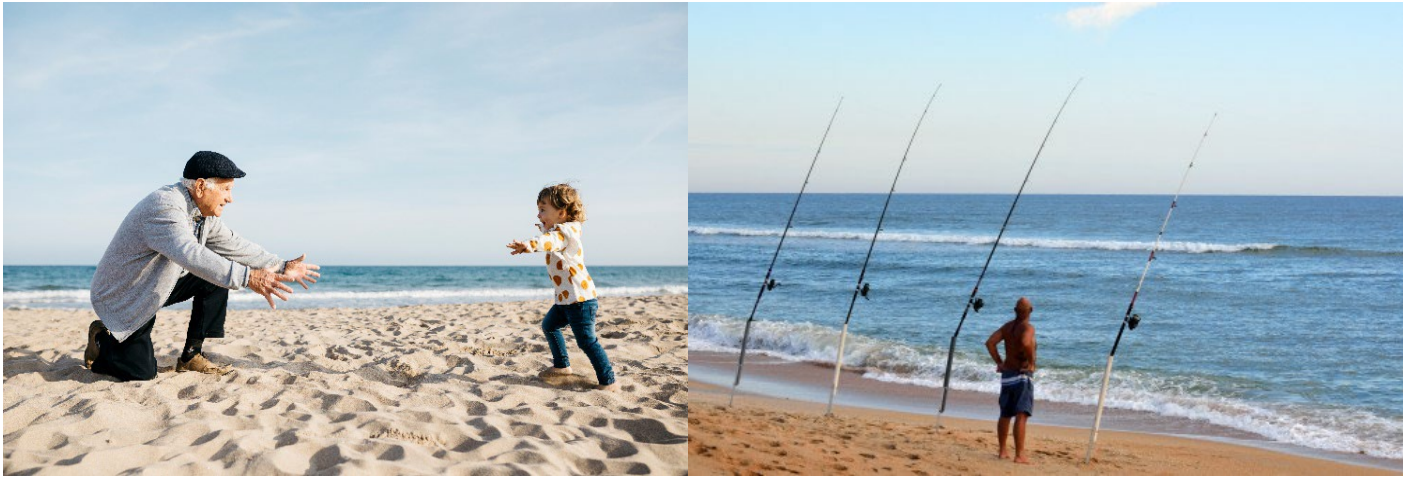


**Senior Adult's Newsletter**  
**August 2026**  
**Christ Covenant Church**



*CORAM DEO*

**O SAFE TO THE ROCK**  
**By Pastor Bruce Creswell**

With hot July heat on the outside and air-conditioned comfort inside and designer car seats, we embarked on our six-hour journey to Parson, West Virginia. No one disputes the beauty and grandeur of its' mountains, and no one will dispute the length of time it takes to go through, to go around, or to bypass those mountains! Our destination was a relative's house that sits on the side of a mountain right next to the **Shaver Fork River**. The water is clear and about a foot deep, meandering its way down to the **Cheat River**.

Soon after our arrival, dinner was served on the back deck overlooking the river. We enjoyed a delicious dinner along with catching up on family news. It had cooled down considerably but manageable with a cup of coffee! The long ride up was worth it!

We moved to the covered section of the deck to continue our reminiscing as it began to rain. Finally, we all said good night and turned in for bed. With the sliding door opened we were lulled to a deep and restful sleep by the rolling river.

Overnight, the rain had turned into a torrential downpour. The river swelled to over six feet, becoming a turbulent force swallowing trees, and branches, and overflowing its bank. Last night it was clear and now it was brown and muddy. Cars were reported as floating, the local Walmart was flooded along with the Hampton Inn. Some lost electricity and what was in their freezers and refrigerators. Roads were flooded and cluttered with trees and debris.

Fortunately, we were safe from the flooding, we had electricity, running water, and with **"Starlink"** we had internet and phone service. You see we were **"safe on the rock."** We were higher up, out of the flood plain, the mountain was fortressing us from the real dangers of the flood below.

