



# IPC Messenger

A WEEKLY PUBLICATION OF THE INDEPENDENT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
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## PASTORAL MALPRACTICE

“Cheap grace” is the term that Dietrich Bonhoeffer coined to describe false grace, which he perceived in the persistent promise of grace wrongly extended by the church to those who had forfeited a claim to it. Like who? Like those professing believers who by false doctrines or bad behavior could no longer make a credible claim to genuine faith. When I first came to Reformed convictions this concept was a lifeline for me, adrift in Arminian evangelism, surrounded by countless professing Christians who’d walk the aisle, signed a card, and prayed a prayer, and now they were sure they were saved, though they lived like the devil’s own. The Reformed insistence on linking sanctification with justification answered the problem of cheap grace and “easy believism.” The justified will be sanctified. Those not being sanctified have not been justified. It is so clear. How is it that Reformed people have gotten confused on so basic an issue? Or perhaps more accurately, why is it that in some circles there is desperate concern to correct the *legalism* of fundamentalism yet little concern to correct its even more pervasive *anti-nomianism*? For the church continually to preach grace and more grace in the face of heretical doctrines or runaway immorality among its members is to turn grace into a license for sin and proclaim a false gospel. (Gal. 5:13; Jude 4; 1 Pt. 2:16)

### Tension

We have discussed the tension in the New Testament between the need on the one hand to assure genuine believers of their safety in Christ and on the other hand to warn professing but counterfeit believers of their danger. The tension is complicated by the fact that it is often difficult to distinguish between true and false believers and further complicated because the latter may even think they are genuine when in fact they are self-deceived.

It may help to elaborate further on these categories of church members. What is meant to be the effect of biblical preaching upon professing believers? A proverbial answer is “comfort the afflicted and afflict the

comfortable”. The details might look like this:

1. Assure the faithful
2. Strengthen the weak
3. Caution the complacent
4. Warn the disobedient
5. Threaten the defiant

These five categories of professing believers (particularly our current concern, categories 3-5) are given an abundance of space in the New Testament. The Apostles, as we have seen, give them considerable attention.

Take Sarah Bloggs, Joe’s wife. Sarah was saved as a teenager. Yet she is the town’s biggest gossip. Her tongue is the world of inequity and set on fire by hell (see James 3:3 ff). She is cruel, even vicious, though also witty with her tongue. Should she be unsettled by biblical preaching? Shouldn’t it provoke some self-evaluation? Might it prove salutary for her to hear words of caution, warnings, and even threats?

### Transformation

The “grace only” advocates that we identified in previous months seem altogether oblivious to these common New Testament themes and their implications for preaching and pastoral ministry. Behind the apostolic preaching is the confidence that Christ not only saves, He transforms. Believers are regenerated, given a new heart and a new nature, vividly described in death/life terms in Romans 6. Moreover believers are indwelt by the Holy Spirit. When this double dynamic is present, gospel power is active in creating the new life of the believer: the old passes away and all things become new. (2 Cor.5:17, Rom 12:1, 2). Sanctification follows justification.

What about when the life isn’t changed, when Christ is claimed but no transformation takes place, when the old ways, habits, lusts, idols persist? The credibility of one’s profession of Christ is called into question. Hence, the urgent New Testament warnings to the complacent, the

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### TRUSTEE EMERITUS

## PASTORAL MALPRACTICE

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disobedient, and the hypocritical.

The extent of the problem is entirely missed by “grace only” preaching. Hypocrites, “false professors”, as the Puritans called them, and the self-deceived, all professing believers, all members of the visible church, have to be taken into account as the church’s preaching even as they are in the Apostles’ epistles. They must be accommodated in apostolic proportions, as well. The church will always be filled with tares that appear as wheat. The church will always find growing in its fields visible plants in rocky/shallow soil, which for a time appear healthy but are not rooted and wither under trials. There will always be visible plants among the thorns/weeds that likewise grow and appear normal but in the end are choked out by the world (Mt. 13:1 ff). Jesus taught these parables as a warning to us. He describes typical responses to the word of God about which we are to be aware and alarmed lest our hearts become content with incomplete and inadequate responses to the gospel.

Warnings, not just reminders of the grace, are designed to awaken the hypocrite and the self-deceived, the complacent and the disobedient, lest they continue on the path of destruction. To say that those in conditions “3” to “5” (above) only need indicatives and not imperatives (in today’s parlance), only read to hear afresh what Christ has done and are not in need of exhortations as to what they must do, is to fly in the face of Jesus’ and the Apostles’ own pastoral method. I am ready to say that we are guilty of *pastoral malpractice*, no less, when we refuse to use the biblical warnings and threats to awaken them and instead leave them in their wayward path. Let me say it again, it is pastorally irresponsible and neglect of pastoral duty to fail to preach God’s gracious warnings. Faithful believers may at times find the warnings and threats of the New Testament unsettling. They may, at times, be prompted by doubts

and fears to engage in self-examination, not an altogether negative result. Yet ordinarily the faithful will rejoice that the imperfectly converted are being rattled, knowing that such messages may be the means of their finding true life in Christ.

