



# IPC MESSENGER

A BI-MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE INDEPENDENT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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FEBRUARY 2023 – MARCH 2023



TERRY L. JOHNSON

We spent much of the month of December engaged in what we called “emergency fundraising” in order to buy the property at 123 West Oglethorpe and its adjoining 60 parking places. The sellers accepted our offer and gave us until December 31 to prove that we could raise the money. Due to the remarkable generosity of our congregation we did just that. Gifts, pledges, and trust fund monies combined to raise roughly \$3.5 million; the appraisal came in at \$6.5 million, the amount of our offer; the congregation authorized the borrowing of up to \$5.2 million; and the bank approved our loan. All that happened in one month. The “steering committee” through this process consisted of the church trustees (Will Monroe, Andy Chisholm, Andy Brodmann, Bill Brodmann, and Rick Mullinix); Tim Barrett and Stephen Jackson representing the session; plus me. Things

could have not moved along as quickly as they did without the diligence of Will Monroe on the financial side and of Stephen Jackson on the property and legal side. God is good. Jesus is Lord. This brings us to the question, now what?

### *Three-year fund-raising*

Meanwhile we continue to receive contributions against the loan amount. Keep that cash and those checks coming. The more we receive, the less we borrow. As promised, we will begin a three-year fund-raising effort in which we will ask for pledges to pay off the remaining loan amount. At the same time, we also have the issue of long-standing projects that we have shoved to the back burner. We have detailed plans to replace the main building at Point Pleasant that dates to 2014. Our summer nights at Point Pleasant play an important role in the life of our church. It is another of our “chokepoints.” We have been crowded there for years and especially crowded

*Continued on Page 2*

this past year, *averaging 324 in a building whose capacity is 300*. Night after night 25 to 40 people sat outside under the pavilion listening to the service over loudspeakers. Settling for the status quo seems an undesirable option, to say the least. To these plans we have added the swimming pool (it leaks out its entire contents each week!) and pool house. We have discussed since 2020 constructing the Parrish Library and renovating the Oglethorpe Avenue streetscape and have detailed plans for both. What we have in mind for the latter is beautifying what is now unsightly, leveling out the sidewalk to make it safer, and altering the curb in order to make our courtyard entrance more easily wheelchair-accessible.

### *Pledges*

How much of this can we do? It all rides on how much we can raise. No doubt some of us already are tapped out. That is okay. We can only give what we are able. Others may have the capacity to give more, even much more. The parking lot and the main building at Point Pleasant are "mission crucial." The rest is helpful and desirable.

This is all that I know at this point. We will be coming to you soon for pledges. Calculate what you and your family can give over the next three years. This fundraising is not a burden for our congregation but an opportunity to accommodate and expand our ministry for decades to come.

# TO TESTIFY TO THE GOSPEL OF THE GRACE OF GOD

IPC WORLD  
MISSIONS  
CONFERENCE  
2023

BUT I DO NOT ACCOUNT MY LIFE  
OF ANY VALUE, NOR AS PRECIOUS  
TO MYSELF, IF ONLY I MAY FINISH  
MY COURSE AND THE MINISTRY I  
RECEIVED FROM THE LORD JESUS,  
TO TESTIFY TO THE GOSPEL OF THE  
GRACE OF GOD.

*Acts 20:24*

FRANKIE DANIELL  
ON BEHALF OF THE MISSIONS COMMITTEE

There is no better source of missions-oriented passages than the life of Paul—the greatest missionary in the history of the Church. Even the Pharisees in Acts 17 referred to Paul and Silas as "men who turned the world upside down." Although, the Jews did not mean it as a compliment they nonetheless recognized that these men were truly in a class by themselves. Paul's ministry was always wholehearted. To the Thessalonians he said, "We were pleased to impart to you not only the gospel, but our very lives as well." Our theme for the 2023 Missions Conference is taken from the parting speech of Paul to the Ephesian elders and the touching scene of their "falling on his neck and weeping," knowing that they likely would not see Paul again. Paul had given much of his life to planting the Ephesian church. He had invested not only time, but his whole heart in giving them the gospel. The thought of not seeing each other again in this life was a heavy reality. Paul's single-minded purpose of testifying to the gospel of Christ had produced not only his dearest friends, but also enemies of the Kingdom who

sought to take his life. Paul knew that he would eventually end up in Rome and likely die there.

