

BETWEEN SEEDTIME AND HARVEST

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



GRACE TO YOU

My God, How Great Thou Art!

By Pastor Bruce Creswell

Transitioning can be unsettling, an interruption of daily routine, and upsetting the status quo. Notice I said, “can be.” It has been eight years since our first sabbatical in forty-three years of ministry. For this sabbatical, we planned two trips: one with the children, and the other just Carolyn and me. But it didn’t quite turn out that way. Instead, our sabbatical took on a life of its own!

We travelled to Virginia, where we met up with folks from the church I pastored twenty years ago, for a surprise 65th birthday celebration. What a reality check! The couples who are our age, now are retired and have grandchildren. We now are senior adults!

Then on to Hilton Head, with the children and grandchildren, enjoying being with family. With grandchildren, you can enjoy the ocean with them and thank the Lord for blessing you in giving them to you. Our car became an auxiliary car for beach chairs, food, and toys!

We went to Blowing Rock, North Carolina. With flowers and roses in full bloom, mild temperatures, and mixed with warm fellowship, it made for a restful time in the mountains. I find Blowing Rock becoming one of my favorite places to get away and not have to travel far to get there.

For my birthday, we decided to go to the state fair in West Virginia, where we took our kids when we lived there. While looking at the exhibits, I was tapped on the shoulder and it was Butch and Betty, members of our first church. What a joy to see them, after thirty years, still going on with the Lord! Butch oversaw many of our church building projects and was faithful in his service to the Lord.

With Carolyn’s Aunt Genelle (93) and Uncle John (91) up in years, we visited them in Montgomery, Alabama. Uncle John is the last of Carolyn’s mother’s siblings. It was a sweet time, especially as Carolyn got to connect with her cousins. With the family home place an hour away, we drove down to Oak Hill, Alabama (population 21), where we enjoyed quiet mornings and evenings on the porch swing. It was so relaxing and peaceful being out in the country, away from the busyness of life. Early mornings sitting on the swing with coffee, my heart was lifted up to God as the birds offered their joint sacrifice of praise to our Creator. Indeed, all creation praise His name!

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Wednesday, September 14th, we returned from Yosemite National Park. WOW!!! This was my first trip to a national park. We planned to start at Lake Tahoe, but smoke from a large fire (in Sacramento, California) hovered over the lake with ash falling like fine snow, causing us to leave the next day. The mountains, their size, their design, their majestic grandeur, all reflect their Creator's power. Then populating the landscape are these gigantic sequoias and ponderosa pines. The mountains, the trees, impress upon you how BIG our God is and how Great He is! His perfect design in creating trees that are round, not square, mountains that are solid and so arrange the two together displaying His creatorship. We took a gondola to Mammoth Peak at 11,000 feet only to see ridges of even taller mountains surrounding us, reminding that even as the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the Lord surrounds His people (Psalm 125:2).

Our sabbatical was a time of transition! It was a change from the daily routine of the last eight years, upsetting the status quo that often flows out of daily routine. But that is what a sabbatical should do. Not being rushed by the daily demands of schedule, provided longer times to read the Word and to think about the things I read. Time to be still and know that He is God and to delight in Him in prayer. This sabbatical especially impressed upon me the growing shortness of time and allowed me time to reflect upon His call on my life.

Throughout our sabbatical I found these words to the hymn, "How Great Thou Art" on my mind, my heart and on my lips:

*O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the works Thy hands have made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy pow'r thru-out the universe displayed!*

*When thru the woods and forest glades I wander
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees,
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze,*

*And when I think that God, His Son not sparing,
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in –
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin!*

*When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
And there proclaim, **my God, how great Thou art!***

*Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee;
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee;
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!*

I am thankful for this time granted by our session to rest and to renew my calling. I look forward to returning to shepherd our senior adult community, reinvesting our time, our talents, our gifts, our experiences, and resources in the younger generations, assisting them in running the race before them.

HYMN HISTORY

Submitted by Peggy Dear

“A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD”

The poet Samuel Coleridge said of Martin Luther, "He did as much for the Reformation by his hymns as he did by his translation of the Bible."

Martin Luther's grandest hymn is this one, inspired by the forty-sixth Psalm. It became the battle cry of the Reformation. Martin Luther probably wrote it at a time when the evangelical leaders were delivering the protest against the attack on their liberties at the Diet of Speyer. And incidentally, the meaning of the word *protestant* was no doubt derived from that meeting when these leaders delivered their protest.

