

Senior Adult's Newsletter
June 2026
Christ Covenant Church



Congratulations and Celebrations

REMEMBERING AND HONORING OUR HEROES

By Pastor Bruce Creswell

The month of May is when we remember and honor our two important heroes. In fact, one is responsible for the other, our mothers and our servicemen who paid the ultimate price for our freedom.

My Moma, this month, is in heaven, celebrating her 100th birthday. Hard to believe she has been gone thirteen years. Her presence and influence continue in my thoughts. There wasn't anything she wouldn't do for her kids. Money was always scarce in our house, but that didn't stop her. Needing shirts for school, she took my grandfather's shirts (just died) and cut them down to my size. Then there were shirts she made from feed sack material. Fortunately, I was not fashion conscious in those days. Helping to make ends meet, she worked in a sewing factory in a bad part of downtown Baltimore, leaving at 4:30am to catch the bus. Weekly take home pay was around \$75.00, which went for groceries, her bus fare, and other necessities. Seeing I needed to have good men in my life, she signed me up for Christian Service Brigade. We had to have our Bible verse memorized, our Sunday school lesson done, our shoes polished and be in bed at 8:30 pm at the latest on Saturday night. When I went off to college, she faithfully wrote every week and included a \$5.00 bill, which meant she probably denied her own self. She wanted her 3 children to get our education, reminding us, "it's something no one can ever take away from you." On our birthdays, we always had cake and soft drinks. When we were sick, she would get a bottle of coke for us. Christmases were special, somehow each of us would get one big thing off our lists along with things we needed.

Momma was always doing for others to the neglect of herself, it was second nature to her. Happy 100th birthday and Happy Mother's Day! I will meet you in the morning!

Momma had two brothers who served in World War II. Her oldest brother, Newton, enlisted in the Merchant Marines in the early days of the war. He was one of the very first war casualties, his ship was torpedoed by a German U-boat off the coast of New Orleans. The city square where they lived honored him by naming the square after him. I now have the plaque in my study that hung on the corner building. Momma's youngest brother, Tom, served in the Army and took part in the D-Day invasion. Fifty years later, he opened up and talked about the war to my son who was writing a paper for class. My son was so awestruck by his uncle's bravery along with his battalion, that on the title page of his paper, he dedicated it to his great-uncle and thanked him for serving our country. Uncle Tom came to know the Lord and taught Sunday school and served as a deacon in his church for many years.

Thank you Uncle Newton paying the ultimate price for our freedom and thank you Uncle Tom for putting yourself in enemy fire to defend our freedom.

I would say that for most of us our mothers are now with the Lord. And with the passage of time, we can see more clearly and understand better all that our mothers did in raising us and all they sacrificed for us. It has been said that boys marry girls much like their mothers. When I see the dedication and love Carolyn has for her children and grandchildren and her servant's heart for others, it is a reflection of my mom and her mom. For me, I have been doubly blessed and my children and grandchildren as well.

Though I never served in the military, it has been a real privilege to personally know men and women who served in WWI, in WWII, in Korea, in Vietnam, and the conflicts in the Middle East. We all owe a lot to those who gave their lives for us to enjoy our freedom. In our church cemetery, there is a WWI soldier who died in combat just 15 minutes before the armistice was signed on the 11th hour, of the 11th day, of the 11th month. How sad but not forgotten.

Let us pray for the young mothers of our church as they raise their families. And let us pray for our men and women serving our country, both here and around the world.

DAILY BREAD MAY 2026: WAITING FOR THE HARVEST

Today's Scripture Galatians 6:7-10

Today's Devotion

In 1962, [Joanne Shetler](#) and [Anne Fetzer](#) (CCC member [Anne Hopkins](#)) made an arduous trek by bus and foot into the rugged mountains of the Philippines to share the gospel with people who'd never heard of Jesus.

For five years, they translated Scripture into the people's language, but the Balangao villagers weren't receptive. They did, however, help build a primitive landing strip so new supplies could be flown in. One day, a plane dubbed "magic from another world" by the people arrived. The pilot then flew a deathly ill, pregnant village woman to a faraway clinic. When the plane later returned with the recovered woman and her healthy newborn, the people began asking about "this God" they'd been told about. Soon the village had a church full of believers in Christ.

