

**Senior Adults Newsletter
September 2025
Christ Covenant Church**



BETWEEN SEEDTIME AND HARVEST

FALL IS COMING!

By Pastor Bruce Creswell

In all my years, I cannot recall having 60-degree weather in August! Usually, it is the hottest and most humid month of the summer. This time of the summer is known to many of us here in the south, as “dog days” characterized by its humid, sultry, and extreme hot weather! Many old-timers would say that “dog days” are prone to make you “do-less,” not being very productive due to the heat.

We certainly do welcome the cooler days and yes even the rain. Our gardens are nourished, our water supply replenished, our grass greener, and the air purified of the pollutants and toxins! It has been a refreshing break for us, as well as a reminder that Fall is coming our way!

Fall is the season which sets off the many different ministries here at Christ Covenant and the Senior Adults are no exception. There are several events that I want to give advance notice so you can plan your schedule.

1. Sunday School Fall Quarter begins August 24th

I & II Thessalonians, Teacher: Caleb Johnson

“Affectionately desirous” (Greek *himeironomai*) is how Paul describes his love for one church. This tender word is found nowhere else in the New Testament, even rare in the ancient world save one usual setting: funerary inscriptions to loved ones passed before their time. If it’s Paul’s boldness that grabs us in *Galatians*, it’s pastoral warmth that does the same in his letters to the Thessalonian Church. Join the senior adults this semester as we read about a young church plant that needed an apostolic dose of encouragement, example, and direction, but had Paul’s very heart.

2. Senior Adults’ Welcome Luncheon September 12th

Jenny will have the sign up posted soon for our first and very important luncheon. (More details further in the newsletter.)

The new brochure will be given out and we go over the 2025-2026 Senior Adult’s event calendar. Notice the luncheon is on the second Friday, September 12th due to another event scheduled for previous week.

3. Senior Adults' Annual Retreat October 7th-10th

Though we have a full house of 150 +, there is a waiting list in place if you are interested in going. Also, if you need a ride to and from the conference center or if you have room in your car for someone else to ride, please contact **Lucille Ruths** lmruths@gmail.com. This will be a very special retreat, having our senior pastor **Kevin DeYoung** speaking and our pastor of worship, **Nathan George** assisting us with worship.

4. Planning Your Funeral Seminar November 6

Following our Sunday School series, **"Finishing Well to the Glory of God"**, we have invited the staff of **Heritage Funeral, Weddington** branch, to join us on Thursday evening at 7pm in the CLC Chapel.

They will go over various topics including, burial, pre-paid burial, and different costs involved. Also, there will be a question-and-answer time. **Heritage Funeral/Weddington** gives 10 percent off to all Christ Covenant members.

5. **Dr. Charles Edwards will be our speaker at our November 7th luncheon.** He is the founder and chairman of the board of **Memory and Movement Foundation**. This organization focuses on Alzheimer's and dementia along with Parkinson's and mobility issues. Our luncheon may run a little longer than usual due to the topics he will cover.

I am looking forward to getting back together this Fall. Saying that, do pray for **Mary Newton** and her kitchen team and **Liz West** and decorating ladies as they get ready for the September luncheon. Enjoy the cool weather and look ahead to Fall.

Blessings, Pastor Bruce

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR AMAZING FELLOWSHIP AT THE
FALL WELCOME LUNCH!**

Friday, September 12, 2025

- **Social time: 11:45 am / Lunch 12:00 pm / CLC 3&4**
- **Speaker: Bruce Creswell, Pastor of Senior Adults**
- **Menu: Hamburgers, Baked Beans, Cole Slaw, Chips, Dessert**
- **To reserve your spot, please RSVP by Friday, September 5th on this SignUp Genius, or by phone to Jenny Blackmon, ministry admin. at 704-708-6104.**
- **Cost: \$7/person (payable at the luncheon by cash or check)**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0444AAAF2EA2FC1-58069101-september#/>

Please wear your nametags so we can get to know each other.

HYMN HISTORIES

By Peggy Dear

THE CHURCH'S ONE FOUNDATION

Windsor on the Thames, with its royal castle, is one of England's most popular attractions. **Samuel Stone's** ministry was located here, among the poorer people at the outskirts of town.

Samuel Stone was a fighter. He stood for what he believed, and if local "toughs" threatened the neighborhood, he was not afraid "to take" them on. In the Church of England, **Stone** was regarded as a fundamentalist, opposing the liberal theological tendencies of his day.

When he was twenty-seven, he wrote a collection of hymns based on the Apostles' Creed. This hymn, taken from that collection, is based on the article in the creed regarding the church as the body of Christ.

