



# IPC Messenger

A WEEKLY PUBLICATION OF THE INDEPENDENT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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## GRACE AND PASTORAL PRACTICE - 2

Last time we reviewed the sad story of a church split and what seemed to us to be an increasingly frequent misappropriation of the doctrine of justification. We saw a defense of “a fresh I-don’t-care-ness” about the opinions of those who oppose the renovation of a church’s ministry and alteration of its culture. We know of churches, great churches, some of which led the entire evangelical world in the work of evangelism and missions in the 70’s, 80’s, and 90’s which are now accused of not having preached the gospel in decades! Self-justification is taken to this extent. Opponents of their innovations are said to be against the gospel and “what God wants the church to be.” They don’t just disagree. They don’t just have a different vision for the church. They aren’t just convinced that emphasis must be given elsewhere. They oppose the gospel itself. Opposition to the new pastors is tantamount to opposition to Christ Himself! This is how the battle lines are drawn. The champions of lopsided grace have shown little grace for the opposition, while simultaneously justifying their harshness in the name of grace. Meanwhile, their disciples are known to stir up trouble in existing churches with the serious accusation that “the gospel isn’t being preached in our church.” What strange developments we are witnessing these days. Because several of these pastors talk about their past struggles and current flourishing ministries, they invite comment, and we have been happy to give it.

The second lesson that often is claimed in these ministries is that of *contented passivity*. The doctrine of justification is used to justify (literally) a passive, and it seems to us unsound approach to Christian living. “Jesus is everything, I am nothing, therefore, *I do nothing*” seems to be the formula. Consider this: “When we stop narcissistically focusing on our need to get better, *that is what it means to get better*. When we stop obsessing over our need to improve, *that is what it means to improve*.” Can “let go, and let God” be far behind? Mortification and vivification, are central actions of sanctification, requiring efforts suitable to athletic and military metaphors (e.g. Rom 8:12ff; 1 Cor 9:24-27; Eph 4:17-6:20; Col 3:1-4; 6;

2 Tim 2:1-26; etc.) True, we shouldn’t be “narcissistically focusing” or “obsessing” over anything, ever. However, is it possible to “put off” and “put on” without *significant focus* on “our need to get better” and “our need to improve”? A lopsided vision of grace seems to go hand and glove with a laid-back view of the Christian life.

Justification has even been appropriated to defend mediocrity and failure. It used to be that Christian passivity was embraced in the services of the “victorious Christian life.” Keswick and other “higher-life” theologies insisted one need only yield to God and He would complete the work of sanctification. Bad as this was, the new passivity is worse. Now “let go and let God” has become “let go” and leave it at that. Passivity now serves Christian defeatism if not fatalism. Any mention of victorious living is scorned as hypocrisy. We’re all bad, and we shouldn’t pretend to be otherwise. Apparently none of us is getting any better, either. Claiming otherwise is said to be a denial of grace. Have Christians not been born again? (Jn 3:1ff). Are they not indwelt by the Holy Spirit? (1 Cor 6:19). Have we not died with Christ and been raised up in newness of life, and promised that sin shall not be master over us? (Rom 6:1-14). Are we not new creations? (2 Cor 5:17). Can we not say, “and such *were* some of you”? (1 Cor 6:11)? Sanctification in their hands all but disappears as a category for discussion.

These preachers speak as though Jesus saves us from the *penalty* of sin but leaves us in bondage to its *power*. Christian weakness and failure is not lamented, rather it is celebrated, misery, so it seems, loving company. Assurance is given that, “We are free to be weak ... free to lose ... free to be no one ... free to be ordinary ... free to fail,” because Jesus is the opposite of all of the above. This means freedom from the pressure to have a model marriage, model children, to be the one “logging on hours of private prayer each day,” and from the “heavy-duty pressure to be spiritual giants.” One preacher assures us he is freed “to identify my own idols in front of my people.” He admits, “I’ll say things like, ‘I hate to admit this, but part of my motivation for preparing the sermon that I am preaching today is because I want you to think I’m a good preacher. It accentuates my sense of worth.’ Is that

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## GRACE AND PASTORAL PRACTICE – 2

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embarrassing to admit? Absolutely! But it's incredibly liberating. I don't have to feel like I have to always be on, that I always have to be performing well, that every sermon's got to be a homerun, that I've got to be modeling perfect piety before all of our people. The pressure's off."