So, it is in the Christian life! Our path may be sun lit and we are enjoying the blessings of unrivaled peace and communion. Then unannounced a storm erupts, triggered by any number of

things, the loss of a family member, a misunderstanding with a friend or family, a health diagnosis, not able to drive anymore, failing memory, and the list goes on. These can cause a storm overflowing our lives with uncertainties, fears, doubts, and a lack of faith. No doubt many of you have encountered storms or even now going through a storm. I have experienced some and no doubt will encounter more.

It is at such times, we must remind ourselves as David did in Psalm 31:3-5, 14-15a: ***“For You are my rock and my fortress; therefore, for Your name’s sake, lead me and guide me.... Into Your hand I commit my spirit; You have redeemed me, O Lord God of truth.... But as for me, I trust in You, O Lord; I say, ‘You are my God.’ My times are in Your hand.”*** Wow, he was in a storm, he was dealing with a son, named Absalom, who was leading a rebellion against him. He was facing family division, desertion from his own counselor, Ahithophel, and his own kingdom in turmoil.

Facing this storm, David turns to his God in prayer. He trusts God for His strength and His direction. The pain inflicted on him by others, especially by his own son, David asks his God for mercy. He was filled with grief, his physical strength was failing, his soul was tormented due to the troubles others were causing him. David’s focus is realigned and his faith reinforced as he declares, ***“The Lord preserves the faithful but abundantly repays the one who acts in pride. Be strong and let your heart take courage, all you who wait for the Lord!”***

We must beware and be careful, for storms are opportunities to have a ***“pity party.”*** Looking at ourselves, we allow the waves of the storm to distract us from trusting Him. Remember that as our Rock and Refuge, He will hold us fast when the storms of life are raging as expressed in the words of the hymn, ***“O Safe to the Rock that is Higher Than I.”*** (By William Cushing)

***Oh, safe to the Rock that is higher than I,  
My soul in its conflicts and sorrows would fly,  
So sinful, so weary, Thine, Thine would I be,  
Thou blest Rock of Ages, I’m hiding in Thee.***

***In the calm of the noontide, in sorrow’s lone hour,  
In times when temptation casts o’er me its power;  
In the tempests of life, on its wide, heaving sea,  
Thou blest Rock of Ages, I’m hiding in Thee.***

***How oft in the conflict, when pressed by the foe,  
I have fled to my Refuge and breathed out my woe,  
How often, when trials like sea-billows roll,  
Have I hidden in Thee, O Thou Rock of my soul.***

***Hiding in Thee, hiding in Thee,  
Thou blest Rock of Ages, I’m hiding in Thee.***

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## HYMN HISTORIES

By Peggy Dear

### GOD OF OUR FATHERS

Six years before his death in 1907, **Daniel Roberts** wrote, *"I remain a country parson, known only with in my own small world."* This hymn was penned while he pastored a rural church in Brandon, Vermont. He wrote it in 1876 to commemorate the one hundredth birthday of the **Declaration of Independence**, and it was sung for the first time in Brandon's Fourth of July celebration. Because the people of Brandon enjoyed the hymn, **Roberts** submitted it to the committee planning the centennial celebration for the **U.S. Constitution**. The committee chose it as the official hymn for the occasion and sent it to the organist at **St. Thomas Episcopal Church in New York City** to compose an original tune. The new tune, with a dramatic trumpet fanfare, was introduced in 1892 in New York City at the four hundredth anniversary of the discovery of America by Christopher Columbus.

### GOD OF OUR FATHERS

*God of our fathers whose almighty hand  
Leads forth in beauty all the starry band  
Of shining worlds in splendor through the skies,  
Our grateful songs before the throne arise.*

*Thy love divine hath led us in the past;  
In this free land by Thee our lot is cast;  
Be Thou our ruler, guardian, and stay.  
Thy Word our law, Thy paths our chosen way.*

*From war's alarms, from deadly pestilence,  
Be Thy strong arm our ever sure defense;  
Thy true religion in our hearts increase,  
Thy bounteous goodness nourish us in peace.*

*Refresh Thy people on their toilsome way;  
Lead us from night to never-ending day;  
Full all our lives with love and grace divine,  
And glory, laud, and praise be ever Thine.*

