

# BETWEEN SEEDTIME AND HARVEST

**Senior Adults Newsletter**  
**Christ Covenant Church**  
**August 2022**



## GRACE TO YOU

*"Commit your way to the LORD; trust in Him and He will act."* Psalm 37:5

By Matthew Kirk, Intern

My family has been enjoying time back in the UK the past month, visiting friends, families, and our supporting/sending churches. I write this month from Durham, a small university town in the Northeast of England set among rolling hills of the old country and centered around the 1,000-year-old world heritage site that is Durham Cathedral. One of the old stories of this Cathedral involves its famous Door Knocker (a lion's head swallowing an unfortunate victim...). In the Middle Ages criminals on the run would flee to the huge Cathedral Door and seize upon the knocker, signaling to the monks inside there was a soul in need of rescue. It was a desperate act and if the door was opened, they could find refuge from the law, or at least some grace until a fair trial could be arranged.



I was recently preaching from 1 Samuel 27. For many chapters David has been hiding in caves, fields, and up mountains, running from Saul's murderous rage, sometimes calming Saul down, sometimes escaping by pure luck (the sovereign care of the LORD!). In 1 Samuel 27, David is tired and has lost all hope. He **reasons to himself** that the best course of action is to leave the land of Israel (the land of promise) and flee to the land of the Philistines (the land of the pagan enemies) for safety.

The thing that struck me about the passage as I read it over and over was the surprising absence of any prayer to God, any recollection of His promises, any attempt to think through what a godly course of action might be. God isn't even mentioned! David speaks in his heart to **himself** rather than to God. David ends up living in enemy territory as a servant to an enemy King, and eventually is even recruited into the army of this king as he marches out to fight with Israel! He may well be alive, but his situation isn't exactly ideal.

The whole story made me think of how easy it can be for us as Christians to rely upon our own faculties or turn to the wisdom of the world when it comes to our own spiritual survival. To believe the lie we need more than God to change. Whether it's the struggle with sin, the fight with temptation, the drive to be godly, we can often feel at breaking point. We can feel overwhelmed by the relentlessness of the daily battle. We can be tempted to look for spiritual quick fixes, secrets that might help us "get our house in order" apart from appealing to the LORD for help. We can think running to secular authors, commentators, journalists for secrets to success will help us. Of course, God's common grace allows us to benefit from their wisdom in the areas they are qualified to help us with. But when it comes to our spiritual lives, cultivating the fruits of the spirit, putting sin to death in our lives, enjoying the peace of God. No amount of dieting, discipline, rules, or ritual can help us grow closer to and more like Christ. Rather, like David we can end up in a worse situation than we were in the first place. More exhausted, more tired, more desperate.

*(Continued on Page 2)*

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Our only hope for growth, for lasting change, for strength in the fight, is to draw near to the LORD who is at hand to help us. Psalm 37 is a song David wrote all about looking to God for aid when all hope seems lost. Perhaps he wrote it after reflecting on his mistakes in 1 Samuel 27. If you find yourself feeling a bit like David in 1 Samuel, tired, exhausted, at the end of your spiritual rope, tempted to believe that you need more than the grace of God, please take this moment to look back to the LORD, your LORD. He is at hand, eager and willing to help. Perhaps words of Psalm 37 could help you do just that and be your Door Knocker to a better, more secure, more lasting refuge:

*"Fret not yourself because of evildoers; be not envious of wrongdoers! For they will soon fade like the grass and wither like the green herb. Trust in the Lord, and do good; dwell in the land and befriend faithfulness. Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him, and he will act. He will bring forth your righteousness as the light, and your justice as the noonday."*



Submitted by Dot Branson

**Trio's Restaurant**  
**10709 McMullen Creek Pkwy., Charlotte**  
**Friday, August 12<sup>th</sup>, 11:30 am**

Ladies, please mark your calendars for our monthly luncheon. We will meet at Trio's Restaurant on Friday, August 12, at 11:30. The address is 10709 McMullen Creek Pkwy. (off Hwy. 51). Remember that we celebrate birthdays, so we will be looking for you ladies with August birthdays. Please let Dot Branson (704-575-5955) know that you plan to join us.

## **MEN'S MONTHLY LUNCH**

Submitted by Dave Ruths

**Park Place Restaurant**  
**10517 Park Rd., Charlotte**  
**Friday, August 19<sup>th</sup>, 11:30 am**

Senior Men's Lunch will be Friday, August 19<sup>th</sup> at 11:30, at Park Place Restaurant, 10517 Park Rd. Join your brothers for a good time, gathered for great food, fellowship, and teaching of the Word applied by (retired/re-fired 😊) Pastor Mo Up De Graff.

