



CHRIST CHURCH PRESS

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

Volume 9, Issue 3

March 2013

The Pastor's Pen...Why Evangelize?

Birthdays

- Mar. 01.....Charles Kimbrell
Richard Turner
- 04 Paul Caruso
- 05Lynn Black
- 06Andrew Norkus
- 08 Leonora Parish
- 11..... Tim Nabholz
- 12..... Thelma Nunziato
- 13..... Campbell Bailey
- 16..... Karen Chrpapin
- 17.....Anne Bowen
- 19.....Hamilton McDaniel
- 21..... Roseanna Marble
Carol Mauldin
- 22 Carl Fliermans
- 23Patty Marter
- 24..... David Dyer
- 25Maria Russell
- 27.....Lizz Doss
Kay Lovingood
- 29Ed Evans
- 30 Ross McDaniel
- 31.....Kayla Almon
Jonathan Kimbrell
Preston Rackley

Anniversaries

- Mar. 01.....Carole & Enrique Romero
Maria & Ed Russell
- 06 Sue & Ron Moncrief
- 08 Karen & Vic Chrpapin
- 09Charlotte & Mel Jewett
- 19.....Diann & David Chew

Why evangelize? This is a relevant question to consider as we prepare to start a series at Christ Church in Adult Sunday School designed to equip and encourage personal evangelism. Why are we doing this? We are Presbyterians, aren't we? Everyone knows that Presbyterians believe Scripture teaches that God is sovereign in the salvation of sinners. If it is true, as the Bible teaches, that people come to Christ because God elects (Eph. 1:1-14), draws (John 6:44) and opens hearts (Acts 16:14), then what is the point of doing evangelism? Isn't evangelism unnecessary? Why put ourselves into awkward, intimidating situations that people find themselves in while doing evangelism, if God is sovereign in salvation? What is the point? It is just that issue that we want to consider briefly, focusing on a few of the many wonderful reasons we, who wholeheartedly affirm God's sovereignty in salvation, have for doing evangelism.

Because God Said So

What child has not heard at one point or another the response from mom or dad, "because I said so!"? This response usually comes when the child has asked, "Why?" for the hundredth time and is not capable of understanding the reason. Sometimes, however, this is the response given simply because the child needs to learn that his parent's command is reason enough in itself. No additional reasons are needed. If the commands of earthly parents are sufficient reason for an action, how much more are the commands of God? The most important reason for doing evangelism, therefore, is "because God said so." Jesus, to whom the Father gave all authority in heaven and on earth, commanded His disciples (you and me, by implication), "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations..." (Matt. 28:19). Similarly, in the opening of Acts, we find Jesus calling His disciples to bear witness to Him (Acts 1:7-8), a call Luke reveals extended beyond the circle of apostles (Acts 8:4). Moreover, God, through Peter, commands young Christians (and us) to always be "prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you" (1 Pet. 3:15b). As children of the Heavenly Father, we need no other reason for evangelism than the simple fact that God said so. We reveal we are Christ's disciples and children of God by doing what He commands—including obeying the command to evangelize. Indeed, our highest motivation for evangelism is grateful, loving obedience to the God who redeemed us. But, of course, there are other reasons.

Because God Is Sovereign

It is often supposed that belief in God's sovereignty in salvation is an obstacle to doing evangelism. Such a supposition, however, could not be farther from the truth. In fact, given the condition of fallen man, evangelism would be a waste of time, if it were not the case that it is God who sovereignly saves. After all, Scripture teaches that fallen man is spiritually dead (Eph. 2:1-3), has a darkened, hostile mind (1 Cor. 2:14; 2 Cor. 4:3-4, Rom. 8:7-9), corrupt affections and enslaved will (Titus 3:3; John 6:44, 65). We cannot raise the spiritually dead, open spiritually blind eyes, renew hearts and liberate wills bound by sin. The most gifted evangelist can do none of these things. Hence, if salvation were ultimately dependent upon us, evangelism would be an exercise in futility. Thankfully, salvation is God's work, and He has determined to accomplish that work through the simple Gospel witness of believers. That fact provides a basis for confidence in evangelism. We know that it is not our personality or persuasiveness that saves sinners. Rather, it is God working through weak but willing Christians to transfer helpless sinners from the kingdom of darkness to the kingdom of light and bring them from death to life. God's sovereignty does not excuse a lack of evangelism. Never! Instead, rightly understood, belief in God's sovereignty encourages and enables faithful evangelism.