Daniel Crane Roberts (1841-1907)

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## Book Review

### **DESIRING GOD** **MEDITATIONS of a CHRISTIAN HEDONIST** By John Piper

Now this isn't exactly a customary book review. It's more like - - - We read this book by **John Piper** who declares himself to be a Christian and, at the same time, a **hedonist!** What? A **hedonist?** We wanted to see just what **Piper** meant by that word **hedonist**, which generally defines an attitude that regards individual **pleasure** as the prime, most important or ultimate purpose in life. For us and, we imagine, for many Christians, the word Christian didn't seem to be an appropriate adjective for the word **hedonist!** Well, we read the book, found out what **Piper** meant, liked the book immensely, and would like to recommend that you read it too.

**John Piper** is a popular, well respected Christian pastor, lecturer, leader and author. He has been a conference speaker and a guest at the Christ Covenant pulpit. Actually, we obtained our copy of **DESIRING GOD** as a gift through Christ Covenant Church when scores of them were passed out in the front lobby. **Pastor Kevin DeYoung** has credited **John Piper** with having been a great influence upon his development in life and ministry.

Here are some examples of **Piper's Christian Hedonism** thinking:

*"God's pursuit of **praise from us** and our pursuit of **pleasure in Him** are the **same pursuit**".*

*"Christ becomes for us a **treasure chest of holy joy**."*

*"The work of the Spirit of Christ is to make the word of Christ **satisfying** to the soul".*

*Gen. 1:27 (which tells us that we were created in the image of God) means that "**we share in the shimmering glory of God's glory**".*

*Ps. 37:4 says to "delight yourself in the LORD, and he will give you the **desires of your heart**." - - - "This honors God."*

*Ps. 16:11 says about God: "In your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are **pleasures forevermore**".*

**Desiring God**, by **John Piper**, is meant to encourage Christians to indeed seek the **highest pleasure imaginable**. - - - **Pleasure** for which we were created. - - - **Pleasure** of forever loving and enjoying God Himself and His glorious kingdom.

**Piper** has an important stipulation for the reader; - - - "**Christian Hedonism** must be solidly rooted in the Christian Scriptures, The Bible". And the Bible teaches that man's chief end is to glorify God by enjoying Him forever.

This book was a **pleasure** to read!

**Submitted by Steve and Susan Sperry August 2026**

## Book Review

### THE IDEA FACTORY

#### BELL LABS AND THE GREAT AGE OF AMERICAN INNOVATION

By Jon Gertner. Penguin Books 2012

After the Air Force I got a job in Charlotte working for **Southern Bell** as an engineer. For the next 25 years I witnessed much of the content in this book especially toward the end when the parent company (**AT&T**) to **Southern Bell** was broken up by the Federal Government. At that point the amazing **Bell Labs** began to change, and you might say decline, in output and importance.

But I was aware, as were many in America during the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, of what an amazing institution **Bell Labs** was. This book traces that history giving details on their most important inventions; and many they were.

**Bell Labs** was part of the **Bell System** under **ATT** and was charged in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century with providing universal voice telephone service to every home in the country. When this all began there was no technology to enable the effort. **Bell Labs**, along with the manufacturing arm of **AT&T**, invented the whole thing. And in the process, they did research on all sorts of things, some only remotely related to telecommunications. And along the way they invented the entire Electronic Age!

They came up with the vacuum tube, nationwide calling, automatic call switching, and undersea cable connection to Europe, and so many other inventions and innovations it is hard to list them all. They even did basic research on telephone poles determining the best way to treat the poles to extend their useful life and the proper spacing to avoid wind damage to the wires.

The history of **Bell Labs** is told through its leaders and through extended accounts of the major inventions and discoveries. There are many of them but probably the most important is the invention of the transistor. The magnitude of this simple device in changing the world of technology is hard to overstate. Virtually every device we have or interact with is built upon the transistor, from personal computers to aircraft; from TV to space travel. And if it were not enough that **Bell Labs** introduced the transistor, they also invented and began early work on computer chips i.e. integrated circuits. They also invented the cell phone which ironically has largely displaced the entire 20<sup>th</sup> century enterprise: the wired telephone system.