All of us who share the story of Jesus have times of discouragement when our listeners don't seem to hear. The apostle Paul knew that can happen. After explaining to the Galatians, the importance of planting and harvesting the gospel, he recognized that a sower may grow tired. So, he challenged his listeners not to "become weary in doing good" (Galatians 6:9).

The first five years of **Joanne** and **Anne's** work was surely discouraging. But they kept sowing, and eventually they reaped a harvest.

Let's not "give up" (v. 9). Surely, the message of salvation will "reap eternal life" (v. 8).

Reflect & Pray

Why do you sometimes grow weary in sharing the gospel? What's your sure hope?

Dear God, please help me to hang in there and keep sowing when a loved one seems disinterested in the gospel.

Don't Miss the Farewell Summer Concert!

***Nathan & the Extras* - June 4, 5, 12, or 13 at 7pm**

Location: Home of Bobby & Laura Silver, Mint Hill

Welcome to the 8th and final house concert with Nathan (George) & The Extras! Enjoy a memorable evening featuring the greatest hits from the past 7 years. Be sure to check the dates as we will be playing two weekends again!

Bring a lawn chair/blanket, and feel free to bring food and drink. The more the merrier, so invite a friend or two! Carpooling is strongly recommended for ease of parking. This event is free, but there will be an opportunity to support the George's involvement in the Youth Orchestras of Charlotte. Hope to see you there!

[Nathan & The Extras: Greatest Hits Farewell Concert](#)

Helpful hints: Click on above link, click on green "Get Tickets" button at the right of the screen. A calendar will pop up. Click on preferred date *and* 7pm time. Add number of people and hit Continue.

If you have any questions, please contact Patsy George at guitarwife97@gmail.com

HYMN HISTORIES

by Peggy Dear

O GOD OF EARTH AND ALTAR

G.K. Chesterton, the noted author and journalist, blended the realms of earth and altar. He was known for writing both detective stories and profound Christian apologetics; humorous essays such as "On Running after One's Hat" and deep polemical works such as Orthodoxy; hilarious nonsense poems and hymns for worship. He always kept a sense of humor about him and whether in writing his personal testimony which he called "My Elephantine Adventures in Pursuit of the Obvious," or in this hymn where he asked God to "Tie in a living tether the prince and priest and thrall."

Chesterton calls for unity between the political and the spiritual, reminding us that political freedom can find its source only in God. Only as the hearts of political leaders, religious leaders, and citizens are turned to Him can a nation become "afame with faith and free,"

O GOD OF EARTH AND ALTAR

*O God of earth and altar,
Bow down and hear our cry,
Our earthly rulers falter,
Our people drift and die;
The walls of gold entomb us,
The swords of scorn divide,
Take not Thy thunder from us,
But take away our pride.*

*From all that terror teaches,
From lies of tongue and pen,
From all the easy speeches
That comfort cruel men,
From sale and profanation
Of honor, and the sword,
From sleep and from damnation,
Deliver us, good Lord!*

*Tie in a living tether
The prince and priest and thrall,
Bind all our lives together
Smite us and save us all;
In ire and exaltation
Aflame with faith and free,
Lift up a living nation,
A single sword to Thee.*

GILBERT KEITH CHESTERTON (1874-1936)



ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Friday, June 5th, 1:30-2:30pm in the CLC

Ice cream and toppings will be available for first, seconds, or until ice cream is gone!
Bring a friend!

Cost: No Charge!

For planning purposes, please RSVP by Sunday, May 31st.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0444AAAF2EA2FC1-64238204-icecream>

CREATIVE

Everyone says, "Be creative."

Invent something new and they'll buy it.

But I've just invented this mustard ice cream, And nobody here wants to try it!

- *Shel Silverstein from A Light in the Attic*

My ice cream is melting
this hot sunny day.
I'm licking it quick but
it's dribbling away.

My ice cream is melting.
It's starting to drip
all over my fingers,
my chin, and my lip.

My ice cream is melting.
I can't make it stop.
It's hitting the ground with
a splash and a plop.

