

Senior Adults Newsletter
October 2025
Christ Covenant Church



THIS IS MY FATHER'S WORLD
Paster Bruce Creswell

*"This is my Father's world, and to my list'ning ears
all nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world; I rest me in the thought of
rocks and trees, of skies and seas; His hand the wonders wrought."*

Flying into London Heathrow, we were re-routed to Iceland via Frankfurt, Germany! The airline seems to have a bad habit of delaying our flights every leg of the trip causing us to miss our flight and losing precious vacation time (you wouldn't think they do that to such regular customers and especially since we have a son who works for them)!

Well, the delay soon gave way as we landed on the beautiful island of Iceland. Although it has only 400,000 residents it has 10,000 waterfalls! We landed outside the capital city, Reykjavik, where we spent the night. I never had better drinking water than I had there, it made the coffee taste so good that I drank four cups along with my breakfast. The glaciers supply the island's drinking water, which is 99.9 percent pure.

We boarded our ship the USS Prima and sailed around the island stopping at 2 different ports. The island is a volcano but full of life and beauty. Our tours into the interior revealed landscapes of waterfalls, mountains, and little wildflowers all perfectly designed. Though we didn't see any, the puffin, a bird with an orange color beak makes its home there.

After a day at sea, we entered Norway and docked first in Aalesund. There was something very calming and peaceful about our time in this part of the world. Our little train ride showed a spectacular view of the town below, but the mountains which were our constant companions throughout were both majestic and a reminder of the eternity of our God in **Psalm 90:2, "Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God."** The next two days we docked in the ports of Maloy and Geiringer and toured the sites with our guide. I am afraid of sounding redundant, but the country of Norway is right at the very top of the most beautiful countries that I have traveled to so far (17 countries). With each country uniquely created and located in the world by its Divine Creator, it is difficult to decide which one is the loveliest.

After a day at sea, we docked in IJmuiden, Netherlands where we met our guide, Bert. He took us to this village that has become a haven for restoring old, decaying buildings, shops, and windmills to their glorious past. With hundreds of wooden shoes hanging on the ceiling, on the walls, and in barrels, we watched the shoemaker busy at his trade making one shoe at a time. The shoes are comfortable and are insulated for the cold weather, providing you wear heavy woolen socks! The cheese and chocolate shops also got our attention and our money! The Dutch claim their chocolate is the best and we agree. On our way to Amsterdam, we decided not to join the 500,000 tourists there for the famous regatta, instead we drove through the main streets and returned to the ship. Our guide liked my comment (learned from our Dutch members) **"If you aren't Dutch, you aren't much!"** If Norway was full of mountains, the Netherlands were full of multi-color flowers which were found everywhere.

Our next stop was in Bruges, Belgium, a well-preserved medieval city over 1200 years old. It escaped the ravages of both world wars serving as a hospital for both the allies and the axis. Their industries are outside of the town while the inside has maintained its old world-flavor. On our journey down the *Rozenhoedkaai Canal* we were greeted by trees with swaying branches, flowering shrubs, strong and sturdy buildings, some stone and some brick. Yes, we did eat real Belgian waffles, they were good, but they were heavy! We were told that Belgium chocolate was the best, so we bought some and found out they were right. Now having enjoyed both Belgium and Dutch chocolates we concluded that each were the best when eating it in their own countries. Carolyn and I agree that both taste great when they are in our possession! I found it hard to tell the difference!

Finally, our cruise came to end as we docked in Southampton, London. Our 2 days stay took us to the Royal Mews, where the carriages, horses, and cars of the Royal family are kept, and the Tower of London, where the crown jewels are kept. WOW, the crown jewels are real eye poppers, I could have spent much longer gazing at them than we did. We explored the River Thames. Our guide knew his history and unfolded the connection of the river and its impact on so many important events over the years. The day closed with a good Italian meal, an early turn in, our bags packed, and a good night rest. Our plane took off from London and arrived safely in Charlotte. Mint Hill never looked so good!!!

There are many after thoughts of our visit that I am processing. One that I will share in closing. Our first country, Iceland, embraced Christianity 1200 years ago and the last city, London, embraced Christianity around 600 AD. Both "Christian" countries are now returning to their pagan



roots with Christianity waning in its influence on the culture and present generation. You could sense the encroachment of darkness creeping upon these countries.

