

# THE MESSENGER

DECEMBER 2019 – JANUARY 2020

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OF ABORTION



INDEPENDENT  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
1755

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# THE FUTURE OF CHRISTIANITY IN THE WEST – PART 4

We have argued that the West is embracing a secular pagan future that is hostile to orthodox Christianity. In order to meet the challenges that lie ahead, it is imperative that Christians strengthen their basic institutes. Last time we discussed the church. We come now to the second and third of these institutions.

## *Marriage*

The institution of marriage has been under assault for decades. The high divorce rates which began to be evident in the 1970's have been joined by low marriage rates of more recent years. The number of Americans over 25 who have never been married has nearly doubled since 1960. Cohabitation outside of marriage, once considered a scandal, is now at an all-time high. Seventy percent of all Americans will cohabit before marriage. This is now considered normal behavior with which little stigma is associated.

Illegitimacy is also at an all-time high rate. Fully 40% of all live births now occur outside of marriage. Americans are neither delaying sexual relations nor child-rearing until marriage. Black illegitimacy stands at nearly 75% compared to the 14% in 1940 and 25% as recently as 1965.

Rod Dreher asks the question, “Is sex the linchpin of Christian cultural order?”<sup>1</sup> His answer is yes. The sexual revolution has been catastrophic for Christianity. The sexual revolution, says Dreher,

has demolished the fundamental Christian conception of society, of families, and of the nature of human beings. There can be no more peace between Christianity and the Sexual Revolution, because they are radically opposed.<sup>2</sup>

He argues that severing sex from procreation was a key milestone in the triumph of the sexual revolution. “We have gay marriage because the straight majority came to see sexuality as something primarily for personal pleasure and self-expression and only secondarily for procreation.”<sup>3</sup> Consequently, “Gay marriage and gender ideology signify the final triumph of the Sexual Revolution and the

dethroning of Christianity because they deny Christian anthropology at its core and shatter the authority of the Bible.”<sup>4</sup>

Sexuality is at the center of contemporary culture as well as contemporary controversies in the church. Sexual images are pervasive and invasive. Casual hook-ups in popular media are the norm. These issues are dividing denominations and compromising Christian witness. Consequently, marriage must be reaffirmed and sexual discipline must once again be understood as an important aspect of Christian discipleship. “Unbridled erotic passion creates chaos and disintegration,” Dreher writes. The Christian community must be unequivocal in affirming marriage as the union of one man and one woman for life. This union is indissoluble. Divorce cannot be considered an option for believers (Mt 5:31-32; 19:1-12). This union must also be understood as the context within which children are to be conceived and born.

Erica Komisar, a psychoanalyst and author of *Being There: Why Prioritizing Motherhood in the First Three Years Matters*, in a recent article entitled “Political Correctness is Bad for Kids,” argues for the ideal of traditional marriage. She acknowledges that “children who grow up with same-sex parents, a single mother or other nontraditional arrangements can be emotionally healthy.” Yet she insists “there are obstacles to overcome and losses to acknowledge.” Mothers and fathers each make a distinctive contribution:

Children need a balance of secure attachment and healthy separation, and the traditional two-parent structure provides it. Mothers are uniquely suited for sensitive nurturing, which helps regulate distress and is critical to early development. Fathers provide a balance by teaching children to regulate their aggression and become independent. In my practice I have seen an increasing number of moms who are single by choice. Although the mothers have the attachment part down, they don't have a man around to help the separation process, and the kids struggle as a result.

Traditional marriage and the sexual norms that protect it provide a context for human flourishing. “Eros that submits

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1 Dreher, *The Benedict Option*, 198.

2 Ibid., 202.

3 Ibid., 203.

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4 Ibid.

to Christ bears fruit in the gift of children, stable families and communities.”<sup>5</sup> We must speak both of the evils of extra-marital sex and of the beauty of marital sex. “Christians must repudiate *the whole sexual revolution*,” says Anthony Esolen.<sup>6</sup>

### Family

Our homes must be centered on God. Positively this means daily family devotions featuring Scripture reading, prayer, and the singing of psalms and classic hymns. It means that our homes must be warm, loving, attractive places which other people will wish to replicate in their own lives. Negatively it means monitoring one’s children’s peers and, says Dreher, “strictly limiting media, especially television and online media.”<sup>7</sup>

### Pro-fatherhood

Every society faces the problem of channeling the energy of young men into productive activity. The terrorists in the Middle East are young men. The suicide bombers (with few exceptions) are young men. The terrorists and mass murderers at home are young men. The violent criminals at home and abroad, the murderers, the rapists, the armed robbers, those who assault and batter, are all young men. When society does not give to young men a meaningful role, one which affirms their identity as men, their manhood, their masculinity, many of them will turn to anti-social means of establishing that identity: promiscuity, alcohol and drugs, and violence. They will establish their manhood by holding their liquor, sexual conquests, and violent exploits. They will live on the edge. They will flirt with danger. They will shirk responsibility. These are well-documented and universal trends observed by multiple social observers going back at least to Margaret Mead (yes, *that* Margaret Mead).<sup>8</sup> These trends may be observed from the ghetto to Appalachia, from the Arab world to the skinheads and neo-Nazis of Europe.