My ice cream has melted
and turned into ooze.
It *was* on a cone but
it's now on my shoes.
- Kenn Nesbitt

Senior Adults' Fall Retreat

Retreat Speaker: Nathan George



CHRIST COVENANT CHURCH

Senior Adults' Fall Retreat

**October 13-16, 2026
Bonclarken Conference Center
in Flat Rock, NC**

Meet new friends and get re-acquainted with old friends as we enjoy time in the mountains with each other and the Lord.

RETREAT COST:

Double/share room: \$375

Single rate: \$595

Couple rate: \$750

Package price includes

- 3 nights' lodging
- 6 meals (breakfast/dinner)
- Lunches on your own.



REGISTRATION BEGINS MAY 24.

Payment secures registration. Make checks payable to Christ Covenant Church, write *Senior Adult Retreat* on the memo line, and mail or give to Lucille Ruths (Retreat Registrar). Initial deposit of 50% package rate will be due June 21. Final payment due September 6.

QUESTIONS?

Contact Lucille at 704-846-4074.

A BOOK FAST

Last year when the church launched the yearlong program to read through the Bible I, very quietly, began to read. I say quietly because I have tried such reading regimens before and had a history of not seeing it through. Keeping my start secret might spare me some embarrassment. Nevertheless, I began to read. It did not last long. The problem for me is that I get distracted by something like a dog catching sight of a squirrel, and I scamper off to read something that has caught my interest, or I get sucked into an interesting point of Biblical history or some theological rabbit hole. I get behind and finally give up the schedule completely.

But this year in January I realized what was happening and decided to take a different approach: I went on a strict book fast. No book other than the Bible! And I committed to no theological distractions while reading. So, for the past several months I have read no books but this one.

When you read one book exclusively from cover to cover (sometimes I have several books going at the same time) you gain a unique perspective and so it was with the Bible. I was able to see and appreciate aspects of the Bible that I might miss if I read it out of sequence or by individual books read at random times.

So, it was straight through, Genesis to Revelation.

I was rewarded for this discipline. I was able to see and appreciate the grand sweep and development of God's redemption. I was particularly interested as I approached the end of the Old Testament, what I would think as the history unfolded past the intertestamental period? How would I react as I moved from the Minor Prophets at a quick walk into Matthew? After the 39 books about the power and holiness of God, the rise and fall of Israel with the final return from exile; how would the New Testament strike me?

I was not disappointed. Matthew begins with the genealogy of Jesus, then dozens of times calls back to the events and prophecies of the Old Testament, creating a comprehensive bridge from the old to the new. Thus, the Gospels all build off the Old Testament and give the whole narrative an integrated sweep of God's purpose and plan from eternity. The Bible is the embodiment of Alpha and Omega. The beginning and the end. From the beginning of time to the end of time. No other writings of mankind come anywhere close to the profound history of everything like this Word.

Four times the account of Christ is repeated in the gospels. The same events are reported through four different sets of eyes. The accounts are testimony to the truth heard and seen. Then the rest of the New Testament is what happened when Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to comfort the Church. At every step and every book, the writings are buttressed by Old Testament references. Earlier in my studies I noted there are some 50 direct quotes in the book of Romans. Virtually every event of Matthew 1 and 2 is directly prophesied in some book of the Old Testament. Of course, Jesus was constantly referring to the Prophecies. Even on the cross he calls out Psalm 22:1. I also suspect that if you counted all the allusions and thematic references to OT teachings and history there would be hundreds if not thousands of these.

Other observations: The Bible is complex. But like God's creation which is also very complex there is pervasive harmony. There is harmony in the single goal to which God has devoted the unfolding account. Jesus Christ the beginning and the end.

In the Bible we see the ongoing theme of God's Holiness and Man's rebellion. Every event and every narrative gives the same interplay: Israel delivered from slavery the by power of God, then they are told God is a Holy God. Then rebellion, affliction, repentance and redemption repeated over and over, reaching the ultimate climax with the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. (What a privilege to live in the age when the full Gospel is known.)

This was a very rewarding discipline; I recommend it especially if, like me, you can't stick to a yearlong reading plan.

But now on to other things. I have a big stack of books waiting for me.

