



INDEPENDENT
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IPC Messenger

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Office 912-236-3346 | Fax 912-236-3676 | E-Mail info@ipcav.org | Website www.ipcav.org

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Our Christian Identity Subjects

I am so proud of my heretofore undiscovered ability to alliterate: sons, servants, sinners, saints, sojourners, siblings, soldiers, and now subjects. We are subjects of our Lord and King. Fundamental to Christian conversion is the receiving of Jesus Christ as Savior *and* Lord. He is not received as Savior now, and sometime, maybe, later received as Lord. This dual-decision way of constructing the Christian life, popularized in the mid-twentieth century, has been utterly discredited in recent years, and rightly so. The Apostle Paul in one of his clearest descriptions of conversion speaks of it as believing in the heart that God raised Jesus from the dead and “confess(ing) with your mouth that Jesus is Lord” (Rom 10:9). Likewise, the Apostle Peter concluded his powerful Pentecost sermon with a declaration of Lordship:

Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified. (Acts 2:36)

What must we do to be saved? “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved” (Acts 16:31). What will every tongue confess? “That Jesus Christ is Lord” (Phil 2:11). Faith is in the Lord Jesus Christ. Conversion may even be understood as a response to a sovereign command. The Apostle Paul preached at Athens,

The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. (Acts 17:30)

Because He is Lord, He “commands” repentance. He doesn’t merely suggest it, or even request it. His disciples are those who obey that command, repent, and submit to His rule.

Kingdom of God

The central theme of Jesus’ teaching ministry was the coming of God’s kingdom or reign, in Him. It was on this note that He began preaching:

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.” (Mk 1:14, 15; cf Mt 4:17)

His message was that of the arrival of the kingdom (Lk 17:20-37). His ethics, as in the Sermon on the Mount, were the ethics of the kingdom (Mt 5-7). His parables were the parables of the kingdom (Mk 4; Mt 13). His miracles were the evidence of the presence of the kingdom (Mt 12:28). His mission was and is to bring sinners into His kingdom and under His rule. On the one hand, the Apostle Paul can summarize his message as “nothing...except Jesus Christ and Him crucified” (1 Cor 2:2). On the other hand, he can also

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summarize it saying, ‘what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as *Lord*’ (2 Cor 4:5; cf Col 1:28). Again, he can summarize his message as “testify(ing) to the gospel of the grace of God.” Yet he can also describe it as “proclaiming the kingdom” (Acts 20:24, 25). Luke summarized the Apostle Paul’s message while under house arrest in Rome as

proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance. (Acts 28:31; cf Acts 28:23)

The King

Jesus is King. By faith and repentance we became His subjects. He is “the King of Kings, the Lord of Lords” (1 Tim 6:15). He is not only the supreme Being, but the supreme Governor and Lawgiver (Jas 4:12 cf Isa 53:22). He is “the great King above all gods (Ps 95:3, 5). He is “the Lord of heaven and earth (Acts 17:24). Our God is “a great King over all the earth.” He “reigns over the nations” and “sits on his holy throne” (Ps 47:2, 8 cf. Ps 97:1ff). The believer, as a subject of Almighty God, enjoys what William Gurnall, in his classic, *The Christian in Complete Armour*, calls “the sweet government of Jesus Christ.”

King’s commands

The Christian identity as “subject” is highlighted in 2 John 4-6.

“I rejoiced greatly to find some of your children walking in the truth, just as we were commanded by the Father. And now I ask you, dear lady—not as though I were writing you a new commandment, but the one we have had from the beginning—that we love one another. And this is love, that we walk according to his commandments; this is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, so that you should walk in it.”

Note the prominent role played by the word “commandment” (*entolē*) in these verses. The word “commandment” or “commanded” occurs four times in these three verses. “The Christian life,” says John Stott, “is here viewed from the

standpoint of commandments.” Who are we? We are subjects who obey our Lord’s commands.

Most of us would be unlikely to follow the Apostle’s example of describing the Christian life in terms of commandments to obey. We are right to fear misunderstanding. We are right to fear legalism. Many, many people wrongly view Christianity as no more than a list of “do’s and don’ts.” They see it as no more than a collection of rules, of things required and things forbidden. They miss the big picture. Christianity is a religion of grace. We are saved by faith not works; by grace not law; and by Christ not religious performance. Salvation is a gift God gives, not a wage that we earn (Rom 6:23; Eph 2:8, 9).