Two years later, Anglicans from around the world met to discuss the crucial theological issues that were raging in the church at that time. Significantly, they chose **Stone's** hymn as the processional for their historic conference.

THE CHURCH'S ONE FOUNDATION

*The Church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord.
She is His new creation by water and the word.
From heaven He came and sought her to be His holy bride.
With His own blood He bought her, and for her life He died.*

*Elect from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth,
Her charter of salvation, one Lord, one faith, one birth.
One holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses, with every grace endued.*

*Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war,
She waits the consummation of peace forever more.
Till, with the vision glorious, her longing eyes are blest,
And the great Church victorious shall be the Church at rest.*

*Yet she on earth hath union with God the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won.
O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we,
Like them, the meek and lowly, on high may dwell with Thee.*

Samuel John Stone (1839-1900)

Book Review

THROUGH GATES OF SPLENDOR

by Elizabeth Elliot

This is the fifth printing of this classic book, and it will stir your hearts and souls as the foreword states. The author is one of five surviving widows of the five martyred missionaries massacred in 1954 by the stone age **Auca Indians** of Ecuador. It is based on the diaries of the five missionaries and the memories of the widows, so the account is true in every detail.

Triumph or tragedy? It's both, but mainly an inspiration to realize how God used this to glorify Himself and honor those who follow the Great Commission.

Six "friends" will help summarize the story: **WHERE**, **WHEN**, **WHO**, **WHAT**, **WHY**, and **HOW**.

WHERE: The tiny country of Ecuador is immediately above Peru on the Pacific side of South America.

Guayaquil is the country's largest city (population 300,000) and is the banana capital of the world. Coffee, cacao, and rice are also major exports. Rubber hunters plundered the land for 50 years (1875-1925).

WHEN: **Jim Elliot** and **Pete Fleming** journeyed to Ecuador on a freighter in February 1952. **Ed McCully** joined them in December 1952. **Nate Saint**, the pilot and **Roger Youderian** followed in 1954. All five were killed in January 1956 by the headhunter **Auca Indians** of the **Waorani** Tribe.

WHO: The **Aucas** were dangerous people and an embarrassment to the Republic of Ecuador. They are small in number (experts estimate their number is between 500-1000). They have a documented history of killing outsiders dating back to 1541! More recently, in 1942, eleven employees of the Shell Oil Company were killed near the company's plant. The **Aucas** always outnumber their victims, and a common tactic is to wait at the bend in the river where the currents force the canoe close to the shore so that spears are thrown, killing their victims. Killings also took place within their own tribe! The **Aucas** usually live in a large "house" with 20-50 other tribe members. They are naked except for vines tied around their ankles and waist. The **Aucas** are the ultimate challenge for missionaries so their obedience to a "calling" had to be STRONG!

The real story is threefold: 1. The commitment of the 5 missionaries; 2. How the Lord brought these 5 together; 3. How the Lord was glorified and how mission work flourished in following years.

WHO: **Jim Elliot**, age 25, wrote in his diary that going to Ecuador is God's counsel. **Jim** was from Portland, Oregon, and majored in Greek at Wheaton College where he was a champion wrestler, honor student and president of the Foreign Mission Fellowship.

Pete Fleming, born in Seattle, was valedictorian of his high school class, and was a philosophy major at the University of Washington, as well as president of University Christian Fellowship. He received his master's degree in 1951. **Pete** and **Jim** traveled on a freighter for 18 days before arriving in Ecuador.

Ed McCully grew up in the Midwest as the son of a preacher and later starred on Wheaton's football and track teams. He was Wheaton's senior class president and won a national oratorical contest over 10,000 contestants. Marquette Law School followed, but he dropped out after reading the story of Nehemiah. Next, he did a weekly Christian radio broadcast with **Jim Elliot**, followed by attending the School of Missionary Medicine where he studied tropical diseases, dentistry and obstetrics before arriving in Ecuador in late 1952.

Nate Saint, the pilot, took his first flight at age 7, thus igniting his dream of being a pilot. While working at a small airport he learned to fly. Later, he joined the Air Force, but a medical issue killed his opportunity to fly, and he became a maintenance crew chief. His conversion experience was dramatic and shortly thereafter, the Missionary Air Force assigned him to Guatemala where he began flying for the area missionaries. You will enjoy reading about his creativity in designing an alternative

fuel system for emergencies. Most ingenious was a spiraling line technique used to drop gifts to the **Aucas** from their Piper Cub airplane flying at a low altitude.