However, is Jesus' strength an excuse for our weakness or the basis of our strength? Is it the case that "when we are weak, then we are *weak*?" No, then we are *strong* (2 Cor 12:10). In Christ *we* are strong. Is Jesus' victory an excuse for our defeat or the foundation of our victory? Are we not more than conquerors in Christ? Does He not give us the victory (Rom 8:37; 1 Cor 15:57)? Is Jesus' success an excuse for our failure, or is it the ground of our success? Can we not do "all things through Him who strengthens me"? (Phil 4:13) Doesn't grace motivate us to "*work* out our salvation" rather than *slouch* in our salvation (Eph 2:10)? Doesn't the grace of Christ inspire and enable us, like it did to the Apostle Paul, to "*labor even more than all of them*" (1 Cor 15:10)?

Where do we find models of passivity among the early Christians? The Apostle Peter? The Apostle Paul? Do we encounter in them contentment respecting personal holiness and ministry? "I press on," says the Apostle Paul (Phil 3:12-14). "I buffet my body and make it my slave," he says, employing a boxing metaphor. Why does he push himself so? He answers in words that we can scarcely imagine the "grace boys" contemplating: "lest possibly, after I have preached to others, I myself should be disqualified" (1 Cor 9:27). The Apostles liken the Christian life to warfare, athletic completion, and farming ("the hard-working farmer") (e.g. 1 Tim 2:3-6; 1 Cor 9:24-27; Eph 6:10-20). They reveal a consistent "divine discontent" with their progress in sanctification and ministry.

Frankly, I find "grace," as some are

describing it, to sound more like license: license for mediocrity, license for passivity, license for failure, license for sloth, and ironically, license for ambition. I especially don't understand how anyone finds this view of grace to be comforting, much less what has been called a "functional lifeline." Given the frequent use of the first person pronouns in these circles, it appears to be merely one form of narcissism (slavery to the opinions of others) replacing another (slavery to self). The doctrines of grace should not be turned into licentiousness (Jude 4; Gal 5:13). Neither should they be turned into psycho-babble.

The grace of God both brings salvation and instructs us "to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age" (Titus 2:11, 12). *Grace*, not law, teaches us to deny worldly desires and live righteously. *Jesus* teaches us self-denial and cross-bearing (Mt 16:24, 25). Moreover, pastors are to be "examples to the flock" (1 Pet 5:3). Timothy (1 Tim 4:12) and Titus (Titus 2:7) are urged to be examples of good deeds and good doctrines. They are to be models of family life and piety, worthy of imitation by their congregations. Does that put *pressure* on the pastor? I guess it does. Might he feel *stress* because of the expectations of members? Probably so. But God's *grace* is sufficient. His power is perfected in weakness (2 Cor 12:9, 10).

One more thing. Pastors are to be "patient when wronged, with gentleness correcting the opposition" (2 Tim 2:24,25). Older men are to be appealed to as fathers, and older women as mothers (1 Tim 5:1-2). Opponents are to be "put to shame" by the pastor's "good deeds," and by teaching that "show(s) integrity, dignity, and sound speech that cannot be condemned" (Titus 2:8). No gospel principle frees us to be less than faithful, devout, selfless "servants of all." (Mk 10:44).

—Terry Johnson

# A MISSIONARY MOMENT

## THE RUSTINES ARE COMING

Three years ago the Rustine family packed our van full, said our good byes, and drove away from Savannah, bound for the Philippines as support missionaries with Wycliffe Bible Translators. Since then, Mark has worked on hundreds of computers, from repairing ancient machines using random spare parts to helping people purchase new computers and prepare them for use. He's cleaned piles of dust and dirt and insects and nests out of computer cases for translators who take them into remote, not quite sanitary surroundings, installed programs, eradicated viruses, and kept translators connected. Barbara has homeschooled our children, edited co-missionary's newsletters, and created printed materials to encourage Scripture use in a variety of S.E. Asian languages.

Our children have built homes for the homeless, practiced Tagalog with jeepney drivers, made friends with kids from all over the world, prepared hundreds of crafts for Bible Clubs, jumped off waterfalls, sat honored in National Geographic-like Bible dedication ceremonies, learned to sing in many languages, ridden five on a motorcycle down rainy mountain roads, held a tarsier, played basketball games in a court packed to the lines with Filipino spectators, and eaten more mango and papaya than you'd believe possible.

But this June, as the school year ends, we will be on our way back to America for six months. There are no emergencies calling us back. We are healthy, content, busy in our work and life here. This home assignment isn't a vacation. So why are we walking away from our ministry to spend six months in the US? The following list describes some of what our home assignment really is:

- **A scheduled component of our work with Wycliffe.** This phase of home assignment is required of us. Past experience has demonstrated that time back in one's home country is vital to successful long-term missionary service.
- **A time of spiritual encouragement, work-related training, reconnecting with family and friends, and service in our home country.** We are hungry to hear God's Word all in our own language, to give hugs to our families, to spend time with and worship together with our IPC family, and to learn more that will enhance our work with Wycliffe.
- **An opportunity to share about God's work here in**

**S.E. Asia.** We are accountable to give a first-hand report to IPC, and to others who have a vested interest in this work of Bible Translation. (Acts 14:27)

- **An opportunity for our children to reconnect with their own culture.** When your children begin to ask if all fast food restaurants in the U.S. serve rice, you know it's important to get them back for a taste of home. And with twin daughters turning 16, it's time for them to observe rules of the road actually applied.