Many of our sermons of late have challenged us in the same way to “dare to be a Daniel” and “have no other gods before Me” – the living and true God. The exhortation applies to each of us individually and certainly to us corporately as a church. The upcoming Missions Conference is meant to encourage us to “testify to the gospel of the grace of God.” There are many ways for us to be obedient. Some will be called to go to the foreign mission field. Some will be called to vocational ministry. All of us will be called to pray and to give of our resources to support the building of God’s Kingdom. As a church, IPC is committed to investing in the work of testifying to the gospel. In 2023 we will give at least \$661,000 to missions. The Missions Conference will give you the opportunity to see how some of those funds are invested. Over the years, the conference has become a high point (along with our Communion Season and special Christmas services) in the life of our church. I personally believe the singing we will do together in Telfair Hall is reason enough to have the conference. What a joyful sound!

Our guests this year will include MTW church planters (Lecce, Italy) Vincenzo and Judit Coluccia, PeruMission missionary Dale Ellison, and Loren Rae Grace, assistant director of Covenant Care Adoption Services. The Coluccias’ goal is to develop an indigenous Reformed denomination that can foster the planting of more confessional churches, and to establish a Reformed theological school in Italy to equip ministers of the gospel. Dale Ellison (with his wife Susan) became full time missionaries with MTW in 2001, serving in Slovakia. In 2005 they accepted the call to Peru, and they moved there in 2007 to

work in Trujillo, where they still serve today. Dale now heads the Geneva School and is the financial administrator for the mission. Dale previously set up the medical ministry Bethesda Clinic. Loren Rae Grace lives in Waycross where her husband is pastor of First Presbyterian Church. She represents Covenant Care Adoption Services, whose ministry has personally affected members of our congregation.

These guests will present their ministries to us at the three large group events: one Thursday night, one Friday night, and one to the combined Sunday school classes. Keynote speaker, Dr. Julius Kim, will share the Word with us several times over the 4 days of the conference and preach both services on Sunday. Dr. Kim has served as president of The Gospel Coalition since February 2020. He served for twenty years as the dean of students and professor of practical theology at Westminster Seminary California. He is an ordained minister in the PCA and serves as an associate pastor at New Life PCA in Escondido, CA. His wife, Ji Hee will be joining us as well. They will all be involved in other events, including the Men’s Prayer Breakfast and Women’s Luncheon. There will be many opportunities to speak with them informally as well. The fellowship is always rich as we enjoy great food from Silk Road Catering and Miss Sophie’s (we know the food is second to none). The spiritual encouragement we will each receive from the interaction with believers from and ministering in other cultures alone is worth so much. As we receive reports from our guests on the progress of the Kingdom in their ministries, our commitment to giving will be strengthened. I encourage you, for the good of your soul, to attend all the events. I will look forward to seeing you there.

See [ipcav.org](https://ipcav.org) for more information about our upcoming Missions Conference.



INDEPENDENT  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# World Missions Conference 2023

FEBRUARY 25-28

## SPEAKERS

*Julius Kim* • The Gospel Coalition  
*Vincenzo & Judit Coluccia* • MTW Church Plant, Lecce, Italy  
*Dale Ellison* • Peru Mission  
*Loren Rae Grace* • Covenant Care Adoption Services

# to testify to the gospel

of the **GRACE  
OF GOD.**

*Acts 20:24*



# Let the Little Children Come

BARBARA RUSTINE  
DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

I have a vivid memory of one of our children wielding a big yellow plastic shovel in our backyard. Our two-year-old eagerly struggled to help Mark as he dug a trench for a sprinkler system. Little ones love to imitate, and they delight to be involved in what their parents are doing. That's why it's never too early for parents of young children to instruct them in how to actively participate in public worship. As your little ones memorize elements of our worship service, they're able to actively worship God right along with you. Is there any sweeter sound than the lisping voice of a child speaking in praise of God?

IPC's Level One Memorization plan for children includes the Lord's Prayer, the Apostles' Creed, and the Ten Commandments. When your child recites these to an elder or to the Director of Children's Ministry, he or she will be recognized with a certificate of achievement, a Children's Catechism, and a small gift during one of our morning services.

