

Senior Adult's Newsletter
October 2026
Christ Covenant Church



WAVING THE FLAG OF GRACE

Marvelous Grace, Wonderful Grace, Amazing Grace, Never-Ceasing Grace

By Pastor Bruce Creswell

I am waving the flag of **GRACE**, over my 46 years in pastoral ministry. There is only one word that rises to the forefront and that is **"GRACE."** From teaching Bible and US History to my first church, then ten years later to my second church, and ten years later moving to Charlotte, is all **Marvelous GRACE.**

This October marks my 25th year serving as Pastor to the Senior Adults at Christ Covenant Church. I am amazed at the privilege and the calling of serving here. The Lord had put within my heart as a young boy a passion for senior adults that has only grown and mature over the years, preparing me for the call to pastor here. It is all **Wonderful GRACE.** A passion and a call combine continuing over these 25 years.

These 25 years have born witness of God's gracious, good hand! He has continually enlarged our borders blessing us with new seniors, so much so that we have an overflow room to accommodate everyone. (starting out with 20 in our class to now over 130 average). Reaching out to the new folks we seek to draw them into our growing community. On Sunday morning, fellowship is to be found, and hearts encouraged around coffee and snacks, then followed by faithful teaching of the Word by gifted men, with our faith strengthened and our hope renewed.

We have enjoyed opportunities of reinvesting in the lives of others, in sharing God's **Amazing Grace**. Many of you are involved serving in the different areas of the church: the choir, the orchestra, the nursery, greeters, teaching, leading Bible studies and small groups, card ministry, hospitality, mentoring young couples & young people, Trail Life, American Heritage Girls, evangelism, missions, Afghan ministry, ESL, prison ministry, Gideons, providing meals, CDS, senior newsletter, visiting homebound members, mercy ministry, and ushering. And let's not forget our outreach to **Solista Charlotte Independent Living** by reaching out on Sunday mornings to lead a worship service and provide monthly social activities. Even though the list is this long, there are no doubt ministries we have unintentionally overlooked.

Our community has also encountered its share of trials and grief, only to find **Never-Ceasing Grace**. Many of our folks have gone on to Heaven. Sickness and failing health continue to make their presence known. And so, we come along side of each other to comfort and pray during these times of heartache and affliction. The outpouring of encouragement gushes out in calls, cards, food, flowers, visits, providing rides, house and yard care. Support and presence have been the natural and constant response of our folks at such times.

From children, to teens, to young adults, to young families, and to empty nesters- all have been blessed by God's **GRACE** abounding in the lives of the senior adult community throughout these 25 years. I never imagined when starting out 46 years ago, that I would be called to such a church like Christ Covenant Church, working alongside a great pastoral staff and shepherding you folks, which I love and enjoy being with.

GRACE that has led me safe thus far and **GRACE will lead me home!**

- **2 Corinthians 9:8: "God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work."**

The title for my article came from Pastor Kevin's message on 9-6-26. The four subtitles are taken from hymns of Grace.



HYMN HISTORIES

By Peggy Dear

GOD BLESS AMERICA

Irving Berlin was a soldier in the Army in Upstate New York in 1918 when he was asked by his commanding officers to write a song for a fund-raising review. The song he wrote was **God Bless America**. It was written for the soldiers to march to and **Berlin** decided after it was completed that he wanted to keep it as a ballad, so he put it in his discarded songs box.

In 1938, **Kate Smith** was planning her radio broadcast for the first National Armistice Day program and she contacted **Berlin** asking him for a patriotic song. He remembered **God Bless America**, and they worked jointly to make some changes in the song.

Kate Smith premiered the song on her radio program November 11, 1938. From the 1940's to today, it is sung for the love of country. After 9/11 when members of Congress sang it on the Capitol steps, it became a symbol of unity and religious tolerance.

GOD BLESS AMERICA

While the storm clouds gather far across the sea,

Let us swear our allegiance to a land that's free.

Let us all be grateful for a land so fair,

As we raise our voices in a solemn prayer.

God bless America, land that I love.

Stand beside her and guide her

Through the night, with the light from above.

From the mountains to the prairie

To the ocean white with foam

God bless America, my home sweet home.

God bless America, my home sweet home.

Irving Berlin (1888-1989)

Book Review

Editor's Note: We are blessed each month with intelligent and insightful book reviews by members of our Senior Adults class. This month we are treated to two book reviews on the same book authored by a noted Christian writer. These were submitted by our two great reviewers Chris Williams and Hugh Wise without the foreknowledge of each other's work. Great minds think alike! I strongly recommend that you read both completely since they have taken on the job of reading all 577 pages of this remarkable book to provide you with reviews.

