



CHRIST CHURCH PRESS

The Monthly Newsletter of Christ Church, Presbyterian
4201 Southern Pines Drive, Evans, Georgia, 30809

Volume 11, Issue 5

May 2015

The Pastor's Selection

Birthdays

- 02 Carter Boyd
- 05 Sarah Moore
- 06 Phillip Stacy
- 08 Amy Bailey
Maggie Lammie
- 10..... Jacqueline McGraw
- 11 Gary Cowart
Seth Doss
- 12..... Flavia Gutierrez
- 14..... Fran Nabholz
- 15 Joey Johnson
Linda Pentecost
- 16..... Brian Marter
- 17 Maddie Bailey
- 21..... George Bowen
- 25 Chris Nabholz
Julianne Norkus
- 28 Helen Caldwell
Maria Emerson
Jenny Jewett
Cayden Jones
- 29 Kathryn Noblett

Anniversaries

- 09 Nikki & Greg McGraw
- 11 Debra & Billy Hatcher
- 14..... Laci & Whit Foster
- 20 Diane & John Dunsmore
- 26 Laura & Charles Caruso

A Call for Endurance

—R. C. Sproul, *Tabletalk Magazine*

I'm not a prophet or the son of a prophet. I've made a lot of predictions and guesses about the future that haven't come true. As I told the congregation of St. Andrew's Chapel a few weeks ago during a sermon, I'm not infallible, nor have I ever claimed to be infallible.

On occasion, however, my predictions of the future have been accurate. When you've been writing a monthly column for as long as I have, you invariably comment on cultural matters and the direction that the culture is heading. Recently, I was reading a column I wrote twenty-five years ago for the January 1990 issue of *Tabletalk*, and I was amazed at how prescient it turned out to be.

I wish I could say I'm happy about that. In the column I addressed the specter of a new dark age in our culture. I wasn't referring to a new dark age in terms of the stunted growth of knowledge. What was true then remains true today: we have more knowledge than we know what to do with. Knowledge in every field of study is growing so rapidly that no one can absorb it all. Scholars must choose increasingly narrow specializations to have hope of gaining expertise, and then it is only expertise in a relative sense. This reality has only grown worse with the advent of the Internet and the way it makes truth—and falsehood—more easily accessible than our forefathers ever dreamed.

The dark age to which I was referring was an age of moral darkness, a darkness due to the eclipse of God. Twenty-five years ago our culture would not have God in its thinking, and the same is true today. As a society, we have preferred for the Light to be shrouded. We've chosen to close our minds to the truth. And yet, the Light remains. Just as a solar eclipse obscures but does not destroy the light, our moral darkness hides but does not eliminate the Light. We see the truth of the Apostle Paul's teaching that we suppress the truth in unrighteousness—but we cannot destroy the truth (Rom. 1:18-32). Humanity remains incurably religious, and we retain the innate sense that we must live by a moral code. But on account of our suppression of the truth, this moral code is twisted to reflect the darkness of our own hearts, not the immutable moral law of God.

Futile thinking continues to result from this. Our darkened minds attempt to shroud the truth of our Creator, and we as a society fail to honor Him. This has led to the loss of honor itself, to the sacrifice not only of divine dignity but of human dignity as well.

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The Pastor's Selction

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Twenty-five years ago, I predicted that this eclipse would manifest itself in various cultural struggles such as abortion. Though we have seen the rise of crisis pregnancy centers and bans on partial birth abortion, our culture continues to endorse abortion on demand.

I also predicted that the state would zealously protect its supposed autonomy, interpreting the separation of church and state to mean the separation of the state and God. As I write this column, the state and federal courts of the United States have declared that "homosexual marriage" is a right in the majority of U.S. states, and come June the Supreme Court will rule on whether the Constitution guarantees this right to all U.S. citizens. Since the law is being determined by collective preference and not the revelation of God in the natural order, I have little doubt that the highest court in the land will feel no shame in casting aside God's definition of marriage in favor of the current spirit of the age. In all this, some churches have already capitulated. They are either silent on these matters of life and human sexuality, or they have bowed to cultural pressure to abandon what God says on these matters.

Yet I do not mean to paint a picture of gloom and doom. There are faithful believers and churches who are not capitulating. God's kingdom continues to grow around the world. The light of divine truth shines brightly even though at times the darkness seems overwhelming. Our Lord is building His church, and He will not be thwarted (Matt. 16:18). At times it may seem as if the darkness is winning, but God's Word stands firm. People around the world are hungry for His truth, and by the Lord's grace, His people are taking it to the nations.

Twenty-five years ago, I predicted that a tremendous struggle was coming. We are living in the midst of it. Such is the plight of the church militant in every generation. The struggle manifests itself in different forms, but it is essentially the same. We are called in our generation to be faithful to the gospel, for the honor of God is at stake. And when the honor of God is at stake, so is the honor of every human being, for it is God who grants dignity to men and women. Our high calling is to remain faithful to the Lord in this struggle, to fight for the truth of God's Word and not to compromise. If we remain faithful, we are promised a sure and great reward: "The one who conquers will not be hurt by the second death" (Rev. 2:11b).

(From Ligonier Ministries and R. C. Sproul. © *Tabletalk* magazine. Website: www.ligonier.org/tabletalk. Email: tabletalk@ligonier.org. Toll free: 1-800-435-4343.)