What is needed is a revived emphasis on the role of husband and father. What proves a man’s manhood? What is the most important role for a man in this world? That of provider and protector of his wife and family. That alone is comparable to a woman’s irreplaceable role as the bearer and nurturer of children.

Current claims that men are expendable, that they have nothing distinctive to contribute to the family, that mothers and fathers are interchangeable, must be fiercely resisted by the Christian community. Fathers are irreplaceable and their absence always comes with a price. Wives need husbands. Mothers need fathers. Children need fathers. A godly man shows his manhood not by sexual conquests, not by hard

drinking, and not by violently subduing his challengers, but by submitting his strength to the needs of his wife and children. The church in the 21<sup>st</sup> century must stand unambiguously on this ground.

—TLJ

# Music Ministry

I have many thoughts writing this last Ministry of Music article for the *Messenger*. Over the years I have written these articles purely to provide information regarding schedules for the various choirs. In this particular article, I would like to express my profound gratitude for 17 years of service. They have been amazing years for me: years of musical growth, emotional growth, and spiritual growth. When I came to IPC, I agreed to hold this position for at least 5 years, and it has been 17. I am amazed at the personalities I have been privileged to work with, from adult to young children. I have made many dear friends both inside the choirs and out, and I hope these are friendships that will remain.

I am grateful to God most of all for directing me to this place, and for constantly providing me with the physical strength to manage my work. He has sustained me through some very difficult times in the last 17 years, and that sustaining power has been at the very core of my existence. Although my life will change and IPC’s Music Ministry will change with different leadership, we serve a God who is constant, faithful and whose Word never changes!

It is my prayer that He will provide excellent musical leadership for IPC in the many years ahead.

Kathryn Van Eck

<sup>5</sup> Ibid., 209.

<sup>6</sup> Esolen, *Out of the Ashes*, 96.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid., 126; more on this in a moment.

<sup>8</sup> For a summary from the social sciences, see George F. Gilder’s books, *Sexual Suicide* (Quadrangle/New York Times Book Co., 1973) and *Men and Marriage* (Gretna, LA: Pelican Publishing Co., 1986)..



# WOMEN'S MINISTRY

INDEPENDENT PRESBYTERIAN'S

## Women of the Church Conference

2020

WITH AIMEE BYRD

January 31st - February 1st  
FRIDAY NIGHT - SATURDAY NOON  
IPC DOWNTOWN  
Registration Information to follow

## NO LITTLE WOMEN

Equipping All Women in the Household of God

AIMEE BYRD

**Aimee Byrd** recently moved back to her hometown in Frederick, MD with her husband, Matt, and three children. Matt and Aimee are members of New Hope (OPC) and currently have a sophomore in college, a junior in high school, as well as one child in middle school.

At the beginning of her married life, Aimee co-owned a coffee shop in downtown Frederick, MD called The Mudd Puddle. Aimee has since repented of her coffee snobbery and is willing to drink bad coffee for a friend. She still tries to use her mad barista skills in hospitality at home.

Aimee is the author of *Housewife Theologian* (P&R, 2013), *Theological Fitness* (P&R, 2015), *No Little Women* (2016), and *Why Can't We Be Friends* (P&R, 2018). She blogs at [www.housewifetheologian.com](http://www.housewifetheologian.com) for the Alliance of Confessing Evangelicals. Along with Carl Trueman and Todd Pruitt, Aimee is a co-host of the Alliance podcast "The Mortification of Spin."

When Aimee is not running her kids around, cheering them on at their sporting events, hitting things in her strike fitness class, or hiding away with a book, she enjoys the opportunities she has been given as a speaker.



### Bible Study and Circles

- |                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| <b>January 7</b>  | Women's Bible Study, 10 am resumes weekly<br><br>Tuesday Evening Circle, 7 pm at Ann Portell's home<br>340 E. 50 <sup>th</sup> St.   |
| <b>January 9</b>  | Thursday Morning Circle, 10:30 am at the home of Pam Dykema<br>123 Goette Trail<br><br>Thursday Evening Circle, 7 pm at the home of Barbara Rustine<br>466 Copper Creek Circle |
| <b>January 14</b> | Tuesday Morning Circle, 10:30 am at the home of Pam Dykema<br>123 Goette Trail   |

# The Lost Sheep

In the parable of Jesus in Luke 15:1-7, we are not told how the hundredth sheep became lost. Was it careless as to its location while it grazed? Was it exercising an “independent streak”? Had it perhaps heard or seen something frightening and was looking for a safer place? Did it see some “greener grass” and moved off to it? Or had the flock moved away and left it a straggler? We are also not told whether the sheep was aware that it was lost. Was it frightened? Did it revel in its new freedom? Did it search frantically for the flock? Or was it just blindly moving from tuft to tuft of grass?



We do know one thing: the shepherd was aware of and concerned about the lost sheep's well-being, to the point of leaving the rest of the flock to fend for itself while he tracked down the lost one. We also know that the shepherd rejoiced (with his friends and neighbors) when he returned with the lost – now found – sheep.

We are not told, however, of the remainder of the flock, how they responded to the return of their fellow sheep. We would hope that they too were glad that the flock had been made whole again, and that they welcomed it back into their midst.

