



# IPC Messenger

A WEEKLY PUBLICATION OF THE INDEPENDENT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
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## Our Christian Identity Sportsmen – Part 2

We began looking at New Testament athletic metaphors in the August newsletter, elaborating in terms of the intensity and self-control required of winning athletes and victorious Christians. We continue.

### Purpose

*Well, I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air; (1 Cor 9:26)*

Athletes have a purpose. They have a goal. They don't run "aimlessly." They run with intention. They don't box the air. They aim to place their fist right on the tip of their opponent's nose. Their aim is to win the race or the match. So also the Christian life. Our rigorous training, our self-denial, our delayed gratification aims at effectively serving Christ. Self-indulgence of some passion or succumbing to the immediate gratification of some lust would be ruinous to our witness and service. Christians must live with focus, pouring all their energy into the race, aiming every punch at the target, which is the honor of Christ, the glory of God, and the salvation of souls. All our resources and energy are poured into this.

*Run to win. Run for the reward. We anticipate not a perishable reward, as are all earthly rewards, but an imperishable.*

### Adherence to rules

Athletes have to play according to the rules. If they don't, they will be disqualified (v 27). If runners, swimmers, or skaters wander out of the lanes, if shot-putters and javelin throwers step over the lines, they are disqualified. The Apostle Paul says elsewhere,

*An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. (2 Tim 2:5)*

Christians play according to the rules. What rules? God's rules. He *designed* the games. He *officials* the games. He is the *umpire*. One might find the lines of the basketball court restrictive; the rule against two-handed dribbling might seem arbitrary; tackling the opponent as he crosses the mid-court line might seem reasonable. However, if we all play according to our own rules, the result is chaos. The whole game shuts down. The game, as an identifiable entity, ceases to exist and gives way to anarchy. So it is for the Christian. It's God's game, God's rules, and God's officiating. Our task is to play by the rules. Rules are good things. They make non-chaotic life possible. Honor the rules.

### Reward

Finally, we compete for the reward. The Apostle regularly refers to winning the "prize" (v 24), the "wreath" (v 25, probably the crown of foliage, the *stephanos*, awarded at the Olympic and Isthmian games). Because the Apostle "finished the race," he anticipated

### IPC Messenger

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receiving “the crown (*stephanos*) of righteousness,”

*which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.* (2 Tim 4:8)

Run to win. Run for the reward. We anticipate not a perishable reward, as are all earthly rewards, but an imperishable. “Therefore,” says the writer to the Hebrews,

*since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.* (Heb 12:1, 2)

Let us then shed “every encumbrance” and every sin “which so easily entangles us,” and do what? “Run with endurance the race” in which we are called to compete (NASB).

—Terry Johnson

## Music Ministry



Thank you to all the men and women who participated in choir during August.

During September, all the choirs WILL begin for the season.

### Sanctuary Choir

(College – Adult)

*No audition required – you must be able to carry a tune and read parts.*

Begins Wednesday, September 9,  
6:30-8:30 p.m.  
(\*childcare provided)

### Youth Choir

(6<sup>th</sup> grade – 12<sup>th</sup>)

College students are welcome, too)

Begins Sunday, September 13,  
4:00-5:00 p.m.

### Chapel Choir

(2<sup>nd</sup> grade- 5<sup>th</sup> grade)

Begins Sunday,  
September 13, 7:00-7:45 p.m.  
Rehearsal and Ice Cream!

### Handbell Choir

Begins Wednesday, September 16,  
5:30-6:30 p.m.

### Advance Notice:

Lessons and Carols Service —  
December 13

Dress Rehearsal —  
December 12

Children **MUST** be attending rehearsals to participate.

Is serving in the Choir for you? I hope you will prayerfully consider it.

In Christ's Service,  
Kathryn Van Eck

## Moral Concerns

### Life Chain 2015

John Calvin said, “The *foetus* though enclosed in the womb of its mother is already a human being...if it seems more horrible to kill a man in his own house than in a field, because a man's house is his place of most secure refuge, it ought surely to be deemed more atrocious to destroy a *foetus* in the womb before it has come to light.”

To this we would say a hearty “Amen!” However, since the landmark *Roe v. Wade* decision in 1973, the womb has been anything but secure. Over 57,000,000 babies in utero have been murdered at the hands of abortionists.

On October 4, we the members of I.P.C., have the privilege of joining with others in our community to stand for life. Since 1987, Life Chains have been formed in cities across America and Canada. We will quietly but definitely

protest the taking of the lives of the preborn in the name of abortion. Our petitions will be lifted to Almighty God our Sovereign Lord. We will pray for the cleansing of our own hearts and for His mercy on us and on our nation.\*

In recent days, we have been confronted with visual/audible evidence of the heinous crimes committed by the industry known as *Planned Parenthood*. Babies are routinely treated as nothing more than “commodities” to be sold—Though they are “fearfully and wonderfully made” by our loving Creator, they are removed from their place of security and sold as “parts.” Our nation and the world must decide what we/they will do with this information, i.e. ignore it, turn away in horror and try to forget it...We have an opportunity to publicly stand and pray against what is happening—As

Christians, we have a responsibility to speak for those who can't.

Proverbs 24:11 says, “*Rescue those being taken away to death; hold back those who are stumbling to the slaughter.*”

Please prayerfully consider taking part with us in Life Chain 2015. A luncheon will be provided for those who are participating.