Throughout our journey, beholding the beauty of these countries and the darkness of paganism, the words of Maltbie Babcock seem to pop up in my mind continually, reminding me that God is Sovereign, and He is in Control, and the heart of the king is in the hand of the Lord and He turns it whithersoever He wants.

*“This is my Father’s world; oh, let me ne’er forget
that though the wrong seems off so strong, God is the Ruler yet.
This is my Father’s world, the battle is not done, Jesus
Who died shall be satisfied, and earth and heav’n be one.”*

A milestone birthday for Carolyn Creswell was celebrated at the September Senior Adult’s luncheon.



Editor’s Note: I apologize to Carolyn for the appearance of the cake in this photo. Obviously, the candle numerals were supposed to read “39”. I’m trying out some new AI version of Microsoft Word and it has a “mind” of its own!

HYMN HISTORIES

By Peggy Dear

GOD MOVES IN A MYSTERIOUS WAY

"GOD moves in a mysterious way," and he certainly did in the life of **William Cowper**, who wrote this hymn. His mother died when he was six. He was teased and ridiculed at school. His father prevented him from marrying the girl he loved. He was forced to study law, but he didn't like it. When he learned he would have his bar exam before the House of Lords in London, he attempted suicide and was committed to an asylum.

After a year, he was released into the care of a Christian couple and soon discovered that his best therapy came in writing poetry. He wrote many hymns, and his secular poetry is included in most collections of great English literature. He became one of England's finest poets.

GOD MOVES IN A MYSTERIOUS WAY

*God moves in a mysterious way
His wonders to perform.
He plants His footsteps in the sea,
And rides upon the storm.*

*Deep in unfathomable mines
Of never-failing skill,
He treasures up His bright designs,
And works His sovereign will.*

*Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take:
The clouds ye so much dread
Are big with mercy, and shall break
With blessing on your head.*

*Judge not the Lord by feeble sense,
But trust Him for His grace:
Behind a frowning providence
He hides a smiling face.*

*His purposes will ripen fast,
Unfolding every hour:
The bud may have a bitter taste,
But sweet will be the flower.*

*Blind unbelief is sure to err,
And scan His work in vain:
God is His own interpreter,
And He will make it plain.*

WILLIAM COWPER (1731-1800)

Book Review

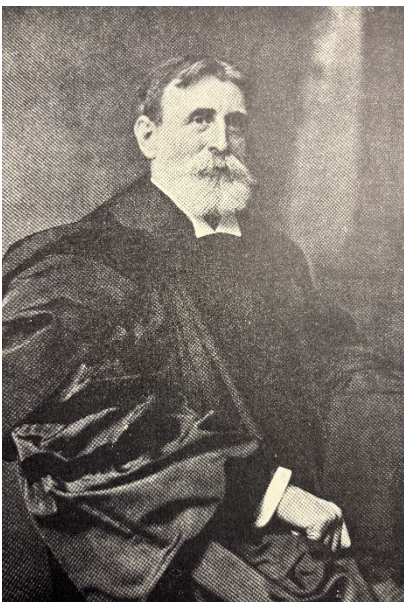
THE INSPIRATION AND AUTHORITY OF THE BIBLE

By B. B. Warfield. Baker, 1967

This classic defense of the faith was originally published in 1948 and remains today a highly respected apologetic in support of Biblical inerrancy. I asked **Pastor Kevin** and **Chad Van Dixhoorn** their opinion of the book and they both affirmed its relevance today. **Dr. Warfield** was the last great reformed Princeton Seminary theologian before the split in 1929 and the formation of Westminster Seminary. The demise of Princeton was some time coming and generally can be attributed to the onslaught of liberal theology and the advancing skepticism over the true divine authority of the Bible.

Dr. Warfield takes the question of the inspiration of the Bible in both sweeping analysis and detailed word studies. It is perhaps a scholar's book; but in that he does a great service by documenting clearly all the principles that undergird our conviction that God Himself is the ultimate and perfect cause of every word written by the Bible's many authors. I say it may be a scholar's book because **Warfield** addresses many very technical issues in dealing with attacks from the liberals. I was not always able to follow his argument since he includes liberal use of Greek, Hebrew and even Latin in his analysis. But skipping over those areas you can easily follow the essence of his argument and conclusion.