## HYMN HISTORY

*Submitted by Peggy Dear*

### "REJOICE, YE PURE IN HEART"

This hymn was written in 1865 as the processional for a choir festival at Petersborough Cathedral in England. There are hints in the text of a marching quality ("glorious banner," as ye go," "lift your standard," "march in firm array"). You can see an army of choir members marching down the aisle---this hymn seems to invite the congregation, and perhaps all Christians everywhere, to join in the song. There is a relentless sense of joy here. One observer commented on the "stately simplicity" of this work.

Edward Plumptre was a noted scholar and author in the Church of England. He wrote a major biography of Bishop Thomas Ken (also a famous hymnwriter), as well as historical works of poetry. Plumptre was also a Bible scholar and worked on a revision of the King James Version. He wrote this hymn at age forty-four, somewhere between "bright youth and snow-crowned age." Perhaps his work as a college professor made him realize that it's not the magnitude of one's scholarship that matters, but the purity of one's heart.

Rejoice, ye pure in heart;  
Rejoice, give thanks and sing;  
Your glorious banner wave on high,  
The cross of Christ your King.

*Rejoice, rejoice,  
Rejoice, give thanks and sing.*

Bright youth and snow-crowned age,  
Strong men and maidens fair,  
Raise high your free, exulting song,  
God's wondrous praise declare

With voice as full and strong  
As ocean's surging praise,  
Send forth the hymns our fathers loved,  
The psalms of ancient days.

Yes, on through life's long path,  
Still chanting as ye go;  
From youth to age, by night and day,  
In gladness and in woe.

Still lift your standard high,  
Still march in firm array,  
As warriors through the darkness toil  
Till dawns the golden day.

EDWARD HAYES PLUMPTRE (1821-1891)

## SUNDAY SCHOOL NOTES

- For the month of August, Matthew Kirk, Pastoral Intern, will be teaching "Survey of the Psalms".
- The last Sunday in August (28) & first Sunday in September (4), Joint Sunday School will be held in the Sanctuary with teaching by Eric Russ. Look for further details in the Courier.

## TUESDAY NIGHT PRAYER MEETINGS 7-8:30pm, WC105

Gather to pray for one another, the needs of our church, missionaries, and the world. All are welcome! The core group is comprised of Senior Adults. However, the Prayer Meeting is open to all church members. Bring a friend!

## SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

As a pastoral community, we have the opportunity to help our church family. Please consider contributing to the Senior Adult Scholarship Fund which provides additional assistance for those attending Senior Adult Retreats, Christmas Dinners, and other activities, as needed.

If you feel inspired to contribute, please make checks payable to 'Christ Covenant Church' and give to Lucille Ruths in Sunday School or mail to the attention of Jenny Blackmon, Ministry Administrator, at Christ Covenant Church, 800 Fullwood Lane, Matthews, 28105.

## NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

Articles for the September newsletter are due to Jane Yancey by August 20<sup>th</sup>. You may send them to her at [jane@yancey.com](mailto:jane@yancey.com)



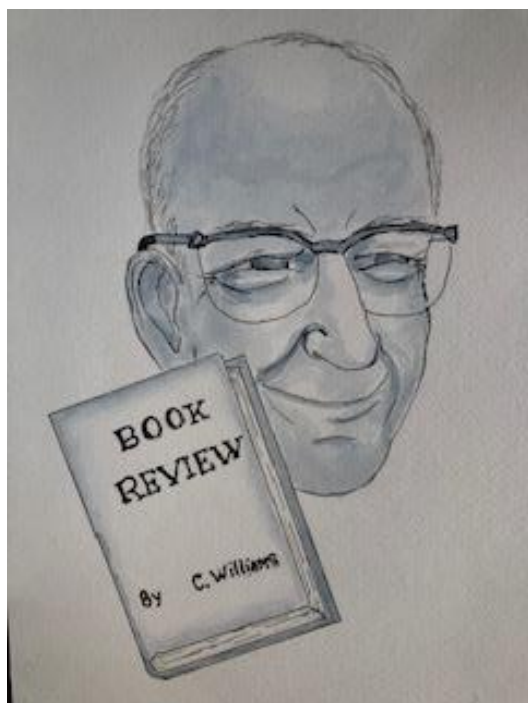
## JAARS Day Tour Group Pictures



### ***SAVE THE DATE***

- ❖ **Senior Adult Christmas Dinner: Friday, December 2, 2022**
- ❖ **2023 Retreat: Bonclarken Conference Center, Flat Rock, NC, Oct. 3-6**

## THE MAN BEHIND THE BOOK REVIEWS!



*Drawing compliments of  
Steve Sperry*

### THE WORSHIP OF AMERICAN PURITANS

by Horton Davies

Soli Deo Gloria Publications, 1999

The public generally views the Puritans of early America in a negative way, thinking of them as severe, humorless, and prudish. This is not the truth. The Puritans were not perfect, but they loved God, loved life, loved their families and their churches. There were problems and blind spots in the movement but likely no more in number than in any time in church history, including our own.