Finding an aspect of modern life that doesn't incorporate some strand of **Bell Labs'** DNA would be difficult. The transistor, lasers, quality assurance methods, and information technologies have been incorporated into computers, communications, medical surgery tools, factory productivity methods, digital photography, defense weaponry, and a list of industries and devices and processes almost too long to name. (p341)

It is worth noting what, if any, spiritual lessons can be drawn from such a book devoted only to technological progress. First, of course, none of the many inventions at **Bell Labs** changed the spiritual state of man. Maybe you could say each step offered new ways for us to sin. But none ever drew people into holy living.

And the inventors as well-found fame to be sure. But most having made world changing inventions in their early adulthood, never made any comparable invention after that. Many continued to work at the labs throughout their working life. Some went to universities to teach.



Another observation regards Ecclesiastes 1:9 ***“What has been is what will be, and what has been done is what will be done, and there is nothing new under the sun.”*** I have often meditated on this in our modern age with all the technological inventions changing the way we live. So, are these amazing invention things actually new? I think not since God made it all. His creations were made for us and their delights and capabilities ours to discover. Before **Bell Labs** atoms had already been moving as they do in transistors, and subatomic effects can be observed occurring in nature apart from our human tinkering.

I grew up in the environment of research and technology. This was my family. A father that worked on the space business and in Cold War intelligence; brothers both involved with science, engineering and technology. Then me with a career in telephone engineering. This book was a tour of reminiscence and reflection. I remember many of the events recounted, especially in the 1970 through the 1980s. The memories were bittersweet. But of course, at the end the **Bell System** was broken up and **Bell Labs** struggled for existence but was finally undone by its own inventive genius. Such is the transitory nature of our modern life.

Thankfully **God** does not change, and our faith is not transitory.

**Submitted by Chris Williams August 2026**

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## **CHARLOTTE AND THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION**

**by Richard P. Plumer**

**Charlotte** has a rich history in the **American Revolution**, but it is often overlooked. This book, one of **Kevin De Young's** favorites of 2025, provides well-researched details of **Charlotte's** key role as a prime stimulus for America's independence and **FREEDOM**.

**REV. ALEXANDER CRAIGHEAD** is regarded as the inspiration for Mecklenburg's independence. After arriving in Boston from England as an eight-year-old boy in 1715, his fiery preaching style was developed in Philadelphia but was short-lived because the Anglican church insisted on so many restrictions. In fact, his writings in 1743 resulted in charges of treason and sedition, a sharp contrast to the freedom of the gospel. Moving to **Charlotte** in 1758 meant miles of separation from the British authorities and freedom to preach the gospel as described by **Presbyterian** doctrine. He preached at seven Presbyterian churches: **Sugaw Creek, Steele Creek, Poplar Tent, Clear Creek, Philadelphia, Providence, and Rocky River**, often traveling 10 to 20 miles on horseback.

His tremendous impact is illustrated by these numbers: 70% of the county's population were his parishioners. Mecklenburg's population was only 3% of the state, but in the war 25% of the soldiers were from Mecklenburg, and 20 of the 27 signers of the independence document were **Presbyterian**. A gifted orator, he inspired his parishioners to fight for **FREEDOM** many years before the days of well-known patriots whose actions have received more ink in our history books. These results were achieved by preaching God's Word in log cabin churches no bigger than 8 feet by 12 feet!

**SCOTS-IRISH** have a long history of wars for **FREEDOM: AD 76, 937, 1296, 1388, 1460, 1545, and 1745**. The British and the Anglican church were the main culprits as strict adherence was mandated. Remember Hadrian's Wall of 700 miles which was the dividing line between Scotland and England? The first migration of the Scots was to Ireland, then to America and North Carolina with warmer

weather and rich farmlands. In 1775, 9.8% of America's population was **SCOTS-IRISH**. Their nemeses included unfair taxes, lack of justice, Anglican doctrine and a lack of **FREEDOM** from the Crown. The **SCOTS-IRISH** were known as fearless and violent fighters as exemplified by their names of settlements: Bloody Rock, Gallows Branch, Hanging Rock, etc. Their personal fights were typified by biting and even punching out eyes. Hog stealing was a common crime. Corn whiskey, not money, was commonly used as a bartering tool. Log cabin floors were hard packed dirt and cooking pots were usually "cleaned" when their feet were washed, A common practice was the literal abduction of women as brides! Men were known as warriors and women as workers, Yes, life was extremely challenging, but their main legacy was a consuming desire for **FREEDOM**.

