

# **BETWEEN SEEDTIME AND HARVEST**

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



## **GRACE TO YOU**

by  
Pastor Bruce Creswell

## **LOOKING TO RETURN**

*“Forget not ALL His benefits” Psalm 103:2*

When covid shut life down as we knew it, the Lord did not abandon His people. With His wisdom and guidance, Christ Covenant was able to navigate through the coming months to the present.

Praise His name for “on-line streaming” that came into place! We never missed hearing the preached Word each Sunday morning and evening. The doors of the church may have been closed, but “on-line streaming” opened new doors around the world. The ministry of CCC went worldwide with people in the Middle East, in Indonesia, Nepal, the UK, as well as our own country watching on YouTube. Added to Sunday worship, the pastors did a series of devotionals on encouragement, followed by Sunday school offering a wide assortment of topics to choose from, most recently a series of Christian biographies for summer.

Another means of navigation during covid was the use of “Zoom.” Everything from staff prayer meeting, session meeting, women’s Bible study, and Tuesday night prayer meeting was Zoomed! For some of us, it took a little longer to get the hang of it, and although it was sometimes awkward and intimidating in logging on, it did serve its purpose.

Making sure that our senior adult community stayed connected, deliberate steps were taken. One of the first measures undertaken was matching our seniors with members in our church. Working together with Ginni Larkins, Assistant Director of Women’s Ministry, each of our seniors was paired up with someone in the church. The purpose was to call and encourage, offering help as needed, and to pray with them. Some of those relationships are still in place.

The Lord’s Supper was provided by having a Sunday afternoon service in the sanctuary with our first service having over 80 people. Not being able to have our indoor monthly luncheons, several outdoor fellowships, as well as lobby socials, were planned and were enthusiastically received.

The Lord opened a way for us to maintain our Sunday School class which allowed for in-person community connection. “Thursday School” was created since the sanctuary was available on Thursday afternoons for the seniors to meet in person, at one time, and without limit. Those who were not able to attend could still join us by means of “live streaming.” With the help of the operations department, sound, and others, we have been meeting for almost a year. The Lord provided us with good teaching by capable teachers: Paul Engle, Bob Glaser, and Bob Medeiros. And how blessed we have been to have Pam Eash minister in song-- “Hit it sister!” Thursday school has been vital in building up the saints through covid.

One thing that continued without change or restrictions was our newsletter. It went out each month on time. Thank you, Jane Yancey, for faithfully keeping us informed and connected.

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As restrictions continued to lighten, we proceeded with our annual Christmas banquet with over 70 in attendance. Decorations went up, a delicious catered dinner prepared by Tara Dabbs was served, followed by Dr. Blair Smith's devotional. Amazing!

Slowly we have returned to having our monthly luncheons, along with the ladies and men's lunches. Our times have been blessed with warm fellowship, food, good attendance, and a renewed interest.

Lord willing, we will be returning to Sunday School on August 29, 2021, in our classroom in the choir room of the worship center. I am looking forward to our regathering on the Lord's Day. We will be studying the "Life and Times of Elijah," which is relevant to our day.

I am also looking forward to our Fall Retreat at Bonclarken in October. So far, we have 60 signed up. Leading us in our Bible study is Dr. Paul Engle, who will be teaching from the Book of Isaiah.

Looking back over the months of covid, we have witnessed the faithful provision of our Lord by church leadership and especially the senior elders and deacons in our community. Although we are not out of the woods completely, we must continue to pray for protection as covid is still around. I look forward to seeing everyone in Sunday School. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

## HYMN HISTORY

*Submitted by Peggy Dear*

### GRACE GREATER THAN ALL OUR SIN

Grace is one of the hardest lessons for us to learn about God. Some show their ignorance of God's grace by working hard to be good enough. They pay lip service to the idea of God's grace but don't really understand it. Others display their misunderstanding of God's grace by concluding it's inaccessible to them. They know they cannot be good enough for God, so they despair of ever having a relationship with Him.