Church Workday

Saturday, May 9
9:30 a.m. on church campus

Fellowship Luncheon

Sunday, May 3
12:30 p.m. after morning worship

Holy Communion

Sunday, May 17
11:00 a.m. during morning worship

Trail Life Tracks

During March and April, our boys learned pioneering and outdoor skills. In March, we took a hike on the Savannah River Bluff Heritage Trail down to the Savannah River. It was a beautiful day. On April 25-26, we enjoyed our first troop overnight campout at the Aiken State Natural Area.

As part of Memorial Day observances, we will be having a flag retirement ceremony. If you have an American flag which is torn, ripped and no longer serviceable, please give it to a Trailman or drop it off in the collection box in Covenant Hall. These will be retired at our meeting before Memorial Day.

Please continue to pray for the Trail Life USA national team, as well as the troop here at Christ Church. You can help by being a part of our troop committee or making a designated donation to support the troop activities. If you know of a boy who would want to become a Trailman, please have him contact Troopmaster, John Norkus (706-373-2173, thenorkusfamily@comcast.net). Walk worthy!



The Persecuted Church

“If the world hates you, know that it has hated Me before it hated you. Remember the word that I said to you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you” (John 15:18, 20).

- Kenya – Easter Sunday, for us a joyous celebration of resurrection, came a week after 148 people, mostly Christians, were slaughtered at Garissa University College.
- Libya – On Sunday, February 15th, ISIS terrorists beheaded 21 Egyptian Christians.
- India – On Sunday, March 15th, in India, Pastor Arul was preaching when a mob of Hindu extremists entered the church, beat him and another member, and turned them over to police who charged them with “forcing conversions.”
- North Korea – up to 70,000 Christians are believed to be in prison camps for their faith.
- In 2014 – 4,344 Christians were killed for their faith.
- In 2013 – 2,123 Christians were killed for their faith.
- In 2012 – 1,201 Christians were killed for their faith.
- Since Jesus laid down His life, 43 million Christians have become martyrs.

Praying for the Persecuted Church

“Praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication...making supplication for all the saints” (Ephesians 6:18).

- Pray for God to make them bold to proclaim the gospel (Ephesians 6:19-20).
- Pray that they will love their enemies and pray for them (Matthew 5:44).
- Pray that the Lord of the Church will draw all people to Himself.
- Pray that the Lord will provide safe places to worship and fellowship with others.
- Pray that God will open the hearts of many to receive His free offer of salvation.
- Pray that even in persecution they will have joy and freely forgive as they have been forgiven.
- Pray that “the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard [their] hearts and [their] minds in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:7).

Missionaries Prayer Focus

Please remember the missionaries below in your prayers throughout the month as they labor for the Lord, “Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart” (2 Corinthians 4:1).

Steve & Sherri Letchford, SIM (Sudan Interior Mission)

- Pray for the families and friends of those killed in Garissa, and in similar hotspots around the world.
- Pray for the Kenya church to be “wise as serpents and innocent as doves” in our decision-making.

Doug & Amy Nunziato, World Team, Spain

- Pray that we would finish our 1st term purposefully, always watchful for the “open door” to share the Truth.
- Pray for wisdom and strength for our home assignment and then onto our new location near Madrid.

Mark & Susan Walters, MTW (Mission to the World)

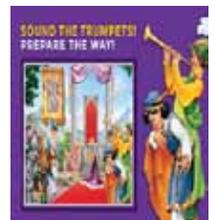
- Pray that the hearts of the Christ’s College students in Taipei, Taiwan, are prepared for the gospel.
- Pray for our family to share the gospel by our words and our lives.
- Pray for our safety and health.

Children’s Chatter: Let’s Talk About . . .

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: THE KING IS COMING!

Registration time is here for all children who wish to be a part of VBS this June. The dates are June 22-26, from 9 a.m. until noon. Registration cards are on the Welcome Table. Please note that children must be four by June 1st to attend. We have classes for four years of age up to those completing fourth grade. Please fill out cards completely and place in basket.

There are still places open for nursery workers, craft assistants and for those willing to grill hamburgers and hotdogs for our picnic on June 26th at noon. Come join the fun!



Christ Church Press

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Address Service Requested



May

Each Sunday's Schedule: 9:45 a.m. Sunday School • 11 a.m. Worship • 6:00 p.m. Worship

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
					7 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
12:30 p.m. Fellowship Luncheon 5 p.m. Prayer Meeting 7:30 p.m. Youth Gathering	4:30 p.m. Worship Committee Meeting 7 p.m. Adult Bible Study, Evans 7 p.m. Trail Life	7 p.m. Diaconate Meeting	6:30 p.m. Youth Gathering 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 8:15 p.m. Brass Ensemble	6 p.m. Young Families Bible Study 7 p.m. Adult Bible Study, Augusta		7:45 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast 9 a.m. Church Workday
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
5 p.m. Prayer Meeting	7 p.m. Session Meeting 7 p.m. Trail Life		6:30 p.m. Youth Gathering 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 8:15 p.m. Brass Ensemble	6:45 p.m. Women's Evening Bible Study	7 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
11 a.m. Holy Communion 5 p.m. Prayer Meeting 7:30 p.m. Youth Gathering	7 p.m. Trail Life: USA Flag Retirement Ceremony	7 p.m. Adult Bible Study, Evans	6:30 p.m. Youth Gathering 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 8:15 p.m. Brass Ensemble	6 p.m. Young Families Bible Study 7 p.m. Adult Bible Study, Augusta	7 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast	
24	Memorial Day 25	26	27	28	29	30
5 p.m. Prayer Meeting			6:30 p.m. Youth Gathering 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 8:15 p.m. Brass Ensemble	6:45 p.m. Women's Evening Bible Study	7 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast	
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