**BATTLES** began with the battle of Alamance Creek near Burlington, N C, in 1771, about 4 years prior to Concord and Lexington. This was not a small skirmish as about 3,400 (total) soldiers were involved. Why do our history books hardly mention Alamance since this was the first major battle? Also ignored is the makeup of the American army during the war being 40% **Scots-Irish**. King George III described the war as the **Presbyterian War**. The author describes about 40 battles in the Carolinas during the Revolution, with many being close to Charlotte. The four largest battles, in terms of total number of troops involved were Guilford (6300), Camden, SC (5800), Charleston (3500) and Cowpens, SC (3000). Cowpens is considered the best overall win for the patriots while Guilford was the most costly for both sides with 1309 casualties, or 20% of the patriot forces.

**MECKLENBURG DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE** was penned May 20, 1775, by 27 local leaders, with 20 being **SCOTS-IRISH Presbyterian**, but was not seen in print until an article appeared in the Raleigh Register. Yes, 44 years later! So, what happened? Captain James Jack, an elder in the Providence Church, rode horseback to Philadelphia and delivered the document to the Continental Congress, (3 delegates from NC), on June 23, 1775. The purpose was to have the Congress sanction or approve the document, which would have been historic, but instead the three delegates wrote a letter thanking Mecklenburg for their "zeal, perseverance, order and forbearance", telling them the document as premature. However, it was likely the document had been read and discussed by the members of the Congress, so it may have had some impact. It's completely unknown how the document landed at the Raleigh Register 44 years later. The infamous Governor Tryon was even more protective of the crown after his victory at Alamance and hanging of any captured patriots was always a distinct possibility. The patriots were still responsible for paying a tax in support of the Anglican Church and Queen's College had become a hot bed for debating **FREEDOM**, and overall tension was high so that debates were taken to the battlefields and then forgotten after victory was won. In 1775 the British had mandated a vacating of all American land titles back to the Crown and Bunker Hill and the Boston Tea Party created an explosive atmosphere before the war so it's understandable that the patriots were waiting for the right moment, even though the quest for **FREEDOM** was extremely strong.

**VICTORY** was achieved at Yorktown, October 19, 1781, although the British had not fully removed all their troops until a year later.

**REV. CRAIGHEAD** had achieved his goal of **FREEDOM** 17 years after his death.

In addition to telling Charlotte's story, there are other descriptions and mentions of historic events such as Valley Forge, Liberty Bell, Yorktown, Crossing the Delaware, etc. which deepens our love for our country and its pursuit of **FREEDOM**.

As we know, "**FREEDOM** is not free".

In America's case, God certainly used ordinary and extraordinary people to secure our **FREEDOM**.

**Richard Plumer** is a retired advertising agency owner who also wrote *The Town of Suwanee, Georgia, Early History* in 2000.

Submitted by Hugh Wise August 2026

### A CORAM DEO HANDYMAN UPDATE

**Yes**, we are **still around**, still doing all kinds of projects, primarily for our CCC senior adults, and still available to take on some more!