\*During the Life Chain hour, excessive chatting, frivolity, and *all verbal and physical responses to passing motorists are strongly discouraged.*

Respectfully,  
Cindy Sutlive  
Right To Life Committee

# Women's Ministry

## Weekly Bible Studies

### Tuesday Morning Bible Study

Women participating in this class take an in-depth look at the books of the Bible, often using study guides written by Peggy Marting. Thought-provoking questions are answered for homework, and women spend time in class discussing their answers. The morning ends with a time of prayer, and once a month women are invited to bring a lunch and enjoy an extended time of fellowship together. This year, Peggy Marting will be teaching lessons from I Kings. This study meets each Tuesday morning from September through the first Tuesday in May on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Whitaker Street building from 10:00 until 11:30 a.m. A nursery is provided. Please contact Judy Daniell for more information. **Begins September 15.** I King study guides are available in the bookstore.

### Tuesday Morning Connections

The aim of this group is to provide a time of connection and encouragement for the women in our church. Each Tuesday morning women enjoy coffee and muffins just before beginning a Bible and book study. Women spend time together considering the truths of scripture and their application, followed by a time of prayer for one another. Once a month women are invited to bring a lunch and enjoy an extended time of fellowship together. This year, Liz Brodmann, Terri Fruit, and Tevis Garnett will lead a study of the books, *The Freedom of Self Forgetfulness* by Tim Keller and *The Accidental Feminist* by Courtney Reissig. This study meets from September through the first Tuesday in May on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of the Whitaker Street building from 10:00 until 11:30 a.m. A nursery is provided. **Begins September 15.**

## Monthly Circles

### Tuesday Morning Circle

The Tuesday Morning Circle meets the second Tuesday of each month from September through May at 10:30 a.m. in rotating locations that will be announced in the *I.P.C. Messenger*. Linda DePue will be teaching on the messages to the churches from the first 3 chapters of Revelation. Please call Rita Spitler for more information. We will meet on September 15, at the home of Ann Rice, 104 Sussex Retreat, Pooler, GA (450-8800).

### Tuesday Evening Circle

The Tuesday Evening Circle meets the first Tuesday of each month from September through May at 7:00 p.m. in Anne Portell's home, 340 E. 50<sup>th</sup> Street. Tevis Garnett will lead a discussion of the books, *The Freedom of Self Forgetfulness* by Tim Keller and *The Accidental Feminist* by Courtney Reissig. Please call Denise Winks for more information. **Begin September 15.**

### Thursday Morning Circle

The Thursday Morning Circle meets the second Thursday of each month from September through May at 10:30 a.m. in rotating locations that will be announced in the *I.P.C. Messenger*. Annette Hartley will be teaching lessons from the book of Matthew using WIC study material by Susan Hunt. Please call Ruthie Mullinix or Betty McLaurin for more information. It will start September 10, in the home of Betty McLaurin, 1226 Bacon Park Drive (355-1552).

### Thursday Morning Islands Circle

The Thursday Morning Islands Circle meets the third Thursday morning of each month from September through May in Fef Nolen's home, 102 Paxton Drive, at 10:00 a.m. This circle meets on the Isle of Hope, but it is open to all women of the church. Emily Moody will be leading a discussion of the book, *Feminine Appeal: Seven Virtues of a Godly Wife and Mother* by Carolyn Mahaney. Please call Fef Nolen for more information. **Begins September 17.**

## All Women Make Plans to Attend!

*From Middle and High School Age and Up*

## Women of the Church Annual Fall Meeting and Tea

Saturday Morning,  
September 26th

Point Pleasant  
10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

*Tracy Wood will lead our meeting and Jennifer Daniell  
will speak about her mission trip to Thailand*

Nursery is provided.

# Children's Ministry

## Dear Parents,

Memorization of the *Shorter Catechism* has been a rite of passage for Presbyterian children for nearly 350 years. It is daunting for parents to undertake to catechize their children. Consequently, every four years Sunday School becomes "catechism school," that is, a year-long class to help our parents. It will be conducted from September 6, 2015 – August 28, 2016 for our 5<sup>th</sup>–8<sup>th</sup> graders who have not previously taken this class.

However, as catechizing is primarily a parental responsibility, so also it is an undertaking which cannot succeed without parental involvement. Here is what we'd like from you.

1. Attend the first class on September 6 with your child/children. Attendance at this class will provide you with a first-hand understanding of the requirements of the class and your participation during the year.
2. Read *The Family Worship Book*, pages 10-12 for background on the subject of catechizing and page 77 for background on *The Shorter Catechism*.
3. Review for 5 minutes per day the questions for the week and answers that have not yet been committed to memory. A little bit each day goes a long way.
4. Pray that the subjects discussed in the catechism would lodge not only in the head but in the heart.
5. Post the enclosed schedule at home so that you'll be able to keep pace. The big dates are:

December 20, 27 –

Recitations on Questions 1-38

May 8, 15 –

Recitations on Questions 39-81

August 21, 28 –

Recitations on Questions 82-107

Jody Robinson, Paul Carpenter and I will do our best. But your daily involvement is essential. Class time itself will be one-half instructional and one-half recitational, but handled in a way that visitors and those who fall behind will not feel alienated.

Sincerely in Christ,  
Terry L. Johnson

It takes a small army of volunteers to minister to our covenant children. Each Sunday there are members who use their gifts to teach our children.

This summer Linden Helmlly, Fun Gobel, and Liz Brodmann taught our four-year-olds and kindergartners. Lauren Espinosa and Lindsey Van Puffelen led our first through sixth graders on a wonderful journey through *Pilgrim's Progress*. Please take a moment to thank these dear servants for answering the call.

