



CHRIST CHURCH PRESS

The Monthly Newsletter of Christ Church, Presbyterian
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October 2013

The Pastor's Pen...

Birthdays

- 01..... Ron Moncrief
- 03 Carter Stacy
- 04 Mark Nabholz
 Sheila Self
- 08 Patsy Rector
- 09 Lanier Goodell
- 10..... Frances Loughran
 Leon White
- 11..... Allison Dotson
- 12..... Jenn Jones
- 21..... Cathie McClure
 Charles McClure
- 22 Craig Bailey
 Stephen Dyer
 Samuel Johnson
- 23 John Manthei

Security: Foolish Presumption or Firm Promise?

We want security. We want to know that we—and our family and loved ones—will be taken care of in the future. This desire for security seems to kick into overdrive once we find ourselves in the “real” world beginning a career or starting a family. The pursuit of future security becomes a driving force and determining factor in our lives.

But is such security really possible? The common formula for securing our future doesn't hold the promise it once seemed to hold. The assumption once was that, if you get a college degree, work hard in a career, buy a home early, get solid health insurance and life insurance, invest in a diversified portfolio of stocks and bonds, and save, save, save, then you and your family will have a secure future. Along comes the bursting of both the housing and stock market bubbles. Years and years of mortgage payments and stock investments are down the drain. College graduates wait in unemployment lines like everyone else. The world of insurance is in a mess, and the money in the bank is worth less and less all the time. So much for security! The assumptions of the past look more and more like presumption at present—whatever the always-fluctuating economic forecast reads. However wise it might be to pursue a degree, work hard in a career, purchase a house, invest diversely, and so on, to look for true security in any of these things is foolish presumption.

There is a security, however, that is not foolish presumption. It is a security that is not built on the shifting sand of the stock, housing, and economic markets. Rather, it is built upon the sure foundation of Christ and His Word. This is a security that is held out to every true believer as a firm promise. The Apostle Peter writes, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to His great mercy, He has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time” (1 Peter 1:3-5). This, my friends, is a security that is a firm promise.

What is promised by God for those born again into His family is nothing less than an absolutely **secure inheritance**. It is “imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you” (v. 4). While houses, cars, furniture, and fixtures fall apart or are ruined by rust or mildew, the glorious inheritance Christ has earned for us is imperishable and undefiled. While pictures, paintings, pre-

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Anniversaries

- 02 Faye & Ben Robeson
- 11..... Barbara & Charles Bowen

CPC Banquet

The Augusta Care Pregnancy Center will hold its Fall Banquet on Tuesday, October 8 with keynote speaker Dr. Ben Carson. For more information on this and other opportunities to support the Care Pregnancy Center, visit www.augustacpc.org.



Samaritan's Purse began with the mission to spread the love of God throughout the world by collecting shoe boxes filled with Christmas presents and delivering them to children in impoverished countries. Twenty years later, Operation Christmas Child has delivered their 100 millionth shoe box to a five-year-old girl in the Dominican Republic. These gifts made it possible to share the gospel in some of the darkest corners of the world, reaching more than 150 countries and territories.

Lejla Allison doesn't consider it an overstatement when she says a shoe box saved her life. She was 11 years old, living in Bosnia at the height of the Bosnian war. "I was cold. I was hungry. I was miserable. I wanted to die. We were suffering." She sought refuge in a school, hoping to find relief from the cold. What she found were stacks and stacks of shoe boxes. Lejla opened hers to find a new pair of tennis shoes. She promptly replaced the ones on her feet which had been tethered together with wire. "That box changed my life. Somebody did love me. All I had seen was war. And these shoes came from people I didn't even know. That shoe box was so much more than a shoe box."

It is our privilege again this year to participate in the Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box Project. People of all ages can be involved in this simple, hands-on mission project while focusing on the true meaning of Christmas - Jesus Christ. Brochures with complete instructions on filling the boxes are available in the foyer. Pre-wrapped empty shoe boxes will be available in the foyer beginning October 20. Filled shoe boxes will be collected on November 3, November 10 and November 17. Let's all take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas. If you have any questions, please contact Ruth Ann Fliermans, 706-738-8259.

Missionary Prayer

Please be in prayer for these missionaries and agencies throughout the month of October.

Alliance Defending Freedom

Scottsdale, Arizona

- Pray for victory in lawsuits addressing legislation that threaten to undermine God's design for marriage.
- Pray for the ADF attorneys and churches challenging the unconstitutional policies that discriminate against churches and other ministry organizations in equal access to public facilities.

Betty & Rick Aschmann

Mission to the World (PCA)

Bogota

- Praise for the good trip Rick had to Ecuador in July, renewing contacts and continuing to teach and encourage the church in Paltapamba.
- Pray for Rick as he continues studying and preparing for the last stage in his ordination process over the course of the next year.
- Pray that God would bring in many new believers to build up "The Refuge" church plant in Bogota. Pray especially for the new couples' ministry which is in its early stages.

Nancy & Dick Baggé

Wycliffe Bible Translators

Kenya

- Pray that the evil in Nairobi will be restrained, that leaders would act wisely in managing the national crisis, and that Dick and Nancy can be ministers of mercy and comfort in the face of the horror that has been unleashed through the seige of the Westgate Mall.

Christianity Explored

Please continue to be in prayer as the remaining sessions of Christian Explored are held on October 1, 8, 15, 26 and 29.