REVOLUTION

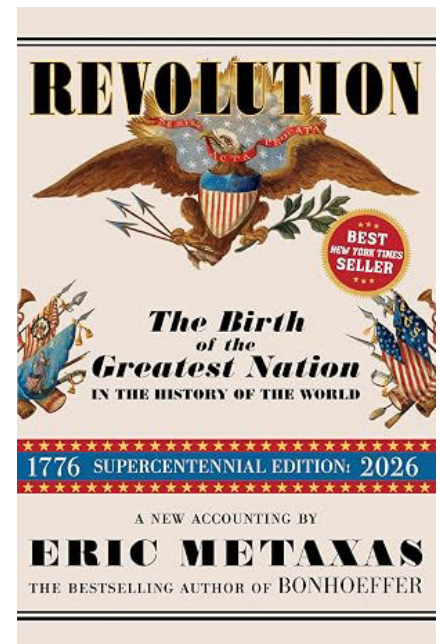
The Birth of the Greatest Nation in the History of the World

By Eric Metaxas. Skyhorse Publishing 2026. 577pages.

r. **Metaxas** delivers another readable history with a strong Christian interpretation. It is a history that I have read much about, yet the author brings up details and interesting anecdotes new to me, while uncovering much Christian thought and intentions that other more secular treatments overlook. It is the account of the American Revolution framed in the contrast between British decadent corruption and the Christian piety of our founders. He focuses on two figures in America, **John Adams** and **George Washington**, while exposing the corrupt practices of the British parliament, **King George III**, and the leaders of their military here. But this is not a screed against England, but an affirmation of the Christian ethics practiced widely in America in that time and place. If you have seen the movie, *"The Great Awakening,"* you will understand his references to the impact **George Whitefield** had on the pre-revolutionary culture. **Whitefield** arrived here in 1738, "...and for three decades preached more tirelessly throughout the Colonies than anyone can reasonably imagine, such that nearly three-quarters of their inhabitants heard him in person at least once." p137. The effect of this was to unify the otherwise factional Christian groups under the single devotion to the Gospel and the sovereignty of God. When the revolution began there was a spiritual foundation in America against the cruel and arbitrary conduct of the British army that used violence to try and intimidate the Patriots. The moral outrage of Americans only served to strengthen their resolve to become a free and independent nation.

Metaxas also, lest you think he whitewashed all the patriots indiscriminately, exposes the worldliness of two persons in the American war effort. **General Charles Lee** and **Colonel Benedict Arnold** are contrasted with the stable and humble **George Washington**. These men are seen as self-serving and destructively ambitious.

Then there is *"Humphrey Ploughjogger."* This was a new one! There was an important trial in 1761, when **James Otis** delivered a long expository lecture against the British *"Writs of Assistance,"* which permitted British Colonial officials to enter anyone's home and search for any goods not legally imported under British import restrictions. **John Adams** was present at this trial and



later declared it, ***“the opening scene of the Revolution.”*** Four years later **John Adams** wrote a series of four essays published in the Boston Gazette, showing the Christian roots of Liberty. They were published under the pen name of **Humphrey Ploughjogger**, since they might be taken as treasonous by the English. Here **Metaxas** credits **Adams** with the philosophical and spiritual beginnings of the revolution. What a fascinating narrative!

I said the book is readable because it is easy to read and very entertaining. And with the Christian interpretive framework, it is even more delightful. If **Metaxas** is to be believed, the roots and origins of our nation are far more fundamentally Christian than commonly thought. He places emphasis that the founding fathers were mostly NOT deist but seemingly reformed in their belief in the sovereignty of God and His intervention in the unfolding efforts to reform colonial government and eventually establishing a new kind of government never before attempted. The leaders were constantly appealing to God’s providential care and to prayer on a national scale.

The British on the other hand are presented as completely decadent (proudly immoral) in their conduct. Even when the Patriots made sincere appeals to Christian concerns, they were rebuked, scorned or simply ignored by the King and his Parliament.

Of course, England was mostly blind to the thoughts and longings of the colonies. They were callous in their disregard of freedom’s yearnings. This was not only because of the moral state of the leadership in England but because they could not comprehend the end to which all these events were headed; the elimination of the Church/State structure and the ending of the hereditary aristocracy. These were the things the early immigrants to America came to get away from. The culture of independence was thus established in the 17th century and passed down so that there was no interest in moving backward to the old European feudalism.

