

## **GOD'S WEATHER**

Our family vacation was the first time that all of the kids joined us since they were kids (this time included their spouses and their children)! Under one roof, five bedrooms with five bathrooms and two porches. It was 150 steps to the ocean, an ideal location.

We also enjoyed wonderful weather! Starting at 6 am with morning coffee on the front porch, a gentle and steady breeze with palmetto trees gracefully swaying greeted you. Every day the sun was shining, the humidity was low, and though the temperature was in the high 80s and 90s, it was pleasantly enduring. It was warmer to stay in the pool than to be out of it.

I cannot recall a vacation with such pleasant conditions. As I thanked the Lord for His goodness, it brought back other memorable weather encounters.

Just last year, we had a tornado that passed through Matthews and caused a lot of damage. Our church was not spared from its presence. The roof on the sanctuary and high school had to be repaired. Several huge oak trees were uprooted and had to be removed. Even Pastor Tom's car received injury by one of the fallen trees.

Then there was the drought that plagued our state and our county for the entire summer. There was a ration on washing our cars and watering our lawns. The ground was hard, and the grass was brown, and the gardens barely produced. I remember we had a large banner hanging in the prayer room which read, "PRAY for Rain." Some of our folks met regularly to specifically pray for the Lord to send rain.

Soon after we came to Charlotte, we had a major snowstorm of 17 inches! It took 3 days for it melt. This time everything shutdown and was closed.

In our first church in West Virginia, we had a heavy rainfall that caused the rivers to swell. We lived on a peninsula surrounded by the New, the Bluestone, and the Greenbrier Rivers. Emergency plans were in place to evacuate if the flood water got any worse. Fortunately, they subsided!

When I was 12 years old in 1966, we had a tremendous snow blizzard that shut down the schools and transportation system for ten days. It provided hours of sledding and constructing snow tunnels and forts!

*(Continued on Page 2)*

BUT the earliest memory I have regarding the weather was on a Sunday morning walking home after church with old Mr. Keene. Trying to make conversation, I made some comment about how hot it was and wishing it would cool down. He looked down at me and pointedly replied, "This is God's weather, not ours!" I did not know how to answer him. Thankfully, he was heading to his house and saying goodbye. I went on my way.

His words made an indelible impression on me. Over the years, they have helped to keep my grumbling in check as well as to convict me when I do complain about the weather. He had a proper handle on the weather!

God's Word says, "The LORD does whatever He pleases throughout all heaven and earth, and on the seas and in their depths. He causes the clouds to rise over the earth. He sends the lightning with the rain and releases the wind from His storehouses." Psalm 135:6-7

### **When I grumble about the weather!**

*(From Gospel Gems)*

*"The Lord has heard all your grumbings against Him!"* Exodus 16:8

Does God really hear every discontented word which I ever speak?

Does He hear **when I grumble about the weather** . . .

about the hard winter,  
about the late spring,  
about the dry summer,  
about the wet harvest?

Does He hear when I grumble . . .

about the frosts,  
about the drought,  
about the high winds,  
about the storms?

Does He hear when I grumble . . .

about my circumstances,  
about the hardness of my lot,  
about my losses and disappointments?

If we could get into our heart and keep there continually, the consciousness that *God hears every word we speak*—would we murmur and complain so much as we now do?



*Submitted by Dot Branson*

**Trio's Restaurant**  
**Friday, August 13<sup>th</sup>**  
**11:15 am**

Mark your calendars for our August Ladies Luncheon. We will meet at Trio's Restaurant at 11:30 on Friday, August 13th. The address is 10709 McMullen Creek Pkwy (off Hwy. 51). We will celebrate our ladies with August birthdays with some special cookies! Please make plans to join us for great food and sweet fellowship!

### **MEN'S MONTHLY LUNCH**

*Submitted by Dave Ruths*

**Park Place Restaurant**  
**10517 Park Rd., Charlotte**  
**Friday, August 20<sup>th</sup>**  
**11:30 am**

Gentlemen,

The **Senior Men's Lunch** will be your opportunity for great food, fellowship, and teaching by Pastor Mo Up De Graff on **Friday, August 20**.

(In consideration of our waitress taking our orders, let's please try to be prompt – like we did in July.)

