



INDEPENDENT  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
1765

# IPC Messenger

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## Relative Righteousness

*Judge me, O Lord, according to my righteousness and according to the integrity that is in me. (Psalm 7:8)*

*I was blameless before him, and I kept myself from my guilt. So the Lord has rewarded me according to my righteousness, according to the cleanness of my hands in his sight. (Psalm 18:23, 24)*

**W**e hate relativism. We denounce it regularly. Our culture is painfully confident that “what is right is whatever is right *for me*.” Ethics are situational. Morals are individual and personal. We all are to establish our own moral standards. Absolutes, we are told, are naïve and dangerous. We who take the Bible seriously are right to identify this threat to Truth and combat it.

Yet, what are we to make of the above claims by David of righteousness, integrity, blamelessness, guiltlessness, and cleanness? How could any man of God say such things? Can we imagine any sensible Christian, any believer who understands total depravity, who grasps salvation by grace alone, through faith alone in Christ alone praying these words? “Vindicate me according to my righteousness?!” We have no righteousness of our own, right?

“My righteousness’ is not thought of as absolute,” explains Derek Kidner in his wonderful commentary on the Psalms. His righteousness “is not sinless

perfection,” says J. A. Motyer. Rather, he is righteous *in comparison with his enemies*, says Calvin, and *in relation to their false accusations* (e.g. Ps 7:3-6; 18:3-6; 17-19). David’s righteousness, let us swallow hard and recognize, is a *relative righteousness*.

If the character of the psalmist were “tried upon its own merits, the matter (would be) very different” says Calvin. Then he could only flee to Christ for mercy. Nevertheless, there is a relative righteousness that the Bible recognizes and commends, and we too must recognize, lest we make foolish mistakes.

### Righteous believers

For example, a failure to recognize *relative* righteousness results, ironically, in true moral relativism. Not infrequently we’ve heard sincere believers respond to a heinous sin by saying, “Well, we’re all sinners, aren’t we?” They might add, “Sure, they were wrong, but we have our faults too.” Thus heinous evil is relativized and progress in sanctification is obscured. We’re all the same, is the implication. Personal righteousness is also relativized (none of us have any, it is assumed), and the motivation for pursuing godliness is eroded (progress is impossible). Unless we preserve a true understanding of relative righteousness, the righteousness of Abel (Heb 11:4), of Lot (2 Pet 2:7), of Job (Jas 5:7), of Noah, of Daniel (Ez 14: 14, 20), of

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IPC Messenger

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the heroes of Hebrews 11:32-40, and of David will be incomprehensible. None of them were righteous in an *absolute* sense. Yet they did embody a recognizable and commendable righteousness in a *relative* sense. They had grown in righteousness. They were righteous relative to the mass of evil men around them.

**Righteous nations**

Let me cite another example. It became fashionable in the 1960's to portray America as a wicked nation. Our national history was characterized by elite opinion as genocidal, racist, sexist, homophobic, and imperialistic. Examples of evil, of course, are not difficult to find. However, one question calls the whole "blame America" endeavor into question. America is evil, you say, but compared to whom? Compared to the nations of Asia? Japan? China? India? Compared to the European empires? The British? French? Germans? Compared to Latin America? Compared to Africa?

We have been the most powerful nation on earth since the late 19th century. Which world power has used its power more benignly? Following World War II the United States could have, more or less, conquered the whole world. Which nation has resisted more commendably the temptation to seize the land and resources of others? Why does half of the world want to come here? Which other of the world's nations would you entrust with America's power? Russia? Iran? Sure the United States is bad. But compared to what? Compared to God's law? Of course it is sinful by that standard. Compared to the history of nations and empires? Compared to the whole world? By *that* standard, America is "good." It is not wrong to say so; indeed failure to recognize her goodness is indicative of a broken moral compass.

The same is true of modern Israel. Those who posit a moral equivalence between Israel and Hamas, or even impose harsher indictments on Israel than Hamas, do not seem to measure justice by an impartial moral standard. One side initiates offensive war; the other defends itself and patiently warns for weeks; one

side indiscriminately fires thousands and thousands of rockets into civilian areas; the other does not intentionally target civilians; one side protects its citizens, the other intentionally exposes its citizens to danger by placing rockets in schools and public areas, using civilians and children as "human shields." "We're using missile defense to protect our civilians," says Israel's Prime Minister, "and they're using their civilians to protect their missiles." Israel is condemned worldwide in the strongest terms. Yet the world says nothing while thousands of Muslim civilians have been killed in Pakistan (North Waziristan) just since June, in Syria since mid-July, in Iraq by ISIS since August, and in Libya and Nigeria.

We cannot allow the doctrines of grace to obscure our moral judgment. Absolute personal or national righteousness is not to be found in all the earth. The only absolute righteousness we'll ever know is that which is imputed to us by Christ, which is, as Luther said, an alien righteousness. Yet relative righteousness is to be found. We can distinguish between godly Christians and carnal Christians, between democrats and Nazis, between republicans and Marxists, between America and the Roman Empire. I'm thankful to God that I was born into a nation with a Puritan and British heritage of the rule of law (vs. arbitrary whim), of trial by a jury of peers, of basic human rights, of democratic institutions, of free elections, of the separation of governing powers (executive, legislative, and judicial), and of economic freedom. America is not the new Israel. America is deeply flawed. Yet it continues to provide its citizens with much for which to be grateful, among whom I count myself.