Metaxas ties the American aspirations explicitly to the Reformation. In January 1776, Thomas Paine published his book, **Common Sense**. This book had a profound impact on the dramatic events leading to the Declaration of Independence in July. In that book **Paine** notes, ***“The Reformation was preceded by the discovery of America: As if the Almighty graciously meant to open a sanctuary to the persecuted in future years, when home should afford neither friendship nor safety.”*** (p307) Later **Metaxas** writes: ***“(John) Adams therefor also cited the Reformation idea that everyone must think for himself, which we have sometimes blurred into being and Enlightenment principle. “Truth loves an appeal to the common sense of mankind,” he said, and “He who made all men hath made the truths necessary to human happiness obvious to all.”*** (p339)

The American Revolution was deeply intellectual. By that I mean it was deeply spiritual. The level of philosophical and Biblical/theological thought is amazing. And I would say it should set a standard for political thought and speech making today. Sadly, I am afraid it does not. But such writing as that of **Metaxas** may help us to consider again the spiritual foundations of our wonderful nation and serve to call us back to the Bible and to dependence on God for our liberty and safety.

Submitted by Chris Williams
October 2026

REVOLUTION

The Birth of the Greatest Nation in the History of the World by Eric Metaxas

The author has written seven N Y Times bestsellers, including [Revolution](#), [Bonhoeffer](#), [Martin Luther](#) and [Amazing Grace](#). He's also the founder and host of [Socrates in the City](#) and the [Eric Metaxas Show](#).

Daniel Webster said many years ago, ***"No age will come in which the American Revolution will appear less that it is, one of the greatest events in human history"***.

The book is 577 pages divided into 44 fact-filled chapters. Once started, I had a difficult time stopping, but a slow read is probably best to enjoy and appreciate the full story. Only six of the lesser-known stories are reviewed. However, every chapter is compelling!

[John Adams](#), age 30, in 1765 when the Stamp Act was implemented, which caused great anxiety for the Patriots, wrote many essays which were published in the [Boston Gazette](#) using the pen name ***"Humphrey Ploughjogger,"*** and was the first to write extensively about freedom, not slavery, to the Crown, and the coming ***"Golden Age"***. His writings linked the Protestant Reformation, liberty, Protestant and Puritan Faith and rights given by the Great Legislator of the Universe. He stressed the need for general knowledge if the Republic is to survive. His writings were almost treasonous because he showed little mercy to the Crown and stated Americans would never be subjugated to England. In essence he was a Prophetic Patriot who sparked the flame for the revolution.

Before fast forwarding to the next story, I will list some of the other familiar events or icons described in factual details, but not mentioned in this review: [John Hancock](#), [Boston Massacre](#) (1770), [Boston Tea Party](#) (92,000 pounds of tea tossed), [First Continental Congress](#), [Patrick Henry](#), [Paul Revere](#), [Lexington](#) and [Concord](#) (1775).

Building a New World. [Thomas Paine](#) described it well, ***"The cause of America is in a great measure the cause of all mankind."*** ***"The birth of a new world is at hand"***. In 1776 [Paine](#) authored a booklet of 47 pages called ***"Common Sense"***. In only 3 months of 1776 when America's population was 2 million it sold 75,000 copies and sparked pro-independence thinking. America had basically governed itself for 150 years, but now it was obvious [King George III](#) had total control of the colonies in mind. The world had basically consisted of monarchies throughout history and corruption was the common denominator of most of them. [Paine's "Common Sense"](#) had a powerful influence on the patriots from Connecticut to Georgia and demonstrated the axiom, ***"The pen is mightier than the sword"***. [Paine](#) clearly connected with the Christians and stated, ***"The sun never shined on a cause of greater worth"***.

[Henry Knox](#) is one of the unsung heroes of the Revolution. In late 1775 [George Washington](#) faced a huge dilemma. There was [No](#) artillery! However, Fort Ticonderoga had 120,000 pounds of cannons, but it was 300 miles from Boston. Crossing four frozen rivers in the dead of winter with the vast uncertainty of wind (open water transportation), snow up to three feet deep, ice and the 3000-foot elevation of the Berkshire Mountains would be a monumental task! [Knox](#) somehow made it work! In Boston the cannons were used to blast the English and their 170 ships, forcing an English evacuation.