Chatham Transitional Ministries (CTM) is committed to helping our Good Shepherd find His lost sheep and return them to the fold. These lost sheep are men and women who have strayed into substance abuse, self-destructive behavior and undisciplined lifestyles.

We can share in the “joy in heaven over one sinner who repents” (15:7) when we receive our CTM participants into our fellowship and our prayers. Since May 2018, more than 50 have found new, sober, stable and productive lives in Christ with the help of CTM and through the power of the Holy Spirit.

— Steve Wohlfeil

**“WHAT MAN OF YOU,  
HAVING A HUNDRED SHEEP,  
IF HE HAS LOST ONE OF THEM,  
DOES NOT LEAVE THE NINETY-NINE  
IN THE OPEN COUNTRY,  
AND GO AFTER THE ONE THAT IS LOST,  
UNTIL HE FINDS IT?”**

**LUKE 15:4**

If you are interested in how you can help lost sheep, please contact Lorie Irish at (912) 480-5068 or any CTM Board member (Barbara Rustine, Peter Schenk, Seth Murray, Chuck Moore, Bill Brodmann Sr, or Steve Wohlfeil).

# FAMILY CORNER

## YEAR 1-10

### PSALM 98

Based on *Scottish Psalter*, 1650

- 1 O sing a new song to the LORD  
For wonders He has done,  
His right hand and His holy arm  
The victory have won.
- 2 The great salvation wrought by Him  
Jehovah has made known.  
His justice in the nations' sight  
The Lord has clearly shown.
- 3 He mindful of His grace and truth  
To Isr'el's house has been.  
The great salvation of our God  
All ends of earth have seen.
- 4 O all the earth, sing to the LORD  
And make a joyful sound.  
Lift up your voice aloud to Him;  
Sing psalms! Let joy resound!
- 5 With harp make music to the LORD;  
With harp a psalm O sing!
- 6 With horn and trumpet raise a shout  
Before the LORD, the King.
- 7 Let seas in all their vastness roar,  
The world, its living horde.
- 8 Let rivers clap, let mountains sing  
Their joy before the LORD!
- 9 Because He comes, He surely comes  
The judge of earth to be!  
With justice He will judge the world  
All men with equity.

TUNE: DESERT CM (98A)  
Thomas Jarman

### Psalm 98

The 98<sup>th</sup> Psalm celebrates the coming of the Lord and the establishment of His kingdom. "O sing to the Lord a new song, for He . . . has made known His salvation. . . shout joyfully. . . sing praises. . . before the Lord; for He is coming to judge the earth" (vv 1,2,4,5,9). Isaac Watts in his *The Psalms of David Imitated* (1719) rendered the opening verse,

"Joy to the World! The Lord  
is come. Let earth receive her  
King"

The text of his free rendering is evident throughout our more literal metrical version.

### Psalm 77:1-10

The setting of Psalm 77 is "the day of trouble" (v 2). Though the occasion of that trouble is not specified, the psalmist is deeply disturbed. He does the right thing, seeking God in prayer, but finds no comfort there, indeed he finds thoughts of God disturbing (vv 1-10, esp. v 3). The psalm turns on verse 11, where the psalmist by faith, despite his dark perceptions, recommits himself to meditating upon God's deeds of old, that he might trust God for the present and future (vv 11-20). God is faithful, even when everything we sense seems to say otherwise.

## YEAR 11-15

### PSALM 77:1-10

- 1 With supplicating cry to God  
My voice shall lifted be;  
Yes, unto God I lift my voice,  
And He will answer me.
- 2 Through all the day I sought the Lord,  
When troubles on me pressed;  
Through all the night I  
stretched my hands;  
My soul refused to rest.
- 3 Again, as I remember God,  
Disquietness prevails;  
And as I deeply meditate,  
My sighing spirit fails.
- 4 For Thou hast held my eyelids so  
That they are open wide;  
Yet I so deeply troubled am  
To speak I have not tried.
- 5 I've thought on days and  
years gone by,  
Recalled my song at night;
- 6 I've meditated with my heart;  
My spirit searched for light.
- 7 Forever will the Lord cast off,  
Show favor never more?
- 8 Forever has His mercy gone?  
Will His word come no more?
- 9 Has God forgotten all His grace?  
Has His compassion gone?  
Or can it be His mercies all  
He has in wrath withdrawn?
- 10 Then I replied, "Such questions show  
My own infirmity.  
The firm right hand of Him Most High  
Through years must changeless be."

TUNE: MYRA CMD (51B)

## PSALMS AND HYMNS OF THE MONTH 2020

### Years 1-10

- |       |   |
|-------|---|
| Jan.  | #34 "The God of Abraham Praise"               |
| Feb.  | Psalm 72:1-12 (Tune: Puer Nobis)              |
| Mar.  | #535 "O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus!"        |
| Apr.  | Psalm 86 (Tune: Llef)                         |
| May   | #228 (BTH) "Who is This that Comes from Edom" |
| June  | Psalm 38 (Tune: Merton)                       |
| July  | #358 "For All the Saints"                     |
| Aug.  | Psalm 25:1-7 (Tune: Trentham)                 |
| Sept. | #402 "Abide With Me: Fast Falls the Eventide" |
| Oct.  | Psalm 106:1-12 (Tune: Leveque)                |
| Nov.  | #194 "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"                |
| Dec.  | Psalm 76 (Tune: Neander)                      |