It is the second group that Julia Johnston was writing for. She knew how important it was to understand and experience the simple, yet difficult, truth of God's gracious forgiveness. Johnston, who lived in Peoria, Illinois, was a Sunday school teacher and became a noted expert in Sunday school curriculum. Though she penned texts for more than five hundred hymns, this is the only one widely known. It powerfully teaches this essential Christian truth: God's grace is far greater than any sin you have committed. All you have to do is receive it.

Marvelous grace of our loving Lord,  
Grace that exceeds our sin and our guilt!  
Yonder on Calvary's mount outpoured--  
There where the blood of the Lamb was spilt.

*Grace, grace, God's grace  
Grace that will pardon and cleanse within,  
Grace, grace, God's grace  
Grace that is greater than all our sin!*

Sin and despair, like the sea waves cold,  
Threaten the soul with infinite loss;  
Grace that is greater than--yes, grace untold--  
Points to the refuge, the mighty cross.

Dark is the stain that we cannot hide--  
What can avail to wash it away?  
Look! there is flowing a crimson tide--  
Whiter than snow you may be today.

Marvelous, infinite, matchless grace,  
Freely bestowed on all who believe!  
You that are longing to see His face,  
Will you this moment His grace receive?

Julia Harriett Johnston (1849-1919)  
Romans 3:24-26; Romans 5:16-17; 2 Corinthians 8:9



Submitted by Dot Branson

**Trio's Restaurant**  
**Friday, September 10<sup>th</sup>**  
**11:30 am**

The Senior Ladies' Luncheon will be at Trio's Restaurant on Friday, September 10th, at 11:30. Please plan to join us for great food and fellowship. In order to give the Manager an accurate count, please call, text, or email Dot Branson to let her know you plan to be there.

### SENIOR MEN'S MONTHLY LUNCH

Submitted by Dave Ruths

**Park Place Restaurant**  
**10517 Park Rd., Charlotte**  
**Friday, September 17<sup>th</sup>**  
**11:30 am**

Gentlemen,  
 The **Senior Men's Lunch** is your opportunity for great food, fellowship, and teaching by Pastor Mo Up De Graff on **Friday, September 17**.

We all look forward to seeing you!

### SENIOR ADULT FALL KICK-OFF

**Friday, September 17**  
**5:30-7:30pm**  
**Lower CLC**

Meet new friends and reconnect with old friends at the Senior Adult Fall Kick-Off! Hamburgers with all the fixin's are on the menu. A \$4 donation is requested to offset food costs.

Please RSVP:  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0444aaaf2ea2fc1-senior4>

### NEWSLETTER ARTICLE DEADLINE

Articles for the July 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)

## 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 *(at the retreat):*

**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)



## Book Review

*By Chris Williams*

**For a Continuing Church**  
**The Roots of the Presbyterian Church in America.**  
**By Sean Michael Lucas. P&R 2013**

This book was published in 2013 on the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the PCA in 1973. It is clearly written and comprehensive, including events and people many of us seniors will remember and relate to (example: Billy Graham and his father-in-law Nelson Bell and their influence on Southern Presbyterian conservatives).

Mr. Lucas' narrative begins during the Civil War in 1861 when the nationwide Presbyterian Church (PCUSA) split into northern and southern denominations. The Southern Presbyterian Church (PCUS) remained separate until reunion in 1983 ten years after the formation of the PCA. During that 112 year period, the (Northern) PCUSA became liberal, i.e. large numbers of pastors and churches abandoned their belief in Biblical inerrancy and (to summarize) ceased believing the gospel of Christ. The Southern church began to follow in the same path, but greater resistance arose. This is the story of that resistance and its culmination in separation and establishment of the PCA. It is a great story and one that should be an encouragement; that strong men and women took a difficult stand against widespread and entrenched unbelief in their denomination and were successful in coming together to establish a continuing church and witness to the truth.

It seems the study of church history is not highly popular among Protestants in general. I have to admit, until recently, I had the same lack of interest in knowing what went before, especially since the decline of mainline denominations in America was so discouraging and even depressing. But having reflected some weeks on this book I would like to add an additional thought. This is a good place to begin if you are at all interested in the history of the church. Why? Because the history we can directly relate to will whet our appetite for further study. Then it can stimulate interest in what went before; leading backward to ever more interesting people and events in the triumph of Christianity in the world.