- **A season in which we will continue to live by faith in God's provision for us.** We won't have a paying job during our home assignment, since it's simply another element of our missionary work, and we look forward to experiencing God's continued faithfulness to provide for us, as He has done so faithfully during these past three years. We thank God for IPC's generous role in His provision for our family.

We will arrive back in the US this June, but we will spend the first month or so with our families, friends and supporters in the Pacific Northwest. We plan, God willing, to pull into Savannah in mid-July, just in time for some Sunday evenings with you at Point Pleasant! Our hope is to stay in the Savannah area until mid-December, when we will return to Seattle, spending the holidays with our families before returning to the Philippines in January 2013.

Let's get together during our months in Savannah. You've read our newsletters and know how God has been working in our lives, but we look forward to hearing about how He's been at work in your lives as well. We will be refreshed and encouraged just by spending time with you and by worshiping together with you. We'll see you soon!

By His grace alone,  
Mark, Barbara, Amy, Elise & Michael Rustine



# WOMEN OF THE CHURCH —

## CAN SHE BE HAPPY?

We might wonder whether a quadriplegic woman confined to wheelchair can be genuinely happy? Can happiness and these overwhelming difficulties exist in harmony? The trials of such a situation are unimaginable for most of us, yet Joni Eareckson Tada's testimony before the world is that she is fulfilled and happy. How can this be when simple problems like a broken washing machine might put us out of sorts for a week? Joni's life is an example to us.

Joni knows contentment while discontentment can be a problem for women, even Christian women. We struggle with what we have or do not have. We struggle with what others have or do not have. We can make happiness a goal in itself. We have plans for our lives and protest when these plans are interrupted. Sometimes this protesting to others causes relationship problems in our homes and in the church. Has the culture deceived us? Have our own hearts betrayed us? When did happiness itself become our chief end?

It is, however, natural to want to be happy. Happiness is positive and we enjoy happy people. Contented people are cheerful, encouraging, and inspiring. The scriptures speak about happy people. Happiness in the scripture corresponds to being rightly related to God.

Joni had her diving accident at the beach when she was seventeen years old. In one moment, her whole life changed. It was not what she wanted. Even the simplest pleasures of life were gone. Joni experienced anger, depression and loneliness. She spent time weeping before God as she struggled with her pain. But, finally she wanted "out" of her misery.

"I desperately wanted out, but was clueless as to where to begin. I needed the shortest route to peace and hope. I needed rest. Rest from the hot, seething emotions that constantly had me in tears. Somewhere in between boxes of Kleenex, I stumbled across this hymn. The words seem way too simple:

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

*Refrain:* In the cross, in the cross,  
Be my glory ever;  
Till my raptured soul shall find  
Rest beyond the river."<sup>1</sup>

At the cross Joni surrendered her anger and pain to God accepting His ways for her. She commented, "Although I was laid bare, I could then be bonded to the Savior." Her relationship with her Lord was mended at the cross. She discovered that He was what she longed for.

To talk about the cross is normal in the Christian life. We would benefit from talking about it more. It is an instrument of death, but from this death comes life. Are we spending our lives striving with others? Are we constantly disappointed and wrestling with our circumstances? Have we placed the burden of our happiness on other people? It may be that we are looking for happiness where it impossible to be found. Joni testifies to us that contentment is found at the cross where we meet Jesus. Happiness cannot be found by seeking it, it is the by-product of knowing Him.

—Jane Boatright

<sup>1</sup> *What Wondrous Love Is This: Hymns of Wonder and Worship to Remember His Love*, (Crossway Books, 2002) page 17. Hymn Text by Fanny J. Crosby (1820-1915); Music by William H. Doane (1832-1915).

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## MUSIC MINISTRY —

Already it is the month of May, and some of our choir season is coming to a close. The **Chime Choir** chimed its last on.....and will not rehearse again until next September.

Thank you, Mrs. Susan Mullinix, for so capably leading this choir.

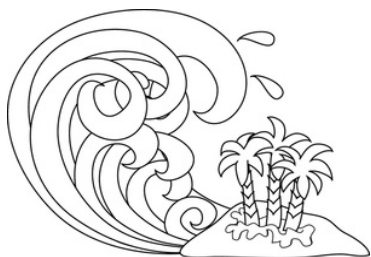
The **Handbell Choir** is also finished for the season and will break for the summer months.

Thank you, Mrs. Edith Brunson, for directing the Handbell Choir and to all who have participated in this choir. Rehearsals will begin again in September.