### Years 11-15

- |       |   |
|-------|---|
| Jan.  | #264 "Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross"                    |
| Feb.  | Psalm 80 (Tune: Bryn Calfaria)                          |
| Mar.  | #646 "Jesus Thou Joy of Loving Hearts"                  |
| Apr.  | Psalm 83 (Tune: Salvum Fac)                             |
| May   | #580 "Lead On, O King Eternal"                          |
| June  | Psalm 88 (Ellers)                                       |
| July  | #699 "Like a River Glorious"                            |
| Aug.  | Psalm 93 (Tune: St. Michael/Old 134 <sup>th</sup> )     |
| Sept. | "Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending"<br>Tune: Helmsley |
| Oct.  | Psalm 105 (Tune: Noel)                                  |
| Nov.  | #644 "May the Mind of Christ My Savior"                 |
| Dec.  | Psalm 108 (Tune: Festal Song)                           |

# FAMILY CORNER

JANUARY 2020

## YEAR 1-10

### “THE GOD OF ABRAHAM PRAISE”

Thomas Olivers, 1770

The God of Abraham praise,  
Who reigns enthroned above,  
Ancient of everlasting days  
And God of love.  
Jehovah! Great I AM!  
By earth and heav’n confessed;  
I vow and bless the sacred name,  
Forever blest.

The God of Abraham praise,  
At whose supreme command  
From earth I rise, and seek the joys  
At his right hand.  
I all on earth forsake,  
Its wisdom, fame, and pow’r,  
And him my only portion make,  
My shield and tow’r.

He by himself hath sworn,  
I on his oath depend;  
I shall, on eagles’ wings upborne,  
To heav’n ascend.  
I shall behold his face,  
I shall his pow’r adore,  
And sing the wonders of his grace  
Forevermore.

The goodly land I see,  
With peace and plenty blest,  
A land of sacred liberty  
And endless rest.  
There milk and honey flow,  
And oil and wine abound,  
And trees of life forever grow,  
With mercy crowned.

There dwells the Lord our King,  
The Lord our Righteousness,  
Triumphant o’er the world and sin,  
The Prince of Peace.  
On Zion’s sacred height  
His kingdom he maintains,  
And glorious with his saints in light  
Forever reigns.

The whole triumphant host  
Gives thanks to God on high;  
“Hail, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!”  
They ever cry.  
Hail, Abraham’s God and mine!  
I join the heav’nly lays;  
All might and majesty are thine,  
And endless praise.

TUNE: LEONI 6.6.8.4.D.  
Jewish Melody;  
Arr. by Meyer Lyon, 1770  
(#34)

## YEAR 11-15

### “JESUS, KEEP ME NEAR THE CROSS”

Fanny J. Crosby, 1869

Jesus, keep me near the cross;  
There a precious fountain,  
Free to all—a healing stream—  
Flows from Calv’ry’s mountain.  
In the cross, in the cross,  
Be my glory ever;  
Till my raptured soul shall find  
Rest beyond the river.

Near the cross, a trembling soul,  
Love and mercy found me;  
There the Bright and Morning Star  
Shed its beams around me.  
In the cross, in the cross,  
Be my glory ever;  
Till my raptured soul shall find  
Rest beyond the river.

Near the cross! O Lamb of God,  
Bring its scenes before me;  
Help me walk from day to day  
With its shadow o’er me.  
In the cross, in the cross,  
Be my glory ever;  
Till my raptured soul shall find  
Rest beyond the river.

Near the cross I’ll watch and wait,  
Hoping, trusting ever,  
Till I reach the golden strand  
Just beyond the river.  
In the cross, in the cross,  
Be my glory ever;  
Till my raptured soul shall find  
Rest beyond the river.

TUNE: NEAR THE CROSS 7.6.7.6 ref  
William H. Doane, 1869  
(#264)

## IPC OFFICERS 2020

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# COLLEGE MINISTRY



## THE LOGIC OF THE INCARNATION

Psalm 90:4 we read: *“For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday when it is past, or as a watch in the night.”*

In this short sentence we are confronted with the eternality of God. His experience of time is far above our experience. We are but a tiny blip on the vast stretches of time that he experiences (if we may even say such a thing) as a memory or just a part of the night—like something distant and indistinct to him. In the bright daylight of his glory, time itself flees away. As we set our minds to contemplate such an idea, our wits flee like the ticking of every clock. We are undone; our lives fade away like a breath of air.

The Psalter is familiar with the idea. In chapter 39 at verse 11 it reads: *“surely all mankind is a mere breath!”* And a few verses later (v. 35), *“my lifetime is as nothing before you. Surely all mankind stands as a mere breath!”* Then in Psalm 89 the Psalmist cries out under the sense of His (God’s) displeasure and distance, in exasperation, *“Remember how short my time is! For what vanity you have created all the children of man!”* In the face of all this we wonder with the Psalmist in 144:3-4, *“O LORD, what is man that you regard him, or the son of man that you think of him? Man is like a breath; his days are like a passing shadow.”*

How is it that this God who is so far removed from us and our experience can take note of us? Of course, that is what is so amazing about the advent of Christ, for in Him this eternal God has bowed to our experience. He has miraculously squeezed his eternality into our temporality, taking to himself our nature.