In many ways all we’re asking Presbyterian ministries to do is uphold the teaching of the Bible as our Confession of Faith and Catechisms understand it and which they have sworn to uphold. Addressing the positive utility of the law for the Christian (the “third use”), the Confession identifies both its threats and promises. The law of God is “of use to the regenerate, to restrain their corruptions,” even “the threatenings of it show what. . . afflictions in this life, they may expect for them, although freed from the curse thereof.” (WCF XIX.6) Further, “The promises of (the law of God). . . show that God’s approbation of obedience, and what blessings they may expect upon the performance thereof: although not as due to them by the law as a covenant of works.” (WCF XIX.6) Do the “grace boys” believe this, that God threatens believers with afflictions for their disobedience and promises blessings upon their performance of the law? Do they believe that the threats of affliction and promises of blessing that are tied to the law of God ought to be preached, and further, that these principles are not “contrary to the grace of the gospel, but do sweetly comply with it”? (WCF XIX.7)

—Terry Johnson

# 2012 MISSIONS CONFERENCE

## “IMPARTING THE GOSPEL...AND OUR OWN LIVES”

*“So, affectionately longing for you, we were well pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God, but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us.”*

—1 Thessalonians 2:8 NKJ

The 2012 IPC Missions Conference is a few short weeks away. Our scheduled speakers will bring to us a rich perspective on our involvement with their various ministries (and all the others that are supported by our church). As always, the programs will be engaging, the fellowship warm, and the meals delicious. Most importantly we will be challenged to expand our thinking about IPC's role in the great commission and how we might take a greater personal role. Our conference theme this year has the intention of encouraging a more active personal involvement by individual members of our congregation – in praying for, giving to, and perhaps going to the mission field. The conference offers the opportunity to become better educated on how our supported missionaries carry out their work, as well as challenge us individually to think and pray about our personal involvement.

Our keynote speaker will be Wes Baker of PeruMission. IPC has supported Wes and Jami from the beginning of the PeruMission work (more than ten years ago). Wes is from New Braunfels, Texas, lives and works in Trujillo, Peru. Wes is ordained by the Presbyterian Church in America and serves as a minister in the Iglesia Presbiteriana Cristo Rey in Trujillo. He trains pastors and church planters in the seminary, and helps with the mission's strategic planning. He and his wife Jami have seven children. Five of the children live in Peru (Noah, Abby, Katheryn, Olivia, and Millie) while two are in the states pursuing their education (Lauren and Cullen).

Jami is actively involved in the women's ministry in the PeruMission churches and serves alongside Wes in hospitality to Peruvians, visitors, and team encouragement as well. Our other speakers will be James and Rachael Grant, itinerating to serve with MTW in college ministry in Spain; Marc and Aline Mailloux, serving with MTW in ministry to the French speaking groups in the Caribbean; and Ron and Sally Gleason. Ron is the senior pastor at Grace Presbyterian Church in Yorba Linda, California, actively promoting church planting in that area (two of the church plants are supported by IPC).

Thursday and Friday evenings (March 1 and 2) we'll meet at Point Pleasant and enjoy meals by Tim and Tricia Barrett's Silk Road catering. Friday's WOC luncheon will be at the Savannah Golf Club with their usual delicious buffet. Saturday's Men's Prayer Breakfast will be in our own fellowship hall with a complete hot breakfast provided by Kay Heritage's world renowned kitchen staff (who will as usual provide our Sunday evening dinner also). The combination of programs and meals will provide great food for body and soul! Please use the RSVP forms in our publications to indicate your plans to attend these sessions.

There will be displays by our missionaries, a display indicating short term opportunities for 2012, and a display of our recent trip (Dec. 30 – Jan. 7) with our day camp staff to help provide a week of camp for the children of the PeruMission churches in Trujillo. We continue to enjoy a great relationship with this mission through our construction and medical projects, and now with our participation in the summer camp for children.

Please consider full participation in the Missions Conference opportunities set before you. It will be educational, encouraging, and for the good of your soul. Our goal as a church is that 25% of our annual operating budget is dedicated to missions. You need to see how your tithes and offerings are being used. We all need to pray more consistently and specifically for the spread of the Gospel. The conference will help us. Many of us need to more seriously consider becoming personally involved in going – both short term and long. The conference will bring information and inspiration. I look forward to being with you during this special time.

—Frankie Daniell

### MEMORIZATION ACHIEVEMENT

Congratulations to **James “Jimmy” Charles Shields** and to **Grace Katherine Garnett** for successfully reciting, word perfect, questions 1-38 of the *Shorter Catechism*.

Congratulations to **Jonathan Bennett Shine** for successfully reciting Level 1 of our memorization program. Bennett recited word perfect, the Apostle's Creed, The Lord's Prayer, and the Ten Commandments. He will receive a certificate as well as a gift card and candy for this achievement.

Please take a moment to congratulate these individuals.

# LEARNING HYMNS AND PSALMS

A member of the First Thursday Men's Reading Club made an important observation concerning J. I. Packer's, 20<sup>th</sup> century classic *Knowing God*. Repeatedly throughout his presentation Packer illustrates his point or clinches his argument by citing a classic hymn. The rich devotional language of classic Christian hymnody clearly played a role in clarifying Packer's own convictions or provided language with which to express those convictions.

Let me cite some examples. Where Packer wishes to express "the Bible position" on the human incapacity to "repair our own relationship with God," he cites Toplady's "Rock of Ages," the second stanza,

Not the labor of my hands  
Can fulfill Thy law's demands;  
Could my zeal no respite know,  
Could my tears forever flow,  
All for sin could not atone;  
Thou must save, and Thou alone.

The Christian's response to God's grace in Christ is given "supreme expression," he says, by the American Presbyterian, Samuel Davies (1723-1761), in his hymn, "Great God of Wonders!"

