

Senior Adult's Newsletter
September 2026
Christ Covenant Church



BETWEEN SEEDTIME AND HARVEST

AUTUMN: A SEASON OF CHANGE

By Pastor Bruce Creswell

I am looking forward to my favorite season of the year: **Fall**. The days get shorter; temperatures cool down, the leaves change their colors, and there is a harvest of apples, pumpkins, and collard greens!

But **Fall** is also the season which starts off the many different ministries here at **Christ Covenant Church** 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 30th

"In All Things Thee to See," Teacher: Caleb Johnson

Living out his life in relative obscurity as a pastor in the rural countryside of Bemerton, England, **George Herbert**, is widely known as one of the great poets and writers of all time. On his deathbed (age 39), he sent his writings to a friend to be published or burned; "for I and it are less than the least of God's mercies." His works would come to be cherished by many, including Richard Baxter, John Newton, William Cowper, Charles Spurgeon, and C.S. Lewis. Books are available in the Book Nook or at this link.

<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0FBR41B99?lv=shuf&channelId=500&plpRedirect=mhFallback>

2. Senior Adults' Welcome Luncheon Friday, September 4th

The sign up is already posted for our first and important luncheon. The new brochure will be given out, and we will go over the 2026-2027 event calendar.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0444AAAF2EA2FC1-65118392-september#/>

3. **Memory Care Ministry Workshop, Monday, October 5th**

Christ Covenant is partnering with Atrium Health to provide a 6-week Memory Care workshop to educate caregivers about dementia, covering topics Caregiving and Disease Education, Communication and Behavior, Supporting a Loved One's Independence, and Planning Ahead. The workshop is FREE—all materials and refreshments will be provided. The workshops will be held on *Monday evenings from 7:00-8:30 beginning Monday, October 5th in CLC 3-4*. This is open for all life stages, and you may register by contacting **Gaylene Scheide** at gscheide@christcovenant.org.

4. **Senior Adults, Annual Retreat, October 13th-16th**

Currently we have over 100 signed up with room for more! 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. Our Pastor of Worship, **Nathan George**, will be back to teach from the Book of Zechariah.

5. **Planning Your Funeral Workshop Thursday, October 22nd**

We have invited the staff of Murphy Funeral Home, Indian Trail to join us on Thursday, October 22nd in WC Room 201 at 7pm.

They will go over various topics including burials, the advantages of pre-planning, transferring existing pre-arrangements and servicing other funeral home contracts. Also on hand will be a Wills and Trust attorney to offer free advice to those that might have trusts in other states, the benefits of trusts versus wills in the state of North Carolina. *Murphy Funeral Home gives 10 percent off to all **Christ Covenant Members**.*

I am looking forward to getting back together this **Fall**. Pray for **Mary Newton** and her kitchen team and **Liz West** and her decorating ladies as they get ready for the September luncheon. Don't forget to sign up!

Welcome New Elder and Deacon!

Elder: Barry Peterson

Barry and **Sarah** are no strangers to the Seniors. They have won their way into our hearts over the years. We continue to watch their 4 children, Grace, Kenneth, Amy, and Andrew grow up here. As you know, **Barry** is the director of **Clearly Reformed** of which many of you volunteer and serve. They also run a small candle business, called *Saddlewood*. Welcome, **Barry**!



Deacon: Stephen Williams

Grew up on the mission field in Brazil. His parents led him to the Lord when he was eight. With a BSBA degree from Auburn University, he is a carpenter and owner of *Williams Custom Carpentry*. He is active in our choir and involved in the Men's Ministry. Welcome, **Stephen!**



HYMN HISTORIES

By Peggy Dear

BATTLE HYMN OF THE REPUBLIC

Julia Ward Howe wrote these lyrics during the heart of the Civil War. She sent the words to the Atlantic Monthly magazine and received an honorarium of five dollars. But the money wasn't her concern. Her purpose was to provide some wholesome lyrics for the tune "*John Brown's Body Lies A-Moldering in the Grave*." She accomplished that and more. When **President Abraham Lincoln** first heard the hymn, he asked to have it sung again. Soon the entire nation was singing this song. The text is filled with biblical allusions. The expression "*grapes of wrath*" refers to Revelation 8. For the Christian, the message of the hymn is that God's truth is eternal. Although circumstances may appear overwhelmingly difficult, God will accomplish His purposes, and His truth will endure. Nations may rise and fall but God's truth remains forever. "*His truth is marching on.*"