— Terry Johnson

**A HOLIDAY LETTER  
FROM THE PASTOR  
WILL BE MAILED PRIOR TO  
CHRISTMAS**

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Frank Chisholm, Jr. (2018)  
William D. Brodmann, Sr. (2019)



Christ Church Presbyterian (PCA) extends warm greetings from Charleston, South Carolina. We still have spots available for our second annual Charleston Christmas Conference on Reformed Theology (December 5-7) and we would like to invite you and members of your session and congregation to attend. The schedule is perfect for a quick weekend getaway. Our speakers this year are Drs. Harry Reeder and Carl Trueman. They will be speaking on the subject of "The Nativity & the Cross." There will be a pastors' pre-conference on Friday morning on ministry lessons from the life and ministries of John Knox and Martin Luther, and the rest of the sessions on Friday evening and Saturday are essentially worship services. Reformation Heritage Books will set up a voluminous book table with hundreds of great titles. If it's anything like last year, the preaching, music, and joyful fellowship are a profound encouragement for the start of the Advent season.

If you have any questions please feel free to email our assistant pastor, Rev. Ross Hodges at [Ross@christchurchcharleston.org](mailto:Ross@christchurchcharleston.org)

Blessings!

Rev. Jon D. Payne



## CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP: THINKING ABOUT ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR THE CHURCH

*Contemporary Worship* was published by Terry Johnson in November 2014. No better introduction could be applied than Terry's opening sentence: "Consider the following a primer on why churches should resist the pressure to adopt, in whole or in part, the forms that have arisen in connection with the Contemporary Worship Movement (CWM)." Concern about contemporary worship is first justified by the writer in the two major shifts away from traditional considerations of worship, namely: "Reduced biblical content" and "Demographic favoritism." By page eight it is stated: "The segmentation of the church by ages, races, cultures, and cultural preferences is inevitable. It is also historically unprecedented and biblically indefensible." Eight more reasons are discussed to reveal completely why "the Contemporary Worship Movement is unwise and counter-productive."

I am compelled to recommend *Contemporary Worship* to our membership for two reasons. First, it is a confirmation of the basis of our beloved historic Reformed worship. Second, although the substance provided in this work has been proclaimed from the pulpit, here it is reduced to a concise, short text for convenience in future reference by our fellow believers.

As previously declared, Reformed Worship sprang from Christ's own teachings (esp. John 4:24), "was the practice of the apostolic and early churches, was revived by the Reformers, and was characteristic of Reformed church services until modern times." Our church fathers stalwartly managed to preserve these practices and the truths behind them. Let us do our part to maintain them today.

An Anonymous Elder Emeritus

*Contemporary Worship: Thinking About Its Implications for the Church* is available in the I.P.C. Bookshop for \$2.00.

# YOUTH MINISTRY



## December Events

- 6<sup>th</sup>** A **Mark 10:45** event: We will deliver Christmas baskets to elderly IPC members. Meet at IPC at **11:30 a.m.**; lunch will be provided. We will conclude around 3 p.m.
- 7<sup>th</sup>** Last Sunday Night Small Groups for the Fall
- 10<sup>th</sup>** Last Wednesday Youth Group for the Fall
- 12<sup>th</sup>** **Youth Christmas Party**  
At the home of Dennis and Jane Boatright, 114 Wedgefield Crossing, **6:30–9:00 p.m.**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

On January 11, there will be a **Parents meeting** on the third floor of Whitaker over dinner following the evening service. We will discuss the emailed Winter/Spring Calendar of Events as well as event dates for summer.

On January 14 and 18, respectively, we will begin our **Wednesday Night Youth Groups** and **Sunday Night Small**

**Groups** for 2015. On the 11<sup>th</sup>, during our Parents meeting, youth will eat on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor and then enjoy a session of intercessory prayer.

**Youth Winter Retreat**, February 4-6. Our theme, *Answer?*, is taken from Proverbs 26:4-5 and helps us with how we are to answer the fool, or even if we should. From these verses we will introduce the task of Christian Apologetics, that is commending Christ

as we provide a defense for the truth claims of our faith. Our retreat will be held at Camp Glisson outside of Dahlonega, GA. To register, fill out the event flyer and submit with payment to the church office or in the offering plate. Flyers will be emailed out, handed out, are available in the church office or may be requested from youth@ipcsav.org.

—Paul Rodgers

## 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  
Small Groups (we have seven groups  
targeting specific genders and grades)  
from 7 to 7:55 p.m.

### Wednesdays

Youth Dinner and Fun • 6:30 p.m.,  
Whitaker, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Youth Bible Study – 7:30–8:15 p.m.,  
Whitaker, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor



# Children's Ministry

## LESSONS & CAROLS SERVICE

Our children are hard at work on our beloved Lessons and Carols service that will be held later this month. Our Seraph Choir (4 years through 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> grades) is working with Kathryn Van Eck during the Sunday School hour while the Chapel Choir (through 6<sup>th</sup> grade) work on their music during our evening fellowship supper. The service is fast approaching and we have opportunities for service. The children will robe in the chapel before the service and will return afterwards. A few parents to help zip and hang up goes a long way! The children's buffet is set up in the adult choir room at 4:00 p.m. and cleanup is at 7:30 p.m. If you could lend a hand for a few minutes on either end, it would be greatly appreciated. Lastly, we need child-friendly food for our buffet. If you would like to send in a plate of savory or sweet, please mark it for the children. Call me at 897-2214 if you need more information or want to chat about the event. Thank you!

## MEMORIZATION PROGRAM

The pastors and Sunday School teachers encourage (but do not require) memorization among our children. Level One consists of the Lord's Prayer, the Ten Commandments, and the Apostles' Creed. Levels Two and Three are comprised of the *Children's Catechism* and the *Shorter Catechism* respectively. The catechisms are broken down in approximately 50 question segments for ease when reciting. Each level is rewarded with a public recognition in a morning worship service, a candy box and gift card. In addition, the *Shorter Catechism* participants receive a free week at camp. Any questions? Please call me at 897-2214 and I will be happy to talk with you about our program.