As we look toward our fall quarter, there are a few items for prayer. Please remember those members who will be teaching the catechism to our children. Sue Hinely will be instructing the first and second grades and Bev Van Grouw will lead the third and fourth grades, in a study of the *Children's Catechism*. Terry Johnson will be teaching our fifth through eighth graders *The Shorter Catechism*. Please pray for our children that God's word will be hidden in their hearts.

## DEEPEST APPRECIATION

Each Sunday, our four and five year olds leave during our morning service to participate in Children's Church. There they

not only hear a lesson from God's word but they review elements of our service, preparing them for their time to stay during the morning hour. This is a vital part of the ministry to our children.

For the past two years our Children's Church has been led by Allison Kelly. Allison has taken and strengthened our Children's Church into a well-run educational ministry. She was instrumental in changing our curriculum to *The Jesus Storybook Bible*. She also recruited a number of volunteers so each member is scheduled to teach only once a calendar year. As her service draws to a close, on behalf of a very grateful congregation, we would like to thank Allison for her faithful dedication to our children.

Another group of members who have gone above and beyond to teach and encourage our children is our Diaconate. One would be hard-pressed to find another church where a group of ordained officers has stepped forward to teach Children's Church each Sunday. May our God richly bless these men and their wives for standing in the gap.

—Amy Martin

## Why We Invest a Year of Catechizing

The catechizing of children is the historic method that has been employed by Presbyterian churches for the instruction of covenant children since the time of the Reformation. The catechism format is that of question and answer:

### Q. What is the chief end of man?

A. Man's chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever;

This system committed to memory, covering the whole scheme of Christian theology, is the tested and proven means of transmitting the content of our faith to our children.

Every four years we offer an opportunity during our Sunday School hour for our

children to participate in the instruction of catechizing and learning the *Westminster Confession of Faith*. Beginning September 6, during the Sunday School hour, we will be providing an intensive catechism class for 1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> (*Children's Catechism*) and 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> (*Westminster Shorter Catechism*) graders while our 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> graders will be taught *The Westminster Confession of Faith*. We encourage our children and their parents to enthusiastically join in this endeavor to learn the catechisms and study the confession in this coming year.

Parents of 5<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> graders, you are encouraged to attend the first class with your child in order to glean an understanding of what the curriculum will cover.

Grade	Topic	Teacher	Location
1-2	<i>Children's Catechism</i>	Sue Hinely	Whitaker fl. 1
3-4	<i>Children's Catechism</i>	Bev Van Grouw	Whitaker fl. 1
5-8	<i>Westminster Shorter Catechism</i> (schedule)	Terry Johnson Paul Carpenter Jody Robinson	Whitaker fl. 2
9-12	<i>Westminster Confession of Faith</i>	Tim Foster Paul Rodgers	Whitaker fl. 3



# I.P.C. Shorter Catechism Class

Gr. 5-8

Teachers: Terry Johnson (TJ), Jody Robinson (JR), Paul Carpenter (PC)

September, 2015 – August, 2016

1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter				2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter			
<i>Week</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Catechism</i>	<i>Teacher</i>	<i>Week</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Catechism</i>	<i>Teacher</i>
1.	Sept. 6	1-4	JR/TJ	1.	Dec. 6	35,36	TJ
2.	Sept. 13	5-8	TJ	2.	Dec. 13	37,38	TJ
3.	Sept. 20	9-11	TJ	3.	Dec. 20	review & quiz	TJ
4.	Sept. 27	12-14	TJ	4.	Dec. 27	review & quiz	TJ
5.	Oct. 4	15-17	PC	5.	Jan. 3	39-41	TJ
6.	Oct. 11	18,19	JR	6.	Jan. 10	42,43	TJ
7.	Oct. 18	20,21	JR	7.	Jan. 17	44-46	TJ
8.	Oct. 25	22,23	PC	8.	Jan. 24	47,48	TJ
9.	Nov. 1	24-26	JR	9.	Jan. 31	49,50	TJ
10.	Nov. 8	27,28	JR	10.	Feb. 7	51,52	TJ
11.	Nov. 15	29,30	JR	11.	Feb. 14	53-56	TJ
12.	Nov. 22	31,32	TJ	12.	Feb. 21	57,58	TJ
13.	Nov. 29	33,34	TJ	13.	Feb. 28	59,60	TJ
3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter				4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter			
<i>Week</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Catechism</i>	<i>Teacher</i>	<i>Week</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Catechism</i>	<i>Teacher</i>
1.	Mar. 6	(Missions)	—	1.	June 5	86,87	JR
2.	Mar. 13	61,62	JR	2.	June 12	88,89	?
3.	Mar. 20	63,64	JR	3.	June 19	90,91	TJ
4.	Mar. 27	65,66	JR	4.	June 26	92,93	TJ
5.	Apr. 3	67-69	JR	5.	July 3	94,95	JR
6.	Apr. 10	70-72	JR	6.	July 10	96,97	JR
7.	Apr. 17	73-75	JR	7.	July 17	98,99	JR
8.	Apr. 24	76-78	JR	8.	July 24	100,101	JR
9.	May 1	79-81	TJ	9.	July 31	102,103	JR
10.	May 8	review & quiz	TJ	10.	Aug. 7	104,105	TJ
11.	May 15	review & quiz	TJ	11.	Aug. 14	106,107	TJ
12.	May 22	82,83	TJ	12.	Aug. 21	review & quiz	TJ
13.	May 29	84,85	TJ	13.	Aug 28	review & quiz	TJ