The **Chapel Choir** will rehearse through May then take a break for the summer months. On May 6, the Chapel Choir will sing with the Sanctuary Choir for the Kirkin service.

Children should meet with the Sanctuary Choir in the Choir Room at 10:30 on the morning of May 6.

## CHIME AND CHAPEL CHOIRS SATURDAY, MAY 19



### SUMMER WAVES ON JEKYLL ISLAND

We will meet at the church at 9:00 a.m. and return at 5:00 p.m. Please pick your children up promptly at 5:00 p.m. 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 **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. 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** will sing the morning of May .... Please meet in the Choir Room at 10:30 for warm-up. The Youth Choir will also sing before the evening service of May 27.

They will sing from 5:00-5:15 p.m. 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

### HOUSING NEEDED

The Youth Choir from the St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church will sing in our evening worship service on June 17. If you are interested and willing to house some of the choir members on the night of the 17<sup>th</sup>, please call Kathryn Van Eck at the church office (236-3346). Thanks for your help.

# FAMILY CORNER

MAY 2012

## HYMN OF THE MONTH

### "YE SERVANTS OF GOD, YOUR MASTER PROCLAIM"

Charles Wesley, 1744; alt.

Ye servants of God, your Master proclaim,  
And publish abroad his wonderful name;  
The name, all victorious, of Jesus extol;  
His kingdom is glorious and rules over all.

God ruleth on high, almighty to save;  
And still he is nigh his presence we have.  
The great congregation his triumph shall sing,  
Ascribing salvation to Jesus, our King.

Salvation to God, who sits on the throne!  
Let all cry aloud and honor the Son.  
The praises of Jesus the angels proclaim,  
Fall down on their faces and worship the Lamb.

Then let us adore, and give him his right,  
All glory and pow'r and wisdom and might,  
All honor and blessing, with angels above,  
And thanks never ceasing for infinite love.

TUNE: LYONS 10.10.11.11.  
Johann Michael Haydn, 1737-1836  
Arr. in William Gardiner's Sacred  
Melodies, 1815

# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

## CATECHISM UPDATE

Sunday, May 29, brings our study of the *Children's and Shorter Catechism* to a close. Congratulations to **Elliot Gordon, Katherine McLean, Elizabeth Oliver, Anna Shields, Emily Shields, Simon Steward, Natasha Van Grouw, and Marris Warren** for completing one or more sections of the *Children's Catechism*. Congratulations to **Jimmy Shields, Grace Garnett, and Christian Heritage** that have worked through sections of the *Shorter Catechism*. Well done! Summer is a great time to finish (or start!) the catechism and we encourage our children to finish strong.

Thank you to Sue Hinely, Tricia Thomas, Venessa Shields, and Caroline Boatright for teaching our 1st through 5th graders the *Children's Catechism*. They were wonderful and patient and brought God's truths to our children each Sunday. Thank you to Ron Barksdale and Jody Robinson for teaching the *Shorter Catechism* to our 6th through 8th graders. How wonderful for our children to have such godly men teaching them each Sunday.

## THANK YOU

Thank you so much to the Youth Group for their work hiding over 1,500 eggs at Point Pleasant in April. The egg hunt was a huge success with over 220 participating. Congratulations to **Emma Brodmann** and **Charlie Moody** for finding the golden eggs.

Dennis Boatright was crowned "Pancake King" however the controversy continues to rage on. Joe Van Puffelen and Terry Johnson maintain that Dennis' secret weapon of chocolate chips tipped the scales in his favor. All in all it was a wonderful time of fellowship for our church family.

Kay Heritage and her staff made sure the kitchen and food were ready for our crowds. Thank you so much Kay. Thank you to Judy and Frankie Daniell, Tevis Garnett, and Brad Waller for their help Friday morning with all of the set up and preparations. So many of you stayed and helped with clean up which was such a blessing.

Please take a moment and mark your calendars to come and join the fun next year. We look forward to seeing everyone there!

—Amy Martin

# TEA AND SYMPATHY

I recently received a phone call from a dear friend from high school needing a little tea and sympathy. She was in the throes of planning her daughter's prom weekend and was exhausted from their trip to Raleigh to find the perfect dress. The more she talked, the more I became convinced Lee and Jackson didn't have battle plans this detailed. From the appointments to the beauty salon, nail salon, tanning salon, makeup artist to the limousine, to the private dinner at the historical mansion, the list was endless. I felt the need to gently remind her of our own prom to try and get it into perspective.