—Amy Martin

# Music Ministry

All children have been mailed CDs and booklets for the Lessons and Carols Service. Parents, please encourage and help your children listen to their CDs. Having them review the words during the week is very important. We only have a few Sunday rehearsals left before the Lessons and Carols service, and **all music must be memorized.**

If, for some reason, you did not get a CD and booklet, please let me know. Church--236-3346 or Cell--596-8569.

Parents, please keep up the great attendance with your children. Last Sunday was great!

The following is a brief run-down of details in December:

## Lessons and Carols Dress Rehearsal

*Attendance is mandatory*

### DECEMBER 13

Seraph, Cherub, Chapel Choirs .....8:00–10:00 a.m.

*This rehearsal is very early in the day in order to avoid most other Saturday commitments.*

Youth Choir ..... 10:00–11:30 a.m.

Sanctuary Choir..... 10:30–12:30 p.m.

## Lessons and Carols Service

### DECEMBER 14 • 5:30 p.m.

All choirs and readers—4:00 p.m.

All choirs will robe at 5:00 p.m..

The Youth and Chapel Choirs will NOT have rehearsal on Sunday evening, December 21, or December 28. Rehearsals for both choirs begin again on January 4, 2015.

Thank you choir members and parents for making the effort to attend rehearsals at this busy time of the year. Thank you for serving this church with your time and talents.



In Christ's service,  
Kathryn Van Eck

# Family Corner

DECEMBER 2014  
YEARS 1-10



YEARS 11-15

## Psalm 77:1-10

### Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

Charles Wesley, 1739, 1753; alt.

Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King;  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,  
Join the triumph of the skies;  
With th'angelic host proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

*Refrain:* Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King."

Christ, by highest heav'n adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord!  
Late in time behold Him come,  
Offspring of the Virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;  
Hail th'incarnate Deity,  
Pleased as man with men to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel.

*Refrain*

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings,  
Ris'n with healing in His wings.  
Mild He lays His glory by,  
Born that man no more may die,  
Born to raise the sons of earth,  
Born to give them second birth.

*Refrain*

Come, Desire of Nations, come!  
Fix in us Thy humble home;  
Rise, the woman's conquering seed,  
Bruise in us the serpent's head.  
Adam's likeness now efface,  
Stamp Thine image in its place:  
O, to all Thyself impart,  
Formed in each believing heart.

*Refrain*

TUNE: MENDELSSOHN, 7.7.7.7.D.rep.  
Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy, 1840

- 1 With supplicating cry to God  
My voice shall lifted be;  
Yes, unto God I lift my voice,  
And He will answer me.
- 2 Through all the day I sought the Lord,  
When troubles on me pressed;  
Through all the night I stretched my hands;  
My soul refused to rest.
- 3 Again, as I remember God,  
Disquietness prevails;  
And as I deeply meditate,  
My sighing spirit fails.
- 4 For Thou hast held my eyelids so  
That they are open wide;  
Yet I so deeply troubled am  
To speak I have not tried.
- 5 I've thought on days and years gone by,  
Recalled my song at night;
- 6 I've meditated with my heart;  
My spirit searched for light.
- 7 Forever will the Lord cast off,  
Show favor never more?
- 8 Forever has His mercy gone?  
Will His word come no more?
- 9 Has God forgotten all His grace?  
Has His compassion gone?  
Or can it be His mercies all  
He has in wrath withdrawn?
- 10 Then I replied, "Such questions show  
My own infirmity.  
The firm right hand of Him Most High  
Through years must changeless be."

TUNE: EFFINGHAM CM (77C)  
or MYRA CMD (51B)

### Psalm 77

The 77<sup>th</sup> is among the most sorrowful of all the Psalms. "This Psalm has much sadness in it," says Spurgeon. "All who have known the enveloping pressure of a dark mood can be grateful for the candor of this fellow-sufferer," says Kidner, "but also for his courage." What begins as despair in verses 1-10, turns to hope in verses 11-15, as "his meditations run Godward," says Spurgeon. It "begins with sorrowful complaints," says Matthew Henry, "but ends with comfortable encouragements." His intense suffering in verses 1-10 is rectified by remembering God's past works in verses 11-20.

Profoundly disturbed, the psalmist finds no comfort in God. Yet he returns again to the place of prayer, remembers the LORD'S wonders of old, and finds cause for hope.

# Family Corner

JANUARY 2015  
YEARS 1-10

## Psalm 32

- 1 What blessedness for him whose guilt  
Has all forgiven been!  
When his transgressions pardoned are,  
And covered is his sin.
- 2 O blessed the man 'gainst who the Lord  
Counts no iniquity,  
And in whose spirit there is not  
Deceit or treachery.
- 3 When I kept silent, my bones aged;  
My groaning filled each day.
- 4 Your hand oppressed me day and night;  
My moisture dried away.
- 5 Then I to You admitted sin,  
Hid not my guiltiness;  
I said, "I will before the Lord  
Transgressions now confess."
- Then You did all my sin forgive  
And take my guilt away.
- 6 For this when You are near at hand  
Let all the godly pray.  
The rising floods will harm him not.
- 7 You are my hiding place.  
And You will comfort me with songs  
Of victory and grace.
- 8 Instruction I will give to you  
And teach you as you go.  
My watchful eye will guide your steps;  
My counsel you will know.
- 9 Be not like senseless horse or mule  
Which if you would subdue  
You must with bit and bridle hold  
To bring him close to you.
- 10 The wicked many pangs endure,  
But steadfast cov'nant love  
Encircles every man whose trust  
Is in the Lord above.
- 11 Be glad and shout, you righteous ones,  
And in the Lord rejoice!  
And all whose hearts are just and true  
Singing out with joyful voice.