Chris Williams – June 2026

SOLISTA SERVICE PROJECT

Our next activity at **Solista - Charlotte Retirement Center is on Thursday, June 11th at 2:00 PM.** We will be painting designs such as animals and other creative artwork on small flat river rocks during the upcoming activity. This will be a relaxed and enjoyable time spent with the residents, offering prayer and simply enjoying good conversation together, while painting small flat river rocks.

This activity does not require experience, and designs are easy and simple. We'll have an instructor along with easy step-by-step instructions with pictures for each design to select from. The event is scheduled for one hour and all you need is willingness to help, have a dialogue with the residents, and enjoy yourselves.

Location: Solista Charlotte

Address: 5512 Carmel Road, Charlotte, NC

Date: Thursday, June 11th

Time: 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM

If interested in volunteering or have any questions, please send an email to: craiggaitan@yahoo.com or call his mobile at 614 -312-3619.

Thank you for helping to bring joy and love to the Solista residents!

The Ladies' Luncheon will be Friday, June 12th, at Trio's at 1130. The address is 10709 McMullen Creek Pkwy, off Hwy. 51. Please let **Dot Branson (704-575-5955)** know that you will attend. We hope that you will join us for great food and sweet fellowship.

The Senior Men's Luncheon will be Friday, June 19 @ 11 AM

(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 . Senior Men who have not been attending are invited to join us, and asked to email or call Dave Ruths with that good news (dwruths@gmail.com, 704-661-8201 cell or 704-846-4074 home), just to help me with Park Place reservations.

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL: TWELVE MEN

We learned a lot as well as enjoyed our journey with Paul Engle in the teaching, the time, and the travel of the Apostle Paul. On behalf of the class and myself included, thank you Paul for all the preparation and the dedication you have put into each study. It is no wonder why we had a consistently full classroom each Sunday.

This summer we will be looking at Christ's disciples, The Twelve. They are twelve men. They are twelve very different men who reacted to the Lord in twelve different ways. As we become acquainted with the faults and hopes of Christ's twelve men and how He built His kingdom using them, we, His disciples, are encouraged how He uses each of us. With the Savior in our midst, we can be confident in our service.

Our study will start June 7th. Each Sunday we will look at the lives and ministry of these 12 Men.

Book Review

BUILDING THE BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY

by Karen J. Hall and Friends of the Blue Ridge Parkway

Building 'America's most scenic drive was truly a unique experience, requiring a total of 55 years and beautifully conceived to harmonize with the natural environment.

The **NUMBERS** tell the story of much more than just a parkway: It's 469 miles through 29 counties with 170 arch type bridges, 26 tunnels, 14 dams, 350 miles of trails, 250 overlooks, and elevation difference from a low of 650 feet to a high of 6,050. About 20 million vehicles a year are on the parkway. It is within a day's drive of ½ of the population of the United States.

FUNDING was initially provided by FDR's administration in the depression era of the 1930's, and there were many organizations involved: WPA (Works Project Administration), CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps), contributions of many friends and others. Coordination was an inherent part of the building of "America's Most Visited National Park", certainly a crown jewel of southeastern USA.

EARLIER ROADS were mostly trails. Some "ruts" in the dirt roads were 2 feet deep and so difficult to navigate, and the Federal Government did not fund road building until 1916, shortly after the introduction of the "Model T Ford". There were few industry jobs available, weather was harsh, and making a living was a struggle with little electricity and limited medical facilities in most areas.

EQUIPMENT: Work started in 1935 at milepost 222.5. It's shocking to look at photos of the equipment used in those years. In a word, the equipment was primitive. No rollover protective bars, some hand operated brakes, no protective cabs on large or small units, no hard hats, no protection from a collapsing bed of a dump truck, no protection from the 350-degree asphalt being poured, obviously no audible back-up alarms, scaffolding with no guard rails, limited electrical grounding, etc.

TYPICAL equipment used included a rock crusher set up on site, numerous dump trucks, bucket trucks with crawlers, 360 degree crane excavators, basic bulldozers (no cabin), motor scrapers for road grading, tractors equipped with bush hog, mower, gravel spreaders, asphalt spreaders, rollers (compactor), road paint strippers, jackhammers, masonry hand tools, cutting saws, etc. The early dump trucks carried only 2 cubic yards of dirt whereas later models carried 10 to 12 cubic yards.

