



INDEPENDENT  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
1765

# IPC Messenger

A WEEKLY PUBLICATION OF THE INDEPENDENT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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## “THE FUTURE OF CHRISTIANITY IN THE WEST” – 7

The fourth institution that Rod Dreher urges must be strengthened in his much-discussed book, *The Benedict Option*, is the Christian school. Not only the church, not only marriage and the family, but Christian educational institutions must be established and strengthened for the coming dark age of secular paganism.

### Classical Christian Schools

“One of the most important pieces of the Benedictine Option movement is the spread of classical Christian schools,” Dreher insists.<sup>1</sup> The idea that an hour of Sunday School and an hour in church can counteract 30 hours in the classroom and even more exposed to the internet each week is foolhardy. Yet Dreher is critical of “Christian schools” that teach a secular curriculum onto which they slap chapel and a few hours of worldview education. “The trite theological education many received at Christian school will serve more as a vaccination against taking the faith seriously than as an incentive for it,” Dreher warns.<sup>2</sup> A Christian education should cultivate a love for the Good, the True, and the Beautiful, and a zeal to pursue these ideals wherever they may be found. It is essential such schools teach Scripture, the history of Western Civilization, Latin, and the arts. “There is no more powerfully counter-cultural way to cultivate resilient Christians

from their youth,” Dreher maintains.<sup>3</sup> For those without access to a classical Christian school, he recommends classical Christian homeschool. Again, he says, “Classical Christian schools... are essential to the future of Christianity in America.”<sup>4</sup>

It is of no little interest that Reformed Chinese Christians have established Christian educational institutions as they have had opportunity to do so. The Early Rain Presbyterian Church in Chengdu saw it as essential that they start a classical Christian school—not merely a Christian school, but a *classical* Christian school for their children, *and* a college, *and* a seminary. The government disbanded the church and its schools in December of 2018 seeing them as a threat to its singular authority. Yet one brave Christian mother, when told that she must now place her child in the state schools, replied to the authorities, “I hear what you are saying, *but we will not do it.*” Though driven underground and decentralized, their school continues. Many of these Chinese Christians in the face of persecution see clearly what American Christians fail to see in the face of prosperity: we must educate our own.

Our congregation has been in the middle of the classical Christian school movement since 1997. Veritas Academy

1 Dreher, *The Benedict Option*, 146.

2 Ibid., 159.

3 Ibid., 161.

4 Ibid., 173.

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# THE FUTURE OF CHRISTIANITY IN THE WEST from page 1

was started in the Johnson's living room in the summer of that year and slowly developed from a homeschool co-op meeting at the Eastern Heights Presbyterian Church on Stephenson Avenue to a full-orbed K-12 school of nearly 200 students. Other of our members were involved in the founding of a second classical school as well, the Habersham School.

A number of factors go into the process of choosing schools for one's children such as location (is it near or distant); cost (expensive or inexpensive); curriculum (Christian, classical, secular and benign, secular and hostile); facilities (science labs, computer labs); extra-curriculars (athletics, music, arts); and special education programs. We have always maintained that one must not judge the decisions about schooling that others make, given all the variables. For some of us the circumstances and convictions may add up to the public schools, for others the Christian school, for others a secular private school, for others the classical Christian school, for others homeschool. What particular families choose to do is not at issue.

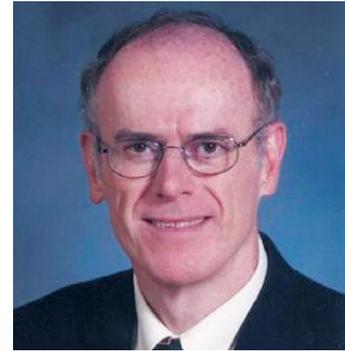
What is at issue is the importance of establishing classical Christian schools for the benefit of the Christian community. It is vital that these schools receive the financial and moral support that they need. A particular family may not ever benefit from their existence. However, the continuing flourishing of the Christian community may be tied to well-being of these schools that are determined to continue the heritage of the Christian academy.

It also will be necessary for orthodox Christians to establish their own colleges and universities. Christians are actually quite good at this. The idea of a uni-veritas, an institution in which all branches of truth, all the academic disciplines are brought together in one place under the authority of God's word and God's church is a Christian idea. The first universities at Bologna (1088), Paris (c. 1150), Oxford (1167), and Cambridge (1209) were, of course, Christian, as was nearly every university in the Christian West until the late 19th century. This would include America's oldest universities at Harvard (1636), William and Mary (1693), Yale (1701), and Princeton (1746). Secular pagans, with rare exceptions, don't establish institutions. They take over existing ones and destroy their intended purpose (witness the mainline denominations, the above educational institutions, and even American democracy). We must educate our own.