TUNE: VOX DILECTI CMD  
("I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say")

YEARS 11-15

## Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross

Fanny J. Crosby, 1869  
Stanza 1, refrain, Stanza 2

Jesus, keep me near the cross;  
There a precious fountain,  
Free to all—a healing stream—  
Flows from Calv'ry's mountain.

*Refrain: In the cross, in the cross,  
Be my glory ever;  
Till my raptured soul shall find  
Rest beyond the river.*

Near the cross, a trembling soul,  
Love and mercy found me;  
There the Bright and Morning Star  
Shed its beams around me. (*refrain*)

Near the cross! O Lamb of God,  
Bring its scenes before me;  
Help me walk from day to day  
With its shadow o'er me. (*refrain*)

Near the cross I'll watch and wait,  
Hoping, trusting ever,  
Till I reach the golden strand  
Just beyond the river. (*refrain*)

TUNE: NEAR THE CROSS 7.6.7.6 ref.  
William H. Doane, 1869

## Psalm and Hymns of the Month— 2015

### YEARS 1 - 10

Jan	Psalm 32
Feb	#572 "Onward, Christian Soldiers"
Mar	Psalm 118:19-29
April	#247 "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"
May	Psalm 127
June	#100 "Holy, Holy, Holy!"
July	Psalm 63
Aug	#499 "Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me"
Sept	Psalm 78
Oct	Psalm 121
Nov	#715 "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come"
Dec	#208 "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

### YEARS 11 - 15

Jan	#264 "Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross"
Feb	Psalm 80
Mar	#646 "Jesus Thou Joy of Loving Hearts"
April	Psalm 83
May	#580 "Lead On, O King Eternal"
June	Psalm 88
July	#699 "Like a River Glorious"
Aug	Psalm 93
Sept	"Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending" (tune: Helmsley)
Oct	Psalm 105
Nov	#644 "May the Mind of Christ My Savior"
Dec	Psalm 108

# Peru Mission 2014

Early in the month of October a small team from IPC made its way down to Trujillo, Peru for a combined medical/dental/construction mission trip. IPC has been supporting PeruMission for many years now and it is wonderful to witness what God is doing in this city. With each trip we are able to see the leaps ahead (and the setbacks) all come together for obvious forward momentum. This year we arrived to work at a modern, well-staffed, well-run medical facility, with patients waiting for our care. God is blessing our efforts in Peru!

As the time drew near for our mission, the team started shrinking! Paul and Cindy Carpenter, our pharmacy department, could not make it. One week before departure, Frankie Daniell, our fearless leader, had a medical crisis. Now Frankie and Judy are out. We are down to a team of five—Mark Dusek, Ron and Donna Parrish, Terri Fruit and myself.

Frankie has arranged this trip many times before and our travel is smooth and uneventful. We will have about 18 hours in Lima before we move on to Trujillo. Ron and I are up early on Saturday getting the lay of the land since we are 'Frankie-less.' It was a great adventure to explore a small part of this beautiful city on our own! Saturday afternoon we traveled to Trujillo and connected with Alleen, our team coordinator. We settled into Hotel El Paraiso and look forward to our usual Saturday night supper of Chifa, (Peruvian Chinese food).

Sunday morning we got to sleep a little later and looked forward to worship with our friends at Cristo Rey. It was election day in Peru and we learned that public assembly is against the law during elections. Nevertheless, there was a good turnout for worship that morning and Pastor Wes Baker made the point



in his sermon (all in Spanish!) that we answer to a higher law! After worship we got together for lunch with all of the missionary families at the Ellisons' home in Huanchaco (Trujillo's Tybee).

Monday morning the team got up early for breakfast at El Paraiso. Our taxis arrived at 7:30 a.m. to take us to the new clinic in Arevalo. Three days now in South America and the 'Gringo team' is feeling fine and ready for work.

We arrived at the Arevalo clinic just in time to hear Dale Ellison (Medical Director for PeruMission) give the morning devotional (all in Spanish!).

Since we are now purely a dental team, we organize our roles. Terri is the assistant and patient coordinator. Mark is in charge of diagnostics, local anesthesia and translation and team morale. Donna and Ron take care of instrument sterilization, and I fill teeth. Lots of teeth!! We saw more patients on

this one campaign than we did in my previous three years combined. The Lord is blessing our efforts in Arevalo!

We provide care for about six hours each day. After clinic we are treated to a delicious lunch of Peruvian favorites by Miriam, the Peruvian Kay Heritage. Then we have a few hours to explore, relax, read, or nap! At 7:00 p.m. our taxis (we are on a first name basis with these guys by now) are back to take us to a missionary home for supper. The evening meal provides a great opportunity to get to know these families individually. At 9:00 p.m. we taxi back to El Paraiso and fall into bed before doing it all again tomorrow. One day during the week we took our services into Clementina, one of the developing neighborhoods just out of town. We did not have electricity, equipment or running water on that morning. We did lots of fluoride treatments, check ups and extractions in a small building where Peru Mission has planted a church.

On the last day of the trip, the custom is to go back to Huanchaco, the beach town, for a nice lunch. Then we begin the long process of getting home. Ron Parrish used an expression in Sunday School yesterday that is a great summation of this trip: We are all blessed with the "Gospel of Presence" when we participate in short term missions. We were present to see the Gospel in many ways on this trip—the witness of the American families living in Trujillo, the witness of the Peruvian Saints coming alongside us, the witness of our labors for them and their labors for us. The Gospel of Presence!