Roger Youderian, one of seven children, was born in Montana, and was an accomplished pianist before polio struck. His amazing recovery allowed him to play high school basketball. He attended Montana State on three scholarships before enlisting in the Army as a paratrooper. He was decorated for his bravery in the Battle of the Bulge and the Rhine Jump in 1944. After the war, he studied missionary medical courses and learned how to set broken bones, deliver babies, and give injections. His journey continued with missionary work with the **Jivaria** Indians before linking up with the other four.

WHAT: The jungle grows at an incredible pace and has to be controlled by machete. Generator breakdown, roof leaks, bushwhackers, venomous snakes, worms, gnats, moths, flies, intestinal parasites, mosquitoes, millions of insects present tremendous daily challenges.

WHY: These five brave men knew these stone age people were dangerous, so why did they even attempt this mission? Because they had great faith and belief in the Great Commission!

HOW: God brought these five saints together in such a miraculous way to glorify Himself is the main theme. The Lord used their deaths to vastly accelerate the missionary movement in future decades. Their legacy lives! Simply put, this is a great read. It is available in the book nook.

Submitted by **Hugh Wise**
August 2025

Book Review

THE SOUTHERN FRONTIER

By **John Anthony Caruso. Bobbs Merrill, 1963**

The discovery and exploration of southern America began in 1513 with **Don Juan Ponce de Leon's** landing somewhere near St. Augustine, Florida. **Ponce de Leon** was on a quest to find the rumored "fountain of youth." After him other Spanish explorers scoured the northern gulf coast looking for riches and paradise (Eldorado). The history of the region covered by this book traces exploration by the Spanish, French (both Catholic and Huguenots), and the English. Centered mostly on Florida, it also includes accounts of the founding of Louisiana, Mississippi and Georgia tracing events from first discovery to statehood.

The character of each national exploration is interesting. The Spanish were interested in gold, attempting to repeat the plundering of the Incas and Aztecs. In that regard, they established a fort at St. Augustine to protect the shipping lane up the coast of Florida which was being threatened by French privateers. Opposition to establishing this fort was attempted by French Huguenots at Fort Caroline; but it failed when the Spanish attacked and eventually slaughtered all who confessed they were Lutherans. Catholic Frenchmen were allowed to live! It was also interesting to note that St. Augustine was built with slave labor. The Spanish brought 500 black slaves with them in 1565 to build the town and fort. Thus, the arrival of slavery in America predates the Dutch sale of slaves at Jamestown by more than 50 years. Of course, it must be noted that the enslavement of Africans was universally practiced. Even Indian tribes had their slaves.

French exploration was not motivated by quest for paradise or gold but by not wanting to be left out of possible future wealth in America. They headed to the west of the Spanish toward the Mississippi river, leading eventually to the establishment of Louisiana.

None of these explorers had much to admire. Abuse of and warfare with local Indians were a constant feature of the times. Yet Georgia was an exception. **James Edward Oglethorpe**, friend of

John and **Charles Wesley**, was a member of British Parliament. He took the initiative to establish a colony as a way to give poverty-stricken families in England an alternative to debtor's prison.

John Anthony Caruso was a professor of history at West Virginia University and also wrote, **The Appalachian Frontier**, **The Great Lakes Frontier**, and others. I think all of these are now out of print. The narrative is very fast paced and readable and seems to be well researched. Unlike the history of the Northeast this era is marked by unrestrained lawlessness both on the part of the explorers and I should add on the part of the native tribes. **Caruso** includes extended accounts of individuals more for their colorful if criminal activities than for their influence on history. Depending on your tastes you might find this fun or repulsive. Still the history is interesting giving accounts of the founding the states of Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia and ending with Florida joining the United States in 1845.

Caruso gives a detailed if depressing account of the slave trade. This seems an unnecessary excursus from the purpose of the book; but I reflected that the book was published in 1963 at the time of the civil rights movement. It is painful to recount this evil practice, leaving me to wonder how so many people could have been so blind.

Those who claim the United States was founded on principles of Christian culture and institutions are probably thinking mostly of the Northeast and the influence of Calvinists and Puritans. The southern region of the U.S. was not so blessed. Yet with the establishment of our constitution and government well before statehood these southern states benefitted beyond their original chaotic founding.

Submitted by Chris Williams, September 2025



FINDING GRACE IN THE FACE OF DEMENTIA

Dr. John Dunlop

As Bob and I have walked the path of his dementia, the cry of my heart has been for wisdom. What should I expect? What do I need to know? What should I do and when should I do it? How do I support and love Bob as his condition progresses? How do I survive the demands of caregiving? And more than anything else, how might I glorify the God who chose this path for us and walks the path with us?