(continued on page 2)

Why Evangelize? (cont.)

Because It Is Our Privilege

Evangelism is not only a responsibility; it is also a privilege. There is no question that God could have chosen to save sinners without using us. He could have determined to plant the Gospel directly into their minds, write it in the sky, or use some other means to communicate saving truth. Yet, God's plan was to use the very people who have received the incredible gift of salvation to be the means by which His saving purposes are accomplished in the lives of others. It is staggering to think that we, in God's gracious plan, have entered into a personal relationship with the God of all creation, are now His children—and even His fellow workers (see 1 Cor. 3:9). Like a father who enlists the help of his children—though he could do the work himself—so that they might have a sense of significance and know the joy of sharing in their father's labor, so our Heavenly Father enlists us. As an expression of His love, He has chosen to grant His adopted children a significant part in His most important work: redemption. Yes, we have the incredible joy of being used by Almighty God “to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in [Christ]” (Acts 26:18). Could there be a greater privilege?

In conclusion, there are many other reasons that we might mention for why the people of Christ Church, Presbyterian, who embrace the biblical teaching of God's sovereignty in salvation, should be eagerly and energetically engaged in personal evangelism (e.g., love for God, love for the lost, the reality of the horror and eternity of judgment). But what other reasons do we need? God has called us to this significant work. He is the One who powerfully and sovereignly saves, so we can do what He calls us to do with confidence. More than that, we can and should engage in this Kingdom work with great joy—for our Heavenly Father has given us the privilege of sharing in His most glorious work.

Josiah

New Sunday School Series...Equipping the Saints

You have been called to be a witness. Jesus, who loved you, rescued you from sin and judgment, has called you—Yes, you!—to be one through whom He rescues others. Though this calling is a wonderful privilege, it can also be intimidating and uncomfortable at first. That is why we are excited to be starting a new series in Adult Sunday School on March 17 and going through May 26 to help equip you to fulfill this high calling. The lessons will focus on the basics of Why, Who, When, and How to present the Good News of Jesus Christ, using helpful, simple methods of presenting the Gospel in various situations. Don Townsend, Mark Walters, Billy Hatcher and Ken Moody will be teachers in this 11-week training in Gospel presentation. Adult Sunday School class begins at 9:45 am with fellowship time and teaching beginning at 10:00 am. Please make every effort to take advantage of this important training in the life of Christ Church, Presbyterian.



You are Invited to the 2013 *Resurrection Festival Service*

Featuring the Christ Church Choir
with the *Lyra Vivace Chamber Orchestra*

“Te Deum” by Otto Olsson

The Reverend J. Josiah Jones preaching

Easter Sunday, March 31, 6:00 p.m.

Christ Church, Presbyterian
4201 Southern Pines Drive, Evans

for further information, call (706) 210-9090

www.christchurchpres.org

Calling All Hands

At Christ Church we have been richly blessed by God with beautiful facilities, and it is our desire to be good stewards of the gifts we have been given. Please join us on Saturday, March 16, for our church workday as we spend



some time doing our spring cleaning. This workday is a wonderful opportunity for fellowship and it will allow us to beautify the church property and make minor repairs to our buildings. We will do our work from 9 am until noon. If you have tools such as clippers, trimmers, rakes, wheel barrows, wagons and work gloves, please bring them with you. "Many hands make light work," so please mark your calendar and come lend a hand.

Organ Installation Underway

During the first two weeks of March our new Cornell Zimmer digital organ is being installed, voiced and tuned to the sanctuary. The beautiful new three-manual console is already in place and the pipes will be installed beginning on Tuesday, March 12. A crew of five craftsmen, including Bob Walker of Walker Technical Company, inventor of the digital sampling system used in our organ, have been hard at work since March 4.