"Who Is a Pardoning God Like Thee?  
"Or who has grace so rich and free?"

Watts', Dodderidge's and the Wesley's hymns are all cited frequently. God's grace moves us to cry out, Packer says,

"Oh! To grace how great a debtor  
Daily I'm constrained to be,"

citing Robert Robinson's (1735-1790) classic, "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing." God the judge? Toplady again is cited,

While I draw this fleeting breath,  
When mine eyelids close in death,  
When I soar to worlds unknown,  
See Thee on Thy judgment throne,  
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,  
Let me hide myself in thee.

He cites the "songs of the heirs of heaven," who understand God's love in the gospel by citing, Hallelujah! What a Savior," "And Can It Be," and several others. Christian sonship is supported by citations for "Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven" ("Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, who like we His praise should sing?) and (again) "And Can It Be," the last stanza.

No condemnation now I dread;  
Jesus, and all in Him, is mine!  
Alive in Him, my living Head,  
And clothed in righteousness Divine,  
Bold I approach the eternal throne,  
And claim the crown, through Christ my own.  
Bold I approach the eternal throne,  
And claim the crown, through Christ my own

Christian guidance? "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah." Christian Assurance? Multiple citations from the hymns of Toplady ("the poet of Christian assurance") culminating in two stanzas from one of IPC's favorites, "A Debtor to Mercy Alone."

The work which His goodness began,  
The arm of His strength will complete;  
His promise is Yea and Amen,  
And never was forfeited yet.  
Things future, nor things that are now,  
Nor all things below or above,  
Can make Him His purpose forgo,  
Or sever my soul from His love.

My name from the palms of His hands  
Eternity will not erase;  
Impressed on His heart, it remains  
In marks of indelible grace.  
Yes! I to the end shall endure,  
As sure as the earnest is giv'n;  
More happy, but not more secure,  
The glorified spirits in heav'n.

Note: a theologian of the stature of J. I. Packer turns repeatedly to classic hymnody to express Christian convictions and experiences. It matters what we sing. For over 20 years now we have urged parents to teach their children the psalms and hymns of the month. Why? So that the church's children will learn the rich language of Christian devotion. When we teach our children classic hymnody, we are teaching them the doctrines of the Bible in poetic form. Lodged in the memory, they will be able to draw upon this treasury of devotional language to express both their doctrinal convictions and their love for Christ for the rest of their lives.

To this end, we are hosting Paul Jones of Tenth Presbyterian Church of Philadelphia for a one-morning seminar on hymnody/psalmody. Come and learn. Come also and enjoy the fun of a good ol' hymn sing, February 4, 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon.

—Terry Johnxon

# FAMILY CORNER

FEBRUARY 2012

## PSALM OF THE MONTH

### PSALM 148

Elements from George Wither and  
*Scottish Psalter*, 1650

The final five psalms of the psalter all begin with "hallelujah" or "praise the Lord" (as the Hebrew may be rendered), and move progressively from individual praise (146) to congregational praise (147) to creation praise (148) to kingdom praise (149) to universal praise (150). Beginning with the angels in heaven (verses 1,2) and descending to the various creatures on earth (verses 3-10), calling upon all the families of earth (verses 11-13) and finally the chosen people Israel (verse 14), Psalm 148 summons all creation to "praise the LORD" (verses 1,14).

"As a flash of lightning flames through space, and enwraps both heaven and earth in one vestment of glory, so doth the adoration of the Lord in this psalm light up all the universe, and cause it to glow with a radiance of praise. The song begins in the heavens, sweeps downward to dragons and all deeps, and then ascends again, till the people near unto Jehovah take up the strain" (Spurgeon).

- 1 From heav'n O praise the LORD;  
Ye heights, His glory raise.
- 2 All angels, praise accord;  
Let all His host give praise.
- 3 Praise Him on high,  
Sun, moon, and star,  
Sun, moon, and star,
- 4 Ye heav'ns afar,  
And cloudy sky.
- 5 Yea, let them glorious make  
Jehovah's matchless name;  
For when the word He spake  
They into being came.
- 6 And from that place  
Where fixed they be,  
Where fixed they be,  
By His decree  
They cannot pass.
- 7 From earth O praise the LORD;  
Ye deeps and all below;
- 8 Wild winds that do His word,  
Ye clouds, fire, hail, and snow;
- 9 Ye mountains high,  
Ye cedars tall,  
Ye cedars tall,
- 10 Beasts great and small,  
And birds that fly.
- 11 Let all the people praise,  
And kings of every land;  
Let all their voices raise  
Who judge and give command.

- 12 By young and old,  
By maid and youth,  
By maid and youth,
- 13 His name in truth  
Should be extolled.

Jehovah's name be praised  
Above the earth and sky.

- 14 For He His saints has raised  
And set their power on high.  
Him praise accord,  
O Israel's race,  
O Israel's race,  
Near to His grace.  
Praise ye the LORD.

TUNE: ST. CATHERINE'S 66.66.44.44.  
Horatio R. Palmer

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## BUILDING YOUR LIFE ON THE BIBLE

Excerpt from *The Relevancy of Scripture*, presented by Cam Huxford, Senior Pastor of Savannah Christian Church, at the Symposium on Holy Scripture, January 14, 2012.