# Family Corner

SEPTEMBER 2015

YEARS 1-10

## Psalm 78

Elements from *Scottish Psalter*, 1650

- 1 O ye my people, to my law  
Attentively give ear;  
The words that from my mouth proceed  
Incline yourselves to hear.
- 2 My mouth shall speak a parable,  
The sayings dark of old,
- 3 Which we have listened to and known  
As by our fathers told.
- 4 We will not hide them from their sons  
But tell the race to come  
Jehovah's praises and His strength,  
The wonders He has done.
- 5 His word He unto Jacob gave,  
His law to Israel,  
And bade our fathers teach their sons
- 6 The coming race to tell,  
That children yet unborn might know  
And their descendants lead
- 7 To trust in God, recall God's works,  
And His commandments heed,
- 8 And not be like their fathers were,  
A race of stubborn mood,  
Which never would prepare its heart  
Nor keep its faith with God.

TUNE: ELLACOMBE CMD  
("Hosanna, Loud Hosanna")  
Gesangbuch der Herzogl.  
Wurttemberg. Hofkapelle, 1784

YEAR 11-15

## "Lo! He Comes With Clouds Descending"

*Charles Wesley, 1758*

Lo! He comes with clouds descending,  
Once for favored sinners slain;  
Thousand thousand saints attending  
Swell the triumph of His train.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!  
God appears on earth to reign.

Ev'ry eye shall now behold him,  
Robed in dreadful majesty;  
Those who set at naught and sold Him,  
Pierced, and nailed Him to the tree,  
Deeply wailing, deeply wailing, deeply wailing,  
Shall the true Messiah see.

Ev'ry island, sea, and mountain,  
Heav'n and earth, shall flee away;  
All who hate him must, confounded,  
Hear the trump proclaim the day:  
Come to judgment! Come to judgment! Come to judgment!  
Come to judgment, come away!

Now Redemption, long expected,  
See in solemn pomp appear!  
All His saints, by man rejected,  
Now shall meet him in the air.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!  
See the day of God appear!

Yea, amen! Let all adore thee,  
High on thine eternal throne;  
Savior, take the pow'r and glory,  
Claim the kingdom for thine own;  
O come quickly, O come quickly, O come quickly,  
Alleluia! come, Lord come.

TUNE: HELMSLEY 8.7.8.7.4.4.4.7  
Thomas Olivers, 1763  
Harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

## Psalm 78

Psalm 78 is a historical Psalm. From this we learn that there is much of value in the study of the history of Israel. It provides "a narrative of the great mercies God had bestowed upon Israel, the great sins wherewith they had provoked him, and the many tokens of his displeasure they had been under, for their sins," says Matthew Henry. It is put in poetic and singing form, Henry continues, "that it might be better remembered, and transmitted to posterity, that the singing of it might affect them with the things here related, more than they would be with a bare narrative of them."

The Psalm is a "parable," an "instructive story or saying" meant to illustrate truth, "hidden things" (NIV, v 2) by which is meant the record of the past, which by itself is "a tangle of events, an enigma or riddle needing interpretation," says

Motyer. He continues: "This then is the purpose of the psalm: to clarify the riddle of the past so that it becomes a lesson for present and future."

The purpose of this recounting is found in verses 7,8: that the people of God should not be stubborn like their ancestors, whose rebellion is traced from the exodus to 1 Samuel. The psalmist traces God's continuing faithfulness culminating in His provision of David to shepherd His people (vv 65-72). However, even David was not a final solution to Israel's waywardness, as he points beyond himself to a greater than David, a Son of David, Jesus the Good Shepherd, who lays down His life for His sheep (Mt 1:1; Jn 10:14,15).

# STUDENT MINISTRIES



Eighteen 9-12<sup>th</sup> graders and chaperones went to Amelia Island for two days, August 3 and 4, for Advance. At Advance they prayed together, evaluated the I.P.C. Student Ministry, made plans for the upcoming academic year and had a lot of fun!

## Welcome

We would like to welcome Miss Caroline Boatright to the I.P.C. staff as the part-time Youth Ministry Assistant!

## September Events

2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>

### Wednesday Night Sr. High Youth Fellowship

This event is for 9-12th graders and begins on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor of the Whitaker Building at 6:30 p.m. It ends at 8:30 p.m. The 30<sup>th</sup> is a 5<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of a month. We will still meet this week but will change up our routine for this occasion.

13<sup>th</sup>

**Youth Choir** begins at 4 p.m. this date. Following our meal on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of Whitaker, the youth will have a season of prayer and Scripture reading on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor until 7:55 p.m.

20<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>

Following our meal until 7:55, 9-12th graders will participate in their small groups and 6-8th graders will have **Emmaus Road** on Whitaker's 4<sup>th</sup> floor. **Emmaus Road** is a version of our Senior High Wednesday night gatherings.



## REGULAR STUDENT MINISTRY SCHEDULE

### Sunday School

9:30-10:30 a.m.

Jr. High (2<sup>nd</sup> floor Whitaker)  
& Sr. High (3<sup>rd</sup> floor Whitaker)

### Sunday Nights

**Youth Choir** from 4-5 p.m.  
Dinner until 7 p.m., Whitaker,  
3<sup>rd</sup> floor,  
following evening worship

7-7:55 p.m.