I think there is something of this strange logic in Peter’s addition to Psalm 90:4 when he quotes it in 2 Peter 3:8, *“with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.”*

The apostle affirms the revelation of God’s eternality, but he adds to that a second idea (just as God adds to Himself humanity in Christ) a long stretch of time squeezed into a manageable segment. A thousand years for us is hard to fathom, but a day we can grasp. We can live in and through a day. And we who live by hours, days, months, and years may meet, be heard, and have prayers answered (and, importantly, answered in ways comprehensible to us) by Him because he, who is beyond all time, entered it taking the form of a servant, in the womb of a virgin, in a particular year of our history (during the reign of Augustus; Lk. 2:1), on a particular day (during the registration when Quirinius was governor, Lk. 2:2), and at a certain hour (the time came for her to give birth, Lk. 2:6) was born. Our Emmanuel eternal and unfathomable born in time, finite and small enough to hold in our weak arms—the millennia in a moment.

— Evan





# Student Ministry

## UPCOMING EVENT DATES:

December 20: Student Ministry Christmas Party

January 16-17: High School Covenant Trip





# DEAD THEOLOGIANS' SOCIETY 2020

Men! Looking for Christian fellowship? for serious conversation? for spiritual meat to feed your soul? Join the Dead Theologians' Society for all or part of 2020. Our reading schedule for next year is as follows:

DATE	BOOK	PAGES
January 29, 30	<i>Making All Things New</i> , by David Powlison	11-117
February 26, 27	<i>God's Grace in Your Suffering</i> , by David Powlison	11-117
March 25, 26	<i>Human Nature in its Fourfold State</i> (1720), by Thomas Boston	
	"Introduction," "The State of Innocence," "The State of Nature"	7-96
April 22, 23	"The State of Nature," continued	96-199
May 20, 21	"The State of Grace"	203-320
June 24, 25	"The Eternal State"	323-396
July	NO MEETING	
August 26, 27	"The General Judgment"	397-506
September 23, 24	<i>The Puritan Hope</i> , by Iain Murray	
	Introduction	xv-xxv, 3-82
October 28, 29	<i>The Puritan Hope</i> , continued	85-183
Nov/Dec 2, 3	<i>The Puritan Hope</i> , continued	187-265



## Thank you

... to Charlie DePue and DePue Monument for the beautiful new sign at the entrance to Point Pleasant.

Dear IPC Family,

My family and I are so appreciative of the love, prayers, cards and flowers received during our recent bereavement of our dearly departed Dale H. Gibson.

Having the support of a church family is beyond the expression of words. Your kindness and thoughtfulness will warm our hearts forever.

Sincerely,  
Melba Gibson

## *The Excellency of Scripture*

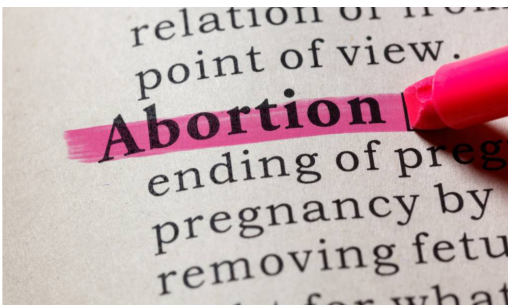
“Glorious things are spoken of thee, O thou word of God. Thou hast changed lions into lambs, ravens into doves, beasts into men, and men into angels. Thou hast subdued headstrong passions, mortified natural and riveted corruptions, tore up old and sturdy lusts by the roots, conquered principalities and powers, led captivity captive, and turned the world upside down. By thee wonders are wrought, the blind restored to their sight, the dead raised, the deaf hear, the dumb speak, the lepers are cleansed, and the poor have the gospel preached to them, and are changed into the nature of it... Thou bringest heaven down to earth, and carriest earth up to heaven... Infinite wisdom contrived thee; infinite truth proclaimed thee, and infinite goodness discovered thee; the Father indicted thee; the Son confirmed thee; and the Spirit revealed thee to the children of men... By thee fools have been made wise, sinners made saints, ignorant men have been instructed, wandering men reduced, weak ones confirmed, and lost ones saved. By thee the heavens were established, the foundations of the earth formed, the sorrowful are comforted, the scandalous reformed, the needy relieved, and the righteousness of God revealed. Thou art eyes to the blind, and feet to the lame, and food to the hungry, and rest to the weary, and physic to the sick, and life to the dying... O thou savour of life, thou living water, thou well of salvation, thou tidings of joy to all nations, thou ministration of righteousness, thou mystery of godliness, thou mine of unsearchable riches, thou way of holiness, thou word of the kingdom... Thou art a counsellor to the doubting, and comforter to the distressed; thou art health to the navel, and marrow to the bones, an ornament of grace unto the head, and a chain of gold about the neck... Thou art the church’s charter, containing all the privileges which the blessed Jesus purchased for her... O my soul, what honour can be high enough, what love hot enough, for the Holy Scriptures...”

Lord I will through thy strength ponder all thy sayings in my heart, and make them the rule of my life; I will delight in the law, and meditate therein day and night. I will give diligence to reading, be frequent in hearing, and uniform and constant in obedience to it. I will teach it diligently my children and talk of it when I sit in mine house, and when I walk by the way, when I lie down, and when I rise up.”