—Todd Fruit



# Winter Quarter Adult Sunday School Classes (December – February)

## *The Westminster Confession of Faith*

Teacher: Terry Johnson

Room 31 (3<sup>rd</sup> Floor - Axson Bldg.)

(Berean Classroom)

## *A Case Study in Prayer— from Ephesians 3*

Teacher: Ron Parrish

Room 35 (3<sup>rd</sup> Floor - Axson Bldg.)

## *A Christian View of Art and Architecture*

Teacher: David Gobel

Room 72 (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor - Administration Bldg.)

(Agape Classroom)

## *Accepted in the Beloved: How Jesus Redeems Our Guilt, Fear & Shame*

Teacher: Tim Foster

Room 32 (3<sup>rd</sup> Floor - Axson Bldg.)

(Emmaus Classroom)

## *Preparing for Messiah— Looking through the Eyes of Israel*

Teacher: Ed Forester

Room 30 (3<sup>rd</sup> Floor - Axson Bldg.)

(Garmer Classroom)

# CHRIST CHURCH ANGLICAN UPDATE

Renovations on the building that will be the new home (2020 Bull Street) of Christ Church Anglican are progressing at a steady pace, but unforeseen delays have postponed their moving into this facility until February 1, 2015. The session has granted permission for them to continue meeting at IPC until January 25, 2015. We have been sharing our facility with the congregation of Christ Church Anglican since December 2011, after they were forced to leave their historic location they had occupied since 1733.

The relationship that we have shared with our Anglican brothers and sisters has been relatively trouble free and a great encouragement to both congregations. As a historical note, the building that will become the home of Christ Church Anglican was the former Hull Memorial Presbyterian Church, a congregation planted by IPC in 1868. We rejoice in the Lord's provision and pray for His abundant blessings for their future ministry.

Ron Parrish



Elliot Oliver, Age 6

Drawing of IPC

# CHANGES IN ADDRESS

THE FOLLOWING ARE CHANGES in members' address and/or telephone information. Please note them in your directory.

Mr. and Mrs. Josh Espinosa (Lauren)  
301 Sugar Tree Court  
Savannah, GA 31410

Mr. and Mrs. Clark Rookstool (Abby)  
510 Mimosa Place  
Savannah, GA 31419

Mrs. Eleanor Carson  
The Suites at Station Exchange  
3205 TSX Grand Central  
Richmond Hill, GA 31324

Mr. and Mrs. Joshua Lane (Rachel)  
143 Cape Fear Drive  
Bloomington, GA 31302

# SESSIONAL ACTIONS

1. Approval was given, by email, for Senior Minister Terry Johnson to participate in the Reformed Worship Conference in Powder Springs, GA on October 22 –24, 2015.
2. Approval was given, by email, for Rev Tom Cannon, National Coordinator of RUF, to preach on Sunday evening, December 28, 2014.
3. Approval was given for the transfer of letter for Mr. and Mrs. John McCleskey (Kay) to Grace Church of the Islands, Savannah, GA; Mrs. Carol Goodwin to Grace Church of the Islands, Savannah, GA; and Mr. and Mrs. John Weber (Lynn) to Old Stone Presbyterian Church, Lewisburg, WV.

# THANK YOU NOTES

Dear IPC Family,

I can't thank you enough for your care extended to me and Judy during my recent hospital stay. The visits, cards, meals and other expressions of care were overwhelming and humbling. We have a wonderful extended family here at IPC, for which we are grateful to God.

Frankie Daniell

P.S. – I'm proud to say that I now know what a dish garden is, and thank you for that as well.

Thank you so much, Pam Wiggins and all the wonderful women who contributed to the packages for the college students! I have really enjoyed all the treats inside and I especially love the sweet notes. It is such a blessing to be remembered and cared for by my church family while I am away from home.

With love,  
Jennifer Daniell

Dear IPC Family,

We would like to thank the congregation of Independent Presbyterian Church for the outpouring of love and support after our son, Hank, was killed in an automobile accident. From the moment the news of his death became public, there was a constant stream of spiritual and physical comfort brought to us from this congregation. We will never forget how you were there for us during this awful time. God's grace is greater than our grief.

*This is my Father's world. O let me ne'er forget  
That though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet.  
This is my Father's world: the battle is not done:  
Jesus who died shall be satisfied, And earth and Heav'n be one.*

Warmest regards in Christ,  
Sherwin and Inger Prescott

## BEREAVEMENT

The congregation of Independent Presbyterian Church extends sincere sympathy to:

... **Mr. and Mrs. Jose Flanagan** and family on the death of Jose's step-father, who passed away on Sunday, November 2, 2014, in Spain.

... **Mrs. Sarah Miles** and family on the death of her maternal grandmother, **Dr. Bonnie Carman Harvey**, who passed away on Sunday, November 9, 2014, in Atlanta, GA.

... **Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Bell** and family on the death of his father, **Richard Bell**, who passed away on Thursday, November 13, 2014, in Asheville, North Carolina.

... **Mr. and Mrs. Robert Breer** and family on the death of Murle's sister-in-law, **Nancy MacKenzie**, who passed away on Monday, November 17, 2014, in Florida.

... **Mrs. Robert T. Henderson, Sr. (Bobbie)** and family on the death of her husband, **Robert T. Henderson, Sr.**, who entered the Lord's presence on Saturday, November 15, 2014, in Savannah, GA.

## WEDDING CONGRATULATIONS

... to **Mr. and Mrs. John C. Peters** who were united in marriage Saturday, November 1, 2014, at the Red Gate Farms, Savannah, GA. Mrs. Peters is the former Miss Dylan Kornegay.