- ◆ This book led me to a saving relationship with the God who created the Universe.
- ◆ This book led me to Jesus and the forgiveness of my sins and the power that enables me to break the destructive hold of sin in my life.
- ◆ This book is showing me how to build a marriage...
- ◆ raise my kids...
- ◆ building lasting friendships...
- ◆ handle my money...
- ◆ treat my body...
- ◆ harness my appetites...
- ◆ reconcile relationships that have been bruised.

This book has comforted me in sorrow...strengthened me in times of weakness...rebuked me when I've rebelled and affirmed me when I've obeyed.

The Bible has given me perspective on my past, wisdom for the present, and hope for the future.

It describes the place where I will spend eternity...

I don't know what I'd do without the Bible...I love it, I submit to it, I respect it.

And with the help of the Holy Spirit...I intend to read it and follow it carefully the rest of my life.

# PRIMES

After two decades or so of activities, perhaps it's time to say a few words about this non-organization that exists here at IPC (has no membership roll, officers, by-laws, etc.). Some have suggested that the word was chosen because it formed an acrostic that spelled out in brief the persons who comprised it. Thus:

**P**resbyterian

**R**etirees

**I**n

**M**inistry

**E**verywhere

**S**

The folks who comprised this non-organization were defined as all members of IPC (and their friends) who were 50 years of age or older. But, of course, very few persons who fit into the category of ages 50-64 are formally retired, and so that raises a question about the aforementioned acrostic which references retirees.

However that may be, this non-organization called PRIMES was and is intended to provide several annual social/spiritual fellowship gatherings for persons over 50.

In the early years, occasional day trips were arranged by IPC laymen to nearby historic sites (e.g. Beaufort and Charleston) and to the Alhambra dinner theater in Jacksonville, with mixed results attendance wise.

Over the past 16 years or so the responsibility for these affairs has fallen to yours truly and I decided that perhaps the best way to move forward would be to have two luncheon programs at significant times of the year (Christmas and Valentine's Day) to be held at a local restaurant or club. We soon settled on the Savannah Golf Club because it was central, had adequate free parking, provided a fine meeting room and, most especially, served an excellent buffet meal at an affordable price. And so since 1997, most of our functions have been held there.

As far as the program goes, I have sought two volunteers to assist me in making arrangements, providing favors, decorating tables, etc. (presently Pat Toler and Charles Riner). The program itself has been my responsibility and consists of a scriptural devotional provided by an IPC staffer along with quality special music and some group singing appropriate to the season. And at the Christmas program I have typically read a short story that also relates to the season, and noted the names of those members who have died during the past year.

The cost of the two affairs is shared by IPC and the attendees. And for the most part, attendance has been quite good (typically between 65 and 80). And time-wise, the luncheon and program runs about two hours (11:30 AM – 1:30 PM).

Brethren, all in all, it is a relaxing time featuring fine food, spiritual nourishment, great Christian fellowship, and an enjoyable program. Please plan to participate. You'll be glad you did! And incidentally, you can do so in a matter of days. Our next gathering (Valentine's Day Luncheon and program) will be held at the Savannah Golf Club on Presidents Street Extension on Friday, February 10, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. And the cost is just \$12.00 per person. The musical portion of the program will feature former member, Laura Lee Sims and Rev. Ron Parrish will provide the devotional. Sign-up forms can be found in the Sunday bulletin. See you there!

—Art Broadwick

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# MUSIC MINISTRY

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Happy New Year! It is hard to believe the Christmas season is behind us, and we are well into the new year. Many thanks to those who participated so willingly in the Lessons and Carols service. Thank you to all the lesson readers, the Handbell, Seraph, Cherub, Chapel, Youth, and Sanctuary Choirs. Many of you devoted precious Saturday time to extra rehearsals, and your efforts are much appreciated. Thank you to musicians Edith Brunson, Frankie Daniell, Tevis Garnett, Donna Ruis, and Jonathan Van Eck. Also, thank you to Amy Martin for robing the children. It takes many workers to make things happen, but the fellowship of working together is always a blessing.

The Choirs are busy preparing for many things ahead. The Chapel and Youth Choirs are learning music for Missions week in March, and soon Easter will be here!

The Youth Choir is also preparing music for a trip on May 5-6. Prior attendance at rehearsal is mandatory for this trip.

Attendance at Chapel Choir on Sunday evening has been weak. I would like to encourage the children to come and participate. Each one of you is needed. Please come and sing with us.

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Booklets and tapes for the Hymn and Psalms of the Month will soon be distributed to our Sunday School children.

Chime Choir is rehearsing on Sunday afternoons at 4:00, and the Handbell Choir will resume rehearsal on Wednesday evenings at 5:30 in February.

I am personally so grateful to you all for your prayers and support in the past year.

And as we begin this new year, may God be with us and bless our efforts, and may His name be proclaimed as we continue to make music to His glory.

In Christ's Service,  
Kathryn Van Eck

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## APPRECIATION

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Dear IPC Family,

Thank you all for your prayers and expressions of love to us in the recent death of my father. Your cards, calls, e-mails, flowers, food, and open arms have brought much comfort. We are very grateful for you all.

Love,  
Amy Orellana



Dear IPC Family,

We thank you for the gift cards. May God continue to pour out many blessings to you all.

The Nursery Workers



To Members and friends at IPC,

We are so grateful to God for His healing mercies during Tom's recent hospitalization for heart attack and ensuing triple by-pass surgery. The outpouring of prayers and loving concern from our church community were so very meaningful to us both. We appreciated greatly the many cards, calls, flowers, and other expressions of care that were received.