– George Swinnock (1627-1672)

# MORAL CONCERNS

## A CHANGED VIEW OF ABORTION



remained the same. I am thankful that my trust in the gospel and the Bible has remained firm, even while other views have changed. When Roe v. Wade, the landmark Supreme Court decision which legalized abortion in the whole of the United States was passed in January 1973, I was a high schooler and a young Christian. I remember thinking what a good thing it

As the years go by with ever increasing speed, I find myself reflecting on how my views have changed or

was that abortion had been legalized. I was very ignorant of the Bible and merely thought how awful it would be to be raped and then have to deliver the baby. Like many, it was the hard cases that made me glad of abortion. I held unto that pro-abortion view for a few years until I was challenged with the scientific and Biblical arguments. When confronted with the Bible, science and logic, I could no longer accept the argument that the baby in the womb is merely a blob of tissue and can be removed like an appendix. If a baby is fully human with the DNA to prove it, then any argument for terminating such a life is illegitimate. From then on, I knew I couldn't endorse abortion. Even more, I should oppose it if I believe the 6th commandment, "Thou shalt not kill".

So in my 20s I was anti-abortion but it was mostly an intellectual assent, not something from my heart. I would agree

*Continued on next page*



with people that abortion was wrong, but I didn't really care a whole lot about the issue. It wasn't until my 30s when I lost my first born child (who lived only 9 days) that my feelings about abortion drastically changed. My daughter's short life and tragic death hit home to me how precious a baby is and how devastating it is to lose one. For the first time I was horrified by abortion and the thought of what we are doing as a nation in legalizing the killing of innocent human life. It was then that I realized I couldn't just stand by the sidelines. I began to pray about the issue more consistently and look for ways to be actively pro-life. At the time, my husband and I were living in Portland, Oregon, and attending a church that was Christian but not actively pro-life. We were determined that if we ever moved, we would find a church that is staunchly pro-life. So we came to Savannah and were very thankful to find IPC, a church that not only preaches the Word but is willing to preach against current day evils such as abortion from the pulpit and supports pro-life ministries all over Savannah and even sponsors a trip to the National March for Life.

Now that I have lived the majority of my life with legalized abortion, I am convinced that it remains the biggest injustice in our day, and it should not be a side issue. There are certainly many evils that concern us today: poverty, sex trafficking, drug use, suicide, but in terms of the sheer number of deaths, there's nothing to equal it. Depending on what source you check, abortion currently claims the lives of almost a million per year in the US alone. Since the legalization of abortion, over 60 million lives have been aborted, and we are talking about babies, the most defenseless ones among us! As our society increasingly trivializes and deprecates human life, we see how this anti-humanism adversely affects the lives of so many people, including those in the Church. There are many Biblical passages that make it clear that we as followers of Christ need to pray and do what we can against this great evil of our time.

I also think of people who lived closer to me in history. I think of William Wilberforce and his "Clapham Set" who worked to abolish the slave trade by 1807. Wilberforce's reform zeal was an outworking of his Christian faith. I think of people like Corrie Ten Boom and her family who hid Jews during WWII and, as a consequence, were sent to concentration camps. She and her family did what they did because of their faith. These examples remind me that it is not up to us to decide when and where we are born and what injustices confront us, but we are called to be salt and light even when it is costly. Most of us are not Wilberforces or Corrie Ten Booms, but we shouldn't sit on the sidelines either. If you are still wavering on this issue, I would urge you to search the scriptures and pray about this. If you are moved by this issue but are not involved, also pray and consider how you can get involved. For one, we are always needful of more members in our Right-to-Life Committee.

— Fun Gobel



Join us for an  
Agape Sunday School

## Christmas Party

Hosted by  
Tim and Debbie Scharold

Friday, December 20  
at 7 p.m.

32 Oyster Reef Drive  
Hilton Head, SC 29926

\* Bring an appetizer or dessert  
\* Bring a White Elephant gift (\$10 limit)

RSVP to [scharold@yahoo.com](mailto:scharold@yahoo.com) or  
843-422-1738

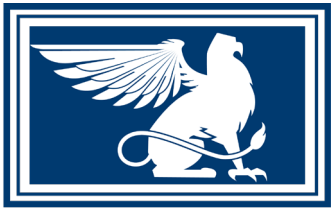
GreetingsIsland.com



## Sanctuary Flowers

FOR 2020

The flowers in the sanctuary on Sundays are donated by the members of the congregation. This is a wonderful way to honor/memorialize a special person in your life. If you would like to donate flowers for 2020, please call Laurel Brewer at 912-727-4418 or email: [lbrewer@coastalnow.net](mailto:lbrewer@coastalnow.net).



# VERITAS ACADEMY

CLASSICAL • CHRISTIAN • COVENANTAL

## SUPPORT VERITAS ACADEMY

If you are a Georgia income tax payer, did you know that you can help Veritas Academy financially (a ministry supported by IPC)

by diverting your GA Income taxes to the school? The state of Georgia through its "Education Expense Tax Credit Program" allows GA income tax payers to redirect their tax dollars to private schools in Georgia. If you make a donation to the Apogee Scholarship Program ([www.Apogee123.org](http://www.Apogee123.org)) on behalf of Veritas Academy, your income tax owed will be reduced by the amount of your donation, or your refund will increase by the amount of your donation. It may seem too good to be true, but it really works!