BATTLE HYMN OF THE REPUBLIC

***Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord,
He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored;
He hath loosed the fateful lightning of His terrible swift sword -
His truth is marching on.***

***Glory! glory, hallelujah!
Glory! glory, hallelujah!
Glory! glory, hallelujah!
His truth is marching on.***

***I have seen Him in the watch fires of a hundred circling camps,
They have builded Him an altar in the evening dews and damps;
I can read His righteous sentence by the dim and flaring lamps -
His day is marching on.***

*He has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never sound retreat,
He is sifting out the hearts of men before His judgement seat,
O be swift my soul, to answer Him! be jubilant, my feet!
Our God is marching.*

*In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea,
With a glory in His bosom that transfigures you and me;
As He died to make men holy, let us die to make men free,
While God is marching on.*

JULIA WARD HOWE (1819-1910)



THE BIBLE, SCIENCE, AND THE BATTLE FOR AMERICA'S SOUL
by John G. West

This book, published in March 2026, should be read by all American citizens according to the author.

America is the only nation founded on a creed, the **DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE**, the greatest political document in human history. We are not defined by ethnicity, religion or geography. Our foundations are human rights, limited government and equal treatment under the law. We do not make a pilgrimage to the tombs of our leaders or visit embalmed bodies of ex-leaders. However, the **DECLARATION** has been under attack in the name of **SCIENCE** for several decades and still is! Critics claim humans are not equal, we have evolved and rights are given by government, not the **CREATOR**. This book explains the role of science and refutes their beliefs as related to the **DECLARATION**.

Greatly venerated in the early days, the statements in the **DECLARATION** represent bedrock truths: "We hold these truths to be self-evident", "All men are created equal", (the most quoted), "All men are endowed by their **CREATOR** with certain unalienable rights", "Among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness", and "From the consent of the governed". The statement "All men are created equal" receives the most criticism so therefore the author lists 7 ways men are created equal; 1. We are made by the same God, 2. Humans are rational beings, 3. Humans possess a moral sense, 4. Humans are uniquely fitted for religion, 5. Humans possess eternal souls, 6. Humans are subject to failure and corruption, 7. Our rights are natural rights given by God and therefore cannot be taken away by others. Critics have viciously attacked these foundational points. The energy behind these critics is that of social and natural scientists whose value of science directly contrasts with the truth of **CREATION**.

The **SLAVERY** issue raised numerous ethical and religious questions and collided with Christian beliefs. The **V. P. of the Confederacy, Alexander Stephens**, bragged that the south's constitution was far superior to the U. S. Constitution. He boasted that the negro is not equal to the white man. Unfortunately, many scientists jumped into the fray and attempted to support the Confederate Constitution. All this controversy occurred about 30 years after the publishing of **Darwin's** book, **The Origin of Species**, which challenged American concepts of human equality, the relationship of man

and nature, etc. Again, our rights come from the CREATOR. Thus, the battle between science and the DECLARATION began!

DARWINISM is still vastly misunderstood. It is much more than just an evolution. DARWINISM cuts deeply into the fabric of our basic beliefs concerning the CREATION. For instance, it denies the existence of a CREATOR, denies human equality, human exceptionalism, life after death, natural moral law, and both limited government and consent of the governed (COVID).

Consider these historical facts of the IMPACT of DARWINISM:

- >In 1900 only 17% of biologist and 13% of psychologist believed in God.
- >In 1910 a Congolese man was placed in a cage with an orangutan in the Bronx Zoo and was observed for several years by the visitors to the zoo. The NY Times endorsed this evil exhibition.
- >Accordingly, in 1920 new and strict immigration laws were implemented.
- > In the same era a prominent Chicago biologist who believed in evolution endorsed legalizing infanticide for babies with a birth defect.
- >**President Woodrow Wilson** claimed the DECLARATION was an “*evolving document*” (sound familiar?) and this began the onslaught of additional restrictive regulations typical of the “New Deal” and “The Great Society” which followed.
- >1932 saw the tragedy of Eugenics with some 60,000 low-income citizens being sterilized.
- > Nazi Germany responded a few years later by murdering 6 million Jews in the creation of a science designed Master Race, a terrible lie.
- > In the late 1940’s Harvard trained zoologist and Darwinist, **Alfred Kinsey**, released his falsely researched and toxic report on human sexuality. So, the call for scientocracy had a real impact from 1832 to the present day.