The book consists of ten articles that appeared in various journals between 1893 and 1915, (**Warfield** died in 1921). There is some repetition of his arguments for the Bible's integrity and



inspiration, but going over the same ideas of Biblical authority from different perspectives helps reinforce them. He begins with the accepted authority and infallibility of the Old Testament as the firm tradition of the Jews and therefore of Jesus and his followers since they were all Jewish themselves. Then **Warfield** develops the clear understanding that Christ himself, the apostles, and Paul clearly testify their own belief in the same divine and supernatural authority. Jesus is very clear: His teaching with miracles teaches the power of God manifested on earth and recorded for us in the Bible.

Dr. Warfield is a hero of the faith. He is among those that fought against theological liberalism in the late 19th and early 20th century. With its publication after WWII, we have the beginning of what I believe is a deep revival in our time. As I have mentioned in previous book reviews, the Bible has been under attack from centuries before, especially in the 19th and early 20th century. Thus, in America we have seen the decline of the mainline denominations that eventually lead to division. Our own Presbyterian Church in America was founded out of that decline in which Biblical skepticism had taken such deep root in the Southern Presbyterian Church that it could not be expunged and therefore separation was the only remedy. I reflected on this as **Pastor Kevin** preached on Ezra 3, when the foundation was laid for the third Temple both weeping and rejoicing were heard. With the long decline of faithfulness to the authority and inspiration of the Bible in

American Presbyterianism, separation was the only option. Thus in 1973 there was sadness over the demise of the old church; yet rejoicing and the new beginning and a fresh commitment to Biblical inerrancy which we are enjoying today.

This edition of the book (fifth printing 1967) has a 65-page introduction by **Cornelius Van Til**, in which he offers a philosophical argument that Divine revelation is essential to human thought. **Van Til** argues that humanist thought has no foundation or starting point for truth and morality and without a starting point nothing can ever be established as true. Furthermore, only God's revelation in the Bible can give any such basis for truth.

You may not take up the reading of this book but be reassured; the skepticism of secular humanism has been ably and thoroughly addressed by intelligent Christian scholars so we can again take encouragement that our Bible is what it has always claimed to be - the very word of God.

Submitted by Chris Williams, October 2025



ONE NATION ALWAYS UNDER GOD

by Senator Tim Scott

The senator from South Carolina has authored an amazing and inspiring book regarding profiles in Christian courage.

The profiles are divided into 3 categories: **Vision, Revival, and Stewardship**. There are 20 short chapters devoted to unsung and initially irrelevant American Christians who contributed greatly to the past and future of our great nation. These 20 icons rose from poverty and obscurity with the Holy Spirit's help to achieve great things for America, with their common denominator being Judeo-Christian values.

God is at the center of it all, and the 20 stories cover a wide spectrum of different personal backgrounds and achievements. Underpinning each story is the desire to build a more perfect union, and to serve others with a strong and vital motivation to glorify God in an impactful way. The senator does an inspiring job of describing how these godly people rose from poverty and irrelevance into icons of American history and creativity, thus providing jobs, hospitals, uplifting songs, new industries, effective farming practices, etc. He tells the stories of an African-American newspaper man who escaped from a lynch mob and helped eliminate slavery, a dirt-poor young boy who is now a senator, an actor who made D-Day a viable action, and an entertainer whose hospital continues saving lives of thousands of children.

One story from each of the 3 categories should whet your appetite to read the other 17 compelling stories.

VISION: Charles and Margaret Kairouz

EARLY YEARS: In 1905 young **Margaret** departed Lebanon with her family and sailed to the "Land of the Free", settling in Toledo, Ohio, where they began a new life. She married **Shaheed** at age 15 and became the mother of 10 children—9 boys and 1 girl. One of the boys was **Muzyad**, a Lebanese name later changed to **Amos** who almost died at age 6 months from rat bite fever. The family lived in dire poverty.

THE PRAYER: Margaret prayed if Amos lived, she would beg for pennies in the neighborhoods and give the money to the poor. She never learned to read or write, but her daily quest for pennies became a legend in that area. Amos did odd jobs, but his dream of being a doctor was thwarted by a lack of tuition funds, and his mother's prayer lingered heavily on his heart as he evolved into a stand-up comedian.

ANSWERED PRAYER: Amos changed his name, married, landed a lead role on a radio show in Chicago, and then vaulted into his own national television show. He had prayed years earlier, "Lord, help me find my way in life and I will build you a shrine". So, Amos, aka Danny Thomas, fulfilled his promise by founding St. Jude (patron saint of lost causes) Hospital in 1962. The survival rate for the common type of children's cancer was 4% whereas today it is 94%. Today St. Jude is a beacon of hope and Senator Scott tells the story this way: "PRAYERS DO NOT HAVE A SHELF LIFE!"