*Submitted by Pam Eash*

We will be meeting on Mondays from 1:30 - 2:30 pm beginning **September 13<sup>th</sup>**. We will break over Thanksgiving and Christmas, with our last rehearsal before those holidays being on November 22<sup>nd</sup>, and resume rehearsing on January 10 through May 23<sup>rd</sup>, Lord willing. We are inviting any and all over the age of 50 who are available on Mondays to join us as we raise joyful praise to our LORD. We plan to meet in Worship Center 211.

I've missed seeing you throughout this past year, and hope that, with the mandatory masking, we can all continue to meet and to worship together.



## BLESS BACK MINISTRY

*Submitted by Fran Wise*



Several years ago the seniors in Coram Deo Class were asked by Melissa Roper, Haiti Country Director for Bless Back Worldwide Ministries, to participate in that ministry.

We were privileged to contribute used prescription bottles to the medical clinic in Haiti. For over 6 years teams and individual seniors cleaned, brought, and packaged the bottles while Melissa took care of the transport. We supplied 2,000 bottles per month and over the period of 2014 to early 2021, approximately 150,000 bottles were donated which helped defray the cost for the clinic.

The good news now is that the Lord has provided another option for pill bottles and medications that are flown directly into Haiti at a reasonable cost. It has been a lifesaver for this ministry.

Melissa and I want to thank each person who contributed to this effort. It was greatly appreciated.

## FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEAS AND DINNERS

We plan to resume our **Fellowship Lunches & Dinners** this Fall.

- **What are these?** Times of fellowship with others from our Sunday School Class while enjoying lunch or dinner in a home.
- **Where?** At the homes of those who sign up to host.
- **What does the host provide?** The main course & beverage.
- **What do the guests bring?** A side dish, salad, or dessert.
- **When are these held?** The hosts will contact their assigned group and set a date agreeable to all.
- **How many are in each group?** The number the host says they can accommodate – 4, 6, 8, 10 e.g.
- **How do I sign up?** Sign-up sheets will be in S.S. class on September 5, 12, and 19.
- **When do I get my assignment?** These will be given out in S.S. on September 26.
- **When do I host my group?** One (1) time during the months of October or November.



## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 – Mary Webb
- 2 – Jack Burkhart
- 3 – Starr Beam
- 3 – Jim Goebel, Jr.
- 4 – Marty Haigh
- 4 – Dana Lamb
- 6 – Ron Melton
- 9 – Bob Mantell
- 10 – Dee Petty
- 13 – Billie Quesnel
- 13 – Danks Seel
- 14 – Jerry Pinkard
- 15 – John Faber
- 16 – Sue Swansby
- 17 – Toni Broome
- 17 – Kelly Brendan
- 18 – Ora Johnson
- 18 – Lou Walters
- 20 – Carolyn Creswell
- 20 – Larry Elenbaum
- 20 – Betty Hough
- 20 – Jimmy Wentz
- 22 – Carroll Mantell
- 23 – Linda Epply
- 23 – Tom Hopkins
- 23 – Pat Moore
- 23 – Susan Sperry
- 24 – Ken Dabbs
- 24 – Jim Stoudenmier
- 26 – Bob Parlante
- 29 – Anne Hopkins
- 29 – Linda Morris
- 29 – Carol Zachary



## SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 5 – Ronnie & Gay-Ellen Fisher
- 5 – Dana & Dee Lamb
- 10 – Russ & Linda Eppley
- 11 – Sam & Anne Murray
- 12 – Biff & Nan Bracy
- 28 – Joe & Linda Morris

**Coram Deo Sunday School Class:**  
Sundays, 9 am, WC201/Choir Room  
*At this time, Sunday School will not  
be live-streamed.*

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## EVENTS

- Sunday School, Sunday, August 29<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 am.
- Fall Kickoff-Cookout, Friday, September 17, 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. Please use the Sign-Up Genius Link in the article on Page 3.*

- Joy Singers resume September 13<sup>th</sup> From 1:30 – 2:30 pm in the Worship Center
- 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.