... to **Mr. and Mrs. Neal A. Davis** who were united in marriage Saturday, November 15, 2014, by Rev. Terry Johnson at the Harper Fowlkes House, Savannah, GA. Mrs. Davis is the former Miss Katie Dean.

... to **Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Ting** who were united in marriage Saturday, November 15, 2014, at Independent Presbyterian Church, Savannah, GA. Mrs. Ting is the former Miss Madison Thomas.

## Men's Reading Club 2015

# Gleanings From Gurnall

**O**ur Men's Reading Club will be reading William Gurnall's, *The Christian in Complete Armour*, in 2015. Here are a few gleanings to whet your appetite.

- Satan seeks to encourage hard thoughts of God when his providence is hard to understand.
- If your view of God is shaped by Scripture, it is impossible to have anything but holy and loyal thoughts of God.
- If you do not believe, why pray? If you believe, why do you not expect? By praying, you depend upon God, but by not expecting, you unravel your prayer.
- Satan may for a time disturb, but he cannot blot your name out of the book of life. He cannot destroy your faith. He cannot hinder a happy outcome in your war with sin though he may win you in a private skirmish. Persevere until the battle is over and your enemy will rise no more.
- He is not a good subject who only seeks what he can get out of his prince, but never thinks what service he can render. He is not a true Christian whose thoughts dwell more on his own happiness than on the honor of his God.

## 2015 Men's Reading Club

# *The Christian in Complete Armour*

By William Gurnall

**Reading Schedule — 7:00 AM & 12:00 PM**

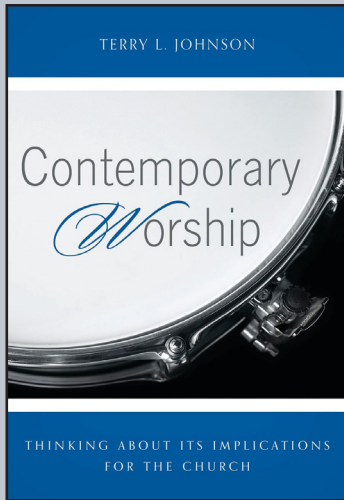
Month	Pages	Sections
January 29	1-111	"Direction First"
February 26	112-228	"Direction Second"
March 26	229-291	"Directions Third & Fourth"
April 30	292-405	"Direction Fifth"
May 28	406-478	"Direction Sixth"
June 25	479-589	"Direction Seventh"
July 30	1-123	"Direction Eighth"
August 27	124-193	"Direction Ninth"
September 24	194-287	"Direction Tenth"
October 29	288-390	"Direction Eleventh"
November 19	390-539	"Direction Eleventh" (con't)
December 18	540-600	"Direction Twelfth"



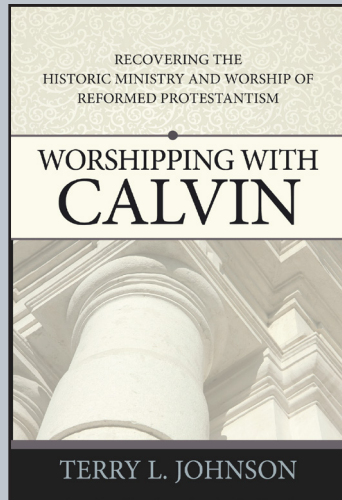
# PUBLICATIONS

*From Our Pastor*

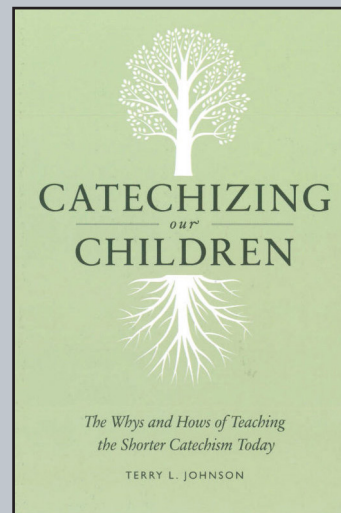
If you are looking for gift ideas for Christmas or for the New Year, consider these publications that can be purchased in the church bookstore.



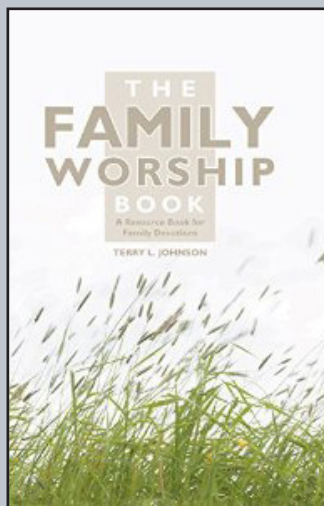
**\$2.00**



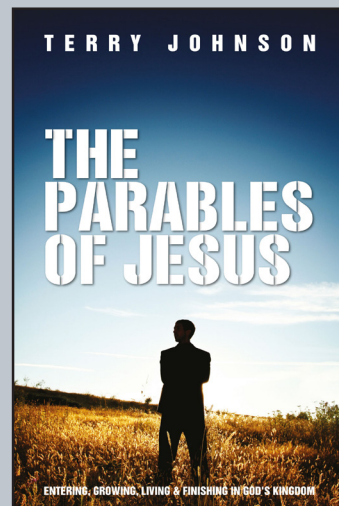
**\$15.00**



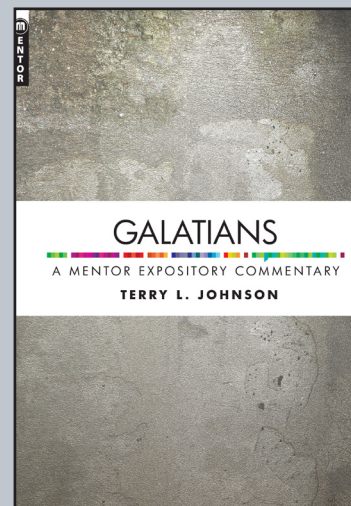
**\$7.00**



**\$15.00**



**\$15.00**



**\$26.00**

# 2015 Ligonier National Conference

## *After Darkness, Light* • February 19 – 21

From the revival in Judah under the reign of King Hezekiah (2 Chron. 29) to the Protestant Reformation that returned the church to the biblical gospel after its eclipse in the medieval era, we see that God is often pleased to shine His light when the darkness seems overwhelming. In every case, the faithful who lived in dark times called out for the Lord to revive them, and God answered their prayers by shining the light of His truth in this dark world.

