

THE LINK

Easter is Personal

April



OLD PEACHTREE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Inside this Issue:

Groups & Meetings
New Member
Deacons Information
Missionary Highlight
Baptism
Nursery Schedule

*Christ
is
Risen!*

If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you. (Romans 8:11)

We celebrate Easter as the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. Some deny it happened. Others water it down with the idea that it was a “spiritual” resurrection, or some other such nonsense. But we hold that Jesus was bodily resurrection on the third day (by a Hebrew reckoning) after being placed in the tomb.

We also recognize that Easter was more than merely a historical event. It is personal. Jesus’ resurrection secured and guarantees the salvation of the believer. All of this is plain in Romans 8:11, quoted above.

In this verse, Paul assumes the resurrection of Jesus.

...him who raised Jesus from the dead

He does not argue for it (though he does in other places). He simply takes it as a given. That is the Christian position: Of course God raised Jesus from the dead; he said he would, and he did. Nothing is impossible for God.

To that assumption of Jesus’ resurrection, Paul adds a promise:

...he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies.

Christ’s resurrection was not only for himself, but for his people. His resurrection is but the firstfruits of the resurrection of his people upon his return. How do we know this will happen? Jesus himself was raised. Paul is explicit: God will give life to our *mortal* bodies. Jesus’ mortal body was raised; ours will be, too.

But notice Paul begins Romans 8:11 with the word *if*. There’s a condition here. Not everyone will be raised to everlasting life and joy (though everyone will be raised in the general resurrection), but only

If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you...

Only if the Spirit indwells you will you be raised up to life. In Romans 8 Paul has been contrasting life in the Spirit versus death in the flesh. To have the Spirit within you is to be a Christian. It is by the Holy Spirit that we first believe. It is also by that Spirit we are resurrected: “...through his Spirit who dwells in you.”

So as we celebrate Easter--or at any time of year--we give thanks to God for the resurrection of Jesus. It is a grand and startling historical event, to be sure. But it is also personal Jesus’ resurrection means the salvation, for this world and the world to come, of the one who trusts in Jesus.

Alan Johnson

SYMPATHY & SERVICE: THE OFFICE OF DEACON

by Jeff Mutchler

“So what does a Deacon do?” I have been asked that question several times over the years of being a deacon, mainly leading up to and during officer nominations, and it may even be a question you have yourself as well. Yes, we collect the offering and yes, we make sure the grass gets cut, but there is more to this office of service than just those important tasks.



The PCA’s Book of Church Order states that the office of deacon is ‘one of sympathy and service, after the example of Jesus Christ; it expresses also the communion of saints, especially in their help-

ing one another in time of need.’ I must confess that while I write this, I see how short I fall from fulfilling this role, but the fact is that I am part of a group of men called to serve, this particular body of believers at Old Peachtree. In addition, you are a vital part of assisting the Diaconate in carrying out this call of service.

The primary means by which the Diaconate serves is through prayer. We begin our monthly meetings with a devotion led by the Deacon of the Month. We then spend the next 30 to 45 minutes in specific prayer for each other and for the congregation before we discuss building and mercy needs. Please know that the Diaconate prays for you and asks the Lord for guidance in serving His people better.

The Diaconate are also the sole custodians of the weekly offering, a responsibility we take quite seriously. The collection and counting are performed in the presence of two deacons as part of Old Peachtree’s system of internal accounting controls. From there, our Treasurer

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(Matt Chandler) ensures those funds get distributed accordingly, whether that means paying the power bill or disbursing money to one of the many ministries our church supports. We make sure your tithes keep our lights on and spread the light of His Word around the globe.

The Diaconate is also charged with caring for the physical needs of our congregation. This can be in the form of deeds of service (performing yard work or home repair for those who cannot due to age or injury) or financial support (assisting with car repair or medical bills for a financially struggling member, or long-term support during a job loss). Physical assistance can be provided either directly from the deacons or by teaming up with the youth group, women’s ministry, or other church members, according to the need. Financial needs can be met through the OPPC Deacon’s Fund, which is supported by free-will offerings from church members for the benefit of those in need. Donations for the Deacon’s Fund may be deposited in the small wooden box at the head of the serving table during First Sunday Lunch or anytime during the month. We also have a policy and funding mechanism in place to support families, both prayerfully and financially, who are in the process of adoption or short-term hosting of an orphan. If you are interested in finding out more about our Orphan Care Policy/Fund, please see a member of the Diaconate.