**Small Groups**, Whitaker, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Middle School Emmaus Road,  
Whitaker, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor

### Wednesdays

**Sr. High Dinner and Fun** • 6:30 p.m.,  
Whitaker, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
**Sr. High Youth Fellowship** • 7:30-  
8:15 p.m., Whitaker, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor



## Catechism Classes

Grade 1–2	<i>Children's Catechism</i>	Whitaker, 1 <sup>st</sup> Fl.
Grade 3–4	<i>Children's Catechism</i>	Whitaker, 1 <sup>st</sup> Fl.
Grade 5–8	<i>Westminster Shorter Catechism</i>	Whitaker, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Fl.
Grade 9–12	<i>Westminster Confession of Faith</i>	Whitaker, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Fl.

## Adult Classes • Fall Quarter

**David Gobel**

**Garmer**

*Ecclesiastes*

This book delivers us from a rosy-colored, self-confident godless life, with its inevitable cynicism and bitterness, and from trusting in wisdom, pleasure, wealth, and human justice or integrity. It drives us to see that God is there, that He is good and generous, and that only such an outlook makes life coherent and fulfilling.

**Rick Mullinix and Jeff Sutton**

**Emmaus**

**September - Mullinix — *The Beatitudes***

The Beatitudes set forth the balanced and multifaceted character of God's people. They are not marks of an elite set of Christians, but rather Christ's own description of what every Christian ought to be. All the marks are to characterize all His followers. During the month of September, the class will explore these characteristics.

**October - November - Sutton — *Reason for God***

Have you ever doubted the faith? Or can you defend the faith? Join us in exploring tough questions about Christianity. The goal is to strengthen one's faith and increase confidence in the faith once delivered to the saints.

**Kyle Brent**

**Covenant/  
College**

*Covenants of God*

There is one major unifying concept in the Bible that holds it all together; this concept is that of covenant. But covenant is much more than a concept, it is God's way of revealing Himself as our blessedness and reward. It is the Gospel in the context of God's eternal plan to commune with His people. Join us as we look at the biblical covenants to see how God's promises are fulfilled in Christ and how God's covenant of grace shapes our faith and obedience today.

**Tim Shaw**

**Berean**

*The Life of Abraham*

Following God while weak and fearful, growing in faith through trials, and representing God to the nations. In this class we will seek to learn about how Jesus is foreshadowed even in the life of Abraham, and what this means for us as believers today.

**Ron Parrish**

**Agape**

*The Bible and Eschatology*

Eschatology (from a Greek word that means "last things") is what God has revealed concerning things still in the future at the time when God revealed them. God has revealed things about the future that are reliable. No one has all the answers, but the main things we need to know about the future are clearly revealed in the Bible. This study will seek to lift the fog that has led to much confusion about this topic.

## How Tithing Saved My Life

Okay, tithing really didn't save my life. I just thought the title might make you want to read the article. Because, honestly, who wants to read an article about tithing? If you have heard it once, you have heard it a thousand times. It's kind of like having to listen to your spouse tell that same story for the seventh time. You are asking yourself, "Lord, how many more times will I have to hear this story?" (By the way, the answer is 70X7.) So, instead of writing to admonish you to tithe, I want to tell you about the blessings that I have received from tithing.

I started tithing when I was in residency. At the time, I made a negative income, so technically God should have been paying me money. Anyway, I did receive a small salary that I tithed. The paltry sum I gave to the church probably helped them buy something like envelopes and a few boxes of Kleenex, but it helped me establish a pattern of giving to the church. Since that time, I have continued to tithe.

Honestly, I have at times thought about what I could do with that money. It would be nice to use it to help buy a new car, or put it in savings, or buy the complete collection of Terry Johnson's writings. (Just kidding, I already own that.) But when I am having those thoughts, I thank God that I am making a sacrifice to tithe. My "sacrifice" of giving money to the church is incomparable to the sacrifice made by Jesus Christ. The daily blessings I receive from my relationship with Christ overshadow any sum of money I could give. I am blessed that I can demonstrate obedience to God by tithing. I am blessed that my tithe can help our church spread God's truth. I am blessed that through my obedience I get to enjoy the promises of God. I get to eat the bread of life. I get to drink water that will cause me to never thirst. I will get to hear our Father tell me, "well done good and faithful servant." I will get to enter the joy of my master. For me, tithing is not a burden, it is a blessing.

Mark Dusek

Deacon

Hospitality Chairman

## The Church Budget and Giving 2015

In order to inform the congregation of the financial status and needs of the church, the following snapshot of our current financial condition is provided. Thank you for your faithful support.

	Received	Needed	Over/Short
1st Quarter	\$426,518	\$508,378	-\$81,860
2nd Quarter	\$474,469	\$508,378	-\$33,909
July	\$159,867	\$156,424	\$ 3,443
August*	\$138,940	\$156,424	-\$17,484
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$1,199,794</b>	<b>\$1,329,604</b>	<b>-\$129,810</b>

\*four weeks only



# Ministry Updates

## Pastoral Apprentice and Pastoral Fellow/Assistant

This summer has truly been a blessing for me to have the opportunity and privilege to get to know and to teach our college students who were home for the summer as well as several visitors and local college students. On Thursday nights we went through what many pastors and theologians have called "the greatest chapter in the Bible," Romans 8. This is a behemoth text in which the Apostle Paul seeks to encourage and assure Christians by presenting the full Gospel of justification, sanctification, and glorification as they struggle with remaining sin and live in a world that is not their home. We consistently had between twenty and twenty-five college students attend our study.

I'm thankful that I had two people to aid me during the summer. Henry Paris, a sophomore at Covenant College, helped us immensely by leading our music. Abby Johnson, senior at UGA, assisted in planning and organizing events. Without

the Lord bringing them alongside, I'm sure that our summer would not have been as much of a success.