How about once we’re saved? What next? Even then the Christian life doesn’t become rule-driven. We respond to the gift of salvation with gratitude. We want to honor and serve so gracious a God. It is the “love of Christ” that “constrains” (NASB) or “controls” us (2 Cor 5:14). Christ loves us and we, in response, want to please Him. Indeed, it is our ambition (2 Cor 5:9). Gratitude motivates our service and obedience. We want to know God and enjoy His fellowship, finding that of “surpassing value” (Phil 3:8-10). Consequently, we engage in those things that *promote* that fellowship (e.g. Bible reading, prayer, attendance at public services) and avoid those things that *inhibit* it (sin in all its forms). The “those things” are just the details, not oppressive duties or burdensome commandments (1 Jn 5:3).

The Christian life is basically simple. We want to please our Creator Father and His Savior Son. We are not attempting to earn the favor of God, which is impossible. Our motive arises not from what we are obligated to do, but from what God has already done for us in Christ.

Still, the Apostle John is not shy about describing the whole Christian life as a life of subjects of our Lord who obey His commands. The Christian life may rightly and properly be described in terms of such. We are commanded to *believe*. The Apostle John urges us to “walk” in the “truth” as “commanded by the Father” (2 Jn 4). We are commanded to

behave as well. *Love*, normally an attitude of the heart, is viewed by the Apostle as a commandment (2 Jn 5). He repeats himself, in case we missed the point: “walk according to his commandments” (2 Jn 6b).

Obedience of faith

Maybe this way of discussing the Christian life is not so unusual. The Apostle Paul can summarize his gospel as “*obedience of faith*,” which he does twice (Rom 1:5; 16:26), and can speak of conversion as “slaves of sin” becoming “*obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which we were committed*” (Rom 6:17). Likewise, Luke describes the conversion of many of Jerusalem’s priests in similar language. They “became *obedient to the faith* (Acts 6:7). Jesus even mingles the language of “works” with “faith.” “This is the *work of God*,” he says, “that you *believe* in him whom he has sent” (Jn 6:29). His disciples are those who hear Jesus’ words and *do* them (Lk 6:46, 47; 8:21; 11:28). The last book in the Bible repeats twice that they are blessed who “hear” the words of its prophesy and “*keep* what is written” (Rev 1:3; 22:7). The “offspring” of the woman of Revelation 12 (i.e. the church), that is, members of the church, are characterized simply as “those who *keep the commandments of God* and hold to the testimony of Jesus” (Rev 12:17; cf 14:12).

There is a richness to the variety of ways in which Jesus and the apostles speak of the Christian life. We need not fear the language of obedience if the apostles don’t fear using it. We are commanded to believe, to obey, and to love. Why? Because we are subjects of our Lord and King.

—Terry Johnson



Already it is the month of May, and some of our choir season is coming to a close. The **Handbell Choir** is finished for the season and will break for the summer months. Their contribution to our Palm Sunday and Maundy Thursday services was much appreciated. Thank you, Mrs. Edith Brunson, for directing the Handbell Choir and to all who have participated in this choir, rehearsing many weeks. Thank you for your time and talents. Rehearsals will begin again in September.

Chapel Choir—Saturday, May 16—Summer Waves on Jekyll Island. We will meet at church at 9:00 AM and return at 5:00 PM. Please pick your

children up promptly at 5:00 PM. Permission slips are needed for this trip. These forms are located on the table in the choir room or at the church office. Also, your child will need lunch money (\$10.00) and plenty of sunscreen. We are anticipating a great day!

The **Chapel Choir** will sing several anthems for the evening service of May 17. We will NOT have choir following that service.

The **Sanctuary Choir** is preparing music for the Kirkin' service and Pentecost and will sing through June. The choir will **not** meet during the month of July and will return to rehearsals in August with two weeks of Women's Choir, two weeks of Men's Choir. The Sanctuary Choir is available to anyone who can carry a tune, has an interest in singing and working hard—no audition required. All are welcome.

The **Youth Choir** had a very special trip the weekend of April 12. On Friday,

Music Ministry

April 10, we left our church at 5:00, arrived in Orange Park, FL, at the Shiloh Baptist Church, rehearsed, and traveled on to Palm Coast, FL to spend the night. On Saturday the group left for Aquatica Water Park and had a day of sun and fun. I think we all had a good time.

On Sunday morning, we sang three anthems in the service at Shiloh Baptist, and I would say we all were very much blessed by our time of worship there. Our young people are always a joy to travel with. They are always well behaved and respectful of others.

The **Youth Choir** will not have rehearsal on May 10, but will rehearse May 17 at 4:00 PM and on May 24 at 4:45 PM. They will sing at Point Pleasant before the evening service of May 24, from 5:15–5:30 PM, during our usual congregational singing time. Please come early to hear them sing.

Please continue to pray for the Ministry of Music in this church.

