

# the HARP NOTES



I N F O R M I N G   T H E   R E F O R M I N G



## On Prayer

*Always respond to every impulse to pray. The impulse to pray may come when you are reading or when you are battling with a text. I would make an absolute law of this – always obey such an impulse.*

- Martyn Lloyd-Jones

## OUR PURPOSE

*It is the purpose of Huntersville Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church to deeply CELEBRATE the person and work of our Savior, to diligently COMPREHEND God's word, to develop rich COMMUNITY among our church family and to demonstrate practical COMPASSION to a hurting world.*

## IN THIS ISSUE...

- **Christmas Cantata**
- **The Meaning of Advent**
- **Centennial Celebration** - Caswell Washam turns 100!
- **The Song and the Story** - *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*
- **Women's Brunch** - Dec 10
- **The Origin of Calvinism** - by John Piper
- **Elder / Deacon Trainings**

## THIS SUNDAY'S VOLUNTEER TEAM

- **Sunday School Nursery** Laura Cochran
- **Worship Nursery** Tina & Raven Aldridge, Jamie Davis
- **Children's Church** Diane Wilson
- **Lead Deacon:** Michael Krueger

## SUNDAY PREP

During your personal studies this week, meditate on the words of the hymns and scripture verses that will be sung & preached.

## SUNDAY'S HYMNS

- I. Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence
- II. Joy to the World! The Lord is Come!
- III. Let Your Heart Be Broken

## SERMON

**ACTS 6:1-7**

**Help Needed!**

(Part I)

# Redeeming Your Time in the Life of Your Church

## WEEKLY EVENTS:

### SUNDAY

- 9:45AM: Sunday School (All Ages)
- 10:30AM: Fellowship
- 11:00AM: Worship
- 4:00PM: Handbell Quartet (Recess)
- 5:00PM: Handbell Choir (Recess)
- 6:00PM: Choir Practice

### TUESDAY

- 1:00PM: Pastoral Prayer Team
- 10:00AM: Women's Bible Study

### WEDNESDAY

- 12:00PM: Men's Lunch (Recess)

### FRIDAY

- 7:00AM: Men's Fellowship Breakfast @ The Cookhouse (Exit 28)

## MONTHLY EVENTS:

- Lord's Supper:** 1st Sunday even months
- Men's Breakfast:** 2nd Saturday
- Friendship Circle:** 7pm, first Monday
- Circle of Grace:** 7pm, third Monday
- Covenant-McDowell Circle:** 3rd Thurs.
- Session Meeting:** First Monday
- Deacon Meeting:** Second Tuesday

## WOMEN'S BRUNCH

A brunch will be held on Saturday, December 10 for all the women of HARP to have an opportunity to fellowship together.

It will be at **The Acropolis** starting at 10:00 am. We hope all ladies can attend. Cost is \$11 (tax and tip included). Please RSVP to Barbara Birdsong, with a check made out to the church by Sunday, 12/4.



## DEACON WELCOME MEETING

Hello fellow Deacons!

We will hold our first meeting of 2012 on Tuesday, January 10, at 7pm at the church. We'll meet in the Lineberger room, the Sunday School room behind the elevator on the north side of the church.

That night we'll handle our new-year business such as electing a Chairman and Secretary, assigning committee leads, setting the count/collect schedule for the year, and discuss our meeting schedule for the rest of the year. We'll also discuss any old or new business that needs to be addressed, of course.

See you then!

-Laura Navarro



## UPCOMING EVENTS

DECEMBER 10

Women's Brunch

DECEMBER 11

Christmas Cantata (7PM)

DECEMBER 13

Deacon Meeting

DECEMBER 24

Christmas Eve Service  
(7:00 PM)

FEBRUARY 18

Elder / Deacon Training



# CHRISTMAS CANTATA - HOPE IS BORN, EMMANUEL



*Join us at 7PM the evening of  
Sunday, December 11  
as the Huntersville ARP Choir  
presents this year's Christmas  
Cantata, Hope Is Born -  
Emmanuel.*

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## CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

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- ☀ Sun, 12/11: Christmas Cantata, 7:00PM
- ☀ Sat, 12/24: Christmas Eve Service,  
7:00PM / Last day of Advent
- ☀ 12/25 - Christmas Day - No Sunday  
School, Worship @11:00AM



# THE SONG AND THE STORY

## Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Let all mortal flesh keep silence is an ancient chant of [Eucharistic](#) devotion based on the verses taken from [Habakkuk](#) 2:20

"Let all the earth keep silence before Him"

The original was composed in Greek as a Cherubic Hymn for the Offertory in the fourth Century AD, with local Churches adopting arrangements in Syriac. It was incorporated into the Holy Week celebration of the Constantineopolitan Church at some point after the 8th century. In modern times, the [Ralph Vaughan Williams](#) arrangement of a translation from the Greek by [Gerard Moultrie](#) to the tune of [Picardy](#), a French medieval folk melody, popularized the hymn among Christian congregations that worship liturgically.

