

BETWEEN SEEDTIME AND HARVEST

SENIOR ADULTS NEWSLETTER

MAY, 2017



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"GRACE TO YOU" by Pastor Bruce Creswell

To God Be the Glory!

We are about to embark on a new beginning here at Christ Covenant Church. In July, Kevin DeYoung will assume the position of Senior Pastor. Amazingly, in a short period of time, God, hearing the prayers of His people and leading the search committee, brought Kevin DeYoung to us. I can't help but think that the search process was short due to the result of the former pulpit committee that God used to call Mike Ross as our senior pastor in 2006.

Eleven years ago, we were a church riddled with problems and discord. But God, in His loving Providence, sent a shepherd who would lead the flock and feed them the Word. The result eleven years later is a healthy and vibrant church that enjoys the unity of the brethren, where God is at work.

Looking back on Pastor Ross's ministry, there are many things that make my heart thankful. We have certainly flourished under his leadership. Having the ability to assess the situation, he provides solutions and directions which have been beneficial to every part of the church, which includes the session, the senior staff, the pastoral staff and the congregation. Efficiency, accountability, productivity, and unity are the fruits of his leadership. Each year along with the session, Pastor Ross has led us in becoming disciples of Jesus Christ in one of four areas: **Worship God, Grow in Community, Love Others, and Serve the World.** This year our focus is "Becoming a Gospel Community," and so, Mike has geared his preaching along those lines to aid us in being more Gospel-centered.

Speaking about preaching, Mike has been both faithful to feed us from the Word and faithful to the Word. He has systematically preached through the books of the Old Testament and New Testament, making the truths applicable to our day and not

watering down or glossing over hard truths that are in the text. We all have certain sermon series that are special to us for different reasons. As Mike has been faithful to preach, the Spirit has used the Word to bring about the needed encouragement, instructions, or rebuke that we have needed. I think of a particular series entitled "Generations in Community," that had a real impact on all of us. Remember, how Mike took each generation represented in our congregation and identified their strengths and their weaknesses and showed how they were a part of the body of Christ and how each needs the other. From that series, I believe we not only had a better understanding of other generations but became more appreciative of them. To this day, I have recommended that series to many pastors, people, and even new members who come to Christ Covenant.

As a faithful preacher of the Word, Mike has reminded us of the importance of honoring the Lord's Day and has led us in this. The neglect of the Lord's Day is so common among the people of God. It is one reason why God is not happy with His church. Over the years, I have heard many, especially young people, express their appreciation for Mike's emphasis and teaching regarding the Lord's Day. Along this line, Mike has also reminded us, instructed us, and taught us how God has a high view of His church and so should we! From this emphasis has come a stronger vision of what we are as His church and what our responsibilities are to and in the church, resulting in both faithfulness and fruitfulness. We are blessed to have a shepherd who stands against the trendiness of modern evangelicalism and is true to the Word of God and holds us accountable to the Word.

As a shepherd, Mike has led us, and he has fed us, exemplifying the Good Shepherd of Psalm 23, which none of us can deny. But there is another way in which he has shepherded us, and that is in the area of prayer. I know that Mike would be quick to acknowledge Jane's part in our monthly day of prayer. This is just another way of making our church a family as we join together before the throne of grace. This commitment to prayer is put into practice in our weekly staff devotions followed by prayer on Tuesday. After staff prayer meeting, the pastors get together and pray for the church. The importance of prayer to Pastor Ross is such that he has encouraged the pastors to take a day of prayer once a month. The priority of prayer has certainly been high on his list.

There is another dynamic that makes up Mike Ross and that is he is a "bridge-builder." Over his years here, he has built bridges between the generations in our church, between our church and the community, between our church and the presbytery and the denomination, promoting healthy and fruitful relationships.

The Lord has given us a man indeed after God's own heart. He has shepherded us and has pointed us to Christ. He has served our Lord well and has brought us to the place of spiritual health and unity. Now, he passes the baton to Kevin DeYoung, a shepherd who, too, loves the Lord and His Word and His people. Kevin has been sent by God to take us to the next step in His will and plan for the Kingdom of God.

Thank You Lord, for Pastor Mike Ross and Pastor Kevin DeYoung.

The "Comes" of God's Word

GEN. 7:1 Come into a place of safety

NUM.10:29 Come to a Godly Fellowship

ISA. 1:18 Come for a Personal Cleansing

ISA. 55:1 Come for a Satisfying Portion

MATT. 11:28 Come for Rest of Soul

MATT. 22:4 Come at the King's Urgent Invitation

LK 14:17 Come to a Gospel Feast

REV. 22:1 Come at the Threefold Call

(contributed by Fran DiAndrea)



Bible Book Puzzle

(Hint: If you are unable to find the 30 books of the Bible hidden in this puzzle, just ask Dot or Jenn!!!)