- **Who are we?** We are four 'old guys' in our Senior's Sunday School Class. Well, some of us are older than others. (That is not to exclude the younger "back-ups" and "come-along-side-ones" who have helped us on several different occasions. We have several of those!) And yes, we are a bit slower than hired professionals and sometimes we are forgetful and need reminders!
- You may also be wondering what kinds of help we provide or projects we take on. Here is a list of some of the kinds of things we have recently done...



|                                                           |                                            |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| <b>Old deck removal</b>                                   | <b>Back screen porch rebuild</b>           |
| <b>A window replacement</b>                               | <b>Bathroom faucet replacements</b>        |
| <b>Bathroom commode repairs</b>                           | <b>Smoke alarm replacements</b>            |
| <b>Outdoor rock step repair</b>                           | <b>Electrical outlet replacements</b>      |
| <b>Porch light installs</b>                               | <b>Ceiling lightbulb</b>                   |
| <b>Bathroom towel rack repairs</b>                        | <b>Fence gate repairs and replacements</b> |
| <b>Bathroom tub and shower security bar installations</b> |                                            |
| <b>Bathroom door latch repair and knob replacements</b>   |                                            |

• How does it work or how can you contact us? The best and requested way is for you to contact **Jenny Blackmon, Ministry Administrator to Pastors, 704-708-6104, [jblackmon@christcovenant.org](mailto:jblackmon@christcovenant.org)**, giving her a brief description of what you need. She will let us know so that we can call you, working out a convenient time to check things out.

- By-the-way, **there is no cost** for the handyman service! If parts or supplies are needed, you are asked to cover that cost but everything else is covered by the handymen.
- With thankfulness for God's grace, all the time and with all the opportunities,  
**David McArthur, Gary Klipp, David Britton and Mo Up De Graff**



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## SOLISTA “BIG BAND DAY” VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Dear Senior Adults Members,

We are looking for volunteers to help our activity at Solista Charlotte Retirement Center. On **Thursday, August 6 at 2:00 PM** we'll be hosting **Swingin' Sweets & Big Band Beats**. Residents will listen to the music of the Big Bands in the 1940's and 1950's where they'll name the song and artist along, along with two singalongs. Besides the music we'll have popular homemade desserts of that time to serve such as:

- **Pineapple Upside-Down Cake**
- **Angel Food Cake with Strawberries**
- **Banana Cream Pie**
- **Brownies**
- **Cookies**

This will be an enjoyable time spent with the residents, helping them share their memories and enjoying a good conversation together. This **activity does not require experience** - just a willingness to help, listening to their memories, and having fun.

**Location:** Solista Charlotte

**Address:** 5512 Carmel Road, Charlotte, NC

**Date:** Thursday, August 6, 2026

**Time:** 2:00 PM

If you are interested in volunteering or would like more information, please email [craigkaitan@yahoo.com](mailto:craigkaitan@yahoo.com), or call his cell phone at 614-312-3619.

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



**SENIOR ADULT'S FALL RETREAT: OCT. 13-16**  
**IN BEAUTIFUL FLAT ROCK, NC**



**SPACE IS STILL AVAILABLE.** Please contact Retreat Registrar, Lucille Ruths, [lmruths@gmail.com](mailto:lmruths@gmail.com), for more information.

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**The Ladies' Luncheon will be on Friday, August 14th, at Trio's at 11:30am.** The address is 10709 McMullen Creek Pkwy (off Matthews-Pineville Road). **Please let Dot Branson (704-575-5955) know that you will be there.** We hope you can join us for great food and sweet fellowship.

**Our July Senior Men's lunch will be Friday, August 21 @ 11:00am, at Park Place Restaurant.**

Join us for a good, encouraging time gathered with your Christian brothers for great food and fellowship and Pastor Mo's devotional.

We welcome those Senior Men who have not been attending to join us, and ask them to email or call me with that good news ([dwruths@gmail.com](mailto:dwruths@gmail.com), 704-661-8201 mobile or 704-846-4074 home), just to help me with Park Place expectations. Thanks.

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL CONTINUES THROUGH THE SUMMER**

The new session begins Sunday, August 30<sup>th</sup>. Sunday School Brochure coming soon.

**Save-the-Date: September 4<sup>th</sup>: Fall Kick-Off Luncheon**

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### **THE HYMNBOOK THAT HELPED SPLIT A WAXHAWS CHURCH**

**From Facebook Page: Waxhaws History**

Imagine leaving your church because of the songs being sung and the people invited to share communion. In the early 1800s, worship in the **Waxhaws** looked much as it had for generations among the region's Scots-Irish Presbyterians. Congregations sang the **Psalms**.