Tom is now into cardiac rehab and is doing very well.

With love and gratitude,  
Tom and Judy Brendle



Dear IPC Family,

Thank you so much for the potted plant, the meals, the visits, and prayers upon the arrival of our little Lillie. She and we are very blessed to have such a wonderful church family.

Sincerely,  
Will, Jill, and Lillie Black

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## CHURCH IN BEREAVEMENT

The congregation of Independent Presbyterian Church extends sincere sympathy to:

... *Mr. and Mrs. Darvin S. Nease* and family on the death of her mother, *Gerladine Chancey Carter "Punk"*, who passed away on Monday, January 2, 2012, in Savannah, GA.

... *Mr. and Mrs. John Childress* and family and *Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Welch* and family on the death of Angela and Jeff's grandmother, *Annie Ruth Etheridge Welch*, who passed away on Tuesday, January 3, 2012, in Jackson, MS.

... *Mrs. Carolyn Hodges* and family on the death of her daughter-in-law, *Ann Jeanene Gresham*, who passed away on January 17, 2012, in Savannah, GA.

... *Mrs. Joan Ackley* and family on the death of her brother, *James McKeith*, who passed away on Sunday, January 22, 2012 in California.



## BIRTHS

Congratulations to:

... *Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Milling (Amy)* on the birth of their son, *Wallace Turner Milling, Jr.*, born Monday, January 2, 2012.

... *Mr. and Mrs. Timothy Andrew B. Barrett (Julia)* on the birth of their son, *Timothy Brooks Barrett*, born Monday, January 9, 2012. The proud grandparents are *Mr. and Mrs. Timothy Ragen (Emmy)*.

# STUDENT MINISTRIES

Read Psalm 103 before going any further.

<sup>2</sup> Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits...

## FORGET NOT ALL HIS BENEFITS!

*“By the pardon of sin, that is taken away which kept good things from us, and we are restored to the favor of God, who bestows good things on us. Think of the provocation; it was sin, and yet pardoned: how many the provocations, yet all pardoned! God is still forgiving, as we are still sinning and repenting.”*

Matthew Henry’s Commentary of Psalm 103 (1710)

As we look back on the past year, we all can find things we’d like to forget. There were battles with sin lost, words we wish we never would have said, things we wish we never would have done... Unfortunately, we tend not to forget these failures as our actions and our adversary continually remind us of the condemnation we rightfully deserve.

When we dwell upon our “dust-ness” (see 103:14) we can also forget the reason we worship our God. We can forget the reason we celebrate each Sunday when we gather with believers all over the world in the Church Militant and the Church Triumphant.

And what is that Reason?

It is the amazing grace and mercy of our God, demonstrated to us in our Lord Jesus Christ when He took upon Himself the cross of His Father’s Wrath – in our place! Our sinless Savior bore the punishment we deserved and gave us His life when He arose from the grave.

We need to be reminded of this amazing Truth all 365 days of every year, because we are forgetful people. If we weren’t, our God would not have needed to command us to “forget not all His benefits.” And His benefits are truly spectacular:

*[He] forgives all your iniquity,  
[He] heals all your diseases,  
<sup>4</sup> [He] redeems your life from the pit,  
[He] crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,  
<sup>5</sup> [He] satisfies you with good  
The LORD is merciful and gracious,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.  
<sup>9</sup> [The LORD] will not always chide,  
nor will He keep his anger forever.  
<sup>10</sup> He does not deal with us according to our sins,  
nor repay us according to our iniquities.*

<sup>11</sup> *For as high as the heavens are above the earth,  
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;  
<sup>12</sup> as far as the east is from the west,  
so far does he remove our transgressions from us..*

As we enter this new year, I pray that we would “forget not all His benefits” so that we would be filled with such holy awe and wonder that it would overflow from our lives into the lives of those around us.

To God be the Glory,  
Brad

## CONNECT NEWSLETTER

Happy New Year 2012! The Winter/Spring Connect Newsletter has all the information you need to know about youth events from now until summer. If you don’t have one, please let us know by calling 912.236.3346 so you can stay connected.

### Weekly Schedule:

**Sunday School:** 9:30 – 10:30 AM in the Whitaker Building

7<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Whitaker Bldg.

Teacher: Terry Johnson

*Shorter Catechism*

Senior High – 3<sup>rd</sup> Flood Student Bldg.

Teachers: Tim Barrett and Tim Foster

*Westminster Confession*

### Sunday Night:

Evening Worship – 5:30 – 6:40 PM

Dinner – 6:40 – 7:00

Small Groups : 7-8 pm

### Wednesday Night:

**The Gospel of John**

**Youth Dinner** – 6:30 PM – 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Whitaker Street Building

**Youth Group** – 7 – 8:30 PM – 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Floors, Whitaker Street Building

## UPCOMING DATES AND EVENTS

<b>February 8</b>	Lady and the Tramp Night at Point Pleasant (6-9 pm)
<b>February 24-26</b>	Winter Retreat at Little Ocmulgee State Park
<b>March 1-4</b>	IPC Missions Conference
<b>April 6</b>	Hide Easter eggs at Point Pleasant (10a-12p)

(continued page 9)

**STUDENT MINISTRY**

from page 8

- April 7** Egg Hunt and Breakfast  
Point Pleasant (9-11a)
- April 28** Canoe Trip to Ebenezer Creek
- May 4 – 6** Youth Choir Trip
- May 16** Senior Roast at  
Point Pleasant (6:30-8:30p)

February 29, March 14 & 21, April 18: **NO** Youth Group

Mission Trip: June 21-24, 2012

Whitewater Week: July 16-19, 2012

**COLLEGE INFORMATION**

**College Sunday School Class:**

**Welcome College Students!** All college students are invited to attend our IPC College Sunday School Class taught by Brad Waller. Our college ministry works in close cooperation with RUF (Reformed University Fellowship – the Presbyterian Church in America’s Campus Ministry) and campus minister Michael Gordon. The College Sunday School Class meets at 9:30 on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of the Whitaker Building! We have breakfast food so come hungry and bring your roommate!