Martin Luther had posted his Ninety-five Theses on the door of the Wittenberg Church in October 1517, about thirteen years earlier. Despite his excommunication from the Roman church, Luther came to know the gracious power of God's sheltering hand. He faced continual threats to his life and freedom, and times of intense spiritual battle as well. But in the comforting words of Psalm 46, Luther found the inspiration for this hymn: "A mighty fortress is our God!"

MEN'S MONTHLY LUNCH and DEVOTIONAL THEME

Submitted by Dave Ruths

**Park Place Restaurant,
Friday, October 21st, 11:30 am**

Having missed meeting in September and with our next **Sr. Men's Lunch, at 11:30 Friday, October 21st, at the Park Place Restaurant**, we will return, in our devotional time, to "**Only God**." God's first commandment was "*I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. You shall have no other gods before/besides me.*" (Exodus 20:2-3). At the second giving of the commandments, after the golden calf incident, God emphasized, "*for you shall worship no other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God...*" (Exodus 34:14). Besides the importance of these words because they are part of the first of the ten commandments, the concept of "**only God**" takes on a growing significance as it is reiterated throughout the Old Testament and into the New.

Men, we hope you will join us again for lunch October 21st at 11:30 AM.

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;
Our helper He amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe---
His craft and pow'r are great, and armed with cruel hate,
On earth is not His equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be
losing,
Were not the right man on our side, the man of God's
own choosing.
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is He---
Lord Sabaoth His name, from age to age the same,
And He must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten
to undo us,
We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to triumph
through us.
The prince of darkness grim, we tremble not for him---
His rage we can endure, for lo! his doom is sure:
One little word will fell him.

That word above all earthly pow'rs, no thanks to them,
abideth;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours through Him who with us
sideth.
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also---
The body they may kill; God's truth abideth still:
His kingdom is forever.

Martin Luther (1483-1546)

Scriptures: Deut.33:27;2 Sam.22:2; Psalm 20:7; Psalm 46:1-3

Translated by Frederick H. Hedge (1805-1890)



Submitted by Dot Branson

**Trio's Restaurant
Friday, October 14th, 11:15 am**

Please note the time change!

Ladies, please mark your calendars for our monthly luncheon. We will meet at Trio's Restaurant on Friday, October 14th, at 11:15. We all need to be there by 11:15, as Trio's has another large crowd to accommodate. The address is 10709 McMullen Creek Pkwy. (off Hwy. 51). Remember that we celebrate birthdays, so we will be looking for you ladies with October birthdays. Please let Dot Branson (704-575-5955) know that you plan to join us. We look forward to seeing you there.



OCTOBER SENIOR ADULT LUNCHEON

Friday, October 7, 2022

Social time: 11:45 am / Lunch 12:00 pm / CLC 5&6

Speaker: Joel May, Director of Youth Ministry

Menu: White Chicken Chili, Cornbread, Salad, Dessert
(Menu ingredients available upon request.)

To reserve your spot, please RSVP by Friday, September 30 on this SignUp Genius, or by phone to Jenny Blackmon, ministry admin. at 704-708-6104.

A \$7 gift per person to cover food costs is appreciated.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0444AAAF2EA2FC1-october5>

LETTER TO THE CLASS

Dear Classmates,

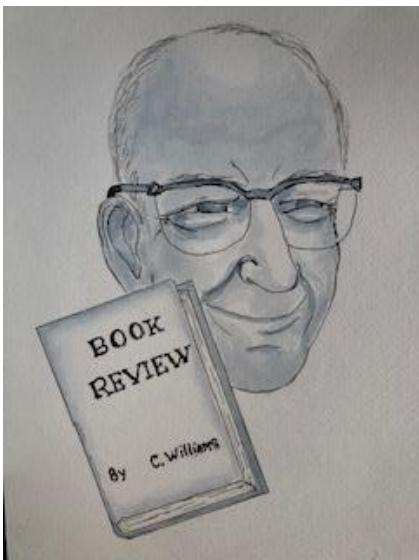
I have been editing our Sunday School Class newsletter for over 5 years now. It has been a joy and a pleasure to use my gifts in this way every month. The submissions you have made on a monthly basis make my work so easy and brightens my spirit as I read what you want to communicate to the class.

This is my last newsletter as It is now time for me to turn this task over to someone else that God is calling for this purpose. We are all given special gifts from God and if we do not allow them to be used, we are failing our particular call. I am looking forward to seeing what He has prepared for the newsletter going forward.

It has been a distinct pleasure to have served our community in this way, and I thank you all for your participation in this effort.