July 4, 1776, is a bit misleading because the Declaration was not signed until August 2. This brought Christianity into the world in a new way by rejecting monarchy, church appointed saints and the yoke of papery. God's plan was unfolded! It was a bonding of civil government with principles of Christianity. A statue of **King George III** was melted down into 42,000 musket balls.

God Worked in mysterious ways to save America during what the book calls the Battle of Brooklyn. **Washington's** army consisted of 20,000 men, but they were outnumbered 3 to 1! British forces included the barbaric Hessian/German troops. The British had positioned their forces and their huge fleet in such a way that the Americans were in **"checkmate"**. **Washington's** only way out was an unseen crossing of the East River, a mile wide with strong currents generated by strong winds. So, in the darkness of night they gathered a large flotilla of small crafts. However, the Northeast wind was not cooperating until it suddenly stopped and was replaced by ideal wind conditions from the Southeast. In the darkness, they moved the troops across the river, but by sunup around 5:30 A. M. it was mathematically obvious the process was much too slow to evacuate all 20,000 men and it had to be ceased, and all appeared doomed! Then, the miracle happened! An extremely dense fog with a visibility of 15 feet descended! Pundits are undecided as to mere meteorology or a deliberate act of God, but all historians agreed it saved our army and nation because the fog immediately lifted when the river crossing process was completed. God's hand was most assuredly providing for the birth of the greatest nation.

What is the Impact For America? The war was officially over in 1783, but in many respects, it's still continuing and always will be. When asked if America had been given a monarchy or a republic, **Ben Franklin** replied, **"a republic, madam, if you can keep it."** This unprecedented triumph of the Revolution is only the beginning. Consider this profound statement by **John Adams**: **"Our constitution was made for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other."** Therefore, our culture must have a goodly amount of robust religious faith. But faith cannot be mandated, so what's the answer? The **"Establishment Clause"** is the answer which insists everyone would be free to believe whatever or not to believe. Therefore, **"Religious Liberty"** is intact, and the term has complete integrity! Our duty of keeping our freedom rests strictly on **"we the people"**.

A deep gap exists between the world we live in today and the deeply Christian beliefs of our forefathers, and obviously this creates friction. The America that emerged post 1776 was neither theocratic or secular, but profoundly Christian and in a way that respecting people's religious liberty is at the heart of true Christian faith. Without Christian faith there could be no liberty as the forefathers understood liberty.

The present-day secularists among our cultural elites remind us of the sneering attitude toward virtue and faith of the British 250 years ago! But remember darkness cannot extinguish the light. Many have died while defending our freedom during the twelve score and ten years since our conception, and we have unfinished work to do as we face the threat of communism in our God-given Land of the Free.

Submitted by **Hugh Wise**
October 2026

SENIOR STORIES

"One Senior's Life Story"

(printed with permission of the writer)

All Senior classmates are invited to guess who this story belongs to.

Mary (not her real name) was born the only child of a godly mother and an unbelieving father. **Mary** was born in northern Minnesota. When she was still a baby, they moved to a ranch in South Dakota where they had cattle and some horses. She has happy memories of that time, but her father's alcoholism was a huge problem, and finally he decided to sell the ranch and moved to San Diego, CA where he became first a vacuum cleaner salesman and then an insurance salesman. He was a wonderful salesman, but his drinking and gambling were constant problems in his life, as well as in **Mary's** and her mother's lives. But God was always faithful.

Mary and her mother began to attend a church in the neighborhood where the Gospel was clearly presented. When her father left them, the pastor of this church enfolded her and her mother into their family, and she had a wonderful godly male role model in her life as a result. Her mother became the main secretary at the church, since she needed income. **Mary** and her mother moved right across the street from the church so that **Mary** could pop into the church office when she got home from school. It was a good situation for both of them.

Mary enjoyed and thrived under the teaching of the church and the musical program there. She was very involved in singing groups, and the church was a big part of her growing up years. It was in one of those singing groups that she met **Sam** (not his real name), and they began spending time together getting acquainted. He spent a lot of time just hanging out with **Mary** and her mother and was always welcome. **Mary** was attending a local junior college at that time.

At some point during that year plus, their relationship turned into something more than friendship, and they decided to marry. They both had an interest in missions but didn't know just how God would lead them. As they moved forward to pursue the training that **Sam** would need for his aviation certificates, the Lord opened the right doors at the right times. At one point, they moved to Tulsa, OK while **Sam** attended Spartan School of Aeronautics. **Mary** worked full time to make that possible. They moved back to San Diego; **Sam** finished his flight training and then applied to **Wycliffe**.