— TLJ

# COMMUNION SEASON

## DR. DALE RALPH DAVIS



Rev. Dr. Dale (Ralph) Davis comes to us from Simpsonville, SC, though he was raised in western Pennsylvania. He attended Sterling College in Kansas after which he married Barbara, his wife of 54 years. They have three married sons and five grandchildren. Ralph studied at four different seminaries and he and Barbara have lived in 10 states where he held four pastorates. He also taught at Belhaven College (now University) and Reformed Theological Seminary in Jackson, MS. Most recently, Ralph served as Minister-in-Residence at First Presbyterian Church (ARP) in Columbia, SC.

**Thursday, August 6 @ 6:30 PM**

*"Jericho Grace" - Joshua 2*

**Friday, August 7 @ 6:30 PM**

*"Firm Covenant" - Genesis 15:7-21*

**Saturday, August 8 @ 6:30 PM**

*"Needed Servant" - Isaiah 50:4-11*

**Sunday, August 9 @ 9 & 11 AM**

*"Hard Prayer" - Luke 22:39-46*

**Sunday, August 9 @ 5:30 PM**

*"Rich People" - Hebrews 13:7-16*

# We Need To Be TOGETHER

Interestingly, the experiences of mothers with young children during the recent home-bound days were varied, and yet they were similar. Almost everyone was separated from normal routines. Some found this freeing and welcomed the slower pace. “Staying home” was the agenda, and there was more time with the people most loved and for the things most important. New first-time mothers had more time as a “family of 3” while their husbands were working at home.

The mothers working from home while holding a young child on their laps had a different experience. They never imagined trying to do this kind of multi-tasking. Mothers with young children whose husbands continued to work outside of the home, began to feel isolated as the days at home only continued on. Expectant mothers were concerned about the health of their unborn children. Mothers with babies and school-aged children needed to find quiet places for the older children to work while caring for the babies. With multiple children at home both young and old, how do you find enough places to sleep, play, and work? And how do you provide enough food for everyone who is always at home with certain foods not readily available in stores?

But, whatever the experiences of mothers during this time apart from each other, the hearts of mothers were and are similar. New first-time mothers, mothers of toddlers, mothers who work in and out of the home, mothers with children of multiple ages, all persevered through. The unexpected break in routines and the uncertainty of the times brought reflection and an opportunity to trust in providences of our loving Heavenly Father. It was an occasion to be pushed and stretched. It was an occasion to recognize how much our church family does mean to us and to our children. Being apart has made us all long to be together. It has made us even more thankful for the body of Christ, as we have seen that no matter how much our own families mean to us, our own families aren't enough. We need to be together as the body of Christ. This is seen in all of the happy faces and greetings on Sunday mornings before and after worship now that we are moving toward normal. It will be “normal” again, but maybe a better normal because the important things may be more important to us now.

*Jane Bontright*

Nursery Director

# Thank You

Dear IPC Members,

God's providence guided us to IPC back in 2013. We drove by on a Sunday afternoon and saw everyone talking on the lawn after the service, not knowing that in time, God would use our attending and joining IPC to grow us spiritually in ways we never expected. You have been our family during our years here in Savannah and it is a bittersweet message to say goodbye. I have accepted a position at Lexington Medical Center in Lexington, SC as their director of medical oncology operations. Mine and Alex's parents live in the area and it is where she and I both grew up. Savannah will always be a special and dear place to us, due in large part to IPC. We are so thankful that God saw fit to bless us with Liam and he has encouraged us through his saints at IPC time and time again. No expression of gratitude can adequately convey our thankfulness. We are so grateful for the impact each of you have had on us.

In Christ,  
The William Jameses

Friends,

Amidst the widespread upheaval of recent days, it was nice to receive the thoughtful card from Lindsey Van Puffelen on behalf of you all: a timely reminder of our persevering church and the promises of He that built it.

With gratitude and prayer,  
Thomas Smith

Dear IPC Family,

Thank you so much for the outpouring of care that you expressed to us upon the passing of Craig's beloved mother, Betty Sutlive. The many cards, phone calls, texts and emails truly blessed our hearts during our time of bereavement. We are comforted in knowing the extravagant love of our Lord as extended to our family through you, our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Love,  
Craig, Cindy, Ashleigh and Candace

Dear Brother and Sisters,

I want to thank everyone for the expressions of Christian love and caring during my lengthy hospitalization. For the prayers, cards, calls, flowers, and visits, I give thanks.