What marks out the Puritans was their beginning as courageous fighters for freedom from the religious oppression they experienced in England.

The Puritans came to America in the early 1600s, i.e. the 17<sup>th</sup> century, fleeing mostly because of concern over their fear that the Church of England was too Roman Catholic in its worship and polity. So broadly speaking, the Puritan view of worship was formed as a reaction against Roman Catholicism.

These men and women exercised great courage and conviction of faith in uprooting their families and fleeing to a largely unknown and frightening place. It is important to note in understanding their motivation that religion in that time was a matter of governmental control. There was no separation of church and state as we enjoy today. The government had an official religion and it imposed it through civil law on all citizens.

Their coming to America demonstrated a depth of conviction and devotion to God that, to their dismay, quickly began to disappear in the next generation. Wanting to preserve that spiritual depth of commitment and strength, they sought to require more than simple belief in the Gospel; they wanted to see experiential demonstrations of the reality of their faith. The Puritans were skeptical of those who simply believed without a "conversion experience."

On the other hand, the Puritans developed a mode of worship that we largely follow today. Interesting in their view of worship was the use of extemporaneous prayer. We take that as normal today, but with the Puritans they insisted prayer not be read from a prepared text. (The Anglican Book of Common Prayer was suspected of being too Catholic.) Preaching also was to be spontaneous and not written out. The use of notes at the pulpit was frowned upon.

Mr. Horton covers many aspects of Puritan life and worship including preaching, their views on the Sabbath, Christmas, weddings, and funerals. The last chapter covers the form and architecture of Puritan churches. All very interesting. It is interesting to note the things that have endured from their traditions.

This should be high on the reading list of church men as a foundation for church history in America.



## MISSIONARIES WITHIN THE CORAM DEO CLASS

*Submitted by Beth Sulzman*

Our Coram Deo class contains representatives from a number of mission organizations--home and international; formal and informal. Along with those who were pastors or involved in church planting efforts, we have people retired or currently working with: Afghan Refugees, Metanoia Prison Ministries, Harvest USA, the Billy Graham Library, SIM, Literacy & Evangelism International, Wycliffe, JAARS and other groups. Our class contains a wealth of first-hand missions experiences from people on the front lines and those working behind the scenes to advance Christ's Kingdom. The Billy Graham Library and JAARS are locally based groups that offer free events to acquaint us with their work.

Here are some of the ongoing and upcoming events at the JAARS center in Waxhaw, NC. It's located about 30 minutes from our church building. These are all free opportunities. If you would like a copy of any of the cards below (JAARS Day, Passport to Missions, Night at the Alphabet Museum, Around the World Storytime, a JAARS Tour) or are curious about volunteer opportunities, please see Beth Sulzmann. You can also check out these and other events at <https://www.jaars.org/experience/events/>

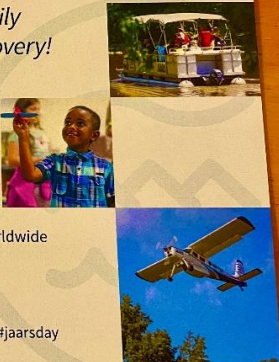
**Are you curious about the mission outreach of JAARS?**

**Bring the whole family for a fun day of discovery!**

**JAARS DAY**  
Saturday, October 1, 2022  
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
JAARS Center, Waxhaw

- "Visit" faraway places where Bible translation happens through new hands-on and virtual experiences!
- Explore how JAARS speeds Bible translation worldwide with services, tools, safety protocols, and more.
- Ride in a plane, boat, or 4WD vehicle.

