

BETWEEN SEEDTIME AND HARVEST

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



GRACE TO YOU

by
Pastor Bruce Creswell

A CORNUCOPIA of BLESSINGS!

The Latin word for “horn of plenty” is “cornucopia,” which referred to a mythical horn that was able to provide whatever is desired. We often see the goat’s horn-shaped basket around fall and Thanksgiving with vegetables, leaves, and gourds.

You might say that is what we had in staff devotions this morning! This being the week of Jubilee and celebrating Thanksgiving this Thursday, I thought it would be good for us to focus on God’s blessings to Christ Covenant Church. Opening with singing, *Come Ye Thankful People, Come* was followed by the sharing of a particular blessing with one prayer request from the ten different ministries. Let me share with you these blessings and prayer requests and give you the opportunities to rejoice as well as pray for our church.

1. Administration—Thankful that we have been able to maintain ministry all through Covid and that the Lord has supplied our financial needs. Pray for operations and the finance department that they would be able to rest during this week of Jubilee and enjoy being with their families.
2. Campus Outreach—Thankful that we can visit and connect personally with the students, engaging in Bible studies. Pray for the upcoming New Year’s Conference that many of the college students and their friends will be able to attend and grow in the Word of God.
3. Children’s Ministry—Thankful for the elementary Sunday School choir that ministered in the Sunday service on Nov. 21, and those adults who helped. Pray for the children that they will grow in the Word of God and in worship.
4. Covenant Day School—Thankful for the search committee in their on-going search for a new headmaster. Pray for them that the Lord will reveal the person that is needed for this position.
5. Outreach & Missions—Thankful for the overabundant giving to missions by the congregation this year. Pray for wisdom and direction in the dispensing of the funds.
6. Shepherding & Discipleship—Thankful for the increased interest among our people who want to know how to come alongside others who are hurting and suffering. Pray for those who are currently ministering to those in our church family.
7. Student Ministry—Thankful for the leadership team and for the number of friends brought to CC by church students. Pray for more adult volunteers to assist the leadership in serving the young people.
8. Sunday School & Small Groups—Thankful for 12 new covenant groups formed this year involving a 140 new people! Pray for wisdom and guidance for group leaders in teaching the Word of God.
9. Women’s Ministry—Thankful for the new Thursday Bible Study format which is ministering to the ladies. Pray that the intentional outreach to unsaved friends by the ladies in the study would bear fruit.

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10. Worship—Thankful for the connection between departments taking place among the people, such as the elementary Sunday School choir. Pray for the continuing development of discipleship and Christlikeness among our people.

To share in these blessings and then to follow-up with praying for their request truly made it a time of joyful worship and praise. May I encourage you to pray for these different ministries.

Now I want to share with you my blessing. As a paraphrase of the words Apostle Paul wrote to his beloved Philippians in chapter one and verses three and four, *“I thank my God for every remembrance of you (all), always in every prayer of mine for you all, making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day (October 1, 2001) until now (November 2021).”* These last twenty years of my journey has been a blessed adventure partnering with you in the gospel and caring for your souls.

Carolyn and I are grateful for your encouragement and the rich fellowship we have enjoyed together. May you have a blessed Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas!

*“Even so, Lord, quickly come
To Thy final harvest Home;
Gather Thou Thy people in,
Free from sorrow, free from sin;
There, forever purified,
In Thy presence to abide:
Come, with all Thy angels come,
Raise the glorious harvest-home!”*

HYMN HISTORY

Submitted by Peggy Dear

“JOY TO THE WORLD”

When is a Christmas carol not *really* a Christmas carol? When it doesn't focus on the birth of Christ, perhaps?

Take "Joy to the World" for instance. Isaac Watts based this text on the last half of Psalm 98, which celebrates the coming of the Lord to judge the world in righteousness. The psalmist calls on all creation to sing and shout for joy at the Lord's coming. There is nothing in the psalm or in Watts's paraphrase that specifically mentions the birth of Christ, just the Lord's return in judgement.