In Christ's service,
Kathryn Van Eck

SUMMER EVENING SERVICES AT POINT PLEASANT

Our summer evening services at Point Pleasant will begin May 24 and continue through September 6, with singing beginning at 5:15 PM and worship at 5:30 PM. The facility will open at 3:00 PM for appropriate Lord's Day leisure activities for the family. Please note that not all forms of recreation are consistent with the Fourth Commandment, but only those which directly promote one's appreciation and love of God and His Word and works. Consequently, please show what previous generations called "Sabbath restraint" in all your activities.

We also wish to urge you that the informality of the setting not lead to inappropriate or immodest attire. Please, no short shorts, bathing suits, halter tops, or strapless tops should be worn in the worship service. It is important that we dress in a manner that befits such occasions that are meant to sanctify the people of God. Our dress should aim to please God and reflect our identity as a "royal priesthood, a chosen nation and a people belonging to God"....in the world, but not of it.



CHURCH-WIDE BARBECUE

The annual church-wide barbecue will be held on Sunday, May 24 following the evening service at 5:30 PM at Point Pleasant, 441 Suncrest Blvd. **We will be enjoying home-made ice cream with the barbecue dinner.** All those who would like to bring a churn of ice cream, please contact **Tricia Barrett** at 713-5040.



A Mother's Story

My life was forever changed by the decision of a woman I have never met. A woman who found herself pregnant and for some reason I will never know, decided she was not ready to parent a child. I was born on November 20, 1969 and three days later a loving Christian couple picked me up at DFACS (Department of Family and Children Services) and paid \$255 to take me home. This was the time of closed adoption so my parents were given no information on my birthmother. They had moved to Atlanta from Montgomery, Alabama only a year before I was born for my dad to take a job with Delta Airlines. I often shudder to think what direction my life would have taken had they not moved to Atlanta. Sovereign act of God #1 in my life...before I was even born.

Adoption was talked about often in my family. My brother was adopted and I had twin cousins who were also adopted. I had an adopted child baby book and my mother faithfully wrote down every milestone in my life. My parents always told me I was hand-picked by God for them. This made me feel proud and special so I never felt embarrassed or ashamed of being adopted. In fact I pitied the other kids whose parents were "stuck" with them because they came into their family the traditional way. I was thankful but didn't understand the full measure of grace that was on my life.

Jeff and I were both twenty-five when we married. According to my master plan I would start having children at age thirty. Age thirty arrived and family planning was not going as I had imagined and I needed to take control of the situation. Having a baby became my obsession

and my idol. I read books, I consulted doctors, I did everything....but pray to God. Well, actually I did pray, but it went something like this: "Give me a baby now! Don't you want me to have a baby? Why aren't you giving me a baby?" I didn't pray for God to calm my fears or give me direction or patience, or do his will. I was the elder woman in the Prodigal Pregnant Woman story. I lived a good life and regularly attended church. Why wasn't I being rewarded with a child? When a baby didn't come in the time frame that I had set, the praying stopped and I just grew angry. I came to church every Sunday with a smile on my face—when in fact I hated being there. I was mad at God and jealous of any woman who had children. Holidays were torture, Mother's Day almost impossible to bear. But still, I wouldn't relent to God's control.

When we started attending I.P.C., we sat with John and Pat Toler each week. Sovereign act of God # 2. We learned that John was chairman of the local advisory board of Covenant Care. They invited us to the spring banquet where we heard beautiful stories of adoption. We submitted the paperwork and passed background checks and were on the list only five months when we got a call that we had been chosen by a birthmother. On day five of the lawful ten day waiting period, our birthmother changed her mind. We were devastated. Soon after this heartbreak Jeff broke his ankle, lost his job and his father was diagnosed with lung cancer, which he eventually succumbed to. In hindsight, the of a loss of job was a blessing for Jeff. He was able to be with his father and help him through treatments and he leaned on God

for support. What did my husband do when he was in the depths of despair? He read his Bible and prayed faithfully. He grew in knowledge and sanctification. Sovereign act of God #3...He provided a Christian husband that prayed for me when I wouldn't pray for myself.

We took a year off from adoption after all this tragedy. We updated our profile and settled back to wait. The birthdays kept coming and hopelessness really set in. What birthmother would choose a forty-two year old couple who had been married eighteen years? I had resigned myself to being childless but would I ever be truly happy again? I had lived with this anger against God for so long that I knew no other way.