As I look forward to the fall semester, I will be following up with several students both from SCAD and Armstrong in hopes to establish a core group around which I can get bible studies started. There are several ways in which you all can help me this fall: 1.) Pray for me as I reach out to these students. 2.) Greet the visiting college students who walk through our doors. 3.) Connect any college students whom you know and meet to me. 4.) Host events such as dinners, game nights, etc. By doing these simple things, you all will be a tremendous aid to our college ministry.

May the Lord continue to bless us so that we can be a blessing to the college students in our city!

Your fellow laborer in Christ,  
Kyle Brent  
Pastoral Apprentice

The summer has been a good one for the Covenant/Young Career/Twenties group. We have been studying the book of Philippians together on Thursday nights on the fourth floor of the Whitaker Building, with Mr. Frankie Daniel leading worship. After our study, the group usually heads out to dinner somewhere in the city. We have gone to a Sand Gnats game together and had several informal parties. The effective ministry of Nick Bullock has set up this group for further growth, and to be able to continue to work as a conduit of bringing new young people to I.P.C. But we need your help! Keep your eyes peeled for any new face at I.P.C.! If they seem young, please introduce them to me or get their information to me so I can follow up with them. The Twenties Bible Study on Thursday nights is a wonderful way for young-professional-aged persons to connect to other believers in their stage of life. But finally, please pray for how we as a group can be reaching out to our unbelieving friends in Savannah and how we can be leading them to Christ!

Tim Shaw  
Pastoral Assistant

### CONFERENCE LODGING

We are happy to offer the following Conference specials for lodging in our area. Make your reservations directly with any of the hotels below and ask for the "Midway Conference Discount" by October 1st to receive conference rates for rooms. After October 1st hotels may still have rooms available but not at the discounted rate.

*Embassy Suites* - Kennesaw  
620 Chastain Road, Kennesaw, GA 30144  
(770) 420-2505  
\$109 Room (king) or \$149 (2 doubles)  
Includes Breakfast and Manager's Reception

*Country Inn & Suites* - Hiram  
70 Enterprise Path, Hiram, GA 30141  
(770) 222-0456  
\$69 room (king or 2 doubles); \$79 king suites

### REGISTRATION

(COPY/DETACH AND MAIL - PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY)  
Contact Judy Dodd (judy.dodd@midwaypca.org) for group discount information

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Rev/Dr \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate the appropriate number to be registered & include proper payment:

\_\_\_\_\_ **EARLY REGISTRATION** (by August 31st) ..... \$79 (register early and save!)  
\_\_\_\_\_ **CONFERENCE REGISTRATION** (After August 31st) ..... \$99  
\_\_\_\_\_ **STUDENT REGISTRATION** (After August 31st) ..... \$49

Please make checks payable to:  
**REFORMATION WORSHIP**  
Midway Presbyterian Church  
4635 Dallas Highway, Powder Springs, GA 30127

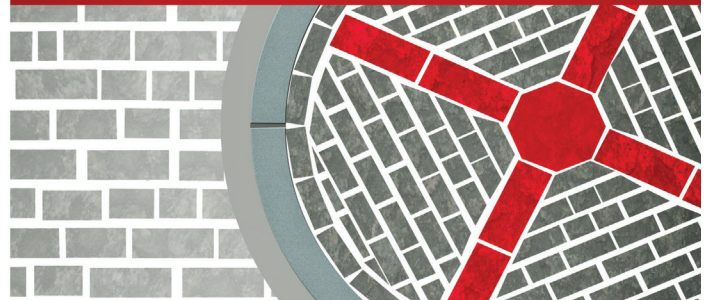
For more information contact David Hall (DAVID.HALL@MIDWAYPCA.ORG) or visit the website

Register online at  
**WWW.REFORMATIONWORSHIP.ORG**

# REFORMATION WORSHIP CONFERENCE

October 22-25, 2015

with W. Robert Godfrey, David Garner, Michael Kruger,  
Terry Johnson, Mark Ross, David Strain, T. David Gordon,  
Jon Payne, Neil Stewart, & others



*Reforming Churches*  
Worship and the Word  
**MIDWAY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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# Announcements & Events

## THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Lord's Supper will be observed during our evening service on September 13, the climax of our Communion Season. Because of the exceptional blessing we have in this sacrament and the danger of eating and drinking unworthily, it is necessary that we come to it with knowledge, faith, repentance, love and with hungering and thirsting souls after Christ and His benefits. The congregation is encouraged to use all appointed means, public and private, to come to the Lord's Table, depending upon God for the gracious preparation of the heart according to His promise (Psalm 10:17). The Lord's Supper for October will take place on the morning worship service on October 4.

## SESSION/DIACONATE MEETING

Our stated Session/Diaconate meeting will be held on Monday evening, September 21, at 5:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. They will meet jointly at 6:30 p.m.

## DEAD THEOLOGIAN'S' SOCIETY

The Dead Theologians' Society (Men's Reading Club) will meet on Thursday, September 24: 6:45-8:00 a.m. for breakfast at Laurie's Restaurant, or 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. for lunch in the Administration Building, 2nd Floor classroom (bring a brown-bag lunch). The assignment to read from *The Christian in Complete Armour* by William Gurnall is: "Direction Tenth," pages 194-287.

## BABY SHOWER

A baby shower will be given in honor of Mrs. Timothy Foster (Caroline) on Monday, September 14, 7:00 p.m., at the National Museum of the Mighty Eighth Air Force, 175 Bourne Avenue, Pooler, GA (behind the Cracker Barrel on U.S. 80). All ladies are invited to attend. It's a girl!