This is a most remarkable puzzle. It was found by a gentleman in an airplane seat pocket, on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu, keeping him occupied for hours. He enjoyed it so much; he passed it on to some friends. One friend from Illinois worked on this while fishing from his john boat. Another friend studied it while playing his banjo. Elaine Taylor, a columnist friend, was so intrigued by it she mentioned it in her weekly newspaper column. Another friend judges the job of solving this puzzle so involving, she brews a cup of tea to help her nerves. There will be some names that are really easy to spot. That's a fact. Some people, however, will soon find themselves in a jam, especially since the book names are not necessarily capitalized. Truthfully, from answers we get, we are forced to admit it usually takes a minister or scholar to see some of them at the worst. Research has shown that something in our genes is responsible for the difficulty we have in seeing books in this paragraph. During a recent fund raising event, which featured this puzzle, the Alpha Delta Phi lemonade booth set a new sales record. The local paper, The Chronicle, surveyed over 200 patrons who reported that this puzzle was one of the most difficult they had even seen. As Daniel Humana humbly puts it, "the books are all right here in plain view hidden from sight." Those able to find all of them will hear great lamentations from those who have to be shown. One revelation that may help is that books like Timothy and Samuel may occur without their numbers. Also, keep in mind that punctuation and spaces in the middle are normal. A chipper attitude will help you compete really well against those who claim to know the answers. Remember, there is no need for a mad exodus, there really are 30 books of the Bible lurking somewhere in this paragraph waiting to be found.



THANK YOU – LORD

(Copied from an article by Chuck Swindoll and contributed by Miriam Jones)

Maybe these few thoughts will stimulate you to give God your own thanks in great abundance.

Looking Up...thank You, Lord:

For Your sovereign control over our circumstances
For Your holy character in spite of our sinfulness
For Your commitment to us even when we wander astray
For Your Word that gives us direction
For Your love that holds us close
For Your gentle compassion in our sorrows
For Your consistent faithfulness through our highs and lows
For Your strong "no" when we need to hear it
For Your surprising "yes" when we lack the faith to believe it
For Your wise "wait" when we are impatient and rash
For Your understanding when we are confused
For Your Spirit that enlightens our eyes
For Your grace that removes our guilt

Thank you, Lord, for all You are, all You do, all You say. ...

Looking Around ...Thank You, Lord:

for our wonderful country, so blessed, so unique
for close family ties, so affirming, so enjoyable
for teachers, mentors, and personal heroes who spur us on
for an opportunity to be of help and encouragement to others
for the embrace of a friend who really cares
for the joy of seeing our children and grandchildren grow and learn
for an occupation that enables us to make a living
for a place to live, clothes to wear, and food to eat
Thank You, Lord, for such incredible abundance. By just looking around, we are aware of how rich we really are.

Looking Within ... thank You, Lord:

for the gift of good health, a hidden treasure easily overlooked
for eyes that see the beauty of Your creation
for minds that are curious, creative, and competent
for memories of past pleasures and recent accomplishments
for ears that receive the world of sounds surrounding us
for hands to work with and legs to walk with

for heartaches that force us to rearrange our priorities
 for broken dreams and lingering afflictions that humble us
 for the courage to tell the truth, though it hurts
 for the determination to finish a demanding task
 for a sense of humor that brings healing and hope
 ... And so we pause to declare our expressions of gratitude. They are merely an overview
 of the thousands of things for which we are thankful. You are indeed worthy of our
 highest praise. To you goes all the glory.

Amen (Copyright Since 1971, Bible Broadcasting Network, Charlotte, NC)



MAY BIRTHDAYS Zephaniah 3:17

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| 3 Ann Mudge | 9 Carson Weaver |
| 10 Jim Stevenson | 15 Bob Mantell |
| 18 Judy Massengill | 19 Bob Black |
| 19 Miriam Jones | 24 Fran Wise |
| 25 Liz West | 31 Dee Lamb |

MAY ANNIVERSARIES Romans 12:10b

- 9 Leslie and Mitch Allison**
22 Susan and Jim Parrish, Jr.



Mark Your Calendar: Important Dates:

*****Friday, May 5, 2017– Seniors’ Monthly Luncheon at 12 noon in the CLC. Our speaker will be Dr. Ross. Please plan to join us for our **Cinco de Mayo** Lunch. Our theme is Mexican. If you have a Mexican dish that you would like to try, bring it on, and we will be the official tasters. However, all food is welcome!**



Please join us!

- ***Friday, May 12, 2017 – Ladies Luncheon at 11:30 at Longhorn’s at 9950 Independence Blvd. Come and invite another lady from our class.**
- ***Mondays during the merry month of May at 1:30, the JOY Singers will meet in the WC Prayer Chapel. If you like to sing, there’s a place for you! Please join us!**
- ***Sunday, May 14, 2017 – Celebrate **Mothers’ Day!****
- ***Friday, May 19, 2017 – MEN – Join us for the Sr. Men’s Lunch at **11:30 AM at Park Place Restaurant at 10517 Park Rd., Charlotte, NC 28210.****



2017 Theme: Becoming a Gospel Community

Verse for 2017: "But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity."

2 Peter 3:18

SS Info: Coram Deo Class in WC 201 (choir room) at 9 AM.

Teacher: Pastor Bruce Creswell

Topic: Stories Jesus Told

The world's greatest Teacher spoke clearly and used simple stories of everyday life to illustrate His teachings. His parables are an important part in our Lord's mission of salvation and judgment. We will seek to understand their purpose and their significance in His teaching and for our lives. We invite you to join us in our study of the stories Jesus told.

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We remember.

Ps. 33:12