## HYMN HISTORY

*Submitted by Peggy Dear*

When it was first printed, this hymn was simply called "Scripture Promises." In a 1787 hymnal, the words of 2 Peter 1:4 were printed above the first stanza: "Exceeding great and precious promises" (KJV). Each stanza of the hymn emphasizes a different promise in God's Word. The second stanza is based on Isaiah 41:10; the third on Isaiah 43:2; the fourth on 2 Corinthians 12:9; and the fifth on Hebrews 13:5, which concludes "I will never fail you, I will never abandon you."

The final lines of this hymn are among the most memorable in the hymnal: "That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake, I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake!" If it still isn't clear, you can add a couple more "no nevers" to it.

### HOW FIRM A FOUNDATION

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,  
Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!  
What more can He say than to you He hath said,  
To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

"Fear not, I am with thee; O be not dismayed,  
For I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;  
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,  
Upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand."

"When through the deep waters I call thee to go,  
The rivers of woe shall not thee overflow;  
For I will be with thee thy troubles to bless,  
And sanctify to thee thy deepest distress."

"When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,  
My grace, all-sufficient, shall be thy supply;  
The flame shall not hurt thee, I only design  
Thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine."

"The soul that on Jesus still leans for repose,  
I will not, I will not desert to his foes;  
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,  
I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake!"  
"K" IN RIPPON'S A SELECTION OF HYMNS, 1787

### NEWSLETTER ARTICLE DEADLINE

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

## 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](mailto:lmruths@gmail.com)
- Please write Senior Adult Retreat in the Memo line.
- Scholarships available upon request.

### TEACHING PROGRAM:

#### STARS, BUCKETS, GRASSHOPPERS, AND EAGLES:

#### Comforting Words to Hold Onto

*(A graphically illustrated fresh look at Isaiah 40 taught by Dr. Paul Engle who has served as a pastor, publisher, and professor. He now teaches church leaders in a number of international schools. He's author of the book "When God Draws Near.")*

Session one: Take Comfort (40:1-2)

Session two: More Reasons to Take Comfort (40:3-11)

Session three: Big Problems Call for a Big God (40:12-17)

Session four: A Stretching View of God (40:18-26)

Session five: Common Complaint Answered (40:27-30)


 A banner with the words "Book Review" in a white, serif font, set against a background of a bookshelf filled with books. The banner has a blue border.

*By Chris Williams*

**CONFRONTING INJUSTICE WITHOUT COMPROMISING TRUTH –  
12 Questions Christians should ask about Social Justice**

*By Thaddeus J. Williams, Zondervan 2020*

In following the news daily, it is obvious that confusion saturates the public mind regarding issues of race, justice, law enforcement, and human rights. Happily, I found there are people (Thaddeus Williams, for one!) out there that actually see and understand what is happening and can articulate the problems offering clarity from Biblical perspective. Williams reminds me of Francis Schaeffer in using a clear and thorough explanation of worldly ideas and giving solid analysis for the building up of Christian faith.

The book is a sweeping exposition of the modern and secular idea of justice organized around 12 questions he poses about justice and truth organized in four sections of three questions each. For example, question 2: "Does our vision of social justice acknowledge the image of God in everyone, regardless of size, shade, sex or status?" And question 8: "Does our vision of social justice promote racial strife?"

Williams aims directly at the difference between the Christian Biblical understanding of Godly justice (Williams calls it Justice A) and the world's idea (Justice B). The difference is vast, yet it is perhaps easy for individual Christians and even Church leadership (yes, in the PCA) to get caught up in the confusion of our time. This book helps clear the confusion.

The author comes down hard on Justice B. He convinces the reader through much exposition and factual argument that, in reality, the world's ideas are exactly opposite to the justice of the Bible. This worldly idea of justice is contrary to God's justice and becomes a thin veneer of respectability over what is actually a very destructive set of ideas. For example, in the case of abortion, it is promoted to supposedly protect women from "unjust" law that requires them to carry an unwanted pregnancy to term. But the result coming out of this is not only the ending of a true human life, but the lives of women destroyed. "A massive fourteen-year study found that 81 percent of women who had an abortion were more likely to experience mental health problems." P.132

Biblical justice, (Justice A) is based on love, service, forgiveness; the need to obey the divine law in loving our neighbors and recognizes the fallen nature of man and the need of redemption.

Some of the statistics, such as numbers on rates of abortion, are hard to read but are essential in making his point about the false notion of social justice today. Not only are the proponents of worldly Justice B callous toward the trauma of women caught up in the practice of abortion, but they have no regard for human life having long ago denied that we are all image bearers of God created for His glory.