THE BACK TO THE FUTURE chapter describes how new SCIENCE at first agreed with the Founding Fathers, then faltered in the Darwin era and is now pointing to the CREATOR who gave us life and liberty, affirming the Bible. Of course, there’s still, as always, residual resistance. Also, the misuse of science during COVID times is packed with details of government overreach. Most Americans agreed with the miracle of God’s creation until 1832 when Darwinism arrived on the scene. Unfortunately, evolution captured their imagination with the infamous Scopes “monkey trial” of 1925 in Dayton, TN. In the early 1900’s most of the scientific community embraced Darwinism which tried to kill the Bible’s truth. Then, the pendulum swung to the reality of God, thanks in part to **Stephen Meyer** who taught at Whitmore College in Spokane. **Meyer** focused on these 3 major scientific discoveries:

1. The Universe had a beginning, 2. The Universe is tuned for life. 3. Information drives Biology.
- Another milestone of 2025 is the discovery that humans and chimps are not different by 1% DNA, but by 14-15%, disproving the myth of only 1% difference.

COVID made **President Eisenhower’s** earlier prediction come true. He warned America of the danger that public policy could become the policy of “scientific technological elite”. COVID represents astonishing expansion of government power when you consider how the policies were applied: lock downs of business and churches, vaccination mandates on low-risk children, discrimination against people based on their personal medical choices, censorship of dissenting scientific views, etc. Only a few of these policies were enacted by legislative action, but by executive branch of government. Free speech took a hit. We were told “*misinformation*” would not be tolerated! The fundamental right of a citizen to determine what medical treatment to receive was severely challenged! The push to have all children vaccinated even though they were low-risk status is a classic example of the violation of “the consent of the governed”! We insist on government by consent rather than government by unelected elites.

America's future is yet to be determined. Our greatest threat is from within, especially now with the rise of Socialism/Communism in several of our largest cities. We urgently need to return to biblical truth as expressed in the [DECLARATION](#). We do not need to be regulated "cradle to grave".

The author has a brilliant rebuttal to science, using the words of [Abraham Lincoln](#) in 1858 during his debate with Illinois senator [Stephen Douglas](#): *"While pretending no indifference to earthly honors, I do claim to be activated in this contest by something higher than an anxiety to public office. I charge you to drop every paltry and insignificant thought for any man's success. It is nothing. I am nothing. Senator Douglas is nothing. But do not destroy that immortal emblem of humanity—THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE"*.

[John G. West is V. P. of Discovery Institute and the Distinguished Scholar of American Government and Civic Engagement at Cornerstone University.](#)

[Submitted by Hugh Wise September 2026](#)

[Book Review](#)

[THE FEDERALIST](#)

[ALEXANDER HAMILTON, JAMES MADISON AND JOHN JAY](#)

[Phoenix Press. 2000](#)

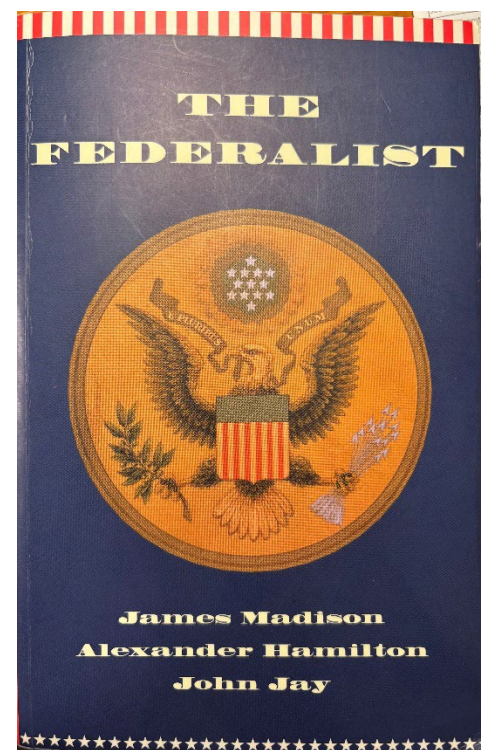
The Federalist papers consist of 85 brief articles published between October 1787 and April 1788, or about three a week during those seven months. They appeared in various newspapers of the day throughout the 13 states and were intended to defend, explain and support the newly written US Constitution as it was being considered for ratification by the state legislatures. The articles work through every section of the constitution and in each case deal with detractors' concerns.