Not newly written religious songs. Not popular hymns inspired by Scripture. They sang carefully translated versions of the biblical **Psalms**, traditionally from a collection known as **Rouse's Version**. To many church members, this was not simply a preference. It was the proper and faithful way to worship.

Then came the **Great Revival of 1802**.

Thousands gathered in the **Waxhaws** as Presbyterian, Methodist and Baptist ministers preached together. Services continued for days. People prayed, wept, shouted, sang and sometimes fell to the ground overcome with emotion. For some, it was a powerful movement of God. For others, it was a dangerous departure from the disciplined worship of their ancestors.

The **Waxhaw Presbyterian** minister, the **Rev. John Brown**, embraced parts of the revival movement. He worshiped alongside ministers of other denominations and participated in communion with Methodists. That alone alarmed some traditional members of the congregation.

Communion was not merely a symbolic meal. It represented shared belief, church discipline and fellowship. To commune with Methodists suggested that old denominational boundaries were being weakened. Then came another controversy. **Rev. Brown** attempted to introduce the popular **Psalms and Hymns of Isaac Watts** into worship.

Today, **Watts** is remembered as one of Christianity's most influential hymn writers. His works include words later sung as "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross," "Our God, Our Help in Ages Past" and "Joy to the World." But to many traditional Presbyterians in the **Waxhaws**, singing words written by a modern hymn writer instead of remaining with the **Psalms of Scripture** represented another troubling break with the past. The dispute grew bitter.

Several elders and many members reportedly left the congregation. **Rev. Brown** eventually departed, and the church entered a long and difficult period without a settled minister. It may seem surprising today that communion and a hymnbook could help divide an entire church. But the disagreement was about far more than music.

It was a struggle over tradition and change.

- Should Presbyterians worship with Methodists and Baptists?
- Could people from different denominations share communion?
- Should emotional camp meetings and revival practices be welcomed?
- And should Christians sing newly written hymns or only the biblical **Psalms** their ancestors had sung for generations?
- 

These questions divided churches, families and communities throughout the early American South. And here in the **Waxhaws**, the **Great Revival** brought thousands together—but it also helped pull one of the region's oldest congregations apart. History is not always found in battles fought with muskets. Sometimes it is found around the communion table and in the songs people were, and were not, willing to sing.

**Submitted by Jenny Blackmon**

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|                  |        |
|------------------|--------|
| Vicky Henson     | Aug 01 |
| Chuck Marzahn    | Aug 02 |
| Lynn McArthur    | Aug 04 |
| Kathy Hopkins    | Aug 06 |
| Ed Barnett       | Aug 09 |
| Robert Adams     | Aug 11 |
| Anne Schwoebel   | Aug 12 |
| Ruth Colvin      | Aug 14 |
| Karen Clington   | Aug 15 |
| Bruce Creswell   | Aug 16 |
| Shirley Jones    | Aug 16 |
| Steve Rider      | Aug 16 |
| Dennis Shaler    | Aug 17 |
| Sandy Riddle     | Aug 18 |
| Ted Williams     | Aug 18 |
| Jane Yancey      | Aug 18 |
| Paul Engle       | Aug 19 |
| Jim Prieb        | Aug 19 |
| Pete Bridge      | Aug 20 |
| Joe Massengill   | Aug 21 |
| Lucille Ruths    | Aug 21 |
| Hein Furstenburg | Aug 26 |
| Aicy Himongala   | Aug 26 |
| Peggy Dear       | Aug 27 |
| Jim McClintock   | Aug 27 |
| Joe Cathey       | Aug 28 |
| Edith Lane       | Aug 29 |
| Karen Ellis      | Aug 30 |

|                         |        |
|-------------------------|--------|
| Curtis & Betty Whalen   | Aug 06 |
| Jim & Carol Stoudenmier | Aug 09 |
| Gary & Wendy Klipp      | Aug 12 |
| Pete & Martha Bridge    | Aug 14 |
| Adriano & Jan Conti     | Aug 18 |
| Bill & Betty Hough      | Aug 19 |
| Chuck & Carol Marzahn   | Aug 21 |
| Al & Susan Reinken      | Aug 28 |