On Friday July 6, 2012, we received a call from Covenant Care that we had been selected by birthparents. The baby was due in three weeks and they wanted to meet us immediately. The weekend was restrained jubilation. We were keenly aware that the birthmother could change her mind. Sunday night July 8, we were at Point Pleasant, and after the service we both had messages from our caseworker. Our birthmother had given birth to a baby girl born at 1:00 that afternoon. She was three weeks early. We paused, fearing that in the emotion of childbirth she had changed her mind and wanted to keep the baby. The birthparents still wanted to meet us that week. Our birthparents are courageous people who selflessly decided that they could not parent a child at their young age. Sovereign act of God #4....He placed adoption on the heart of these birthparents who had many other options.

Day nine of the ten-day waiting

Continued Page 5

period came and we finally broke down and bought some basics for a diaper bag and borrowed a car seat from a neighbor. Birthmothers have until midnight on day nine, so I knew we were still not out of danger. Calls have come to other adoptive couples at that last hour so I knew not to celebrate too early. We received text messages at midnight from friends and family sending congratulations. I was thrilled, but my heart was breaking for my birthmother. The stroke of midnight meant something entirely different for her.

Early the next morning we drove to Macon and we still had not decided on a name. I wanted a double name, in true Southern tradition. Jeff wanted something that would forever remind our new baby girl of her adoption. Ruth, a young Moabite girl who is plucked from a pagan society and into a devout Jewish family. God used the womb of Ruth and those of Tamar and Rahab, not of pure lineage, to perpetuate the lineage of the greatest gift of all...the Messiah. From the womb of a complete stranger and foreigner comes our precious gift, Ruth Anne. Amazing things come from unlikely sources.

When we returned home later that afternoon our home had been transformed. The Barrett and Brown families had stocked us with every essential a new family would need and a hot meal was ready to eat. Sovereign act

of God #5...providing us with selfless Christian friends.

I'm sure you are hoping for a perfect ending to this story. We bring Ruth Anne home and magically all is perfect. In those first few months, I was mostly in a daze wondering what I had gotten myself into. I had two weeks to prepare and it was much harder than I had bargained for. Two and half years later I still ask myself that when, at the age of forty five, I fall asleep from exhaustion soon after Ruth Anne goes to bed. Or when I have to use reading glasses to see dosage instructions on a Children's Tylenol bottle. But then Ruth Anne starts singing "God is so Good" and I think to myself...yes.....God is so good. Why has it taken me this long to figure this out? So, I'm working towards sanctification each day and have learned a few short lessons I'd like to share.

Lesson 1. Making an idol out of worldly things is toxic. On more than one occasion, Jeff told me that having a baby had become my idol. He assured me that when God did bless us with a baby my life was not going to instantly become better. He was right.

Lesson 2. If God has the power to do all, why do we act like He can't? I am admittedly a control freak and handing over anything to anybody, including God, is difficult for me to do. I haven't conquered this one yet.

Lesson 3. God is Sovereign even when your life circumstances say otherwise. Ruth Anne is not Plan B for us...she is Plan A. We realize that, looking in hindsight.

Lesson 4. Supporting Christian adoption is a strong stance for the pro-life movement. Consider adopting a child who needs a Christian home or support Covenant Care through your gifts and talents. The birthmothers who seek help through Covenant Care are welcomed with Christian love and support.

Lesson 5. Ruth Anne's adoption is a forever reminder of God's adoption of us in Christ. As you watch Ruth Anne grow up, don't view her as "the lucky little girl who was plucked from potential hardship." View her as a living reminder of the grace of God who has plucked you from the hardship of this world to be His sheep.

—Wendy Sutton

REMINDER

Wendy is still collecting items for birthmother baskets provided by Covenant Care Services. We would like to deliver an initial stock of items to local caseworker, Sarah Dale, next week. If you would like to make a contribution, please bring the items by May 3. **Items needed:** Pajamas or Long T-shirts (XL or XXL—for 19-25 year olds); Small Toiletry items for women; A list of encouraging Scriptures or notecards with Scriptures on them.

Coastal Jail Ministry and the 80%

In almost any field, 80% is a staggering number. If a realtor closed eight out of ten sales, they'd be phenomenal. If a baseball player hit eight out of ten pitches, he'd be the world's richest baseball player. We have a foundation attached to our business that basically gives money away for a living, and I don't close eight out of ten of the charities I take to lunch.

Coastal Jail Ministries, however, introduces men in jail to Christ. They host the introduction via the Word of God, and they let Jesus do the rest. The result is that a minimum of 80% of men who go through their program never see the inside of a jail again. They are so good at what they do, one simply wants to mass-scale the program to every jail, prison, juvenile detention center, and halfway house in America. First, though, we must finish working in our own backyard.