This is an easy "no-brainer" way to give. You pledge, then give, then Veritas gets the funds, and then YOU GET YOUR MONEY BACK!!! Here is the process.

a. Go to [www.Apogee123.org](http://www.Apogee123.org) and click on "Get Started" then click on "Application: Online Submission" (or "Application: Paper Form").

b. Complete the forms and pledge your gift amount and click "submit." (up to \$2,500 per couple or up to \$10,000 for corporations.) -PLEASE DO THIS BEFORE DECEMBER 15!

c. The GA Department of Revenue will confirm your application and send you an approval letter in January with instructions to give.

d. After you hear from GA DOR, go back online to [www.apogee123.org](http://www.apogee123.org) and make your donation. GA DOR will send you a gift receipt.

e. When you do your 2020 state income taxes in early 2021 you will receive the full amount of your gift back as a tax credit (not a "deduction"—but a dollar for dollar credit). You will get all your money back when you complete your 2020 taxes.

Your donation to Veritas through Apogee will be used to provide scholarships to families who desire a classical, Christian, and covenantal education for their children but need some financial assistance. Many Independent Presbyterian Church members already support Veritas through Apogee. Veritas was founded by IPC members and is ever grateful to the Lord for the ongoing support and encouragement from IPC. Please consider pledging and giving. This is an easy way to support the school that is supported by your church. If you have questions please contact Headmaster Scott Taylor at [staylor@veritassavannah.org](mailto:staylor@veritassavannah.org) or 912-238-1222.

## SAVE THE DATE YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS THIS!

Friday, January 17, 2020  
7:00 PM  
(IPC Sanctuary)

"Keith McCurdy is a well-known and highly respected name in classical Christian circles. He knows classical education and biblical worldview deeply and well, and I'm excited about him coming to Veritas to help our community grow and learn, as we should always be striving to do! It's quite a notable occasion to have someone like him come to do a seminar with us, and I really hope that our parent community will prioritize being at this event—I think it's a great opportunity for us all!"

Anna Liebing,  
Humanities Instructor

Parenting is hard, and we all want to raise children ready for the path the Lord has for them. To this end we hope everyone can come hear Christian counselor and parenting guru Keith McCurdy. Mr. McCurdy will share some great insights from Scripture and practical advice for the task of raising sturdy kids. Mark your calendars and plan to attend! We know all who come will be blessed!



## SAVANNAH TOUR OF CHURCHES

SPACE IS LIMITED. RESERVATIONS REQUIRED.  
DON'T MISS THIS MUCH-ANTICIPATED SAVANNAH  
TRADITION

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2020

1-4 pm

# Year-End Statement

For the 2019 Statements sent in January 2020, we will send them electronically as we did this past year. A link to your year-end contribution statement will allow you to download and print your statement. This is done through the secured system we have adopted with our church management software. Security measures are considered so only the contributor can access the statement associated with the link. If you are not comfortable receiving the statement electronically, you may reach out to our Financial Secretary, Maria Martinez, at 421-8104 or [mariam@ipsav.org](mailto:mariam@ipsav.org), or contact Josh Espinosa at 421-8111 or at [josh@ipsav.org](mailto:josh@ipsav.org). If an e-mail is not on file, a paper statement will be mailed.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us. As a reminder, through our online capabilities, you have access to your giving any time you wish to view it, the ability to give electronically through a charge/debit card or ACH, and access to the church directory.

## Pledge Card Reminder

As of Monday, December 9, we have received 164 pledge cards totaling \$1,785,170 for the year 2020.

If you have not yet turned in your 2020 pledge card, please do so as soon as possible. We understand that situations may change during the year, and actual giving may turn out to be different than the amount that was pledged. However, we ask that everyone turn in a card with your best estimate of what you will give as this is extremely helping in formulating the budget for next year.

Thank you for your continued support of the work and ministry of the church.



## DECEMBER/CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

- December 13** Veritas Academy's Christmas Concert, 7:00 PM, sanctuary
- December 14** Lessons & Carols Rehearsal, Children at 8:00 AM; YOUTH CHOIR AND ADULTS 10:00 AM
- December 15** Lessons & Carols Service, 5:30 PM, followed by the Annual Christmas Buffet in the Fellowship Hall and Telfair Hall
- December 19** Careers' Caroling & Christmas Party at the Shaws, 611 E. 56<sup>th</sup> St., 6:00 PM
- December 19** Caroling and College Christmas Party at the Gears, 624 E. 56<sup>th</sup> Street, 6:00 PM
- December 20** Youth Christmas Party at the Jacksons, 14 Marsh Harbor Dr. N., 6:30 PM
- December 20** Agape Sunday School Christmas Party, at the Scharolds, 32 Oyster Reef Drive, HH, SC, 7:00 PM
- December 22** **Evening Meal will not be served**
- December 24** Men's Prayer Breakfast will not meet
- December 25 & January 1** No Wednesday Luncheon and Bible Study
- December 24** Christmas Eve Service, 5:30 PM
- December 24 & 25** Church office closed in observance of Christ's birth
- December 29** **Evening Meal will not be served**
- December 31** Men's Prayer Breakfast will meet  
No Ladies' Bible Studies
- January 1** Church Office closed for New Year's  
No Wednesday Luncheon and Bible Study
- January 5** The Lord's Supper, AM Service  
Youth Parents' Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- January 7** Ladies' Bible Studies resume
- January 23-25** March For Life Bus Trip to Washington, DC



# DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1 Susan Ellis  
4 Lucy Smith Biemiller  
4 Clara Crowe  
5 Marion Brown  
5 Sally Robyn  
6 Darvin Nease  
7 Liam James  
7 Ryan Moody  
7 Thomas Savage  
7 Scott Taylor  
9 Jill Black  
9 Jack Reese  
10 Sonny Longo  
11 Maggie Miller  
12 Ferris Key  
13 Emma Brodmann

13 William James  
14 Ryan Rambo  
15 Andrew Harris  
15 Daniel Jackson  
15 Stephen Jackson  
15 Tanner Lanier  
15 Joey Vavrasek  
16 Maisie Gear  
16 Amy Orellana  
16 Margaree Orellana  
17 Will Rambo  
18 Liam Black  
18 Paul Carpenter  
18 Mary Hazeltine  
18 Mark Ward  
19 Marc Biemiller Jr.

19 Eleanor Carson  
19 Grant Lane  
19 Kristin Nyce  
20 Ed Cording  
20 Stan Freeman  
20 Marley Rodgers  
21 Titus Howard  
21 Landry Rushing  
22 John Breckenridge  
22 Anna Hazeltine  
23 Jane Boatright  
23 Edith Brunson  
23 Peter Schenk  
23 Mary Warnell  
24 Andy Chisholm  
24 Geneen Gibson

24 Louis Richardson  
25 Joan Cribbs  
25 Frank Orellana  
25 Susie Williams  
26 Sharon Robinson  
27 Karen Alston  
27 Hal Ambos  
27 Victoria Barlow  
27 Emily Dixon  
28 Fef Nolen  
28 James Rodenberg  
28 Luke Rodenberg  
28 Dodie Thompson  
29 Mary Saleeby  
30 Joanne Johansen  
30 Roy Thompson

# JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

2 Kim Lanier  
2 Mary Catherine McLean  
2 Turner Milling  
4 Stephen Dusek  
4 Margaret Up De Graff  
5 Teri Bell  
5 Charles DePue  
6 Bob Oswald  
8 Carol Dusek  
8 Nancy Henrick  
9 Brooks Barrett  
9 Kathy Moore  
9 Pat Toler  
10 Bill Brodmann  
10 Gabe Orellana  
11 Eli Chester

11 Linda Erwin  
11 Patrick Kenard  
11 Ann Klein  
11 Winn Morgan  
12 Robert Breer  
12 Laurel Brewer  
12 Caleb Espinosa  
12 Temple Fennell  
14 David Breland  
14 Janice McAlpine  
14 Judy Nease  
14 Joe Van Puffelen  
15 Melanie Moore  
15 Kayron Stevens  
16 Ryan Bergman  
16 Barbara Cunningham

16 Kay Heritage  
16 Amber Williams  
16 Denise Winks  
17 Mandy Oswald  
18 Fae Kameron  
20 Murle Breer  
20 Kelly Warren  
21 Bel Orellana  
22 Garret Duron  
22 Sharon Hassing  
22 Hannah Kate Howard  
22 Lauren Key  
22 Logan Smith  
23 K.K. Heritage  
24 Alan Harvey  
24 Alice Henrick

25 Jackie James  
25 Rod Steward  
26 Ronald Berry  
26 Jean Ennis  
26 Grace Howard  
26 Kathryn Van Eck  
28 Maddie Lee  
28 Sarah Monroe  
28 Jan Rodgers  
28 Wayne Sullivan  
28 Madison Wiggins  
30 Lucy Brannen  
30 Kenneth Crowe  
30 Jamie McKee  
30 Clark Rookstool  
31 Adeline Barrett



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24 — 5:30 P.M.

A MESSAGE BY MR. JOHNSON

A CHILDREN'S STORY BY MR. PARRISH

AND CANDLELIGHT CAROL SINGING ON THE LAWN

# The IPC Messenger

INDEPENDENT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

P. O. BOX 9266

SAVANNAH, GA 31412

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## LESSONS AND CAROLS DECEMBER 15 ~ 5:30 P.M. & ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BUFFET

Our Lessons & Carols Service will be held Sunday evening, December 15, at 5:30 p.m. It will be followed by our Annual Christmas Buffet. Members of the congregation are asked to help with this event by bringing ready-to-eat finger foods, on platters which require no reheating or assembly. This year we are providing food by Care Groups as follows:

- |                            |                            |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Brunson/Brodmann SAVORY | 7. Jackson SAVORY          |
| 2. Milling SWEET           | 8. Martin/Thompson SAVORY  |
| 3. Daniel SAVORY           | 9. Biemiller SWEET         |
| 4. Gobel/Hazeltine SWEET   | 10. Mullinix SAVORY        |
| 5. Brodmann SAVORY         | 11. Boatright/Gross SAVORY |
| 6. Garnett SWEET           | 12. Barrett SWEET          |

For those individuals not in a care group, please bring your choice of sweet or savory. Contact your elder or deacons if you have any questions.