Please know that I am truly appreciative and hope to return home and to IPC when able to do so. May God bless you richly!

Sincerely,  
Charles Riner

# FAMILY CORNER

JULY 2020

## YEAR 1-10

### “FOR ALL THE SAINTS”

William Walsham How, 1864, 1875

For all the saints who from their labors rest,  
Who thee by faith before the world confessed,  
Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou wast their Rock, their Fortress, and their Might;  
Thou, Lord, their Captain in the well fought fight;  
Thou in the darkness drear, their one true Light.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

O may thy soldiers, faithful, true, and bold,  
Fight as the saints who nobly fought of old,  
And win with them the victors crown of gold.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

The golden evening brightens in the west;  
Soon, soon to faithful warriors comes their rest;  
Sweet is the calm of Paradise the blest.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

But lo! There breaks a yet more glorious day;  
The saints triumphant rise in bright array;  
The King of Glory passes on his way.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,  
Through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,  
Singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

TUNE: SINE NOMINE 10.10.10.al.  
Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906  
(#358)

## YEAR 11-15

### “LIKE A RIVER GLORIOUS”

Frances R. Havergal, 1874

Like a river glorious, is God's perfect peace,  
Over all victorious, in its bright increase;  
Perfect, yet it floweth, fuller every day,  
Perfect, yet it groweth, deeper all the way.

*Refrain:* Stayed upon Jehovah,  
Hearts are fully blest  
Finding, as He promised,  
Perfect peace and rest.

Hidden in the hollow of His blessed hand,  
Never foe can follow, never traitor stand;  
Not a surge of worry, not a shade of care,  
Not a blast of hurry touch the spirit there.

*Refrain*

Every joy or trial falleth from above,  
Traced upon our dial by the Sun of Love;  
We may trust Him fully all for us to do.  
They who trust Him wholly find Him wholly true.

*Refrain*

TUNE: WYE VALLEY 6.5.6.6.D.ref.  
James Mountain, 1876  
(#699)

**Psalm 25:1-7**Based on *Scottish Psalter*, 1650

- 1 To Thee I lift my soul,
- 2 O LORD; I trust in Thee,  
My God; let me not be ashamed  
Nor foes exult o'er me.
- 3 Yea, none that wait on Thee  
Shall be ashamed at all;  
But those that wantonly  
transgress,  
Upon them shame shall fall.
- 4 Show me Thy ways, O LORD;  
Thy paths, O teach Thou me,  
5 And do Thou lead me  
in Thy truth;  
Therein my teacher be.  
For Thou art God that dost  
To me salvation send,  
And I upon Thee all the day  
Expecting do attend.
- 6 Thy tender mercies, LORD,  
To mind do Thou recall,  
And lovingkindnesses, for they  
Have been through ages all.
- 7 My sins of youth, my faults,  
Do Thou, O LORD, forget;  
In lovingkindness think on me  
And for Thy goodness great.

TUNE: TRENTHAM SM (25D)  
(Breathe on Me, Breath of God")

**Psalm 93**Based on the *Book of Psalms*, 1871

- 1 Jehovah reigns; He's clothed  
With majesty most bright;  
Jehovah is arrayed with strength;  
He girds Himself with might.
- Established is the world,  
Its steadfast place to hold.
- 2 And Thou from everlasting art;  
Thy throne is fixed of old.
- 3 The floods, O LORD, lift up,  
The floods lift up their voice.  
The floods are lifting up  
their waves;  
They make a mighty noise.
- 4 But yet the LORD on high  
More mighty far is He  
Than is the thunder of the waves  
Or breakers of the sea.
- 5 Thy testimonies all  
In faithfulness excel;  
And holiness, forever, LORD,  
Thine house becometh well.

TUNE: ST. MICHAEL/OLD 134<sup>TH</sup> SM  
(new *Trinity Hymnal*, p. 78) or  
RIALTO SM (93A)

*Psalm Synopsis***PSALM 93**

This is the first of a group of Psalms that celebrate the LORD reigning as King (e.g. Pss 93-100) or King equivalent ("judge"). Spurgeon calls it, "The Psalm of Omnipotent Sovereignty."

The setting of Psalm 93 is the threatening waters, the floods and waves of verse 3. These waters are a metaphor of enemies and opposition, of the trials and tribulations of life. They come upon us like the rising waters of a flood, threatening to overwhelm and submerge us. However, the LORD who is praised for His majesty and strength and eternity (vv 1-2) is mightier than the endangering waters (v 4), and is trustworthy (v 5). We are safe in Him.