Every year Coastal Jail Ministry hosts a golf tournament, and this year it will be at the newly renovated Bacon Park Golf Club on May 18. A golfer may pay the \$100 entrance fee or raise \$400 in sponsorships. If you do not golf, please prayerfully consider helping to sponsor a golfer that we may continue to bring to Christ these men and women who so desperately need Him.

In service,
Will Black
Coastal Jail Ministries
and I.P.C. Officer

Family Corner

MAY 2015

YEARS 1-10

PSALM 127

Based on Scottish Psalter, 1650

- 1 Except the Lord shall build the house
The builders lose their pain;
Except the Lord the city keep
The watchmen watch in vain.
- 2 'Tis vain for you to rise betimes,
Or late from rest to keep,
To eat the bread of toil; for so
He gives His loved ones sleep.
- 3 Lo, children are the Lord's good gift;
Rich payment are men's sons.
- 4 The sons of youth as arrows are
In hands of mighty ones.
- 5 Who has his quiver filled with these,
O happy shall he be;
When foes they greet within the gate
They shall from shame be free.

TUNE: GLASGOW CM
Thomas Moore, 1756

YEARS 11-15

LEAD ON, O KING ETERNAL

#580

Ernest W. Shurtleff, 1888

Lead on, O King eternal,
The day of march has come;
Henceforth in fields of conquest
Thy tents shall be our home:
Through days of preparation
Thy grace has made us strong,
And now, O King eternal,
We lift our battle song.

Lead on, O King eternal,
Till sin's fierce war shall cease,
And holiness shall whisper
The sweet amen of peace;
For not with swords loud clashing,
Nor roll of stirring drums,
But deeds of love and mercy,
The heav'nly kingdom comes.

Lead on, O King eternal:
We follow, not with fears;
For gladness breaks like morning
Where'er thy face appears;
Thy cross is lifted o'er us;
We journey in its light:
The crown awaits the conquest;
Lead on O God of might.

TUNE: LANCASHIRE 7.6.7.6.D
Henry Smart, 1836

PSALM 127

“Psalm 127 covers three areas of human activities and potential anxiety—the house, the city (1) and the family (3-5)—and affirms that without the Lord we can do nothing. Verses 1-2 seem to suggest ‘Leave it all to God; let go and let God’, and enjoy a restful life. But in the Bible, the opposite of rest is not work but restlessness, and 3-5 add a corrective. The Lord has ordained the human activities of begetting, conceiving and bearing. Yet, the Bible insists, it is not human but divine agency that ‘opens the womb’ or, indeed, ‘closes’ it (Gen 29:31;30:2). Children are not our achievement but his gift (3). So is a completed house and a guarded city (1-2). All life must be lived to the full, all its joys enjoyed and its duties performed in unworried reliance on him who is the doer of all. Joyful activity, toilsome activity—but full of untroubled rest.”

—J. A. Motyer

Student Ministries



This spring, the youth have been busy! In March, we learned some practical skills when Seth Murray taught us how to change a tire and Caroline Boatright showed us how to sew on a button (sadly, we struggled so with the threading of the needle that we didn't make much progress). In April, we got together and stuffed, hid, and dyed eggs for our annual Pancake Breakfast and Egg Hunt. Everyone worked hard and deserved the generous pizza lunch that Miss Amy provided. Lastly, the Youth Choir traveled to Jacksonville to sing in the service of Shiloh Baptist Church.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

May 13 — Senior Banquet

June 15-19 — The Edge

July 13-17 — Mission Savannah



Also, we would LOVE for any I.P.C. families to serve the youth group by providing a meal for them on Wednesday nights—the kitchen provides salad, bread and dessert, you simply provide an entree. Please contact Sally Johnson for details.

Paul Rodgers
Director of Youth and Family
prodgers@ipsav.org

Sally Johnson
Student Ministry Assistant
youth@ipsav.org

REGULAR STUDENT MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Sunday School

9:30-10:30 AM
Jr. High (2nd floor Whitaker)
& Sr. High (3rd floor Whitaker)

Sunday Nights

Youth Choir from 4-5 PM
Dinner until 7 PM, Whitaker, 3rd floor,
following Evening Worship
Small Groups (we have seven groups
targeting specific genders and grades)
from 7 – 7:55 PM

Wednesdays

Youth Dinner and Fun • 6:30 PM,
Whitaker, 3rd Floor
Youth Bible Study – 7:30–8:15 PM,
Whitaker, 4th Floor

Packing Our Bags

The stereotypical foreign missionary doesn't operate a computer help desk from a Savannah suburb. But that's exactly what Mark's work has been this year as he provides technical support for western and national Bible translators from around the world. It's been a sweet gift to be with you here at I.P.C., and to be near Amy and Elise during their transitional year into university.