We went to a high school in a small, charming Southern town (think Mayberry.) Our principal, Mr. McCallum (rumored to have the ability to rotate his head completely around in assembly) allowed us to transform the gymnasium from *Home of the Fighting Yellow Jackets* to *An Evening in Paris*. We whitewashed plywood that had been hacked into congruent triangles in the shop class and fashioned them into a facsimile of the Eiffel Tower. Christmas lights from our attics were strung around the basketball goals for tres' sophistication.

Beauty preparations began in earnest on Friday. The more daring in our set applied Toni perms while the rest of us wielded blow dryers and Sun-In for that California look, somewhat amplified. Who needs a spray tan when you can use Q-T for that one of a kind orange day glow look? The boys were busy getting their hair cut at the Eagle Barber Shop and washing the family cars for the big night.

No one, and I mean no one, rode in a limousine unless you were lucky enough to be asked to prom by Tommy Andrews, whose family owned the town's funeral home and the only limousine. It was a sweet ride and I mean that literally as the smell of carnations was a bit overwhelming. Sue Culp kept bragging about how wonderful it was to pull right up to the front of the gym in that limo until we were sick of it. We had the last laugh when the Andrews family got a phone call from the hospital that a recently departed soul needed to be picked up and she arrived instead in a borrowed Pinto.

Dinner was divine at the nearby Hungry Bull Steakhouse which was reserved for those more elegant affairs. Mr. McCallum and the teachers exclaimed how pretty we were with our fried, lightened ringlets and florescent skin tone. The Christmas lights were plugged in and the band (all the way from Charlotte NC) broke into *I'm Your Boogie Man* by KC and the Sunshine Band and we were slain.

After parties were a hysterical journey from house to house where we gorged on M&M's and Yahoos and played flashlight tag in our finery until our 2:00 a.m. curfew.

The lovely corsage and Polaroid snapshot were pinned to our bedroom corkboard and the dress packed away for the younger sister.

All in all, it was quite a magical night.

—Amy Martin

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## APPRECIATION

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Dear IPC Members,

I appreciate so much your support and many expressions of concern for me during the last couple of months. Thank you for the meals, the visits, the flowers, the phone calls, the many cards and most of all your ongoing prayers. John and I feel so blessed to be a part of this loving, caring church family. My prayer is that God will use my illness to His glory.

Love to all,  
Pat Toler



Dear Independent Church Family,

Thank you for your prayers during my recent surgery and recovery.

I am recovering slowly and pray I will be back in Choir and church at chapel soon.

Love in Christ,  
Helen Ward



Dear IPC members,

Thank you so very much for allowing us to use the chapel during the Tour of Homes.

Sincerely,  
Georgina Scott  
Chair-Special Events

# FAMILY MATTERS

## ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS. . .

**How can perspectives change after wedding vows are said?**

**Here are some examples. . .**

*Before:* He was attracted to her sparkling, outgoing personality—the life of the party.

*After:* He is frustrated that she's the last one to leave. . . church, a social, a committee meeting, an unexpected conversation with a stranger at the store.

*Before:* She loved his well-toned muscles and ripped abs.

*After:* She can't believe he spends so much time at the gym.

*Before:* Her hair, her makeup, her clothing—everything was just right.

*After:* She spends so much time in front of the mirror. . .

*Before:* He was fiscally responsible, financially secure.

*After:* What a miser and a cheapskate!

*Before:* What a great conversationalist, never at a loss for words.

*After:* He can't break into her monologue.

*Before:* She was attracted to him because he was the strong, silent type—rock solid and steady.

*After:* He's so quiet. . .and boring!

*Before:* What a great figure!

*After:* Can't we eat something besides tofu and sprouts?

*Before:* She thought it was great that he loved her cooking.

*After:* He never takes her out to eat.

*Before:* What a free spirit she was—exciting and uninhibited.

*After:* The house is a mess!

No matter what changes take place after you say "I do," make sure you welcome laughter and learning in your marriage. It will go a long way toward helping you live happily.

(This answer was an excerpt from *Happily Ever Laughter*. Dave Veerman wrote the chapter, and the general editor is Ken Davis.)

# STUDENT MINISTRIES

## WE NEED YOU!

Our annual mission trip to Suwannee County, Florida, is just around the corner—June 21-24. We anticipate 50-60 students and 20 or so adults to go on the trip.

We are partnering with Community Presbyterian PCA in Live Oak to reach out to families in the area through renovating homes for needy families, a mini-VBS, and an outreach to teens.

This year, other churches in Live Oak and Suwannee County will be participating in the mission and contributing some of their own people and funds to the projects. The Lord is moving these churches to own the ministry and follow-up with families once we leave.

One of the projects we will be working on this year will be spearheaded by a man whose home we renovated this past year. He wanted to serve as he had been served. We are thrilled to see the Lord at work in such ways in the lives of families we are privileged to serve.