We’ll be continuing our study of the book of Genesis for this semester. Come and find out why Genesis is so important to have a deeper understanding of the rest of God’s Word.

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**ON MULTITASKING, CONCENTRATION,  
AND LEADERSHIP**

Exerpts below are from a lecture delivered to the plebe class at the United States Military Academy at West Point in October, 2009, entitled, “Solitude and Leadership” by William Deresiewicz; found in *The American Scholar*. It provides sobering cautions about how new technologies are effecting us.

A study by a team of researchers at Stanford. . .

“wanted to figure out how today’s college students were able to multitask so much more effectively than adults. How do they manage to do it, the researchers asked? The answer, they discovered—and this is by no means what they expected—is that they don’t. The enhanced cognitive abilities the investigators expected to find, the mental faculties that enable people to multitask effectively, were simply not there. In other words, people do not multitask effectively. And here’s the really surprising finding: the more people multitask, the worse they are, not just at other mental abilities, but at multitasking itself.”

High multitaskers, they were surprised to find. . .

“were worse at distinguishing between relevant and irrelevant information and ignoring the latter. In other words, they were more distractible. They were worse at what you might call “mental filing”: keeping information in the right conceptual boxes and being able to retrieve it quickly. In other words, their minds were more disorganized. And they were even worse at the very thing that defines multitasking itself switching between tasks.

“Multitasking, in short, is not only not thinking, it impairs your ability to think. *Thinking means concentrating on one thing long enough to develop an idea about it.* Not learning other people’s ideas, or memorizing a body of information, however much those may sometimes be useful. Developing your own ideas. In short, thinking for yourself. You simply cannot do that in bursts of 20 seconds at a time, constantly interrupted by Facebook messages or Twitter tweets, or fiddling with your iPod, or watching something on YouTube. . .

“It seems to me that Facebook and Twitter and YouTube—and just so you don’t think this is a generational thing, TV and radio and magazines and even newspapers, too—are all ultimately just an elaborate excuse to run away from yourself. To avoid the difficult and troubling questions that being human throws in your way. Am I doing the right thing with my life? Do I believe the things I was taught as a child? What do the words I live by—words like *duty*, *honor*, and *country*—really mean?”

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**CHANGES IN ADDRESS**

**T**HE FOLLOWING ARE CHANGES in members’ address and/or telephone information. Please note them in your directory.

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Hazeltine  
15 Lake Heron Court W.  
Pooler, GA 31322-4041

Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Bruce  
P.O. Box 643036  
Vero Beach, FL 32964-3036

Mr. Matthew Mullinix  
576 Camino de la Cime  
San Marcos, CA 92078

# —ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS—

## THE LORD'S SUPPER

We will celebrate The Lord's Supper in our evening service on Sunday, February 5, 2012. 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).

## CONGREGATIONAL HYMN-SINGING WORKSHOP

The Congregational Hymn-Singing Workshop with special guest, Dr. Paul Jones, will be held at IPC on Saturday, February 4, 2012. Session One: "What are hymns and why should we sing them?" (9:00-9:45 a.m.); Session Two: "What is 'good' church music?" (10-10:45 a.m.); Session Three: "How can we sing psalms and hymns and sing them well?" (11:00 to noon). Dr. Jones has been Organist and Music Director of Tenth Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia, PA since 1998.

## MEN'S READING CLUB

We had thirteen men come for our first Reading Club last Thursday. Our next Book Reading Meeting will be on Thursday, February 2. We will be continuing our study in *Knowing God*. All men of the church are invited to join us for this book study. The March book is, *The Christian Life* by Ferguson. It is available in the bookstore for \$7.50.

## PRIMES' VALENTINE'S DAY LUNCHEON

Our annual luncheon will be held on Friday, February 10 (11:30 a.m.) at the Savannah Golf Club, 1661 E. President Street. Cost per person is \$12.00. Please make a separate check payable to IPC (note PRIMES' luncheon) and place it in the offering plate. The program will consist of a short devotional by Rev. Ron Parrish and special music by Mrs. Laura Lee Sims. Deadline for reservations is Monday, February 6.

## MORNING SERVICE

### "FOUR BEATITUDES"

Luke 6:20-23

Mr. Johnson

## EVENING SERVICE

### "THE SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE"

Exodus 20:13

Mr. Johnson

## WOMEN'S TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

The Women's Tuesday Morning Bible Study will meet Tuesdays, at 10:00 a.m. in the Whitaker Building, 3<sup>rd</sup> Fl. The group will study the book of *1 Samuel—Looking at the Heart* by Ralph Davis. A nursery is provided in the Axson Bldg., 2<sup>nd</sup> Fl.