Now it's time for us to move on, and for Mark to join the rest of his team at our mission headquarters in Arlington, Texas. Though we are not moving back overseas, saying goodbye again is still hard. But we are confident of God's leading, and that enables us to plan this move with thanksgiving. We look forward to serving in the place where we can best accelerate Bible translation for the foreseeable future.

What we know so far: Mark, Barbara and Michael will relocate to the Dallas, Texas area this summer, probably in late July or early August, where Mark will join his team members at the office headquarters to more effectively service the Information Technology needs of Bible translators world-wide. Amy and Elise will remain to begin their sophomore year at Georgia Southern University in Statesboro.

We treasure your prayers, encouragement and support. Please feel free to ask us any questions regarding this next step in missions. It's our deepest desire that God's Word be made known in every language, so that those from every tribe and every nation might be drawn into His kingdom. *"...Waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God"*
2 Peter 3:12

— Mark and Barbara Rustine

Moral Concerns

Abortion

Abortion. . .the death of millions of babies every year! Why do we just not think about it? There is so much we can do to help fight the cause! One of the many ways is going to Washington, D.C. for the annual March for Life. I have been blessed to participate in the march in Washington, D.C., for the past four years. I know sometimes it can get a bit discouraging when we go every year and we don't see much change, but in reality, change is not always something that happens all at once; change happens one person at a time. Over the years, my neighbor has seen our family foster many babies for a Christian adoption agency and talk about going to the March for Life. Because of this, she has since become pro-life, with no exceptions!! That just shows that our actions do affect others!

This year, I was able to witness the crazy sight of pro-abortion protesters trying to block the way towards the Supreme Court. Eight of the protestors were arrested! Their choice of clothing was extreme and inappropriate and

scared my younger sister. After the march, my father was approached by a homosexual man who claimed to be sympathetic to our cause, but asked the question, "Why do you bring your children to a protest wearing signs that are your opinions?" My dad explained that children form their opinions by many things, but mainly by their parents. He then asked this man his opinion on when life begins. The man replied, "Life starts at different times." Actually, what this man was really saying was babies are living if they are wanted, but if they aren't wanted, they are not worth saving.

Yet, every life is important! A baby's worth is not based on his/her mother's opinion, but on the fact that he/she is made in the image of God. In cases where the woman cannot care for the baby, there is an option other than abortion! Adoption!! That is why we foster for an adoption agency. Some people use the excuse of the viability of a baby to support abortion. However, I was born three months early. There are babies that are aborted at that stage of

pregnancy. Does that mean that I was not living? No! I was a living, breathing baby! A baby is a baby no matter how small! That is why it is important we go to Washington, D.C. to stand up for the voiceless!

I also think it is important for teenagers to go to the March for Life because we are the next generation! If we don't go, who will in the future? I know some people might be too busy to go to the March for Life, and that is understandable. We all are quite busy at times, but you can always plan ahead of time by putting it on your calendar now! It is usually on the same date every year, the anniversary of Roe vs. Wade.

I am very thankful to Independent Presbyterian Church for sponsoring this event every year and making it possible for us to go.

— Abby Little (9th Grade)
Member of Kirk O' the Isles
Presbyterian Church

Announcements & Events

THE LORD'S SUPPER

We will celebrate the Lord's Supper on Sunday morning, May 10. The congregation is encouraged to use all appointed means, public and private, to come to the Lord's Table, depending on God for the gracious preparation of the heart, according to His promise (Psalm 10:1). The Lord's Supper for June will take place on the evening of June 7.

SESSION/DIACONATE MEETING

The regular Session/Diaconate meeting will be held on Monday evening, May 18, at 5:30 PM and 6:00 PM. They will meet jointly at 6:30 PM.

DEAD THEOLOGIANS SOCIETY

The Dead Theologians Society (Men's Reading Club) will meet on Thursday, May 28: 6:45-8:00 AM for breakfast at Laurie's Restaurant, or 12:00 to 1:00 PM 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 Sixth," pages 406-478.

CHURCH-WIDE CLEAN UP DAY AT PT. PLEASANT

The Diaconate will be holding a church-wide clean up day at Point Pleasant on Saturday, May 9, at 8:00 AM. Come and help get Point Pleasant ready for the summer.

CLASS OF 2015

Attention all 2015 graduates or parents of graduating students! We would like to publish information about high school, college, or post-graduates in an upcoming newsletter. Please email mtaylor@ipsav.org with the following information: graduate's full name, school or university, degree earned and honors conferred, and university attending after graduation. Deadline is May 17. Graduates will be recognized early in June. Also, send a head-shot digital photograph (high 300 dpi resolution).

If you have any questions, please contact **Maggie Taylor** at 236-3346.