So, should we stop singing this at Christmas? Not at all! This hymn celebrates God's involvement with His people---and this work of God began at the stable in Bethlehem. At Christmas we need bifocal vision. We need to look back and praise God for the glorious gift of his Son, Jesus. But we should also look forward to Christ's return, when God will bring a righteous conclusion to all things. Then we will begin to fully enjoy the "wonders of His love" for all eternity.

Joy to the world! the Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! the Savior reigns;
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sin and sorrow grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders of His love.

Words: Isaac Watts, 1719

Music: George Frederick Handel, 1741



Submitted by Dot Branson

Ladies, please plan to join us at **Trio's Restaurant on Friday, Dec. 10, at 11:30**. Please call, text, or email Dot Branson, if you plan to come, so I can give the restaurant an accurate number. Remember that we will celebrate the ladies who have December birthdays. Looking forward to seeing you there!

SENIOR MEN'S MONTHLY LUNCH

Submitted by Dave Ruths

**Park Place Restaurant
10517 Park Rd., Charlotte
Friday, December 17th
11:30 am**

Senior Men's Lunch will be Friday, Dec. 17th, at 11:30, at Park Place Restaurant, 10517 Park Rd. It will be a good time to enjoy an early celebration of our Savior's birth. Hoping many will gather for great food, fellowship, and teaching by Pastor Mo.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER

Friday, December 3, 2021

**Community Life Center Rooms 1-6
5:00pm**

**Speaker: Tom Groelsema,
Executive Pastor**

The Annual Christmas Dinner is a festive occasion to celebrate the birth of Jesus with new and old friends. The sit-down dinner includes a salad, main dish, and dessert, catered by Tara Dabbs, church member. Yes, we will be singing the *Twelve Days of Christmas!*



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 – Fran DiAndrea
- 2 – Tim Stratis
- 3 – Martha Bridge
- 3 – Ken Cochrum
- 4 – Anne Prendergast
- 5 – Barry Osborne
- 6 – Vicki Evans
- 6 – Judy Pinkard
- 7 – Stu Carroll
- 7 – Harriet Marshall
- 8 – David Cullen
- 8 – Lance Whitehead
- 12 – Tim Roberts
- 12 – Chris Williams
- 16 – Terri Theyson
- 18 – Joe Morris
- 19 – Martha Ann Harris
- 19 – Douglas Linton
- 19 – Lorraine Umanos
- 22 – Ken Bodwell
- 22 – Susan Botzko
- 22 – Deborah Carter
- 24 – Darrell Hargett
- 25 – Elaine Deaner
- 27 – Susan Parrish
- 28 – Betsy Elenbaum
- 28 – La-Trell Ross
- 30 – Daniel Daloia
- 30 – Lynn Sistare
- 31 – Steve Gooch



DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 – Paul and Deborah Carter
- 2 – Ted and Jane Williams
- 16 – Butch and Sandi Barkman
- 19 – Ken and Tara Dabbs
- 29 – Fred and Jean Depp
- 29 – Lanier and Karen Ellis
- 29 – Robert and Becca Tilley
- 30 – Chris and Betty Williams
- 31 – Charlie and Shirley Maurer



RECIPES FROM RETREAT

Orange Brownies

Submitted by Pat Moore

(Recipe Courtesy of Robin Wilson, Pillsbury Bake-Off Winner 2006 via Paula Dean & Food Network)

1 ½ cups of all-purpose flour
 2 cups sugar
 1 tsp salt
 1 cup (2 sticks) butter, softened
 4 eggs
 2 tsp pure orange extract
 1 tsp grated orange zest

Glaze:

1 cup confectioner's sugar
 2 TBL orange juice
 1 tsp grated orange zest

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease 13x9x2 pan and set aside. In mixing bowl, stir together flour, sugar, and salt. Add butter, eggs, orange extract and orange zest. Beat with an electric mixer until well blended. Pour batter into prepared pan and bake for 30 minutes, or until light golden brown and set. Remove from oven and pierce top of entire cake with fork.