Although the hymn can be used as a communion hymn any time of the year, it is a beautiful advent hymn, pointing us to stand in awe as the King of kings and Lord of lords descends to earth to vanquish the powers of hell.



## HYMN HISTORY

*Meditate on the words of  
this hymn today so you  
may lift these petitions up  
in prayer as well as in song  
this Lord's Day.*

*Let all mortal flesh keep silence,  
And with fear and trembling stand;  
Ponder nothing earthly minded,  
For with blessing in His hand,  
Christ our God to earth descendeth,  
Our full homage to demand.*

*King of kings, yet born of Mary,  
As of old on earth He stood,  
Lord of lords, in human vesture,  
In the body and the blood;  
He will give to all the faithful  
His own self for heavenly food.*

*Rank on rank the host of heaven  
Spreads its vanguard on the way,  
As the Light of light descendeth  
From the realms of endless day,  
That the powers of hell may vanish  
As the darkness clears away.*

*At His feet the six wingèd seraph,  
Cherubim with sleepless eye,  
Veil their faces to the presence,  
As with ceaseless voice they cry:  
Alleluia, Alleluia  
Alleluia, Lord Most High!*



# The Westminster Larger Catechism

## Q. 146. Which is the tenth commandment?

A: The tenth commandment is, Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor anything that is thy neighbour's.

## Q. 147. What are the duties required in the tenth commandment?

A: The duties required in the tenth commandment are, such a full contentment with

our own condition, and such a charitable frame of the whole soul toward our neighbor, as that all our inward motions and affections touching him, tend unto, and further all that good which is his.



## NURSERY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



Our nursery rotation needs to be replenished in order to share the load of taking care of our “wee ones.”

Our goal is to keep the nursery staffed with three volunteers at all times, but right now many of our married volunteers are only staffed in pairs. With the current rotation, we need at least 2 more volunteers to keep the nursery staffed at 3 workers. As it is, each person is only on the rotation every 6-8 weeks or so.

We also would like some additional volunteers for Sunday School nursery. Only one person is needed for that currently, because the turnout is usually low. The rotation for this is done monthly. Right now Karin and I alternate months, but if we get a few more volunteers, each volunteer would only need to commit to, at most, three different months out of the year, and possibly fewer if we get more volunteers.

Thanks for your help!

*-Laura Cochran*

## PASTOR LEE'S NEXT WEEK'S SCHEDULE

**Tuesday: 9a.m. - 6p.m. Office and visitation**

**Wednesday: 2p.m. - 6p.m. Office**

**Thursday: 9a.m. - 6p.m. Office and visitation**

**Friday: 9a.m. - 1p.m. Office**

**Teaching at Greyfriars Monday and Wednesday,  
10:15 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.**

All other times I can be reached at either my home number (704-983-1727) or my cell number (704-796-7315).



# ELDER / DEACON TRAINING

## TRAINING LEADERS TO SERVE

### Save the Date: Feb 18!

The ARP Christian Education Ministries (AARP CEM) is committed to helping local churches equip their leaders to serve. One of the major ways they do this is through their Elder and Deacon training seminars. Through sound exposition of Scripture, Dr. Mark Ross engages and challenges all participants to grow in their care and leadership of God's people.

It is a great calling to serve a local church as an Elder or Deacon. Therefore, it is essential to have proper training available. Whether you are an active church officer, believe that you may be called to ministry, or only want to learn more about what good church leadership is, then we encourage you to participate in this event.

HARP will cover registration and food. Let Rev. Lee know that you plan to attend so we may register in advance and take advantage of the early-registration discount.



## INCOMING OFFICERS

### ELDER / DEACON TRAINING



Training Sessions  
will be held by  
Pastor Lee on  
Sunday January 8  
and 15 during the  
Sunday School hour  
for our incoming  
officers elect.



## MEN'S BREAKFAST

### TENDER WARRIOR

The men of HARP will meet on Saturday, December 10 at 8:00AM at HARP for breakfast. We will continue in their discussion with Chapter 3 of Tender Warrior by Stu Weber.

# THE ORIGIN OF CALVINISM

by John Piper

Of course, like every other man besides Jesus Christ, John Calvin was imperfect. His renown is not owing to infallibility but to his relentless allegiance to the Scriptures as the Word of God in a day when the Bible had been almost swallowed up by church tradition. He was born in July 1509, in Noyon, France, and was educated at the best universities in law, theology, and classics. At the age of twenty-one, he was dramatically converted from tradition-centered medieval Catholicism to radical, biblical, evangelical faith in Christ and His Word. He said:

God, by a sudden conversion subdued and brought my mind to a teachable frame, which was more hardened in such matters than might have been expected from one at my early period of life. Having thus received some taste and knowledge of true godliness, I was immediately inflamed with so intense a desire to make progress that although I did not altogether leave off other studies, I yet pursued them with less ardor.