## CHURCH-WIDE WORK DAY

There will be a church-wide work day (sponsored by the deacons) at Point Pleasant on Saturday, September 12, beginning at 8:30 a.m. Come and help get Point Pleasant ready for our fall events. Cleaning supplies will be provided.

## WELCOME COLLEGE STUDENTS

Sunday, September 20, is our annual "Welcome College Students." We invite all college students to join us in the Fellowship Hall for a luncheon in their honor immediately following the morning worship service.

## FALL INQUIRERS' CLASS

Our Fall Inquirers' Class will begin on October 4 and continue through November 15. It is held on Sundays during the Sunday School hour (9:30 a.m.) in the Mary Telfair Chapel. The objective of this class is to introduce interested persons to the history, doctrine, practices, and people of our church. All are welcome. Nursery will be provided.

## SERVICES RETURN DOWNTOWN

Sunday, September 13, our evening services will return to the downtown campus.

## ACCESS ACS

If you are a member of I.P.C. and wish to know more about our current Membership Directory, please send an email to [directory@ipc sav.org](mailto:directory@ipc sav.org) requesting how to sign up for our new electronic directory. We need your help to update our Directory!

## CHANGES IN ADDRESS

The following are changes in members' address and/or telephone information. Please note them in your directory.

Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Brodmann, Jr.  
(Morgan Wilson)  
200 Sawgrass Trail  
Statesboro, GA 30458

Mr. and Mrs. Dan Sharpless  
(Elissa Hunter)  
620 South Street, Apt. 4  
Lafayette, IN 47901

Mr. Brett Hudson  
Mr. Daniel Frasure  
617 E. 48th Street, lower  
Savannah, GA 31405

Mrs. Emily "Della" Roach  
7 Bristlecorn Court  
Savannah, GA 31419  
Phone: 912-920-9364

Mr. Glen Umberger  
12 Calvary Drive  
Lancaster, PA 17601

## Weddings

Congratulations to

... **Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Sharpless**, who were united in marriage by Rev. Terry Johnson on Saturday, August 1, 2015, in the sanctuary of I.P.C. Mrs. Sharpless is the former Miss Elissa Hunter.

... **Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Brodmann, Jr.**, who were united in marriage on Saturday, August 1, 2015, on the grounds of Bethesda Home for Boys, Savannah, GA. Mrs. Brodmann, Jr. is the former Miss Morgan Wilson.

... **CPT and Mrs. Matthew Alexander**, who were united in marriage on Saturday, August 8, 2015, in the Chapel at Furman University in Greenville, SC. Mrs. Alexander is the former Miss Virginia Adkins.

CPT & Mrs. Ben Field  
729 Gayley Avenue, Apt. 200  
Los Angeles, CA 90024

CPT Patrick Forrester  
128 Ivy Drive, Apt. 2  
Charlottesville, VA 22903

## College Addresses:

Miss Madison Wiggins  
92 Hawthorne Road  
Statesboro, GA 30458

Mr. Matthew Van Grouw  
7336 University Station  
Clemson, SC 29632-1001

Mr. Henry Paris  
Covenant College  
14049 Scenic Highway  
Lookout Mountain, GA 30750

## Email changes:

Edith Brunson:  
[eb runson01@gmail.com](mailto:eb runson01@gmail.com)

# September Birthdays

1 Carol Bowman	8 Nelia Grills	16 Ken Wood	26 Andrew Brodmann, Jr.
1 Will Robinson	8 Ashley Lanier	17 Caroline Foster	26 Benjamin Ward
1 John Woods		17 John Garnett	26 Dax Williams
	10 Mabel Brown	17 Roy Thompson, IV	
2 William Henderson	10 Marsha Oliver		27 Cynthia DeLoach
2 Abby Johnson	10 Clark Gibson	19 Mary Carpenter	27 Jo Hart
2 Tim Foster	10 James Spencer		
2 Kari Thompson		20 Callie Monroe	28 Annette Hartley
2 Steve Thompson	11 Jonathan Van Eck	21 Tyson Gross	28 Will Oliver
2 Pam Wiggins		22 Carol Benefield	28 Ben Gibson
	12 Ruth Wilson	22 Lucy Kelly	28 Barbara Rustine
3 Raymond Parker	12 Donna Best		28 Quinn Saleeby
	12 Jeff Sutton	23 Drew Johnson	28 Stephen UpDeGraff
4 Will Brodmann, Jr.	14 Mary Kendrick Oliver	23 Catherine McLean	
4 Bernard Drew		23 Nancy Lewis	29 Marcia Cook
	15 Donna Taylor	23 Alli Corbitt	29 Luke Hazeltine
6 Adair Woods	15 Veronica Micke		29 Emma Moody
		25 Nannelle Chan	29 Candice Sutlive
7 Emma Kornegay	16 Carey Murns		
7 Katie MacMillan	16 Caroline Boatright		30 Allison Kelly
7 Isaac VanPuffelen			

## Thank You Notes

Dear I.P.C. Family,

We would like to thank the congregation of Independent Presbyterian Church for their genuine concerns, beautiful cards, emails, phone calls and prayers during the loss of my mother, Evelyn Case Blackwell. The outpouring of Christian love was so special to us during this time. Our sincere appreciation to each one of you.

With love in Christ,  
Laurel and Dexter Brewer

Dear I.P.C. Family,

I wish to say thank you to I.P.C. for the concern and support during the illness and death of my dear husband, Avant Edenfield. Your prayers, calls, notes, and the lovely peace plant you sent made a very difficult time somewhat gentler. I'm thankful to be a member of such a caring congregation.