Glaze: Combine all ingredients in bowl, stirring until smooth. Pour glaze over cake while hot. Cool cake and cut into squares.

Crispex Mix

Submitted by Debby Arnold

(This was my mother's recipe (Charlotte Booth) which I am sure she got from a co-worker years ago. I have sweet thoughts of her every time that I make it and hope that it will bring your families pleasure as well.)

Makes 10 cups

8 cups Crispex cereal
 2 cups pecan pieces
 ½ cup light corn syrup
 ½ cups firmly packed light brown sugar
 1 stick butter or margarine (I use butter)
 1 tsp vanilla
 ½ tsp Baking Soda

Preheat oven to 250 degrees. Combine cereal and pecans in 9x13 pan. Set aside. Combine corn syrup, brown sugar, and butter in 2 C microwavable bowl. Microwave on high 1 ½ minutes, stir, microwave ½ to 1 ½ minutes more or until boiling. Stir vanilla & baking soda into corn syrup mixture. Pour over cereal mixture and stir to coat evenly. Bake 1 hour, stirring every 20 minutes. Spread onto a baking sheet to cool. Break into pieces. Enjoy!



**ACROSS THE AIRLESS WILDS,
THE LUNAR ROVER AND
THE TRIUMPH OF THE FINAL MOON LANDINGS**

By Earl Swift
Harper Collins, 2021

Reviewed by Chris Williams

And God made the two great lights - the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night and the stars. And God set them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good.

Genesis 1:16-18

This is an enjoyable account of the development of the four-wheel drive lunar rover that was taken to the moon on the three final Apollo lunar missions. The rover carried two astronauts as they journeyed out from the lunar lander making observations and collecting lunar samples for analysis back on earth.

Most of the book is about how the hardware was developed; the personalities, technical issues, and the political and financial challenges faced. That part is interesting and educational. For me, it was a reprise of events my generation lived through from the first moon landing in 1969 until the final landing in 1972. I followed it then with great interest, but this book fills in a lot of detail missing in the popular press.

But the most fascinating part of the book is the final chapter about the lunar rover excursions and what the explorers actually saw and did. They found a lifeless, bleak lunar landscape without features to help perceive distance, dimension, and perspective. Though from above lunar craters are clearly visible, for explorers on the surface they are not. What appear to be sharp edges to the craters when viewed from above are actually smoothly rounded so as to be indistinct up close. Consequently, the astronauts had trouble knowing where they were based on the features around them. Navigating back to the lunar lander was problematic, but they discovered the best way to do that was to follow the outgoing rover tracks; tracks that are still there, 50 years later, in the dust of the moon.

It is truly an alien place with temperatures swinging between +205° and -250° from day to night, and in which life does not exist nor could it ever.

So it might occur to us to ask the question what then is this bleak and lifeless place good for? Well, God has answered as above: to govern the nights. Of course, the Moon plays many additional roles in the natural order. It serves to stabilize the earth on its axis of rotation, and its tidal forces produce essential cycles on earth. These same tidal forces also cause the earth to have a magnetic field which protects it from life-ending solar radiation. God did not reveal all the many and wonderful harmonies between earth and moon in the Bible, but left mankind to discover all of God's extensive provisions for our welfare.

NEWSLETTER ARTICLE DEADLINE

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

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, Sundays,
9:00 am, WC201/Choir Room
- Joy Singers are on Christmas
Break and will return on Monday,
January 10th in the Worship Center 211
from 1:30 – 2:30 pm
- Christmas Dinner, December 4th
at 5:30 pm in the CLC
- Christmas Carol Concert
December 5th, 6:00 pm
- Ladies Luncheon, December 10th,
Trio's Restaurant
- Men's Monthly Lunch, December 17th,
Park Place Restaurant
- Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
December 24th, 6:00 pm