While the organ will be in full use in worship services beginning March 10, an official dedicatory recital with a guest artist will take place in May – more information on that in next month's newsletter! In the meantime if you'd like to take a closer look, just climb the stairs to the choir loft and feast your eyes and ears!

Missionary Spotlight

Missions Update – March, 2013

Please be in prayer for these missionaries and agencies during March. As you pray, consider the needs you would have if you were in their places such as:

- Trusting the Lord in all things
- Having the spiritual and physical strength to complete the tasks before them
- Being patient, kind and gentle in their service
- Having courage in demonstrating the love of Christ

Missionaries Prayer Focus

- Karl and Debbie Dortzbach, Mission to the World (PCA), Kenya
- Evangelical Reformed Seminary of Ukraine, Mission to the World (PCA)
- Glenn and Sharlene Grubb, Wycliffe Bible Translators/Mission to the World (PCA)
- Eliseo and Paula Guadagno, Operation Mobilization, Italy

Praise and Prayer Requests

Bob & Andrea Burnham, Mission to the World (PCA), Ukraine

- Pray for Bob and Andrea as they lead a class on a "Biblical Portrait of Marriage." Pray that the class would grow and that more area churches would become involved.
- Pray for Bob as he preaches in Belgorod-Dnestrovsky on International Women's Day. Pray that turnout would be good and that he would be able to present the gospel clearly.

Louis and Anne Carter, SIM, Kenya and Papua New Guinea

- Praise that Louis has finally received permissions needed to publish his electronic book, "Principles of Reconstructive Surgery in Africa." It will be released to all missionary surgeons and national surgeons around the world and will be the plastic and hand surgery textbook for residents in training at the Pan-African Academy of Christian Surgeons.
- Pray that the Carters will be able to make their upcoming trip to Kenya. They will not be able to go if there is rioting over the elections taking place this month as there was in 2007.

Child Evangelism Fellowship, Augusta, Georgia

- Pray for God's hand of protection on the ministry and staff of CEF and for the volunteers who give of their time to share the Gospel.
- Pray for a continued open door for three area schools that need to be adopted next year.
- Pray that children who have accepted Christ will feel loved and welcomed as they are invited to visit area churches.

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March Calendar

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--------|--|--|---|-----------------------------|--|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| | | | | | 7 a.m. Men's Prayer Meeting | 8:30 a.m. Inquirer's Class |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 11 a.m. Worship 12:15 p.m. Fellowship Luncheon 6 p.m. Worship | | 10 a.m. Women's Morning Bible Study (Jones Home) | 6:30 p.m. Wednesday Youth Gathering 7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal | 7 p.m. - Adult Bible Study (Moncrief Home) | 7 a.m. Men's Prayer Meeting | 8:30 a.m. Inquirer's Class 3:00 p.m. A.Y.C. Lasagna Dinner Fundraiser |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 11 a.m. Worship 6 p.m. Worship 7:30 p.m. Youth Gathering | | 7 p.m. Joint Session / Diaconate Mtg | 6:30 p.m. Wednesday Youth Gathering 7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal | 6:45 p.m. Women's Bible Study (Boyd Home) | 7 a.m. Men's Prayer Meeting | 9:00 a.m. Church Workday |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 11 a.m. Worship 6 p.m. Worship Missionaries Clay and Darlene Qaurtman visit Christ Church | | 10 a.m. Women's Morning Bible Study (Jones Home) | 6:30 p.m. Wednesday Youth Gathering 7 p.m. Easter Choir Rehearsal | 7 p.m. - Adult Bible Study (Moncrief Home) 7 p.m. Young Family/ Young Married Couples Bible Study (Jones Home) | 7 a.m. Men's Prayer Meeting | 9:30 a.m. Easter Choir Rehearsal |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 11 a.m. Worship 6 p.m. Worship 7:30 p.m. Youth Gathering | | 7 p.m. Men's Bible Study (Hatcher Home) | 6:30 p.m. Wednesday Youth Gathering 7 p.m. Easter Choir Rehearsal | 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service | 7 a.m. Men's Prayer Meeting | 9:30 a.m. Easter Choir Dress Rehearsal |
| 31 | | | | | | |
| EASTER 11 a.m. Worship 6 p.m. Resurrection Festival Service | | | | | | |