INHERENT RISKS: Washouts of fill dirt were a common problem, as were the really dangerous rockslides. Summer meant thunderstorms with torrents of water while winter freezing and thawing water in crevices produced major problems. Vast differences in elevation meant very unpredictable weather. Snow and ice usually meant a closure of the parkway. Even vibrations caused by vehicles could cause a rockslide.

THE BEAUTY of all the bridges is enhanced by stone facing.

CRAFTS AND THE PEOPLE: The Blue Ridge people are still very skilled with crafts, including fiber weaving, chair caning, basket weaving, whittling, apple butter making, sorghum molasses preparation, and the making of musical instruments. One of the most visited sites for crafts is the Moses Cone House which contains the Southern Highlands Crafts Guild.

The people were handy, out of necessity. One interesting story is that of Orlean Hawks Puckett who is famous for delivering 1,000 babies as a midwife. Ironically, she lost all 24 of her own children before they reached toddler age (think about the severe weather, limited medical assistance, fireplace heating limitations, etc.)

SAFETY STATISTICS: Unfortunately, the book provides no information concerning fatalities, carpal tunnel with the use of jackhammer, or dynamite mishaps which I would speculate were frequent in view of the inexperience of some of the crew! Safety standards then were mostly voluntary.

The Empire State Building was constructed in only 13 months, whereas the parkway was finished in 55 years (Linn Cove Viaduct completed in 1987). The completion of the parkway was an uphill battle (no pun intended) but consider it's majestic beauty of today.

So, as we experience the stunning beauty of the parkway in the next few months, remember the hardships of the men who worked diligently on the 469 miles. Unfortunately, this booklet does not tell the human story. There were days of despair during the depression and jobs were scarce and families were desperate for food. While the men working for the CCC and the WPA were paid a pittance, the job helped to restore their dignity.

Intrastate politics are not discussed in this book, which deals only with the building of the parkway itself.

Submitted by Hugh Wise - June 2026



Jo Ann Woodie	Jun 01
Myron Guthrie	Jun 02
Linda Kilgo	Jun 02
Linda Avery	Jun 03
Steve Sperry	Jun 05
Ann Atkinson	Jun 10
Josie Barlaan	Jun 11
Bob Paffenroth Sr.	Jun 12
Lisa Burkhart	Jun 16
Phyllis Lupo	Jun 18
Marge Carroll	Jun 19
Elizabeth Messina	Jun 19
Barbara Scott	Jun 21
Bev Cochrum	Jun 24
Betty Lofton	Jun 24
Carol Stoudenmier	Jun 24
Jeff Dworek	Jun 25
Jim Lovings	Jun 25
Brad Wyman	Jun 25
Debby Arnold	Jun 26
Jane Stone	Jun 27
Russ Eppley	Jun 28

Doug & Ginnie Hart	June 05
Donn & Dottie Toney	June 06
Ken & Mimi Compton	June 06
Larry & Ann Atkinson	June 08
Bruce & Carolyn Creswell	June 09
Marv & Pam Eash	June 10
Michael & Susan Woodall	June 11
Danks & Renee Seel	June 12
Henry & Sarah Mills	June 12
Bob & Jane Stone	June 14
Darrell & Rosalie Kirkley	June 15
Forest & Barbara Anne Price	June 15
Ken & Carol Bodwell	June 15
Brendan & Lisa Kelly	June 18
George & Tina Stratis	June 21
John & Carol Faber	June 21
Patrick & Marguerite Hogan	June 21
Steve & Debbie Burnett	June 22
Ken & Sherrie Webb	June 23
Darrell & Becky Hargett	June 24
Jim & Jacque McClintock	June 28

JUNE SENIOR ADULT ACTIVITIES

Sunday School, Sundays, 9:00 am

Prayer Meetings, Tuesdays, 7:00 – 8:30 pm,
WC107

June 11: Solista Service Project

Lunches

June 5: Ice Cream Social, 1:30pm – 2:30pm,
CLC 5&6

Ladies Luncheon, Friday, June 12, 11:30am
Trios Restaurant, McMullen Creek

Men's Luncheon, Friday June 19, 11:00am
Park Place Restaurant, Pineville

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