You may ask ‘How does the Diaconate know if someone needs assistance, and what does that look like?’ We have a written Mercy Policy that provides our Mercy Team



(Matt Chandler & Joe Deighton) with guidelines to follow to confidentially assist church members, regular

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SYMPATHY AND SERVICE... Jeff Mutchler

attenders, and non-members who are in need. If you or someone you know in our congregation is in need, please reach out to Matt & Joe who will follow our policy guidelines to see how we can assist in both the short and long term, as applicable. In the past, this assistance has involved providing funds for medical bills, counseling, groceries, fuel, power bills, and mortgage assistance. Likewise, if a member of the church privately helps another member, we would encourage the helping member to confidentially inform the Mercy Team to prevent duplication of assistance and to allow us to be better stewards of the charity offered by the church. The deacons also enjoy a close partnership with our Women's Ministry to identify and provide care appropriate for the needs of women.



While the Diaconate is also tasked with maintaining the building and grounds - everything from light bulbs and pine straw to toilets and HVAC filters - we rely upon your participation when we have church work days to adequately address these needs. As a reminder, our next church work day is May 5, so we hope to see you then!

So now you know what a deacon does. A deacon serves. Please pray for Keith, Joe, Tom, Kevin, Martin, Ryo, and me as we seek to serve our Lord by serving you here at Old Peachtree Presbyterian Church. And lend us your support where you can. We value the opportunity to come alongside you as the hands and feet of Jesus.



WOMEN'S MINISTRY LOVE GIFT - THANK YOU

Thank you to all who gave to the Women's Ministry Love Gift Offering for pastors' wives in March!

Remember that you may donate to the "Cherish" fund at any time with a check in the offering plate to OPPC with "Cherish" in the memo line. If you prefer to mail a check, make it payable to "CDM." Please note on the memo line "2018 Love Gift" and send it to:

Committee on Discipleship Ministries
1700 North Brown Road, Suite 102
Lawrenceville, GA 30043.

(2018lovegift.org)

Contact Kathy Wargo, kwargo@pcanet.org or 678-825-1132, if you have questions.

Donate online:
<https://pcacdm.org/wm-love-gift/>



OPPC EMAILS

If you are not receiving weekly email bulletins and other helpful informative emails from OPPC, please contact the office and give us your correct email address (770-476-7945 or office@oldpeachtree.org).

OPPC ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Like us on Facebook; follow us on Twitter (@OldPeachtree). We also have a Facebook group open to members of OPPC that you can request to join.

WELCOME NEW MEMBER - MARCH 2018

Richard Beerman - March 2018

BAPTISM

Lincoln Reid Derr - March 4, 2018

VBS VOLUNTEERS MEETING—The Summer Will Soon Be Here!

Please be sure to attend a Vacation Bible School meeting for all volunteers on Sunday, April 8, at 12:10 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Join us to discuss plans for our upcoming VBS, June 4-8.

Thanks ~ Jenni Sickert & Tonia Horner

EASTER FIRST SUNDAY LUNCH



Please join us on Easter for our **First Sunday Lunch**, April 1, at 12:00 noon, immediately following the morning service. All are welcome!

APRIL SHOWER—DIAPERS AND WIPES

Ladies, please join us Friday, April 13, as we celebrate Stephanie Jackson with a “Diapers and Wipes” shower at 7:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall.



JOHNS CREEK SMALL GROUP (Malcolm home)

Please join us for Johns Creek Small Group on Wednesday, April 11, at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Owen and Tina Malcolm (310 Dewpoint Lane, Johns Creek, GA 30022). Childcare is provided. Contact Owen (owen.malcolm@unitedcp.com) or Tina (tinammalcolm@gmail.com) for more information.

Meet the Mills

Robbie and Kelly met at Wake Forest University. After college, they moved to Washington DC where their lives were unexpectedly changed by a church-plant called GraceDC. In this “start-up church” the gospel of Jesus Christ became real and began to have vital, transformative impact. Soon after they were married in 2009 and moved to St. Louis, MO to attend Covenant Theological Seminary. During seminary the Mills were deeply impacted by another church-plant - New City Fellowship - where shared life with refugees from Africa and Asia introduced them to the beauty of cross-cultural ministry. In 2014, the Mills moved to New England where Robbie served as Church-Planting Apprentice in the Newton congregation of Christ the King Boston (PCA). In 2016, the Mills were called by the Southwest Church Planting Network to plant a church among refugees and residents of Northeast Dallas. They moved to Texas in the fall of 2016 and have been building relationships to make that vision a reality. The Mills have one lively daughter, Elise.



Ministry

Metro Dallas is one of North America’s leading destinations for the resettlement of refugees from Africa, the Middle East and Southeast Asia. **Our vision is to see God unify the nations in the grace of Jesus Christ.** We seek to do this by building a Christ-centered, cross-cultural family that **makes life-long disciples** of Jesus, **loves neighbors** near and far, and **celebrates the grace of Jesus** in worship. The Lord has blessed us with an engaged network of prayers, financial supporters, wisdom-lenders and volunteers. Some of these include local PCA churches, North Texas Presbytery, the Southwest Church Planting Network and For the Nations Refugee Outreach. We’re thrilled by the opportunity to plant a church for newcomers and long-timers of North Texas - we pray that God would establish a church that welcomes and unites people from every tribe, tongue and nation.