W.O.C. CIRCLE MEETINGS

Tuesday Evening Circle: Will be held on May 5, 7:30 PM, at the home of Mrs. Sonny Longo (Frankie), 1 Lakewood Drive, Thunderbolt, GA.

Tuesday Morning Circle: Will be held on May 12, 10:30 AM, at the home of Mrs. Frank Brannen (Lucy), 401 Suncrest Blvd., Savannah, GA 31410.

Thursday Morning Circle: Will be held on May 14, 10:30 AM, at the Savannah Yacht Club, 730 Bradley Point Blvd. Mrs. Bill Austin (Barbara) will be the hostess, 598-9916.

Thursday Morning Islands Circle: Will be held on May 21, 9:30 AM, at the home of Mrs. Clay Nolen (Fef), 102 Paxton Drive.



Covenant Care Banquet

Telling Our Stories

May 7, 2015

6:30 PM – 8:30 PM

Complimentary Dinner
Savannah Marriott Riverfront



CHURCH IN BEREAVEMENT

The congregation of Independent Presbyterian Church extends sympathy to:

. . . *Mr. and Mrs. W. Gregory Brunson* and family and *Mr. and Mrs. Frank Brunson, Jr.*, and family on the death of Greg's and Frank's father, *Ronald Franklin Brunson, Sr.*, who passed away on Wednesday, April 8, 2015, in Savannah, GA.

. . . *Mr. and Mrs. Eddie DeLoach* and family on the death of Eddie's niece, *Abbie DeLoach*, who passed away on Wednesday, April 22, 2015.

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
January	\$116,514	\$129,031	-\$12,517
February	\$134,206	\$129,031	\$ 5,175
March	\$179,235	\$161,289	\$17,946
*April	\$120,458	\$129,031	-\$ 8,573
Totals	\$550,413	\$548,382	\$ 2,031

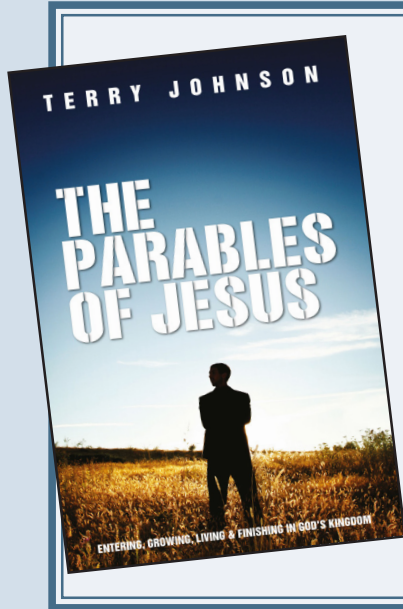
* three Sundays only

Fundraising Update

To date, we have received 128 commitment pledges toward the "Enlarging the Place of Our Tent" Capital Campaign. The amount of funds available for the renovation projects now totals \$2,986,934.

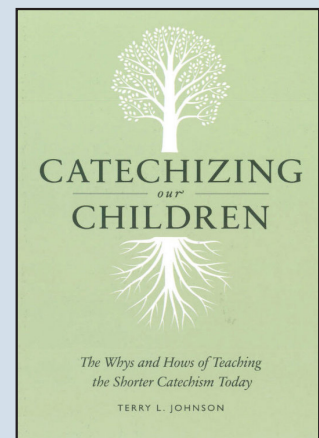
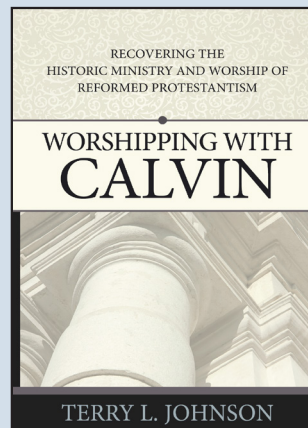
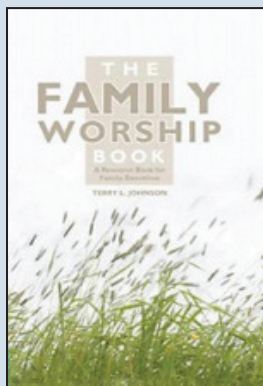
PUBLICATIONS

From Our Pastor



The Parables of Jesus

Jesus spoke to the people in parables—not only that, He seemed to think in parables, acted out parables—He was a walking parable. Parables are almost unknown elsewhere in Scripture, yet they comprise a huge proportion of Jesus’ teaching to those around Him, and through them, to us. He always intended His parables to have life-changing implications: in fact, He defined them as being what determined those who were alive to His message, and those who were not. So, what impact have Jesus’ parables had on your life? Have they changed you? Terry Johnston will help you make sure that is so.