### **AUGUST SENIOR ADULT ACTIVITIES**

Sunday School, Sundays, 9:00 am  
**August 6: Solista Service Project**  
Prayer Meetings, Tuesdays, 7:00 WC107  
Men's Luncheon, Friday, August 21, 11am  
Park Place Restaurant, Pineville  
Ladies Luncheon, Friday, August 14, 11:30am  
Trios Restaurant, McMullen Creek

**Save the Date:**  
**Fall Retreat @ Bonclarken,**  
**October 13-17, 2026**

**Pastor of Senior Adults and Visitation**  
**N. Bruce Creswell**

[bcreswell@christcovenant.org](mailto:bcreswell@christcovenant.org)  
 Study (704) 708-6106

**Jenny Blackmon, Assist. to Pastor Bruce**  
[jblackmon@christcovenant.org](mailto:jblackmon@christcovenant.org)

**Newsletter Editor: Darrell Hargett**  
[dhargett47@gmail.com](mailto:dhargett47@gmail.com)

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

## PAT WALL'S APPLE CAKE RECIPE

### Cake Batter:

1 ¼ cup Cooking Oil

2 Cups Sugar

3 Eggs, well beaten, Mix the top 3 ingredients well.

Add 2 tsp vanilla extract

Finely chop 2 Large or 3 Small apples, about 3 cups.

Sift together: 3 cups plain flour, 1 tsp salt, 1 tsp. baking soda

Add dry ingredients into wet ingredients in 3 parts.

Fold in apples and, if desired, 1 cup chopped pecans.

Bake in three greased and floured round pans or one 9x13 sheet pan.

Put pans in a cold oven. Bake 325 degrees for 20-30 minutes.

### Frosting:

2 sticks butter

2 cups firmly packed brown sugar

1 small can evaporated milk

2 tsp. vanilla extract

½ cup of chopped pecans (optional)

Cook butter and sugar over low heat until butter melts. Add evaporated milk. Stir constantly until it comes to a boil. Then boil for 2 additional minutes. Remove from heat and cool slightly. Then beat using a hand mixer until spreading consistency.

*When I am doing a layer cake, I begin by putting the “runny” icing on the bottom 2 layers, because once caramel icing begins to thicken, you have to work quickly. By the time you are to the top of the third layer, move quickly as you spread the icing on the top and sides.*



## **WHO IS JESUS?**

**WHO:** He is our Saviour, Redeemer, Lord, The Bread of Life, The Light of the World, God's Son, The Good Shepherd, My Best Friend, King of Kings, Lord of Lords and much more! He is Omnipotent (all authority), and Omniscient (all knowing).

**WHY:** Jesus conquered death! He died an agonizing death on the cross so that we were saved from our sins. His resurrection gave believers the entry into eternal life

**WHERE:** John 1:1, ***"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."*** Jesus is deity and has always been here before the foundations of the world.

**WHEN:** There are numerous prophecies about Jesus in the Old Testament, but Isaiah 53 is the most well-known with details of His birth, crucifixion and purpose being stated 700 years before the events. The entire Old Testament points toward Jesus using symbolism and words.

**WHAT:** He offers Eternal Life and the fullness of life on this earth. The Fruit of the Spirit includes love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. The Holy Spirit is given to empower our soul upon acceptance of Him.

**HOW:** The plan of salvation is simple: Romans 3:23 (sin), Romans 6:23 (death), John 1:12 (free gift), John 3:15 (born again), John 3:16 (love unmerited), Romans 5:8 (yet sinners), I John 1:9 (confessed, forgiven and cleansed), Romans 10:9 (Jesus is alive), and Revelations 3:20 (door knock). The Bible was written by 45 authors with widely varying educational and job backgrounds and took 2000 years to write. Yet, the constant theme is Jesus! That's possible only because God inspired all the writing and the authors wrote in their own human style. That's called concursive operation.

Christianity is the largest and most powerful movement in the history of the world.

**Hugh Wise August 2026**