*Psalm Synopsis***PSALM 25**

The "Wigtown Martyrs," Margaret Wilson, 18 years of age, and the elderly Margaret Lachlan, were sentenced to die by drowning for refusing to forsake the Presbyterian Covenanter cause in 1684. Tied to stakes in the estuary of the river Blednoch, as the tide rose young Margaret watched the elderly Margaret drown, and sang this Psalm as the waters of the Solway River overwhelmed her, refusing to renounce her faith.

"O do thou keep my soul  
Do thou deliver me;  
And let me never be ashamed  
Because I trust in thee."  
(v 20)

(Scottish Psalter, 1650)

# PRESBYTERIAN HOLY DAYS

THE APOSTOLIC CALENDAR FOR 1842

“Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.”

	SABBATH	SABBATH	SABBATH	SABBATH	SABBATH	
JANUARY	2	9	16	23	30	
FEBRUARY	6	13	20	27		
MARCH	6	13	20	27		
APRIL	3	10	17	24		
MAY	1	8	15	22	29	
JUNE	5	12	19	26		
JULY	3	10	17	24	31	
AUGUST	7	14	21	28		
SEPTEMBER	4	11	18	25		
OCTOBER	2	9	16	23	30	
NOVEMBER	6	13	20	27		
DECEMBER	4	11	18	25		

“The Lord blessed the Sabbath day, and hallowed it.”

“The Sabbath day” - “the first day of the week” - “the Lord’s day.”

“Six days shalt thou labor, and do all thy work; but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God.”

# JULY BIRTHDAYS

- |   |                      |    |                    |    |                   |    |                 |
|---|----------------------|----|--------------------|----|-------------------|----|-----------------|
| 2 | Ginger Thompson      | 10 | Cole McAllister    | 20 | Sam McAllister    | 29 | Joshua Lane     |
| 3 | John Gentry          | 11 | Brooks Mathews     | 20 | Jeff Murns        | 29 | Rosemary Taylor |
| 3 | Glenn McDougall      | 11 | Ty Thompson        | 21 | Jose Flanagan     | 30 | Grace Carpenter |
| 4 | Peg Morris           | 12 | Eppie Key          | 21 | Sally Roth        | 30 | Bucky Ward      |
| 5 | Zachary Harris       | 13 | Boaz Corbitt       | 21 | Tom Sullivan      | 31 | Cindy Carpenter |
| 5 | Harrison Key         | 13 | Tim Shaw           | 22 | Joan Fatzinger    | 31 | Warren Hill     |
| 6 | Katie Davis          | 13 | Thadd Stevens      | 22 | Michael Hazeltine | 31 | Linda Moore     |
| 6 | Millie Jean Gibson   | 14 | Rick Mullinix      | 23 | Bev Meng          | 31 | Karen Vavrasek  |
| 6 | Michael Hazeltine    | 14 | Megan Rodenberg    | 24 | Levi Hazeltine    |    |                 |
| 6 | Clementine Rookstool | 15 | Clay Nolen         | 24 | Warren Hazeltine  |    |                 |
| 7 | Liz Brodmann         | 16 | Opal Gear          | 25 | Abigail Taylor    |    |                 |
| 7 | Bill Immel           | 17 | Jack Brodmann      | 26 | Neal Cope         |    |                 |
| 8 | Stephen Bell         | 17 | Kristie Bruzenak   | 26 | Finlay Gibson     |    |                 |
| 8 | Bob Loyd             | 17 | Stacy Nix          | 28 | Natalie Brown     |    |                 |
| 8 | Ruth Anne Sutton     | 18 | Bill Best          | 28 | Mills Gross       |    |                 |
| 9 | Caroline Laffitte    | 18 | Kirstine Flanagan  | 28 | Emily Key         |    |                 |
| 9 | Kate Robinson        | 18 | Ed Hale            | 28 | Tricia Stacy      |    |                 |
| 9 | Mike Spittler        | 18 | Natalie Schoeffler | 29 | Cora Davis        |    |                 |
| 9 | Lynette Ward         | 19 | Sides Bell         | 29 | Doug Henrick      |    |                 |

# AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- |   |                     |    |                  |    |                        |    |                   |
|---|---------------------|----|------------------|----|------------------------|----|-------------------|
| 1 | Donna Loyd          | 9  | Benjamin Howell  | 20 | Laura Jackson          | 29 | Andy Nix          |
| 2 | Mathilda Howell     | 10 | Carolyn Hodges   | 20 | Larry McAlpine         | 30 | Nate Brunson      |
| 2 | Sally Jackson       | 10 | Robert Saleeby   | 20 | Asher Ward             | 30 | Daniel Frasure    |
| 3 | Claire Breckenridge | 11 | David Goeser     | 21 | Simon Steward          | 30 | Micah Miller      |
| 3 | Isaac Espinosa      | 11 | Kendra Miller    | 22 | Connie Bayliss         | 30 | Ron Morris        |
| 3 | Matt Haddad         | 11 | Dottie Mitchell  | 22 | Kirstie Brodmann       | 30 | Elizabeth Poppell |
| 3 | Jan Johnson         | 12 | Rhett Mathews    | 23 | Mollie Cribbs          | 31 | Sue Hinely        |
| 3 | Josh Poppell        | 13 | Rachel Carpenter | 24 | Andrew Wood            | 31 | David Parrish     |
| 3 | Ellis Reid          | 13 | Evan Gear        | 25 | Santi Clavijo          | 31 | Anders Ward       |
| 4 | Grace McAllister    | 13 | Paul Johansen    | 25 | Steve Stone            |    |                   |
| 4 | Wil Saleeby         | 13 | Debbie Laing     | 25 | Howell Up De Graff     |    |                   |
| 6 | Patrick Brodmann    | 14 | Matthew Burt     | 26 | Don McLaurin           |    |                   |
| 6 | Leila McAllister    | 15 | Eleanor Coleman  | 27 | Leah Nyce              |    |                   |
| 7 | Andrew Gibson       | 15 | Michelle Kim     | 28 | Sarah Katherine Gibson |    |                   |
| 7 | Reid McKee          | 15 | Emily Polgardi   | 28 | Ragen Pavlo            |    |                   |
| 7 | Bob Meng            | 16 | David Gross      | 29 | Caroline Brodmann      |    |                   |
| 7 | Ginny Shaw          | 18 | Will DeMott      | 29 | Greg Brunson           |    |                   |
| 8 | Anthony Howard      | 18 | Isaac Harris     | 29 | Neal Davis             |    |                   |
| 9 | Marc Chester        | 19 | Ty Robinson      | 29 | Debele Maner           |    |                   |

# The IPC Messenger

INDEPENDENT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS



Congratulations to:

...**Mr. and Mrs. Luke Dixon (Emily)**, on the birth of their son, **Seth Hunter Dixon**, born on Friday, May 8, 2020, in Savannah, GA.

...**Mr. and Mrs. Howard P. Pavlo (Molly)**, on the birth of their son, **Howard Grant Pavlo**, born on Tuesday, May 19, 2020, in Savannah, GA. The proud grandparents are **Mr. and Mrs. Timothy Ragen (Emily)**.

...**Mr. and Mrs. Jon Gift (Laura)**, on the birth of their daughter, **Vivian Grace Gift**, born on Wednesday, June 17, 2020, in Savannah, GA.

...**CAPT. and Mrs. Per H. Johnson (Sally)**, on the birth of their daughter, **Eleanor Claire Johnson**, born on Friday, June 19, 2020, in Aberdeen, NC. The proud grandparents are **Mr. and Mrs. H. Sherwin Prescott III (Inger)**.

...**Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Blevins (Abby)**, on the birth of their son, **Jeffrey Dean Blevins**, born on Tuesday, June 23, 2020, in Savannah, GA.

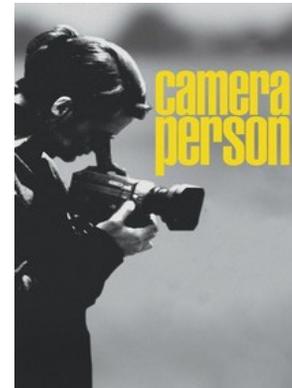
### Church in Bereavement

The congregation of Independent Presbyterian Church extends sincere sympathy to:

... the family of **Mrs. Reba Colson**, an out-of-town member, who passed away on Friday, June 26, 2020, in Atlanta, GA. She was 92 years old.

### College Movie Night Friday, July 10

Curated by Brett Hudson, movie guru, and IPC deacon. We will meet in the Assembly Room, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Administration Building, at 8:30 p.m. Friday, July 10, to watch *Cameraperson*. The film which received a score of "99% fresh" from rottentomatoes.com is described as: "a tapestry of footage collected over the twenty-five-year career of documentary cinematographer Kirsten Johnson."



#### Wednesday, July 8, Bible Study:

We will be meeting at the Breckinridges' home for our weekly **study**. So, plan on making the drive out to Pooler. Look for the address on GroupMe.