LESSON LEARNED: Faith echoes across generations.

REVIVAL: Dorothea Dix

EARLY YEARS: Born into poverty and an unstable family with her mother emotionally fragile,. Dorothea epitomizes turning darkness into light. She ran away from home at age 12 by taking a stagecoach to Boston, telling her grandmother, "I want to be educated". Her grandmother was strict so Dorothea flourished and two years later she began tutoring others, then she started a girls' school in 1831. Depression occurred due to the stress, and she entered an asylum and regained her mental acuity and motivation.

THE PRAYER: Three years later while teaching a Sunday School class in a Cambridge jail, she witnessed how horribly the mentally ill were treated. She prayed on bended knees for her purpose in life and God directed her to use her Judeo-Christian values to change the way America treated the mentally ill.

ANSWERED PRAYER: Dorothea did her homework by investigating the care in prisons and asylums and presented her findings to the Massachusetts legislature in 1843. The facts she presented were harsh and the legislature acted, making major reforms. She became a national hero and by the time of her death in 1887, she had helped establish more than 30 hospitals for the mentally ill, thus shifting the focus from punishment to medical treatment. In essence, she transformed the dark night of mental illness into a refining fire of trust in God.

LESSON LEARNED: A dark night is not the end. The author, Tim Scott, relates this to America's present dark night and future revival.

STEWARDSHIP: David Green

EARLY YEARS: Walter Green worked for churches in the American Southwest, moving to a different church every two years. So, David, the son of Walter and Marie, attended eight different schools before graduating from high school. David's mother, Marie, made doilies to sell, providing a small income for the family. The family's meals depended on whatever foods the congregation provided that week. David disliked school, had to repeat seventh grade and barely graduated from high school. He did, however, enjoy retail work, starting as a stock boy and climbed the retail ladder to success.

THE PRAYER: Marie frequently asked David, "What have you done for the Lord today?" David realized his mother gave him the gift of having a heavenly perspective and the discernment to know the vast difference between temporal significance and eternal worth. David prayed and dreamed of having his own business.

ANSWERED PRAYER: In 1970, David borrowed \$600, and he and his wife started assembling miniature picture frames in their garage. Their labor of love paid tremendous dividends, and this business became the foundation for Hobby Lobby which today is a retail giant with over 1,000 stores in the USA. More importantly, they have given hundreds of million dollars to Christian

ministries and charities. They employ 46,000 people, close their stores on Sunday, and have a world-wide reputation for treating their employees extremely well!

LESSON LEARNED: Faith is the foundation.

There are 17 other stories in the book, all of which are equally inspiring. God is still in America's DNA. This book is available from Amazon.

Submitted by Hugh Wise, October 2025

GOD WAS NOT DONE WITH ME YET

By Frances Lee

On June 23, 2025, my neighbor, **Reese**, took me to the doctor because I was not feeling right. I was then transferred to Matthew's Novant hospital where, after testing, it was determined that my heartbeat was irregular. When they were ready to transfer me to Uptown Hospital, I had a stroke. Once I was stable, I was transferred. My friends, **Mo and Janie Up De Graff** were with me from the start at Matthew's hospital and accompanied me to Uptown hospital, until my daughter, **Andrea**, arrived from New York hours later.

Additional tests seemed to clear the way for a pacemaker procedure, but then my heart went in cardiac arrest. According to **Andrea** my heart rate stopped for almost two minutes! She was told by the doctor and nurse that I had passed, and that she should notify her brother **Mark**. **Andrea** called **Mark** and he notified his wife and children that I had passed. Then to the surprise of the medical staff, and **Andrea**, my heart started up again at a very high rate. **Andrea** said it was like an electrical current went through me without any outside intervention from the medical staff.

Andrea called **Mark** to let him know that I was back to life, although she was worried about the repercussions from being dead for two minutes. By the Grace of God, I was able to speak (better than after I had the initial stroke), and all my functions seemed to be normal. The next day the pacemaker was implanted and a few days later I was discharged.

When my heart was stopping, **Andrea** asked me if I was afraid to die, and I said, "No, I am going to be with your **Dad**." God brought me back to life to tell the story that He was not yet ready to take me.