In order to make sure we properly steward our own resources, we will be charging more for adult and student participation this year to help cover expenses. Nevertheless, the trip is still costly and any extra donations toward the trip would be very helpful. If you would like to contribute to specific needs for the trip, please see the break-down of expenses below:

- Student and adult scholarships (\$150/participant)
- Money for water bottles (\$4 to buy 32 bottles)
- Construction costs (whatever we receive will go directly to materials)
- Portable Bathroom Services: \$200
- Lunches (\$5/student)

If you would like to contribute to this year's project, please make your check out to IPC and give it to Brad Waller or Laura Williams. You can also designate your check and place it in the offering plate on Sunday morning.

Our biggest need is your prayer support. We covet your prayers for the many details that must come together in the next couple of months including:

- Pray for the Lord to lead us to the families He would have us serve
- Pray for the Community Presbyterian Church and its members as they prepare for our arrival

and seek to follow-up with families after we leave.

- Pray for the other churches that are coming to learn how they can implement a similar ministry in their congregations.
- Pray for safety on the jobsites.
- Pray for the Lord to bring many children to the VBS and many teens to our Friday and Saturday night outreach
- Pray for children, teens and adults to come to faith in Jesus on this weekend through the VBS and teen outreach
- Pray for the Lord to work in and through us to further His Kingdom in Live Oak and in Savannah.

Thank you for your interest in Mission Live Oak.

To God be the Glory,  
Brad

## CONNECT NEWSLETTER

The Summer Connect Newsletter will be coming in May. Keep watching your mailboxes so you won't miss out this summer. If you are not on our mailing list, 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.

Teachers: Terry Johnson and Jody Robinson  
*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

(continued page 8)

STUDENT MINISTRY

from page 6

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

**UPCOMING DATES AND EVENTS**

- May 16** Senior Roast at Point Pleasant (6:30-8:30p)
- May 23** Last Youth Group of Spring Semester
- May 27** Evening services return to Point Pleasant

**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.



**GRADUATING CLASS OF 2012**

Attention parents of all 2012 graduates! We would like to publish information about high school, college, or post-graduates in the June Newsletter. Please email [mtaylor@ipcsav.org](mailto:mtaylor@ipcsav.org) with the following information:

- Graduates full name (first, middle, and last)
- Name of School (high school, college, university, graduate school)
- Degree earned and honors conferred.
- University the student will be attending after high school graduation.
- The deadline for this information is May 23, 2012.

Thank you for your help!

# SUNDAY EVENING SERVICES MOVE TO PT PLEASANT

We will begin our summer evening services at Point Pleasant on Sunday, May 27, with singing beginning at 5:15 p.m. and worship at 5:30 p.m. The facility will open at 3:00 p.m. for appropriate Lord’s Day leisure activities for the family. **Please note** that not all forms of recreation are permitted on the Christian Sabbath by the Fourth Commandment, but only those which directly promote one’s appreciation and love of God and His Word and works. It is, we remind ourselves, the Lord’s Day. All other recreation is regarded as “worldly” by Scripture and our creeds (see *Shorter Catechism*, #60). Consequently, please refrain from activities that might interfere with the purposes for which the Lord has set aside His holy day.

## AND CHURCH-WIDE



**SUNDAY, MAY 27 — 5:30 P.M.  
FOLLOWING THE EVENING SERVICE**

**AT POINT PLEASANT  
441 SUNCREST BLVD**

**BRING YOUR HOME MADE  
ICE CREAM FOR DESSERT**

(Call Tricia Barrett at 376-2506 if you can bring ice cream.)

# MORAL CONCERNS

On January 22, 1973, the infamous Roe v. Wade decision was handed down by the Supreme Court of the United States. This ruling allowed women the "Constitutional right" to an abortion. By October of 1973, concern was growing that the anniversary of the ruling would "come and go unnoticed." Thus, the first March For Life was organized. Starting with a group of 30, the march was able to draw 20,000 supporters to Washington, D.C. The numbers have increased through the years to be present crowd in excess of 250,000.

This past January, IPC sent, for the 19th time, a bus to our nation's capital full of concerned Christians. After being encouraged by timely words from Representative Jack Kingston, we embarked on our journey. Led by Frankie Daniell, a devotion was delivered, prayer was offered, and hymns were sung. Throughout the long trip—about nine hours—friendships were renewed and our traditional snacks of cookies and clementines, provided by special ladies of IPC, were shared. Following a brief stop, we all enjoyed our delicious supper prepared by Kay Heritage and her staff.

Arriving at our hotel in Virginia around 9:30 p.m., we headed to our rooms—our very nice hotel rooms—and settled in for a few hours of sleep. Back on the bus at 7:30 a.m., we headed in to D.C. Our very personable driver delivered us to our destination and promised to return for us around 5:00 p.m.