The author does not write in a judgmental tone against any specific person or persons. In that sense you can say the book is not at all political. The critique is rather directed at ideas only. This, I think, is the way Christians should engage the culture - not with personal attacks but with doctrine and ideals.

One final thought: Some Christians I have met over the years do not care to analyze the pagan culture around them. We should just preach the gospel, worship and pray; letting the world think its corrupt thoughts and live without God. The world, after all, is simply worldly. Would there be any point in deep analysis of how and why Sodom got the way it was? Unbelief leads to social destruction. Why would we think the world would not, left on its own, find its way to perversion, murder, and confusion as all godless cultures have from the beginning. But the church is not called to simply detach itself from the pain and chaos of human sin because "...such were some of you." (1Cor.6:11). Our calling is to love our enemies and that means to serve them by pointing out destructive ideas and call them to repentance that they might believe the gospel. This is our job and calling.

Williams gives us a clear understanding of these ideas and their true nature. Worth your time to read.

### BOOK REVIEW

*Submitted by Hugh Wise*

#### THE JESUS CODE

#### Finding Jesus in Every Book in the Bible

*By O. S. Hawkins*

Most of us know where Jesus is in the New Testament but some of us are a bit unsure how He is represented in the Old Testament.

For example, we know the prophecies in Isaiah 53, the pillar of fire in Chronicles, the blood of the Passover lamb in Exodus, and the ram in Genesis.

But where is He in some of the lesser known books like Joel, Obadiah, Haggai, Malachi, Nahum, Ezra, etc.? He is definitely there, and by knowing these facts, we become more worshipful of Jesus as expressed in John 1:1, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God."

This book provides a crystal clear look at the presence of Jesus throughout all of Holy Scripture.

The author reveals a clear, logical linkage between the Old and New Testament and a deeper recognition of God's infinite sovereignty.

The book is only \$12.95 from Christian Booksellers.

An easy but very enlightening read.

*Jesus Christ  
the Son of God*

*He is the breath of life within us . . .*

*The fountain that refreshes us . . .*

*The grace that frees us . . .*

*The truth that renews our minds . . .*

*The way that guides our steps . . .*

*The love that fills our hearts . . .*

*The fullness that gives us joy!*



### AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 1 – Cal Deaner
- 1 – Al Elkin
- 1 – Vicky Henson
- 4 – Barbara Lynn McArthur
- 6 – John Little
- 11 – Robert Adams
- 12 – Anne Schworbel
- 14 – Ruth Colvin
- 16 – Bruce Creswell
- 16 – Shirley Jones
- 16 – Steve Rider
- 17 – Mary Munn
- 18 – Ted Williams
- 18 – Jane Yancey
- 19 – Jim Prieb
- 20 – Pete Bridge
- 21 – Joe Massengill
- 21 – Lucille Ruths
- 25 – Dot Driver
- 26 – Aicy Himongala
- 27 – Peggy Dear
- 28 – Joe Cathey
- 29 – Edith Lane
- 30 – Karen Ellis
- 31 – Wallace Church



### AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

- 9 – Jim and Carol Stoudenmeir
- 12 – Gary & Wendy Klipp
- 14 – Pete & Martha Bridge
- 14 – Bob & Carroll Mantell
- 19 – Bill & Betty Hough
- 21 – Chuck & Carol Marzahn
- 26 – Tom & Sylvia Walls
- 28 – Al & Susan Reinken
- 30 – Jack & Lisa Burkhart

**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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**Christ Covenant Church**

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Matthews, NC 28105

**EVENTS**

- Dessert Fellowship, Friday, August 27, 2021, in the CLC at 1:30 pm.

*Please join us August 27th at 1:30 until 4+ for a Sweet August Celebration - dessert topped with a scoop of ice cream, whipped cream and whatever else is available. PLUS PLUS PLUS games and more games on which to hone your skills prior to Retreat. No cost for this event.*

- Sunday School, Sunday, August 29<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 am.
- Fall Kickoff-Cookout, Wednesday, September 8, 2021—5:30pm on the lower floor of CLC

*Coming on September 8th at 5:30 is our Fall kickoff. This year will once again be a hamburger cookout with fixings with a \$4.00 donation requested.*

- October 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Senior Retreat at Bonclarken

*Detailed information is on Page 3.*

- Christmas Dinner, December 4<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm in the CLC.