Prayer

2018 is a big year for us! Please pray God enables us us to build on the weekly Bible studies, prayer gatherings and one-on-one meetings I’ve been leading over the past year. Specifically, pray that God:

- **Reveals** the beauty of Christ to neighbors from many different cultures, religions and economic backgrounds. Pray this leads to conversion, repentance, and deepening love for Christ our Savior.
- **Forms** two groups (3-5 men, 3-5 women) of refugee leaders to become champions of New City’s vision
- **Provides** commitments from American families to join with these refugee leaders in forming a launch team
- **Gives** ongoing financial support and logistical administration that enables us to build stable, long-term foundations for discipleship, mission and worship

Thank you for your partnership! We would love to include you in monthly prayer and ministry updates. If you would like to learn more please email robbie.mills@gmail.com or (visit us at newcitydallas.org).

RYM CONFERENCE - JULY 9-14, 2018 - JOIN US!



Youth, be sure to let Joe Deighton know if you will be attending the RYM Conference, July 9-14, at Laguna Beach Christian Retreat in Panama City Beach, Florida.

Recreation & activities offered this year are: Swimming (pool & ocean), Paddle Boarding*, Kayaking*, Sailing*, Gaga Ball, Spike Ball, Kan Jam, Basketball, Volleyball, and Ping Pong! (* waiver and extra fees required)

The main speaker is Elbert McGowan, Senior Pastor, at Redeemer Church in Jackson, MS.

Contact Joe for more information: (joedeighton1@gmail.com)

YOUTH GROUP FOOD SCHEDULE

Those who have volunteered to supply food for the Youth Group on Sunday evenings in 2018 are listed below. If you are not able to serve on your volunteer day, please contact Jennifer Taylor (taylorkhandan@yahoo.com). Thank you for your help with this task.



Apr 8 - Oliver

Apr 15 - Leap

Apr 22 - Deighton

Apr 29 - Malin-Davis

May 13 - Bennett

May 20 - Funk

May 27 - Butler

June 10 - Taylor

June 17 - Mutchler

June 24 - Oliver

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDIES



TUESDAY

Our Tuesday Women's Study has ended for the spring and summer.

SATURDAY

Please join us at 9:00 a.m. in the fellowship hall on April 7 and 21. We are studying *Through His Eyes: God's Perspective on Women in the Bible* by Jerram Barrs, Childcare is **not** provided for the Saturday study. Contact Barbara Johnson for information (bbjohnson1988@gmail.com).

Remaining study dates:

- April 7 - Mary (Chapters 16 & 17)
- April 21 - Woman of Samaria (Chapter 18)

You are encouraged to finish on your own with Martha and Mary (Chapter 19).

MEETINGS AND GROUPS

First Sunday Lunch

Join us for First Sunday Lunch on April 1. Please invite your friends and neighbors.

Communion Week

We celebrate the Lord's Supper in the morning service on April 8. We have communion on the second Sunday every month.

Deacons Meeting

The Deacons meeting has been changed to Wednesday, April 18, this month.

Session Meeting

The Session meeting will be on April 25, (the fourth Wednesday of each month).

Youth Group

All 6th grade -12th graders, even college students, are welcome to join us for dinner at 5:30 on Sundays except for the first Sunday of each month.

Save the Date

Diapers and Wipes Shower—Stephanie Jackson—April 13, 2018

Church Work Day—8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon—May 5

Vacation Bible School—Summer 2018—June 4-8

PCA General Assembly—Atlanta, GA—June 12-15

RYM Summer Conference—Panama City Beach, FL—July 9-14



NURSERY SCHEDULE - APRIL 2018

DATE	11:00 a.m.	GREETER (10:45 at table)	6:00 p.m.
4/1	Appleton, Elmer, Josiah	Ann Elmer	No Service
4/8	Chromiak, Saylor, Tabitha	Joyce Saylor	Wilson
4/15	Oliver, Schramm, Arabella	Julie Schramm	Foster, Smith
4/22	Garner, Larson, Grace	Meggin Garner	Richards
4/29	Taylor, Holley Kate	Jennifer Taylor	Butler, Horner

LINK DEADLINE: Please turn in articles and information for the May *LINK* by Thursday, April 26.

Old Peachtree Presbyterian Church exists to glorify God and to extend the kingdom of Jesus Christ. To accomplish this end, Old Peachtree aims to be a church that is continually growing in vital worship, in theological depth, in true fellowship, in assertive evangelism, and in deeds of compassion. The distinctiveness of Old Peachtree is in its desire to be Presbyterian in government and Reformed in theology, with the vitality that comes from evangelism and discipleship.

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