During our time in Washington, we met with our congressional and senatorial aides. They listened as, one by one, many of us shared our concerns about the abortion issue with them. We were very encouraged by the level of participation of our group.

Then, it was time for lunch and then the much-anticipated march. It was estimated that around 300,000 people attended the 39th March For Life. Christians from all walks of life joined together in peaceful protest of the Roe v. Wade decision. Having attended the march for three years, I must say that is more meaningful each time. The truth sinks in more each year. The disturbing images portrayed on posters and marquees bring the truth out in the open—the horrible, unspeakable truth—the shocking truth—the very, very sad truth. I see the marchers—in fact the entire March—as a living walking monument to the precious millions who have suffered and died at the hands of abortionists.

Of course, I cannot leave us there. God offers forgiveness for all sin for His children—including the sin of abortion. This message is proclaimed as well. This truth is realized as well. And it is even more shocking that our God's grace is so deep—His mercy so great that He does forgive all sin because of Jesus Christ's death in our place.

*"He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By His wounds you have been healed."*

—1 Peter 2:24

As promised, our driver returned for us and we began our long trip home. May we never stop speaking—may we never stop going—most importantly, may we never stop praying to end the taking of lives of babies in the womb.

—Cynthia Sutlive  
Right to Life Committee

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## CHANGES IN ADDRESS

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

Mr. and Mrs. Walt Rocker (Tara)  
1003 Woodside Crossing  
Savannah, GA 31405  
Phone: 856-5955

Rev. & Mrs. James Lim  
3511 Myrtle Avenue  
Long Beach, CA 90807-4641

Rev. Robert Bowman  
1491 Moore Circle  
Corona, CA 92882

LtJG and Mrs. Paul Johansen, Jr.  
1306 Preyer Avenue  
Elizabeth City, NC 27909-5432

### Phone # changes:

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Tilton - remove land line #  
Frank's cell: 912-270-7247  
Judy's cell: 912-270-2587

### Email address change:

Ron Barksdale - rsb332002@yahoo.com

# — ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS —

## KIRKIN' O' THE TARTAN

Join us Sunday, May 6, 2012 for our annual Kirkin' O' the Tartan Service. Bagpipers will play and tartan banners will be displayed. Members of the congregation are encouraged to wear Scottish attire. Our guest minister will be Rev. Alexander Brown.

## THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Lord's Supper will be observed during our evening service on May 6. Because of the exceptional blessing we have in this sacrament and the danger of eating and drinking unworthily, it is necessary that we come to it with knowledge, faith, repentance, love and with hungering and thirsting souls after Christ and His benefits. The congregation is encouraged to use all appointed means, public and private to come to the Lord's Table, depending upon God for the gracious preparation of the heart, according to His promise (Psalm 10:17).

## THE CHURCH BUDGET AND GIVING

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. To fund the 2012 church budget \$169,802.00 is needed per month. Thank you for your faithful support.

	Total received	Over/Short
January	\$137,508.00	-\$32,294.00
February	\$141,342.00	-\$28,460.00
March	\$125,840.00	-\$43,962.00
April		
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$404,690.00</b>	<b>-104,716.00</b>

## CHURCH-WIDE WORK DAY AT POINT PLEASANT

Please join us on Saturday, May 19, as we prepare the Point Pleasant grounds for our Summer Services. We will be pruning, pressure washing, mowing, weeding, and enjoying some Christian fellowship. Work will begin at 9:00 a.m. and wrap up around noon. Don't forget your work gloves!!

## MEN'S READING CLUB

Our next Book Reading Meeting will be on Thursday, May 3. The book to read is, *Here I Stand* by Bainton. Pick up your copy in the bookstore.

## 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, May 11, 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 May 10, 2012, 10:30 a.m., at the Savannah Yacht Club, 730 Bladley Point Road. Mrs. William Austin will be the hostess (598-9916)

## 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 not meet during the month of May. It will resume in June.

## TUESDAY MORNING CIRCLE

The Tuesday Morning Circle will meet on April 17 at the home of Mrs. Pam Dykema's home, 123 Goette Trail (429-5326).

## IPC DAY CAMP SCHOLARSHIP FUND

This summer we will bring 20 underprivileged children from the Urban Hope Ministries to Day Camp. This scholarship program will be at a cost of \$125 per child for a total of \$2,500. If you'd like to sponsor a child or contribute in any way to this scholarship fund, please contact Frankie Daniell (236-3346).

## CHRIST CHURCH ANGLICAN'S 14TH ANNUAL SPRING CONCERT

Each spring the choirs of Christ Church (Anglican) put on a choir extravaganza from their Adult Choir, Children's Choir, Handbell Choir, and Folk Group in a combined Sunday afternoon concert. This year's concert will include pieces from the "very best" worship offerings from the past year's repertoire. Free and open to the public, this year's concert will be held at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 29, at Independent Presbyterian Church. Do come and enjoy what is always a beautiful and powerful witness of God's Good News through Jesus Christ.