## ISLANDS CIRCLE

I hope you can join us for our next circle group on Friday, February 10, at 9:30 a.m. at the home of Mrs. Fef Nolen, 102 Paxton (Isle of Hope). For information about this Bible study, please contact Carol Dusek at 598-4974.

## THURSDAY MORNING CIRCLE

The Thursday Morning Circle will meet on February 9, 2012, 10:30 a.m., at the home of Mrs. Sally Robyn, 1 Brightside Lane (The Landings).

## WOMEN MENTORING WOMEN

Please join in the Women Mentoring Women Bible Study on Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. in the Whitaker Street Building, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor. A nursery is provided for those needing childcare. For information call Lauren Key, 247-5292.

## GARMER BIBLE STUDY

The Garmer Bible Study will meet on Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Alton Brown, Sr., 205 Wheeler Street (354-9215).

## TUESDAY MORNING CIRCLE

The Tuesday Morning Circle will meet on February 14, at the home of Mrs. Melvis Edenfield, 111 Country Club Drive.

## EMMAUS CLASS PARTY

The Emmaus Class will have a Valentine's Party at the home of Jody and Kim Lanier, 6 Liberty Place (The Landings), on Saturday, February 11, 6:30 p.m. Please bring an appetizer or dessert and a copy of your wedding photo in a sealed envelope. Please R.S.V.P. to Kim at 912-657-4577 or to [kimlanier@lanierrealty.com](mailto:kimlanier@lanierrealty.com).

## WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

Ferguson Avenue Baptist Church cordially invites any women of IPC to attend their Women's Conference, February 3, starting at 6:30 p.m. (soup & salad supper provided) and on Saturday, February 4, at 9:00 a.m. (lunch provided). The conference speaker features Kimberly Campbell. Kimberly lives and works in Durham, NC. She writes Sunday School curriculum for a church in Raleigh. The theme is: "Dwell—What does it mean to dwell on the Gospel." Cost is \$10.00. Please call 355-0949 for further information. The conference will be held at Ferguson Avenue Baptist Church.

# FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

1. Gerald Campbell
3. Don Knoche  
Sarah Brodmann
4. Ethan Crowe  
John Rigby  
Joseph Forgeng  
James Gray  
James Scott
5. Pat Adams  
Charles Brown  
Matthew Van Grouw
6. Natalie Bauer
7. Pam Dykema  
John Copeland  
Jane Eliza Chisholm  
Gordon Hassing



- Gus Morgan
8. Jennifer Daniell  
Jim Van Grouw
10. Patricia Thomas
11. Matthew Moore
12. Miranda Gibson
13. Evan McKee  
Elliot Moody
14. Gilbert Donaldson, Sr.  
Dexter Brewer
15. Madison Alcorn  
Wyatt Nolen  
Jim Woods
16. Mark Holyfield



18. James Shadforth  
Emily Moody  
Mark Nyce
19. Beth Brown  
Bryan Wade
20. Judith Campbell  
Kenda Williams
21. Jason Helton
22. Jack Childress, Jr.  
Wils Childress  
Sandra Helton  
Jim Hill
24. Mitchell Waters  
Thomas Nyce  
Jake Pack



25. Judith Rushing  
Sarah Copeland
26. Tevis Garnett  
Grace Hunnings  
Bill Bowers
28. Melissa McAlpine  
Bubba Moore

## IPC PRESS PUBLICATIONS

### Sermon Booklets and CDs/Tapes

The Gospel of Matthew	(257)
The Gospel of Mark	(75)
The Gospel of Luke	
The Gospel of John	(104)
The Acts of the Apostles	(72)
The Epistle to the Galatians	(44)
1, 2, & 3 Epistles of John	(21)
The Epistle to the Philippians	

### Sermon CDs/Tapes

Survey of the Old Testament* (Genesis through 2 Kings)	(140+)
Job*	
Proverbs 1-9*	
The Prophecy of Daniel*	(17)
Joel*	
Obadiah*	
Jonah*	
Habakkuk*	
The Epistle to the Romans*	
The Epistle to the Ephesians*	(35)
The Epistle to the Colossians*	
1 & 2 Epistles to the Thessalonians*	
1 & 2 Timothy*	
Titus*	
Philemon*	
Hebrews*	
James*	
1 Peter* (in process)	
Jude*	
The Seven Last Words of Christ*	(7)
The Church and Revival*	(8)
Primary Christian Beliefs*	(10)

\*Available in CD or tapes only (CD's are \$3.00 ea. + postage)

### Other CDs/DVDs

Officers' Training	(13)
Inquirers' Class	(7)

### Other Publications

Trinity Psalter	6.25
Trinity Psalter Music Edition	20.00
The Family Worship Book	15.00
When Grace Comes Home	8.00
When Grace Transforms	9.00
When Grace Comes Alive	9.75
Reformed Worship: Worship that Is According to Scripture	9.00
The Case For Traditional Protestantism	10.50
Give Praise to God	22.50
The Parables of Jesus	15.00
A Sacramental Catechism	20.00
Dear Timothy	15.00

<i>Psalms of the Trinity Psalter</i> CD; Vols. I & II	13.00 ea.
<i>The Splendor of Grace</i>	25.00

### Pamphlets

Abortion and the Christian Church	\$0.50
Abortion, Human Nature, & Law	.50
Catechizing Our Children	Free
Childrearing in a Hostile Culture (revised & expanded)	2.00
Examine Yourself	.50
God Gave Us Bodies: Asceticism and Aesthetics in the Christian Community	.50
Living Wisely	.50
Modesty	.50
Observing the Sabbath	.50
On the Matter of Church Discipline	.50
Outlines on Christian Liberty	.70
Our Order of Service	.50
Preaching Grace (new)	1.00