There is a reason why Calvin moved away from his classical studies to a life devoted to the Word of God. Something dramatic happened in his perception of reality as he read the Scriptures for himself. He heard in them the voice of God and saw the majesty of God:

Now this power which is peculiar to Scripture is clear from the fact that, of human writings, however artfully polished, there is none capable of affecting us at all comparably. Read Demosthenes or Cicero; read Plato, Aristotle, and others of that tribe. They will, I admit, allure you, delight you, move you, enrapture you in wonderful measure. But betake yourself from them to this sacred reading.

Then, in spite of yourself, so deeply will it affect you, so penetrate your heart, so fix itself in your very marrow, that, compared with its deep impressions, such vigor as the orators and philosophers have will nearly vanish. Consequently, it is easy to see that the Sacred Scriptures, which so far surpass all gifts and graces of human endeavor, breathe something divine.

After this discovery, Calvin was utterly bound to the Word of God. He was a preacher in Geneva for

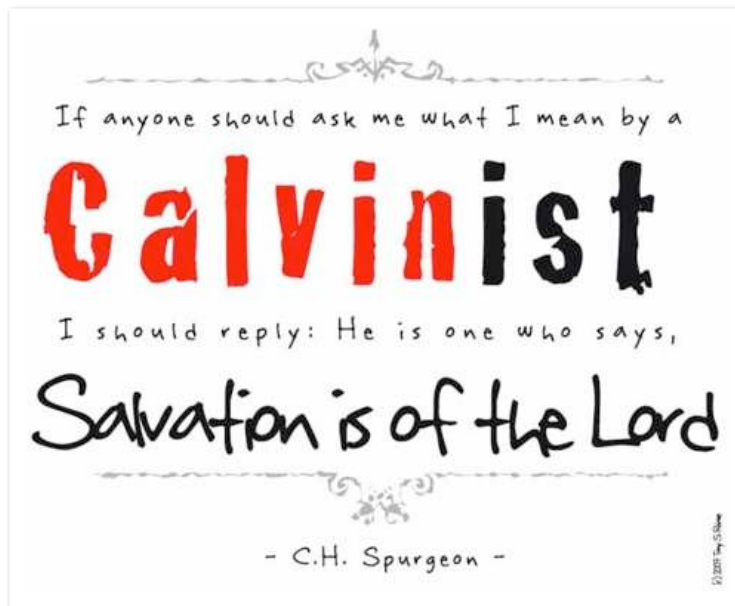
twenty-five years until he died at the age of fifty-four in May 1564. His custom was to preach twice every Sunday and once every day of alternate weeks; that is, he preached, on average, ten times every two weeks. His method was to take a few verses and explain and apply them for the people's faith and life. He worked his way through book after book. For example, he preached

189 sermons on the book of Acts, 271 on Jeremiah, 200 on Deuteronomy, 343 on Isaiah, and 110 on 1 Corinthians. Once he was exiled from Geneva for about two years. On returning, he stepped into his pulpit at St. Peter's and began with the text where he had left off.

This incredible devotion to the exposition of the Word of God year after year was owing to his profound conviction that the Bible is the very Word of God. He said:

The law and the prophecies are not teaching delivered by the will of men, but dictated by the Holy Ghost.... We owe the Scripture the same reverence which we owe to God, because it has proceeded from Him alone, and has nothing of man mixed with it.

What Calvin saw in the Bible, above all things, was the majesty of God. He said that through the



Scriptures “in a way that surpasses human judgment, we are made absolutely certain, just as if we beheld there the majesty of God Himself.”

The Bible, for Calvin, was above all a witness of God to the majesty of God. This led inevitably to what is the heart of Calvinism. Benjamin Warfield put it like this:

The Calvinist is the [person] who sees God behind all phenomena, and in all that occurs recognizes the hand of God...’who makes the attitude of the soul to God in prayer the permanent attitude...’ and who casts himself on the grace of God alone, excluding every trace of dependence on self from the whole work of salvation.

That is what I want to be: one who excludes every trace of dependence on self from the whole work of my salvation. In that way, I will enjoy the peace that rests in God alone, and God will get all the glory as the one from whom and through whom and to whom are all things, and the message of the church will resound for the nations.

*Dr. John Piper is pastor for preaching and vision at Bethlehem Baptist Church in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and the founder of the Desiring God media ministry.*



## CHRISTIAN COUNSEL

We all face struggles in our Christian lives and need godly and biblical counsel. The folks at the **Christian Counseling and Educational Foundation** (CCEF) have been providing such counsel for many years now. At their website you

can find blog posts, articles, and other resources dealing with all manner of counseling questions. Here's help for those needing help and those wanting to help others:

<http://www.ccef.org/mission-and-ministry>

## A CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

The Members of HARP are invited to celebrate the 100th birthday of Elder Emeritus Caswell Washam, hosted by his daughter, Connie Heath, and her husband, Rick.

It will be on Sunday, December 18th between 2:00 and 4:00PM at the First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall (right across the street from HARP!)

No personal gifts are necessary, but you may honor Caswell with donations to the HARP Building Fund if you so desire.

***Happy Birthday, Caswell!***





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# HARP NOTES



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