We live in a day of darkness, when the gospel and the church are under attack on every front. Yet we do not live in a day without hope, for God's kingdom

cannot ultimately be conquered. As such, we have confidence that as we cry out to the Lord, He will revive us that we might rejoice in Him and His truth again (Ps. 85:6).

God's people must cry out for His revival and a restoration of the light. Ligonier Ministries is seeking to help people do just that. On February 19–21, 2015, we will be hosting our annual national conference in Orlando. Alistair Begg, Rosaria Butterfield, Tim Challies, Kevin DeYoung, Sinclair Ferguson, Robert Godfrey, Peter Jones, Steven Lawson, Russell Moore, Stephen Nichols, and R.C. Sproul Jr. will join

me in considering our theme, "After Darkness, Light." We will explore our need to be revived and restored to a high view of God, His law, His people, and His plan for the world.

As always, I trust this will be an edifying and encouraging time of learning, fellowship, and worship together. Will you join us this February as we call out for the Lord to revive the light of His truth in our churches and culture?

In Christ,  
R.C. Sproul  
Founder

Additional information, <http://www.ligonier.org/events/2015-national-conference/>

Conference Rates	Cost
Early Bird Rate (July 24-Dec. 19, 2014)	\$159.00
Regular Rate (Dec. 20-Feb. 06 2015)	\$199.00
Final Registration Window (Feb. 07-Feb. 21 2015)	\$219.00

## Bible Studies & Circles

### TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDIES

Both Tuesday morning Bible study groups will meet on December 2, with their final meetings on December 9. The studies will resume in January 2015.

### TUESDAY MORNING CIRCLE

The Tuesday Morning Circle will not meet in December. It will meet on Tuesday, January 13, 2015 at 10:30 a.m. at the home of Mrs. Helen Steward, 300 Bull Street, Apt. 704.

### THURSDAY MORNING CIRCLE

The Thursday Morning Circle will meet on December 11, at 10:30 a.m. at the home of Mrs. Susan Mullinix, 103 Baymeadow Point. The January meeting will be held on Thursday, January 8, 2015 (location will be announced).

### THURSDAY ISLANDS CIRCLE

The Thursday Islands Circle will meet on December 18, at 9:30 a.m. at the home of Mrs. Fef Nolen, 102 Paxton Drive. It will resume on Thursday, January 15, 2015.

### TUESDAY EVENING CIRCLE

The Tuesday Evening Circle will meet December 2, at 7:00 p.m., at the home of Mrs. Tevis Garnett, 13 Pinewood Avenue. They are studying a new book entitled, *The Enemy Within*, by Kris Lundgaard. They will meet on Tuesday, January 6, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Mrs. Jane Boatright, 114 Wedgefield Crossing.

### GARMER BIBLE STUDY

The Garmer Bible Study will not meet in December. It will resume on Tuesday, January 6, 2015, at 7:00 p.m. Location to be announced.



# Announcements & Events

## THE LORD'S SUPPER SERVICE

The Lord's Supper will be observed during our evening service on December 7 and on Sunday morning, January 4, 2015. 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).

## BLUFFTON WORSHIP SERVICE

The worship services at Bluffton will not meet during the month of December. They will be at IPC for the evening services. Watch notifications for when the services will resume in Bluffton.

## ANNUAL REPORTS

Summary narratives for the Annual Report are due from Committee Chairmen, church staff, educational staff, and WOC by Friday, January 2. Please submit your report by email to [mtaylor@ipcav.org](mailto:mtaylor@ipcav.org).

## FLOWERS FOR 2015

The flowers in the sanctuary on Sundays are donated by the members of the congregation. This is a wonderful way to honor/memorialize a special person in your life. If you would like to donate flowers for 2015, please call Laurel Brewer at 912-727-4418.

## CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Our Annual Christmas Eve Service will be held on Wednesday, December 24, at 5:30 p.m. It will include a message by Mr. Johnson, a children's story-sermon by Mr. Parrish, and candlelight carol singing on the lawn. Make plans to attend this special service of worship. Bring your family and friends.

## College Christmas Party

**December 19**

**6:30 to 9:30 PM**

At the home of

**Charlie and Amy Martin**

**1304 Walthour Road (31410)**

## DECEMBER/CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

- December 5** PRIMES' Christmas Party, Savannah Golf Club, 11:30 AM
- December 5** Berean Sunday School Christmas Party at the Stephen Jacksons' home, 17 Marsh Harbor Drive, 6:30 PM
- December 6** Youth deliver Shut-in baskets, 11:30-3 PM
- December 7** Last Small Group for 2014
- December 10** Last Youth Group for 2014
- December 12** Youth Christmas Party at The Boatrights' home, 114 Wedgefield Crossing, from 6:30 to 9:00 PM
- December 11** Covenant Christmas Party, Whitaker Street Building, 7 PM
- December 13** Lessons & Carols Rehearsal, (see schedule Music Ministry article)
- December 14** Lessons & Carols Service, 5:30 PM, followed by the Annual Christmas Buffet in the Fellowship Hall.
- December 19** College Christmas Party at the home of Charlie and Amy Martin, 1304 Walthour Road (31410), from 6:30-9:30 PM
- December 23** Men's Prayer Breakfast will meet
- December 24** Christmas Eve Service, 5:30 PM
- December 24 & 25** Church Office Closed in observance of Christ's birth
- December 28** Sunday evening meal will not be served
- December 30** Men's Prayer Breakfast will meet
- January 1** Church Office closed in observance of New Year's Day
- January 4** Sunday evening meal will not be served
- January 16** Agape Sunday School Class Post-Christmas Party at Point Pleasant, 6 PM

## WEDNESDAY NOON SERVICES

The last Wednesday Noon Service for 2014 will be held on December 17. It will not meet on December 24 or December 31, 2014. It will resume on Wednesday, January 7, 2015.