This is not an easy book to read. The language is elaborate and I would say "stilted;" perhaps intentionally so or maybe it is simply written in the legal style. That the average American of the day would be able to read it is perhaps a benchmark of general literacy that we should take note of today.

I would call the argumentation in favor of the constitution highly technical. By that I mean the language is precise and the discussion elaborate and rigorous and is supported with sound historical arguments. Of course, the matter being considered calls for this depth and scholarship, and I am grateful they undertook this effort.

The style between the three authors is identical such that it is difficult to determine the authorship of each based on style. I think this uniformity of style indicates that the articles were planned out, and authorship assigned at the beginning.

That criticism aside, this is an amazing book. Every American should read it, for it explains and defends our Constitution in every



part. It is so comprehensive in discussing the Constitution that I wonder if this represents the substance of the argumentation as it took place on the floor of the convention in Independence Hall during the summer of 1787.

But not only are the virtues of each part of the constitution argued, there is much scholarly discussion of various governmental systems throughout history from ancient Greece to modern England. They also considered the quality of individual state constitutions taking lessons from them. The Constitutional Convention was fully aware of alternate constitutions, their virtues and failings. This represents a form of debate missing from political dialog today, in which there are agitated appeals to emotion without regard to sober analysis.

A sub theme of this book is the terrible situation the United States found itself in regarding the "Articles of Confederation" which was universally disliked and which had proven unworkable. Some wished simply to make improvements to the Articles of -Confederation but the US Congress nevertheless charged the states to appoint representatives to start over on a better constitution. It was a magnificent success. The reasons for the weakness of Confederation are noted, and these serve to cause me to reflect on Lincoln's determination to preserve the union in 1861. A confederation of southern states, if it had been allowed to succeed, could have ultimately resulted in a complete break up of not only the southern states but probably the northern states as well. The dangers and weaknesses of a confederation are clearly explained.

Paper number 54 deals with the sensitive issue of slavery. Were slaves people or property? If property they counted as wealth and figured in taxation. If people, they counted toward population counts for representation. Unspoken here but clearly outlined is the absurdity of this situation. Some 70 years in the future the issue will be decided by blood: slaves are people.

Which brings me to the great underlying theme in this book, and in the Constitution itself. It is the prevailing theme of the sinfulness of man and the impossibility of entrusting unchecked power to any single person or group. In this I can confidently assert; the US Constitution is a Christian document. Not because it places Jesus Christ at the center of public life, but because of its underlying assumption is the rebellion of mankind. This principle is so dominant that it can be said to be a monument to Man's unworthiness. It is only a small step after accepting this view of sinfulness to the need for supernatural redemption.

Chris Williams September 2026

****** SOLISTA SEPTEMBER EVENT ******

SENIOR JEOPARDY!

We are looking for volunteers to help our activity at **Solista Charlotte Retirement Center** on **Thursday, September 24th at 2:00 PM**, as we'll be hosting **Senior Jeopardy**. Just like the TV quiz show called Jeopardy, residents will be in teams and will answer questions on topics from the 1950s and 1960s. Desserts and refreshments will be provided, and fun prizes will be given out as well.

This will be an enjoyable time to spend 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, September 24, 2026
Time: 2:00 PM

If you are interested in volunteering or would like more information, please email craigqaitan@yahoo.com, or call his cell phone at 614-312-3619.

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

CAREGIVERS – MEMORY CARE MINISTRY

Christ Covenant is partnering with Atrium Health to host a Memory Care Workshop to educate caregivers about dementia by providing information on topics like Caregiving and Disease Education, Communication and Behavior, Supporting a Loved One's Independence, and Planning Ahead. The workshop is free and all materials will be provided!