7405 Jaars Road, Waxhaw NC | [jaars.org/jaars-day](https://jaars.org/jaars-day) | #jaarsday



**Tour JAARS**  
Guided tours Monday–Friday, 9:30 a.m.–noon  
Call 704.843.6130 for reservations.

7405 Jaars Road  
Waxhaw NC 28173  
[jaars.org/tours](https://jaars.org/tours)




THE MUSEUM OF THE ALPHABET AT JAARS PRESENTS  
**NIGHT AT THE ALPHABET MUSEUM**

**FREE EVENT**  
Come experience excitement and fun as you find out what happens at the museum at night.  
What will you see?  
What will you hear?  
Bring your friends and family!  
**6:45 p.m.**

- July 25, 2022
- August 12, 2022
- September 16, 2022
- October 24, 2022
- November 4, 2022

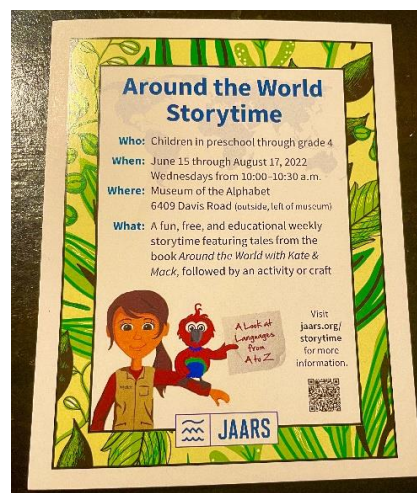
**REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED**  
Visit [jaars.org/museum](https://jaars.org/museum)  
Call 704.843.6066 or email [alphabetmuseum@jaars.org](mailto:alphabetmuseum@jaars.org)  
Recommended for age 8 and up  
**Museum of the Alphabet**  
6409 Davis Road, Waxhaw, NC 28173



**Around the World Storytime**

**Who:** Children in preschool through grade 4  
**When:** June 15 through August 17, 2022  
Wednesdays from 10:00–10:30 a.m.  
**Where:** Museum of the Alphabet  
6409 Davis Road (outside, left of museum)  
**What:** A fun, free, and educational weekly storytime featuring tales from the book *Around the World with Kate & Mack*, followed by an activity or craft

Visit [jaars.org/storytime](https://jaars.org/storytime) for more information.



Connect and learn more:

**JAARS**

Scan with your phone's camera



or visit [jaars.org/connect](https://jaars.org/connect)

**Family-Oriented Event**

**PASSPORT TO MISSIONS 2022**

For Children K–Grade 6 • September 23 or 24

- Choose one of two sessions:  
Fri., Sept. 23; 1:30–5:00 p.m.  
Sat., Sept. 24; 1:30–5:00 p.m.
- \$5/child, max. \$20/household
- Space is limited. Registration required at [jaars.org/passport](https://jaars.org/passport).

We will adhere to current COVID-19 safety protocols and divide into family-friendly small groups.

Check out other events, tours, and museums at [jaars.org](https://jaars.org).

Learn about JAARS during fun activities and games!

**JAARS**

JAARS Center  
Townsend Bldg.  
7405 Jaars Road  
Waxhaw, NC  
704.843.6000





### **AUGUST BIRTHDAYS**

1 – Cal Deaner  
 1 – Vicky Henson  
 2 – Chuck Marzahn  
 4 – Lynn McArthur  
 6 – Kathy Hopkins  
 6 – John Little  
 11 – Robert Adams  
 12 – Anne Schwoebel  
 14 – Ruth Colvin  
 15 – Karen Clingon  
 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

### **AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES**



9 – Jim & Carol Stoudenmier  
 12 – Gary & Wendy Klipp  
 14 – Bob & Carol Mantell  
 19 – Bill & Betty Hough  
 26 – Tom & Sylvia Walls  
 28 – Al & Susan Reinken  
 30 – Jack & Lisa Burkhart

**Coram Deo Sunday School Class:**  
Sundays, 9 am, WC201/Choir Room

**Pastor of Senior Adults and Visitation:**  
N. Bruce Creswell  
[bcreswell@christcovenant.org](mailto:bcreswell@christcovenant.org)  
Study: (704) 708-6106

**Newsletter Editor:** Jane Yancey [jane@yancey.com](mailto:jane@yancey.com)

**Jenny Blackmon, Assistant to Pastor Bruce:**  
[jblackmon@christcovenant.org](mailto:jblackmon@christcovenant.org)  
(704) 708-6104

**Christ Covenant Church**  
800 Fullwood Lane  
Matthews, NC 28105

## EVENTS

- Sunday School, Sundays,  
9:00 am, WC201/Choir Room
  - Ladies Luncheon, August 12,  
11:30 am, Trio's Restaurant
  - Men's Monthly Lunch, August 19,  
11:30 am, Park Place Restaurant
  - Prayer Meetings, Tuesdays,  
7:00 – 8:30 pm, WC105
  - Joy Singers are on summer break
  - Newsletter Article Deadline  
August 20<sup>th</sup>
  - Senior Retreat, September 20 – 23
  - Future Dates:  
Dec. 2 – Senior Adult Christmas  
Dinner
- October 3-6, 2023 – 2023 Retreat,  
Bonclarken Conference Center,  
Flat Rock, NC