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# December Birthdays

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1 Hayes Hostetter  
1 Kristen Sagar  
2 Ben Johnson  
2 Joel Trice  
4 Lucy Biemiller  
4 Clara Crowe  
4 Gary Moore  
5 Sally Robyn  
5 Marion Brown  
6 Si McCaslin  
6 Darwin Nease  
7 Ryan Moody  
7 Ian Ward  
7 Scott Taylor  
9 Jack Reese  
9 Jill Black  
10 Victoria Eckman  
10 Sonny Longo

11 Thomas Hartridge  
11 Maggie Miller  
12 Ferris Key  
13 Emma Brodmann  
13 William James  
14 Ryon Rambo  
15 Steven Jackson  
15 Daniel Jackson  
15 Tanner Lanier  
15 Joey Vavrsek  
16 Pam Helmly  
16 Amy Orellana  
16 Margaree Orellana  
16 Jack Henderson  
17 Grace Garnett  
17 Will Rambo  
18 Liam Black  
18 Paul Carpenter

18 Mary Hazeltine  
18 Mark Ward  
19 Marc Biemiller  
19 Caroline Berry  
19 Eleanor Carson  
19 Grant Lane  
19 Kristin Nyce  
20 Edward Cording  
20 Stan Freeman  
20 Marley Rodgers  
21 Landry Rushing  
22 Reba Colson  
22 Ben Field  
22 Anna Hazeltine  
23 Peter Schenk  
23 Jane Boatright  
23 Edith Brunson  
23 William Wohlleb

24 Andy Chisholm  
24 Louis Richardson  
25 Frank Orellana  
25 James Barksdale  
26 Sharon Robinson  
27 Hal Ambos  
27 Benjamin Hart  
28 Kathleen Ward  
28 Fef Nolan  
28 Becca Flanagan  
29 John Demere  
29 Sam Johnson  
29 Mary Saleeby  
30 Roy Thompson  
30 Joanne Johansen  
31 Mary Young

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# January Birthdays

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2 Mary Catherine McLean  
2 Kim Lanier  
2 Turner Milling  
3 Marnie Warren  
4 Stephen Dusek  
4 Stefani Thompson  
4 Margaret Up DeGraff  
5 Charles DePue  
5 Teri Bell  
5 Jim Lomax  
6 Bob Oswald  
7 Clay Gibson  
8 Carol Dusek  
8 Wilbur Wiggins  
9 Pat Toler  
9 Kathy Moore

9 Brooks Barrett  
10 Bill Brodmann, Sr.  
10 Gabe Orellana  
11 Winn Morgan  
11 Linda Erwin  
11 Patrick Kenard  
12 Robert Breer  
12 Laurel Brewer  
12 Caleb Espinosa  
12 Michael Spenser  
13 Ashley Shine  
14 Joe Van Puffelen  
14 Janice McAlpine  
14 Judy Nease  
15 Melanie Moore  
16 Kay Heritage

16 John Hosey, Jr.  
16 Amber Williams  
16 Denise Winks  
17 Mandy Oswald  
18 Fae Kameron  
20 Murle Breer  
21 Parker Carpenter  
21 Beatriz Orellana  
22 Lauren Key  
22 Sharon Hassing  
23 Erin Helmly  
23 KK Heritage, Jr.  
24 Katie Gouse  
24 Alice Henrick  
24 Sandee Lomax  
25 Rod Steward

26 Jean Ennis  
26 Kathryn Van Eck  
26 Sue Gouse  
26 Samuel Brunson  
26 Ron Berry, Jr.  
28 Jan Rodgers  
28 John Simpson  
28 Wayne Sullivan  
28 Madison Wiggins  
29 Page Barksdale  
30 Lucy Brannen  
30 Kenneth Crowe  
30 Jamie McKee  
30 Clark Rookstool  
31 Adeline Barrett

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## PRIMES' VALENTINE'S LUNCHEON

The PRIMES' Valentine's Luncheon will take place on February 13, 2015, 11:30 a.m. at the Savannah Golf Club. Save the date and make your plans to attend.

## MARCH FOR LIFE TRIP

Please watch for a very important letter, coming soon, regarding the 2015 March for Life Trip.

We hope you will consider being a part of this very important opportunity to stand for the Sanctity of Life.

# The IPC Messenger

INDEPENDENT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

P. O. BOX 9266

SAVANNAH, GA 31412

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## I.P.C. Officers' Retreat

**Saturday, January 10, 2015**

**8:30 AM until 12:30 PM**

**Whitaker Street Building**



**Mark your calendars for this “kick-off” event for our officers.**

**It will provide an opportunity for Elders and Deacons  
to plan for our Care Groups in 2015.**

**The pastors and others will speak to us about ways to  
sharpen our focus as we care for our “flocks.”**

**Full participation is important, so please mark your calendars now  
and make every effort to attend this time of fellowship with one another.**