The answers to these questions have come to me from various sources. The senior women who have walked the path before me have been a continuing source of support and encouragement. I know their prayers for us – and those of many others - have sustained me. It was no surprise to me, however, that the most succinct and obvious answer to my cry for wisdom came through **Pastor Bruce**.

Last month, **Pastor Bruce** recommended a book to me. A couple of weeks later before our Sunday School class, he gave me a copy. I didn't pay much attention to it until I got home. When I looked at it, I thought the cover was familiar. Sure enough, when I started looking through my stacks of books to be read, I found it. It was there all along.

Finding Grace in the Face of Dementia by **Dr. John Dunlop** is the best book on the subjects of dementia and caregiving I have read to date. **Dr. Dunlop** is a medical doctor – a geriatrician to be specific – who has cared for the elderly for over four decades. Both of his parents, his mother-in-law and countless patients have suffered with dementia. He has seen and treated the devastating effects of dementia and is well aware that chances are high that he, too, may develop the disease. As a result, the examples he cites throughout the book are poignant and compelling. Though he answers virtually all of my questions listed above (and those I didn't know enough to ask), the one that stands out is the last one. How can God be honored through the tragedy of dementia?

There are several chapters in the book with titles one might expect to see in a book on dementia. Titles like: **“What Should We Know About Dementia?”**, **“What About Diagnosis?”**, **“Can Dementia Be Prevented or Treated?”**, **“The Experience of Caregiving,”** and **“Help for Caregivers.”** Each one is written with sensitivity and a deep understanding of what the Bible teaches us about our bodies and souls. But there is so much more to this book! For instance, Chapter 5 entitled **“How Does It Feel to Have Dementia?”** helped me to see and understand **Bob’s** behavior from his perspective. **Dr. Dunlop** also helped me to understand what it means to respect the dignity of those with dementia (Chapter 9) and how to grow through the experience of dementia (Chapter 12). He answered questions on end-of-life issues (Chapter 13) and what the church’s role should be (Chapter 11). But my favorite of them all is Chapter 8: **“How Can we Honor God through Dementia?”** That question remains the cry of my heart. I am so thankful God put this book in my hands to show me the way.

One of the lovely features of ***Finding Grace in the Face of Dementia*** is the prayer that closes each chapter. I am grateful for the words **Dr. Dunlop** gave me when I had no words of my own.

Heavenly Father, I am grateful for the way you take people who are unworthy of you, give them new life, and transform their character, preparing them for your eternal presence. It is heartening that you use dementia as a tool, whether in the lives of those with dementia, their caregivers, or others. Father, I submit myself to you to perform your perfect work and accomplish your honor and glory in my life. In your holy name I pray. Amen.

Submitted by Becky Shamess

September Senior Ladies Luncheon

Ladies' Luncheon is the **FIRST Friday in September, the 5th. Please note the change.** Please let **Dot Branson (704-575-5955)** know that you plan to join us at **Trio's at 11:15**. The address is 10709 McMullen Creek Pkwy (off Hwy 51). We have birthdays to celebrate, great food to enjoy, and sweet fellowship to share. We are looking forward to seeing you there!

September Senior Men's Luncheon

The CCC “Senior Men’s Lunch” will be **Friday, September 19 at 11:00 (- ordering @ 11:15), at Park Place Restaurant** 10517 Park Rd. Join us for a good, encouraging time gathered with your Christian brothers for great food and fellowship and Pastor Mo’s devotional. **Arriving a little earlier helps us get parked and order by 11:15.**

JOY SINGERS RETURN!



Come one, come all to Joy Singers, our Senior adult choir! Rehearsals will begin on Monday, September 8 from 1:30 pm until 2:30 pm, in room 201. For more information, please contact **Janice Barnett, director at 704-562-6562 or Pam Eash, accompanist, at 980-355-2103.**



TRAIL FOR TWO

"Walk along this trail with me." said he,
"How far; how long?" said she.
"All the way; and all our years." said he,
"We'll walk this trail through joy or tears." said she.

"When you get tired I'll wait for you."
"If you get lost, I'll get lost too."
"At this trail's end, I'll be with you."

"This trail's steeper than before!" said he,
"I agree with that, old man." said she.
"Well, I'll help you and you'll help Me." said he,
"Then I'll help you and you'll help Me." said she.