There will be six workshops held on Monday evenings beginning Monday, October 5th from 7:00 pm-8:30pm in CLC 3-4.

This workshop is for current caregivers and those who may need to take care of aging parents/relatives/friends in the future. Even if you are not a current caregiver, you may know someone who could benefit from this opportunity. We encourage you to invite them to join us.

Please register by using the **SignUp Genius link below** by Sunday, October 4th or contact **Gaylene Scheide** at gscheide@christcovenant.org.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F45A8A72CA1FFC16-65152493-memory#/>

PLANNING YOUR FUNERAL WORKSHOP THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22ND

We have invited the staff of **Murphy Funeral Home**, Indian Trail to join us on Thursday, October 22nd in WC Room 201 at 7pm. They will go over various topics including burials, the advantages of pre-planning, transferring existing pre-arrangements and servicing other funeral home contracts. Also on hand will be a Wills and Trust attorney to offer free advice to those that might have trusts in other states, the benefits of trusts versus wills in the state of North Carolina. **Murphy Funeral Home gives 10 percent off to all Christ Covenant Members**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0444AAAF2EA2FC1-65290022-funeral>

SOLISTA "BIG BAND DAY" SUCCESS!

Thank you for volunteering, as well as those who baked desserts.

The turnout was better than expected with close to 50 residents attending in the activity room and outside lobby!

The residents and staff mentioned they enjoy our activities and love our church for doing so much. You are all the **reason** that the residents attend, and I thank you for sharing your time and love for them. I also sent a note to Pastor Bruce explaining how all of you are the reason this program is successful as well.

Peggy Dear absolutely enjoyed her **99th** birthday celebration, cake, card and the dance. You all made her week! **Craig Gaitan**



PLEASE JOIN US FOR AMAZING FELLOWSHIP
AT THE FALL KICK OFF LUNCH ON FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4TH!

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

Speaker: **Bruce Creswell**, Pastor of Senior Adults

Menu: Hamburgers, Baked Beans, Cole Slaw, Chips, Dessert

Cost: \$7/person (payable at the luncheon by cash or check). To reserve your spot, please RSVP by Sunday, Aug. 30 on this **SignUp Genius**, or by phone to **Jenny Blackmon**, ministry admin. at **704-708-6104**.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0444AAAF2EA2FC1-65118392-september#/>

The Ladies' Luncheon will be on Friday, September 11th, at Trio's at 11:30. The address is 10709 McMullen Creek Pkwy (off Pineville-Matthews- Road).

Please let **Dot Branson (704-575-5955)** know that you will be there for great food and sweet fellowship.

The Senior Men's lunch will be Friday, September 18 @ 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.

I'll be in California with my son Steve and family and will ask another to lead for me. 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, 704-661-8201 mobile or 704-846-4074 home), just to help me with Park Place expectations. Thanks.

JOY SINGERS RESUME!

The **Joy Singers** rehearsals begin on **Monday, September 21**, 1:30-2:30 in room # 201 Of the Worship Center.

The **Joy Singers** offer senior citizens a meaningful way to worship, socialize, keep their minds and voices active, and minister in the community. Come join us as we learn and prepare hymns, anthems, and seasonal music. Contact **Janice Barnett** for more information. **704-573-9269**.

HAPPY FALL, Y'ALL!



Marg Davis	Sept 1
Mary Webb	Sept 1
Starr Beam	Sept 3
James Goebel Jr.	Sept 3
Dana Lamb	Sept 4
Deborah Barton	Sept 5
Frances Lee	Sept 6
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
Carolyn Creswell	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
Jim Stoudenmire	Sept 24
Buddy Parker Jr.	Sept 25
Allison Kitchen	Sept 28
Anne Hopkins	Sept 29
Linda Morris	Sept 29
Carol Zachary	Sept 29

Dana & Dee Lamb	Sept 5
Ronnie & Gay-Ellen Fisher	Sept 5
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
September 24: Solista Service Project
Prayer Meetings, Tuesdays, 7:00 WC107
Men's Luncheon, Friday, Sept 18, 11am
Park Place Restaurant, Pineville
Ladies Luncheon, Friday, Sept 11 11:30am
Trios Restaurant, McMullen Creek

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

Pastor of Senior Adults and Visitation
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