# MAY BIRTHDAYS

2 Sarah Grace Barrett  
Jay Helton  
3 Millie Childress  
Karl Knoche  
Hannah Williams  
4 Patty Brodmann  
5 Emily Lanier  
Bethany Woernle  
8 Caroline Ambos  
Virginia Adkins  
9 Howard French  
Thomas Moore  
10 Bill Austin  
Billie Hale  
Simmons Key  
Julie McDougall  
Leigh Weikert  
11 Edna Knoche



Michael Brodmann  
12 Tim Copeland  
Rita Spitler  
13 Hunter Boatright  
Bobbie Henderson  
Charles Riner  
Clark Bristol  
14 Nathan Adams  
Wylly Bell  
Wyndell Cook  
Anna Heritage  
Debbie Scharold  
15 Judy Daniell  
Lisa Bell  
16 Hugh Helmly III  
Eva Knoche



Caroline Knoche  
Christopher Pitts  
17 Marshall Williams  
Rob Kelly  
18 Nolan Helmly  
19 Stephen Brush  
Jeff Paul  
20. Chris Warren  
Joshua Wilkinson  
21 Emma Mathis  
John South  
Heather McAlpine  
Ashleigh Sutlive  
22. Philipp Knoche  
Alton Brown, Jr.  
Terri Fruit



Graig Sutlive  
23 James Johnson  
Matthew Thomas  
25 Rachel Lane  
26 Marian Cronic  
P.J. Johansen  
Eddie DeLoach  
Jack Van Eck  
27 Richard Hinely  
Selleck Hostetter  
Tara Rocker  
28 Chase Waller  
Brandon Pitts  
29 J.D. Youderian  
Ryan Hunnings  
31 Garry McKee  
Lucy Hitch



## 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\* (140+)  
*(Genesis through 2 Kings)*  
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

*Psalms of the Trinity Psalter* CD; Vols. I & II 13.00 ea.  
*The Splendor of Grace* 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 2.00  
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

# The IPC Messenger

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

PERIODICALS  
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## For Prayer & Participation April 30 - May 5

- |              |            |   |
|--------------|------------|---|
| Tues, May 1  | 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 Sr., 205 Wheeler Street  |
| Wed, May 2   | 11:00 a.m. | Women's Intercessor Group, Axson Room   |
|              | 12:00 p.m. | Wednesday Noon Service and Luncheon   |
|              | 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  |
| Thurs, May 3 | 9:00 p.m.  | RUF, Admin. Bldg., 2 <sup>nd</sup> Fl   |
|              | 12:00 p.m. | Men's Reading Group, Admin. Bldg., 2 <sup>nd</sup> Fl   |
|              | 7:00 p.m.  | IPC Twenties, Whitaker Street Bldg., 3 <sup>rd</sup> Fl   |

### MORNING SERVICE

"FOUR BEATITUDES"

Luke 6:20-23

Mr. Johnson

### EVENING SERVICE

"THE SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE"

Exodus 20:13

Mr. Johnson

## Assisting Us in Worship • April 29

### GREETERS

VISITOR TABLER. J. Garnett  
FRONT DOOR ..... Elder & Mrs. C. Martin  
NORTH SIDE ..... B. Austin  
CENTER AISLE .... D. Gobel  
SOUTH SIDE ..... W. Brodmann  
WOC Greeter ..... L. Van Puffelen

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

#### GREETER

ELDER ..... D. McLaurin

#### USHERS

CHAIRMAN ..... C. Nolen  
FRONT DOOR ..... T. Barrett  
INNER DOOR ..... G. McKee  
CENTER AISLE .... D. Wade & A. Gibson

LEFT AISLE ..... W. Black

RIGHT AISLE ..... D. Williams

BALCONY1 ..... B. Baxley

SECURITY/BAL2 .. A. Brown & S. Jackson

AM AUDIO ..... R. Hinely

PM AUDIO ..... P. McLean

EVENINGS ..... R. Barksdale & J. Sutton

### SUNDAY SUPPER SET-UP & CLEAN-UP

R. Mullinix's Care Group #10

### CHILDREN'S CHURCH

WORKER: .....

### NURSERY

Coordinator: E. Moody

10:40 a.m. I/C: M. Brewer  
S. Spencer  
B. McLaurin  
P: J. Daniell  
J. Daniell  
T: N. Brown  
M. P. Brown  
T: H. Ambos  
N. Ambos

### SUNDAY READ-A-LOUD:

7:00 p.m. D. Mitchell

## MEAL MENU

Sunday, April 29, 2012

Wednesday, May 2, 2012

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