### Practical Helps for Families:

Memorization Program for Children	Free
The Educational Crisis	.50
Your Child's Admission to the Lord's Table	Free
Reflecting God's Character: The Story of Renee Hutton	.50
Saved in Childbearing	.50
Scotland, Psalms and the Garden of Good & Evil	.50
Sonship: An Adequate Psychology of Christian Experience?	.50
Stewardship: Political, Ecclesiastical, Personal	.50
Television and the Christian	.50
The Church As It Was Meant To Be	1.00
An Evangelical & Reformed Faith	.50
The Five Points of Calvinism	1.00
The Foolish Wisdom of the World	.50
The Kind of Government We Want	.50
The Lord's Supper	.50
The Lord's Supper: The Epitome of the Christian Religion	.50
The Night & His Betrayal (new)	.50
The Shorter Catechism	Free
"The Stones Cry Out": A Theological Tour of the Independent Presbyterian Church	.50
Things to Come	3.00
What Is Man?	.50
Who We Are	.50
Why Plant & Grow PCA Churches	.50
Worship and Music Today	2.00
Worship, Theology & Ministry	1.00

### Other Items:

IPC Church—Sheila House© limited reproduction	15.00
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# The IPC Messenger

INDEPENDENT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
P. O. BOX 9266  
SAVANNAH, GA 31412

**PERIODICALS  
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## For Prayer & Participation January 30 - February 4

- Tues, Jan. 31 6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast, Olmstead Hall  
9:00 a.m. Church Staff Meeting, Admin. Bldg., upstairs  
10:00 a.m. Tuesday Morning Bible Study, Admin. Bldg., upstairs Whitaker Bldg., 3<sup>rd</sup> Fl.  
10:00 a.m. Women Mentoring Women, Admin. Bldg., upstairs Whitaker Bldg., 4<sup>th</sup> Fl.  
11:30 a.m. Pastoral Staff Meeting, Admin. Bldg.  
7:30 p.m. Military Bible Study, sponsored by Officers' Christian Fellowship (open to all), 742 Canyon Dr. Contact Jon Shine for more information (912-335-2489)  
7:30 p.m. Garmer Bible Study, at the home Mr. and Mrs. Alton Brown, 205 Wheeler Street
- Wed, Feb. 1 11:00 a.m. Women's Intercessor Group, Axson Room  
12:00 p.m. Wednesday Noon Service and Luncheon  
5:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal  
6:30 p.m. Sanctuary Rehearsal, Choir Room  
6:30 p.m. Youth Dinner, Whitaker Street Bldg., 3<sup>rd</sup> Fl.  
7:00 p.m. Youth Group, Whitaker Street Bldg., 3<sup>rd</sup> Fl.  
9:00 p.m. RUF, Admin. Bldg., 2<sup>nd</sup> Fl
- Thurs, Feb. 2 12:00 p.m. Men's Reading Club studying *Knowing God*, Admin. Bldg., 2<sup>nd</sup> Fl  
7:00 p.m. IPC Twenties, Whitaker Street Bldg., 3<sup>rd</sup> Fl
- Sat, Feb. 4 9:00 a.m. Hymn-Singing Workshop, sanctuary, Dr. Paul Jones, Music Director, 10<sup>th</sup> Presbyterian Church

## Assisting Us in Worship • January 29

**GREETERS**  
VISITOR TABLER. J. Garnett  
FRONT DOOR ..... Elder & Mrs. J. Lanier  
NORTH SIDE ..... B. Austin  
CENTER AISLE .... E. Robyn  
SOUTH SIDE ..... W. Brodmann  
WOC Greeter ..... L. Helmly

**SUNDAY SCHOOL  
GREETER**  
ELDER ..... R. Mullinix

**USHERS**  
CHAIRMAN ..... A. Brown  
FRONT DOOR ..... S. Jackson  
INNER DOOR ..... A. Brodmann  
CENTER AISLE .... F. Buck & D. Wade  
LEFT AISLE ..... G. McKee  
RIGHT AISLE ..... R. Moody  
BALCONY1 ..... J. Sutton  
SECURITY/BAL2 .. C. Nolen & T. Barrett  
AM AUDIO ..... R. Hinely  
PM AUDIO ..... R. Barksdale  
EVENINGS ..... P. McLean & J. Rigby

**SUNDAY SUPPER SET-UP & CLEAN-UP**  
B. Austin's Care Group #9  
**CHILDREN'S CHURCH  
WORKER:** ..... W. Morgan  
**NURSERY**  
**Coordinator:** E. Moody

10:40 a.m. I: T. Bell  
H. Bristol  
M. Oliver  
C: J. Boatright  
T. Stacy  
W: J. Flanagan  
K. Flanagan  
T: D. Boatright  
C. Boatright  
H. Boatright

**SUNDAY READ-A-LOUD:**  
7:00 p.m. K. Heritage

## MEAL MENU

Sunday, January 29, 2012  
Fried Chicken  
Mashed Potatoes and Gravy  
Green Bean Casserole  
Garden Salad  
Apple Crisp

Wednesday, February 1, 2012  
Hot Ham and Cheese  
Fried Tilapia  
Spring Salad  
Chocolate-Macadamia Cookies

\*\*Menu subject to change\*\*