My family had previously planned a party for me up at my granddaughter's house in Hudson Valley, NY and I have been celebrating with 25 family members. I was thankful to be able to go! After that, I celebrated with 20 friends at **Mary Newton's** house and went on a trip to Hilton Head. God was not finished with me yet, as he wants me to share the good news of His Grace with Family and Friends.

PLANNING YOUR FUNERAL

Thursday, November 6,
6:30- 8pm CLC Chapel

Heritage Funeral Home / Weddington will be at CCC to provide
insight and guidance into planning your funeral. Give your family peace by preparing now.



October Senior Ladies Luncheon

Ladies' Luncheon is the **FIRST Friday, on October 3rd. 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).

October Senior Men's Luncheon

The CCC "Senior Men's Lunch" will be **Friday, October 17th at 11:00 (arriving a little earlier helps us get parked and order by 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.

JOY SINGERS RETURN!

 **Come one, come all to Joy Singers, our Senior adult choir!** Rehearsals are on 
Mondays, 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.**

"MEET ME WHERE I AM": A SEMINAR ON DEMENTIA & ALZHEIMER'S

Saturday, October 25, 10:00am- 12:45pm

Room: CLC1&2

Speaker: Mary Ann Drummond, RN

Please register at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0444AAAF2EA2FC1-58881994-meet>

9:45am:	<i>Coffee</i>
10:00-11:30:	The Many Faces of Dementia
11:30- 11:45am:	<i>Break</i>
11:45-12:45pm:	Giving Care to those with Dementia

This seminar is for anyone who would like to learn more about dementia / Alzheimer's and how to help family and friends who may be living with it.

Mary Ann Drummond, RN, is a dementia educator, speaker, and author of titles including Meet Me Where I Am – An Alzheimer's Care Guide, I Choose to Remember, and co-author of Grandma and Me – A Kid's Guide for Alzheimer's and Dementia. Mary Ann has a passion for presenting innovative and successful strategies in caregiver and provider settings to assist individuals with dementia "live their best" each day.

A native of North Carolina, **Mary Ann** enjoys spending time with her family and working with organizations across the country to increase successful outcomes in dementia care. She speaks at many churches and has spoken at StoneBridge Church, PCA.



Bill Hough	Oct 01
Bev Bilbro	Oct 03
Cathy Helms	Oct 03
Ann Knight	Oct 03
Joe Murray	Oct 04
Joan Solheim	Oct 06
Nan Bracy	Oct 07
Gary Klipp	Oct 08
Carol Bodwell	Oct 09
Karen Hott	Oct 09
Rick Ely	Oct 10
Fred Kinney	Oct 10
George Stratis	Oct 10
Carman Frith	Oct 11
Lorraine Jacobs	Oct 11
Linda Cormack	Oct 12
Wes Smith	Oct 12
Ronnie Fisher	Oct 13
Darlene Richardson	Oct 13
Jean Robbins	Oct 13
Lisy McLeod	Oct 14
Nellie White	Oct 14
John Swansby	Oct 16
Bob Hott	Oct 18
Ken Compton	Oct 20
Jean Depp	Oct 20
Beth Crimm	Oct 21
David Ramseur	Oct 21
Leonie Gilele	Oct 22
Cheri Sherrill	Oct 22
Bill Provinse	Oct 25
Dickson Skipper	Oct 25
Mitch Allison	Oct 26
Julie Kleinsteuber	Oct 26
Judy Salter	Oct 26
Carolyn Carpenter	Oct 29



Robert & Katrina Yates	Oct 03
Bill & Barbara Scott	Oct 05
Jeff & Diane Dworek	Oct 07
Douglas & Debbie Linton	Oct 09
Tom & Sheila Cox	Oct 09
Dave & Lucille Ruths	Oct 13
David & Julie Kleinsteuber	Oct 15
Gordon & Lorraine Jacobs	Oct 24
Wayne & Carol Bieganousky	Oct 26

OCTOBER SENIOR ADULT ACTIVITIES

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

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

Ladies Luncheon, -- **Friday, Oct 3**, 11:15am
Trios Restaurant, McMullen Creek

Men's Luncheon, Friday, Oct. 17,
11:15 am, Park Place Restaurant

Fall Retreat, October 7–10
Bonclarken, Flat Rock, NC

Save the Date - Nov. 6 *Planning Your Funeral Seminar*

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