These titles and more are available for purchase online or in the church bookstore.



May Birthdays

2 Sarah Grace Barrett Jay Helton	11 Edna Knoche Michael Brodmann	16 Hannah Goeser Christopher Pitts	23 Marian Brunson James Johnson Matthew Thomas
3 Karl Knoche Hannah Williams	12 Rita Spitler	17 Marshall Williams Rob Kelly	25 Rachel Lane
4 Patty Brodmann	13 Hunter Boatright Bobbie Henderson Charles Riner Clark Bristol	18 Nolan Helmly Fischer DeMott Jeannie O'Conner	26 Marian Cronic Eddie DeLoach
5 Emily Lanier Steven McAllister	14 Wylly Bell Wyndell Cook Anna Heritage Debbie Scharold	19 Drew Demott	27 Richard Hinely Selleck Hostetter Tara Rocker
6 Hannah Cleveland	15 Judy Daniell Lisa Bell Ian Hazeltine	20 Thomas Bowman	28 Brandon Pitts
8 Caroline Ambos	16 Hugh Helmly III Eva Knoche Caroline Knoche Esther Goeser	21 John South Heather McAlpine Ashleigh Sutlive Matthew Crowe	29 J.D. Youderian Ryan Hunnings SunJu Pitts
9 Howard French Sue Jones Thomas Moore		22 Philipp Knoche Alton Brown, Jr. Terri Fruit Craig Sutlive	31 Garry McKee Lucy Hitch Tucker Laffitte
10 Bill Austin Billie Hale Simmons Key Julie McDougall			

Children's Ministry



Easter 2015 was a blessing of fellowship for the Children's Ministry. Friday morning before the Egg Hunt Pancake Breakfast was a great time of service for our youth group. These young people hid over 1,300 plastic eggs, filled over 100 dozen treat-filled eggs, set and decorated tables to seat 280, and dyed over 200 hard boiled eggs. We will not discuss the amount of jelly beans they spread for everyone! The fellowship increased when "youth group alumni" (college students) on their way to the beach stopped by to lend a hand and enjoy lunch with everyone.

Many, many thanks to Joe Van Puffelen, Frank Brannen, Dennis Boatright, Terry Johnson, and Josh Espinosa for a "loaves and fishes" breakfast. These gentlemen worked magic with pancake batter and bacon in order to feed 300! The wonderful event would not be possible without Cheryl and our kitchen staff. Thank you to Kay Heritage and Barbara Rustine for their work on Friday morning. All was ready for our esteemed chefs to apron up and start flipping! Frankie Daniell, Paul Rodgers, Charlie Martin, Josh Corbitt, and dear Damien made sure everything was ready for the crowd that started at 9:00 AM!

If you weren't able to come, please make plans to join us next Easter. What a blessing of fellowship!

—Amy R. Martin

The IPC Messenger

INDEPENDENT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

P. O. BOX 9266

SAVANNAH, GA 31412

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Welcome New Pastoral Interns

Kyle Brent

Greetings! My name is Kyle Brent. I'm 25 years old and grew up in Wesson, Mississippi, a small town of around 2,000 residents. I was raised there by my parents, Jerry and Linda, in a Southern Baptist context. It was there where the Lord saved me and showed me His doctrines of grace in His Word during my high school days. I graduated from Wesson High School in 2008 and proceeded to college at Mississippi State University. There the Lord brought me to more thoroughly Reformed convictions through various people who invested in me and through R.U.F. campus ministry. After graduating with a B.A. in Philosophy in 2011, I joined Providence Presbyterian Church (P.C.A.) in Clinton, MS and began the Master of Divinity program at Reformed Theological Seminary in Jackson, MS the next year. Since my time at R.T.S., I have had the great pleasure of being a licensed supply preacher for several P.C.A. churches in south Mississippi as well as managing the bookstore on the seminary campus. I look forward to making the transition to I.P.C. in May and count it both a delight and a privilege to serve the Lord by serving you for the next year!



Tim Shaw

I was raised in a Christian home, in rural north-central Pennsylvania. I graduated from Wellsboro Area High School ('07), then Wheaton College ('11, B.A. English Lit.), and will graduate from Westminster Theological Seminary (M.Div.) this May. My favorite thing to do is to take walks with my wife Abigail and our daughter Annie. I enjoy playing all kinds of sports, watching football, and reading good books. I have a passion to see unbelieving people become committed followers of Jesus Christ, and I hope to aid the work I.P.C. is doing in reaching the lost in and around Savannah.



Tim Shaw, with wife Abigail and daughter Annie