Church Workday



Many hands make light work!

Plan to offer your hands on Saturday, October 5, in the work of beautifying the buildings and property with which God has so graciously blessed us. We will do our work from 9 a.m. until noon. If you have tools such as clippers, trimmers, rakes, wheelbarrows, wagons and work gloves, please bring them.

Christmas Choir

The Christmas Festival will be held Sunday, December 15 at 6:00 p.m.

The Christmas Choir rehearsal schedule follows:

Saturday, October 19
9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
First Baptist Church,
Augusta
Choir Room

Sunday, November 17
4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Saturday, December 14
9:30 a.m. – Noon
Dress rehearsal
with orchestra

The Pastor's Pen

(continued from page 1)

cious jewels and other possessions fade, the inheritance that awaits those who belong to Christ is unfading. And while history makes clear that banks can be robbed, and governments (that insure banks) can be toppled or corrupted, no power in heaven, earth or hell itself can break into the heavenly city, can topple or corrupt its government, or rob that which is kept there. The inheritance of true believers, which is glorious beyond our feeble, finite mind's ability to conceive or comprehend, is kept in heaven. It is absolutely secure.

But if God simply promised a secure inheritance, the future security of the true believer would not necessarily be a firm promise. The inheritance might be secure, but the believer wouldn't necessarily be. What good is a secure inheritance, if there is not a secure heir to enjoy it?

Here is the glory of God's promise. It assures not only a secure inheritance—but also a **secure heir**. Those who have been born again to a living hope are the very ones who, "by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed" (v. 5). Given the weakness and wanderings of the strongest of believers in Scripture (e.g., Abraham, David, Peter), it might be hard to believe that anyone could be secure. Yet, the promise is not based on the power of man but the power of God. While history tells us that the power of the strongest army or most elite secret service cannot ensure the security and safety of presidents—let alone ordinary citizens—God's power can. It is God's power, the Apostle Peter declares, that guards every Spirit-born citizen of the Kingdom. His power guards them for a full and final salvation ready to be revealed on the last day. *Now that is security!*

Even here, though, we must guard against security that is foolish presumption. Those who have a secure inheritance and are secure heirs are those who have been "born again" (v. 3). Further, they are being guarded "through faith." This faith, when tested in the fire, perseveres and so proves to be genuine (v. 7). In the end, evidence that one has been born of the Spirit of God is not that one walks an aisle, repeats a prayer, signs a card, or joins a church. Rather, it is that one has Spirit-wrought, genuine faith—a faith that perseveres and bears fruit (John 15:8). Such a one is born again—and a secure heir.

How wonderful it is that we as genuine believers have real, lasting security! That security which all the money in the world cannot buy belongs to us, if we have been born of God. Here is a rock to stand upon in the midst of sinking sand. Here is a basis for joy and peace—regardless of what is happening in the stock, housing, or job markets. Come what may, our future is secure. We have a firm promise. Our inheritance is secure!

Inquirers' Class

A new Inquirers' Class will begin on October 9 and continue on Wednesdays through October 30, from 6:30 until 8:30 p.m. Supper in Covenant Hall will open each session. This class, led by Pastor Jones, will examine the identity of Christ Church, Presbyterian as an "Evangelical, Reformed and Presbyterian" congregation, explore the many ministry opportunities available, and explain how to become actively engaged in the body here at Christ Church. The class is for all who are interested in knowing more about Christ Church, Presbyterian and are prayerfully considering membership. *Please register your attendance through the Welcome Page on our church website, www.christchurchpres.org. Childcare will be available.*

Christ Church Press

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October

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
		6 p.m. Christianity Explored	6:30 p.m. Youth Gathering 7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 8:30 p.m. Brass Ensemble Rehearsal	7 p.m. Adult Bible Study (Moncrief home)		7:45 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast 9 a.m. Church Workday
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship 12:30 p.m. Fellowship Luncheon 6 p.m. Worship 7:30 p.m. Youth Gathering		6 p.m. Christianity Explored	6:30 p.m. Inquirers' Class 6:30 p.m. Youth Gathering 7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 8:30 p.m. Brass Ensemble Rehearsal	6:45 p.m. Women's Bible Study (Boyd home) 7 p.m. Joint Session / Diaconate Mtg	7 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast	8:30 a.m. Officer Training
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship 6 p.m. Worship		6 p.m. Christianity Explored	6:30 p.m. Inquirers' Class 6:30 p.m. Youth Gathering 7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 8:30 p.m. Brass Ensemble Rehearsal	7 p.m. Adult Bible Study (Moncrief home)	7 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast	8:30 a.m. Officer Training 9:30 a.m. Christmas Choir Rehearsal, First Baptist Church
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship 6 p.m. Worship 7:30 p.m. Youth Gathering			6:30 p.m. Inquirers' Class 6:30 p.m. Youth Gathering 7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 8:30 p.m. Brass Ensemble Rehearsal	6:45 p.m. Women's Bible Study (Folley home)	7 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast	8 a.m. - Christianity Explored 8:30 a.m. Officer Training
27	28	29	30	31		
9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship 6 p.m. Worship		6 p.m. Christianity Explored	6:30 p.m. Inquirers' Class 6:30 p.m. Youth Gathering 7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 8:30 p.m. Brass Ensemble Rehearsal			