"When you get tired I'll wait for you."
"If you get lost, I'll get lost too."
"At this trail's end, I'll be with you."

"These steps are taller than they used to be!" said she,
"These legs are shorter than they used to be!" said he.
"So, I'll help you and you'll help Me." said she,
"Yes I'll help you and you'll help Me." said He.

"When you get tired I'll wait for you."
"If you get lost, I'll get lost too."
"At this trail's end, I'll be with you."

"We used to jump these streams and stones!" said he,
"Too much stress for worn down bones." said she.
"Oh, I'll help you and you'll help Me." said he,
"Yes I'll help you and you'll help Me." said she.

"When you get tired I'll wait for you."
"When you get lost, I'll get lost too."
"At this trail's end, I'll be with you."

"Can't remember all I've thought." said she,
"I recall what you forgot." said he.
"What you forgot, I have not." said she,
"So, I'll help you and you'll help Me." said he.

"When you get tired I'll wait for you."
"If you get lost, I'll get lost too."
"At this trail's end, I'll be with you."

"Let's rest a bit and take a break." said he,
"Or take a nap for goodness sake!" said she.
"Then you'll wake me or I'll wake you." said he,
"And I'll wake you or you'll wake Me." said she.

"When you get tired I'll wait for you."
"If you get lost, I'll get lost too."
"At this trail's end, I'll be with you."

"We're at the top; we cannot stop!" said she,
"It's rather steep; I'm a little weak." said he.
"I'll push you up then you'll pull Me." said she,
"Here we go now, one two three." said he.

"We made it Dear, we're here!" said he,
"I see we're here my Dear!" said she.
"Everything is fresh and bright and clear!"
"And look my Dear, we're here!"
"Look my Dear, we're here!"

WRITTEN AND SUBMITTED BY

STEVE SPERRY



Rod Cousar	Sept 01
Marg Davis	Sept 01
Mary Webb	Sept 01
Jack Burkhart	Sept 02
Janine Green	Sept 02
Starr Beam	Sept 03
Jim Goebel Jr.	Sept 03
Dana Lamb	Sept 04
Deborah Barton	Sept 05
Frances Lee	Sept 06
Marilyn Froehlich	Sept 10
Dee Petty	Sept 10
Billie Quesnel	Sept 13
Danks Seel	Sept 13
Jerry Pinkard	Sept 14
Larry Atkinson	Sept 15
John Faber	Sept 15
Betty Whalen	Sept 16
Sharon Jarnagin	Sept 17
Brendan Kelly	Sept 17
Doris Matthews	Sept 17
Toni Wilhite	Sept 17
Ora Johnson	Sept 18
Carolyn Creswell	Sept 20
Larry Elenbaum	Sept 20
Betty Hough	Sept 20
Jimmy Wentz	Sept 20
Carroll Mantell	Sept 22
Sheila Cox	Sept 23
Linda Eppley	Sept 23
Tom Hopkins	Sept 23
Pat Moore	Sept 23
Susan Sperry	Sept 23
Ken Dabbs	Sept 24
Nancy Ramseur	Sept 24
Jim Stoudenmire	Sept 24
Buddy Parker Jr.	Sept 25
Bob Shamess Jr.	Sept 26
Tom Bilbro	Sept 28
Allison Kitchen	Sept 28
Anne Hopkins	Sept 29
Linda Morris	Sept 29
Carol Zachary	Sept 29

Dana & Dee Lamb	Sept 05
Russ & Linda Eppley	Sept 10
Sam & Anne Murray	Sept 11
Biff & Nan Bracy	Sept 12
Marilyn & Dave Frucella	Sept 22
Keith & Allison Kitchen	Sept 25
Ed & Janice Barnett	Sept 26
Joe & Linda Morris	Sept 28

SEPTEMBER SENIOR ADULT ACTIVITIES

Sunday School, Sundays, 9:00 am
WC201/Choir Room

Prayer Meetings, Tuesdays,
7:00 – 8:30 pm, WC105

Senior Adults Fall Welcome Luncheon
Friday, Sept. 12, 2025, 11:45am
CLC 3&4

Ladies Luncheon, -- **Friday, Sept 5**, 11:15am
Trios Restaurant, McMullen Creek

Men's Luncheon, Friday, Sept 19,
11:15 am, Park Place Restaurant

Fall Retreat, October 7 – 10

Bonclarken, Flat Rock, NC

Save the Date - Nov. 6 Planning Your Funeral Seminar

Pastor of Senior Adults and Visitation
N. Bruce Creswell

bcreswell@christcovenant.org

Study (704) 708-6106

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