The missionary training they went through was not easy for **Mary**, but God helped her through the difficult times and proved Himself faithful. It was a joy to serve in Peru. It was a wonderful place to parent their two sons. It was hard for them to leave when the Lord called them back to **JAARS** headquarters for **Sam** to serve as President. But the Lord confirmed each step along the way. That's why it is such a joy to serve Him. He always lets us know when we are at the place of His choosing. It has been a rich, rewarding life as **Sam's** helpmeet and with God at the helm.

Submitted by Patty Marion
October 2026

MEMORY CARE WORKSHOP FOR CURRENT OR FUTURE CAREGIVERS WEEKLY BEGINNING OCT. 5

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, Support a Loved One's Independence, and Planning Ahead. 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.

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**. **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#/>

SEMINAR: PLANNING A FUNERAL FOR A LOVED ONE OR YOURSELF

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22ND

The staff of Murphy Funeral Home, Indian Trail, have been invited to Christ Covenant on **Thursday, October 22nd, 7pm, in WC 201**. They will go over various topics including burials, the advantages of preplanning, 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**. Please register at this link.
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0444AAAF2EA2FC1-65290022-funeral>

**There is not a Senior's Luncheon this Month due to
the Senior Adult's Retreat.**

The next one is scheduled for Friday, November 6.

The Ladies' Luncheon will be on Friday, October 9th, 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, October 23 @ 11:00am, at Park Place Restaurant. Note the change in day due to the Senior's Retreat. 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, 704-661-8201 mobile or 704-846-4074 home), just to help me with Park Place expectations. Thanks.

"Sing and make music in your hearts to the Lord". Ephesians 5:19



Joy Singers- Senior Adult's Retreat, Ft. Caswell 2024

Our Senior Adult choir, **Joy Singers**, is a community of those who want to come together to sing and serve! This is a fun community! Join the Joy Singers (no auditions) each Monday at 1:30 pm in room #201 in the Worship Center.

Did you know? Singing in a choir provides a sense of purpose-working together toward a shared routine. Controlled breathing during singing expands lung capacity and strengthens the diaphragm. This is an opportunity to make a commitment to better health, to serve God through music ministry and share the gracious gift of music with others.

For more information contact Janice Barnett, director (704-562-6562) , or Pam Eash accompanist (980-355-2103).

 **Keep a joyful song ringing in your heart.** 



Bill Hough	Oct 01
Ann Knight	Oct 03
Joe Murray	Oct 04
Nan Bracy	Oct 07
Carol Bodwell	Oct 09
Karen Hott	Oct 09
Rick Ely	Oct 10
Fred Kinney	Oct 10
George Stratis	Oct 10
Lorraine Jacobs	Oct 11
Linda Cormack	Oct 12
Ronnie Fisher	Oct 13
Darlene Richardson	Oct 13
Nellie White	Oct 14
John Swansby	Oct 16
Bob Hott	Oct 18
Ken Compton	Oct 20
Jean Depp	Oct 20
Beth Crimm	Oct 21
Leonie Gilele	Oct 22
Mitch Allison	Oct 26
Julie Kleinsteuber	Oct 26
Judy Salter	Oct 26
Carolyn Carpenter	Oct 29
Bob Stone	Oct 30

Ken & Bev Cochrum	Oct 2
Robert & Katrina Yates	Oct 3
Bill & Barbara Scott	Oct 5
Jeff & Diane Dworek	Oct 7
Tom & Sheila Cox	Oct 9
Dave & Lucille Ruths	Oct 13
David & Julie Kleinsteuber	Oct 15
Tracy & Jenny Blackmon	Oct 19
Gordon & Lorraine Jacobs	Oct 24
Wayne & Carol Bieganousky	Oct 26

OCTOBER SENIOR ADULT ACTIVITIES

Sunday School, Sundays, 9:00 am
 Prayer Meetings, Tuesdays, 7:00 WC107
 Men's Luncheon, Friday, Oct. 23, 11am
 Park Place Restaurant, Pineville
 Ladies Luncheon, Friday, Oct. 9, 11:30am
 Trios Restaurant, McMullen Creek

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A SPECIAL TREAT

For those of you who enjoy classical music, enjoy part of your day listening to some excellent piano performed by Ian Stewart one of our young Christ Covenant members. Just click on or go to the link below for a YouTube video of Ian's recital.

Ian M. Stewart – Piano Recital
Myers Park Presbyterian Church
August 29, 2026

<https://tinyurl.com/IanRecital2026>



"SONGS WITHOUT WORDS"