God bless you,  
Melvis B. Edenfield

## Church In Bereavement

The congregation of Independent Presbyterian Church extends sympathy to:

... **Mr. and Mrs. Robert Dykema** and family on the death of Pam's brother, **Gregory Thomas Godsil**, who passed away on Tuesday, July 28, 2015 in Kingman, AZ.



## Births

Congratulations to

... **Mr. and Mrs. Brooks Wallace Mathews (Laura Kate)**, on the birth of their son, **Rhett Samuel Mathews**, born on Wednesday, August 12, 2015, in Dunwoody, GA. The proud grandparents are **Mr. and Mrs. Robert Oswald (Mandy)**.

... **Mr. and Mrs. Walter C. Rucker III (Tara)**, on the birth of their daughter, **Eleanor Michelle Rucker**, born on Wednesday, August 12, 2015, in Eatonton, GA. The proud grandparents are **Mr. and Mrs. Eddie DeLoach (Cynthia)**.



# The IPC Messenger

INDEPENDENT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

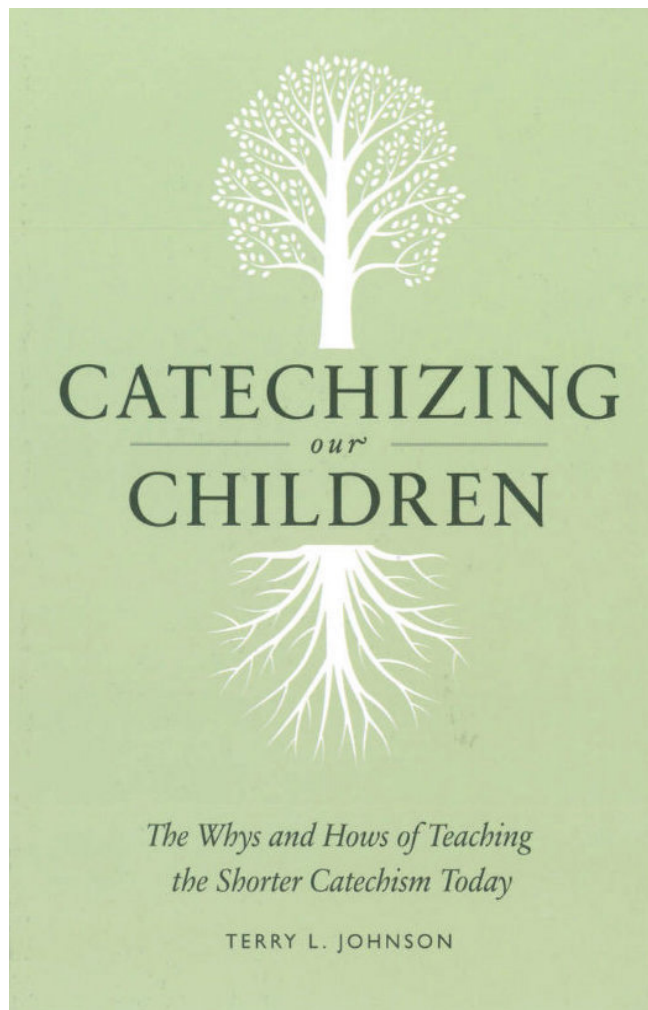
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SAVANNAH, GA 31412

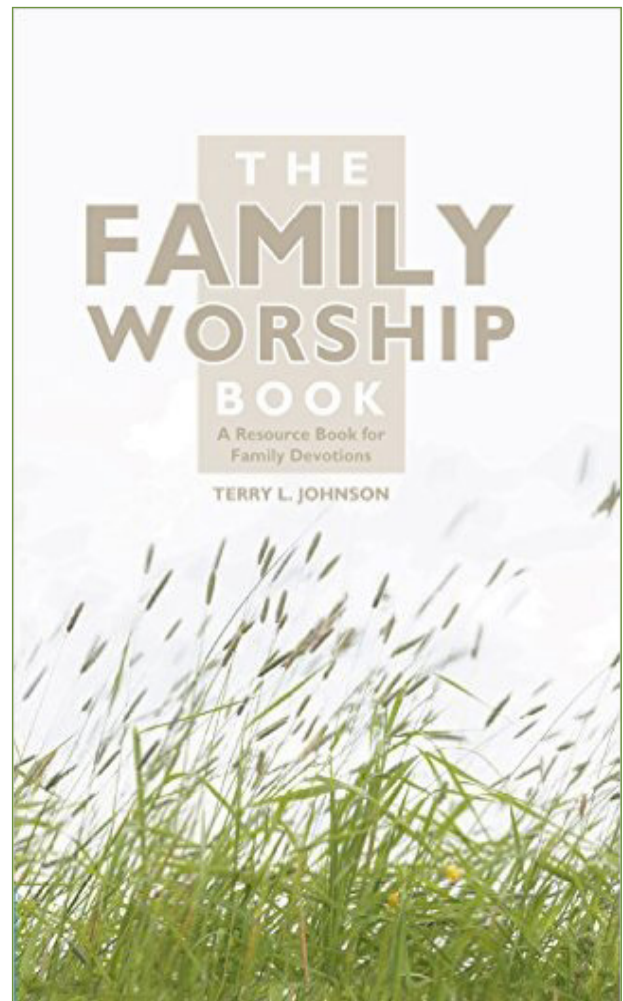
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