Many, many blessings to each of you,
Jane Yancey





THE GREAT BRIDGE
*The Epic Story of the Building of
 The Brooklyn Bridge*
 By David McCullough
 Simon and Schuster Paperbacks, 1972

This is another book by the great author who wrote two other books I have previously reviewed: The Pioneers and The Johnstown Flood. My renewed interest in the writings of McCullough was stimulated by his recent death. He is an easy writer to read; the narrative is like a story with lots of sub stories. He keeps you interested throughout.

The Brooklyn Bridge connects lower Manhattan with the western end of Long Island; i.e., Brooklyn. Prior to this, ferry boats alone were used to cross the East River; there were no bridges to Manhattan at all.

Drawing compliments of Steve Sperry

The project was begun in 1869 and completed 14 years later in 1883. The key figures in this project were John and Washington Roebling. John was the father, an immigrant from Germany who engineered the bridge and planned the project; a very gifted and intelligent man. His son, Washington, was equally capable and took over the construction to completion just as it was getting started when his father, John, died as a result of an accident. These were both amazing and capable men, highly successful in everything they tried.

Two takeaways from this book:

First, because of my engineering background I was drawn to the actual construction of this amazing bridge. It was the largest of its day and was constructed without benefit of technology common in construction today. No computers, no telephone, no gas or diesel engines, no hydraulics, and no electricity or electric lights. The entire construction was powered by steam. Horses and ships brought the materials to the building site, but the power for compressed air, lifting masonry, and running cables across the East River were all accomplished by steam engines fired by coal. The lesson is, that even when tools are limited, human ingenuity is able to devise ways and means to accomplish amazing things. Washington Roebling, proved himself a man of high intelligence and dedication. He seemed to anticipate every engineering problem and, from his father's design, completed a bridge solid and enduring to this day.

Second takeaway is the social and political context of the construction project. McCullough was not an engineer, and his descriptions of construction, while adequate, did not satisfy my own curiosity in many details. However, his strength is in describing the historical times in post-civil war New York. It was the time of "Boss Tweed" and "Tammany Hall," with massive kickbacks on government contracts, of bribes, and intimidation. The author seems to take a slightly decadent assessment of the corruption; a view apparently shared by many in that day and even now. Human progress is always accompanied by corruption; it is inevitable and must be endured to assure the accomplishment of great things.

"For most Americans the evils of the Tweed Ring were the natural outgrowth of the essential evil of big cities. New York being the biggest of the big cities, it would quite naturally produce a Tweed." P257

In this regard, perhaps little has changed. Given our understanding of fallen human nature, there will always be corruption in our culture at large and government in particular.

The bridge project was largely unaffected by the surrounding politics and graft due to the essential science of engineering which is not subject to bribes. There was actually some fraud in the supply of the steel cable wire. Inferior quality was sneaked into the stock of wire reels. The fraud was discovered, but because of robust safety engineering, it was calculated the small amount of inferior wire would have no effect.

In the end, the integrity of the design prevailed, and the bridge opened in May of 1883 with huge public interest and acclaim, colorfully described by McCullough.

Book Review

THE ALPHABET HABIT

By Alan Wise

Submitted by Hugh and Fran Wise

A must read for the 18-40-year-olds on any career path. Also , it would make an excellent gift for the recent graduate or for anyone's Christmas list.

Why the unique title? Alphabet letters represent Christian principles applicable to the workplace and life. These principles lead to productive habits. The book helps the reader understand and define their principles, discover habits that match their values, and develop a framework to create lasting relationships.

This is a winsome read told in 52 short chapters (26 principles and 26 habits) and written in a storytelling style. The chapters are all based on the author's true-life experiences starting as an 18 year old server at Grady's Restaurant on Albemarle Road and ending as the CEO for National Financial Properties covering the southeastern states.

Chapter titles will pique your interest. For example, three of the alphabet titles are "Hit the Rock", "Just Serve Tables", and "Plan B is Plan A in the Rain." "Hit the Rock" addresses questions like: "Why is it hard to get started on certain projects?" "Do you spend more time analyzing or hitting?" and "What constitutes a win?" "Just Serve Tables" addresses issues like servant leadership and what if we all had this servant mentality? The plan B chapter addresses questions like "Do You Need a Plan B", "Define a person of grit," and "When did you decide to change the path you were on?"

Principles result in habits in the next 26 chapters. Three of the most interesting chapters are "Very Sorry", "Giving and Investing", and "Any WIIFE." "Very Sorry" covers the five points of true reconciliation by naming the offense, saying I'm sorry, making it right, changing your behavior, and asking for forgiveness. "Giving and Investing" is about tithing on the gross income, how to achieve your financial goals in life, and true dependence on God. "WIIFE" is not a typo! It stands for "What's In It For Everybody," --who is first—you or others (you get the picture).

Chapter titles draw your attention: a few examples are: "Cowboy Up," "Do the Hustle," "Know How to Lose," "What is Success?" "Be Running," "The Art of the Question," "Oreo Sandwich," "Relational Baseball," and "Spin Doctors."

Alan is a father of 4 and a grandfather of 2. He's started 6 different companies, coached about 50 different youth sports teams, and trained many young professionals. He's a board member for Young Life, 3 other Christian organizations, and 3 non-profits groups

All profits from books will go to several Christian service groups.

Books can be purchased from Alan's website, the AlphabetHabit.com or from Amazon.com.

And yes, Alan is our son.

THE COVENANT LIFE OF ABRAHAM AND SARAH

By Christopher Williams in 2021

Submitted by Steve Sperry

The subtitle of this easy to read 108 page book, written by Chris Williams (an Elder at Christ Covenant Church in Matthews, North Carolina) explains that we will be looking into ["Promise and Faith: The Journey to Spiritual Leadership"] found in chapters 11 through 25 of the Bible's book of Genesis.

The author takes the reader through the story about an ordinary, flawed man and his wife, from existence as lost, childless *worldlings* - - - to becoming history's great progenitors: - - - Abraham, (*Father of a Multitude of Nations*); Sarah, (*Princess of Nations*). There is a sense that Abraham and his wife are conscripted by God for His own sovereign purposes; then molded over time like "clay in the potter's hands" in order for them to play a very key/major role in the progress of His divine plan. Abraham and Sarah will learn and grow in covenant leadership, obedience, courage, and faith in God's sovereign wisdom and power. The man and his wife will experience despair; blessing and joy; failure and consequences; humility; extreme trials, and fulfilled promises of God as they are becoming the covenant servants that their God has designed.

A few samples of what one can expect to read about: The very close family relationships around Abraham and Sarah's parents, brothers, cousins, and nephews, and why Abraham sent a servant back to his home town to find a wife for his son, Isaac: Similarities between Abraham's sojourning in Egypt due to famine and Jacob's later sojourning in Egypt, also due to famine: The explanation of what defines "*belief*" according to the books author: The fact that when Abraham and his nephew, Lot, separated with their families and flocks to solve the problem of friction over land, was not a good decision on the part of Abraham. The pagan culture that Abraham and Sarah lived in; the effect and pressure such a time and people had on a man, his wife and family. Much more insight can be found in each chapter.

In the book's last chapter, Williams sums up by pointing out how "*the line of promise*" (from man's fall in Eden to the second Adam) was preserved throughout Biblical history from Genesis to Matthew and the New Testament. It's an informative, well presented study of God's workings in ancient culture, leading the reader toward discovery of applications to today's culture and conditions. The book can be found at amazon.com.



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 – Bill Hough
- 6 – Joan Solheim
- 7 – Nan Bracy
- 8 – Gary Klipp
- 9 – Bobby Miller
- 10 – Rick Ely
- 10 – Fred Kinney
- 10 – George Stratis
- 11 – Lorraine Jacobs
- 13 – Ronnie Fisher
- 13 – Darlene Richardson
- 13 – Jean Robbins
- 14 – Nellie White
- 16 – John Swansby
- 20 – Jean Depp
- 22 – Leonie Gilele
- 26 – Mitch Allison
- 29 – Carolyn Carpenter
- 30 – Bob Stone

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES



- 2 – Ken & Bev Cochrum
- 3 – Robert & Katrina Yates
- 5 – Bill & Barbara Scott
- 7 – Jeff & Diane Dworek
- 9 – Douglas & Debbie Linton
- 13 – Dave & Lucille Ruths
- 17 – John & Sue Swansby
- 24 – Gordon & Lorraine Jacobs

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

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EVENTS

- Sunday School, Sundays, 9:00 am, WC201/Choir Room
- Senior Adult Luncheon, Friday, Oct. 7th, 11:45 am, CLC 5&6
- Ladies Luncheon, Oct. 14th, 11:15 am, Trio's Restaurant
- Men's Luncheon, Oct. 21st, 11:30 am, Park Place Restaurant
- Prayer Meetings, Tuesdays, 7:00 – 8:30 pm, WC105

- Joy Singers, Mondays, 1:30 – 2:30 pm, WC211

- Future Dates:

Dec. 2 – Senior Adult Christmas Dinner

October 3-6, 2023 – 2023 Retreat,
Bonclarken Conference Center,
Flat Rock, NC