If your child hasn't yet recited Level One, set a goal to make that happen soon. Our Sunday School teachers are working on these during class time. In the coming months, I'll be listening to recitations before Sunday School in the morning, and before Children's Choir in the evening. Please contact me if you'd like to arrange another time for your child to recite.

Let's work together to "let the little children come" and join all God's people in speaking the praise of the Lord!

Pick up a Level One booklet, on display in the hallway, as an aid for memorization.



## NOTE TO THE CHURCH

I recently received a beautifully decorated basket full of good things to eat and use. Thank you so much for that. I will enjoy the contents, and Jesse (dog) will enjoy wearing the ribbon at Christmas.

May the blessings of Christmas continue to abound.

Be kind, do good deeds and pray for yourself and others.

~ J. Mitchell Waters

## BIRTHS

**Audrey Elaine Schoeffler** was born on Sunday, November 6, 2022 to **Dr. & Mrs. Hayden C. Schoeffler (Natalie)**.

~

**Evan Marsh Rosenfeld** was born on Tuesday, January 24, 2023 to **Dr. & Mrs. Victor W. Rosenfeld (Leighann)**.

## WEDDING

**Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Brockitt** were united in marriage on Saturday, January 7, 2022 in Savannah, GA. Mrs. Brockitt is the former **Miss Hailey D. Williams**.

## BEREAVEMENT

### IN MEMORIAM

#### **Creed Taylor, Jr.**

Entered the Lord's presence on Tuesday, December 27, 2022

#### **Donald James Pease**

Entered the Lord's presence on Friday, January 20, 2023

#### **Ian Bishop Adrian Ward**

Entered the Lord's presence on Sunday, January 29, 2023



# BABY BOTTLE

## campaign

In honor of missions month, we are launching a Baby Bottle Campaign fundraiser to support Savannah Care Center. This is a very simple, kid-friendly way of raising money for a cause that needs our support, arguably now more than ever before. With the local abortion clinics closing post-Roe, the client numbers at Savannah Care Center continue to increase. This has been a great opportunity, but also a costly one.

Please pick up a baby bottle in the Fellowship Hall, starting Sunday, February 5. There will be 4 weeks to collect change, cash, and checks and return your filled bottles to the church on or by Sunday the 26th. These funds will help provide Savannah Care Center with the means to support mothers facing unplanned pregnancies

with the care and resources needed for them to choose life for their children, either through parenting or adoption. SCC also offers many other services that seek to introduce families to the Gospel and help them beyond just pregnancy, including parenting classes, post-abortive counseling, material assistance, job and medical referrals, support groups, and more. Now is a great opportunity to be the hands and feet of Christ to our own community, in a time when the battle for the lives of the unborn just became more intense (but more reachable, I believe) than ever before.

HANNAH SCHARER  
BOARD MEMBER, SAVANNAH CARE CENTER

## Fill a Bottle. Change a Life.

**Baby Bottles filled with coins, cash and checks - that's the Baby Bottle Campaign!**

**A simple way to raise thousands of dollars to save lives.**

Each year the money raised from the campaign helps support those facing unplanned pregnancies and their babies through the ministry of



**It's fun & easy  
to participate!**

- Take a baby bottle home and place it in a visible spot.
- Fill the empty bottle with coins, bills and checks **payable to Savannah Care Center.**
- Return the filled bottle to your church, participating organization, or the Savannah Care Center.
- Or simply donate online at [savannahcarecenter.org](https://savannahcarecenter.org)
- Pray for the Ministry of Savannah Care Center and look forward to hearing about the impact your change has made!

# FAMILY CORNER

*Psalms &*

*Hymns  
of the Month*

February

(Year 1-10)

## #460 AMAZING GRACE

John Newton (1779)

Amazing grace!—how sweet the sound—  
That saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found,  
Was blind, but now I see.

‘Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
And grace my fears relieved;  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils and snares,  
I have already come;  
‘Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,  
And grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me,  
His Word my hope secures;  
He will my shield and portion be,  
As long as life endures.

And when this flesh and heart shall fail,  
And mortal life shall cease,  
I shall possess within the veil  
A life of joy and peace.

When we’ve been there ten thousand years,  
Bright shining as the sun,  
We’ve no less days to sing God’s praise  
Than when we’ve first begun.

TUNE: NEW BRITAIN C.M.  
Virginia Harmony, 1831

(Year 11-15)

## PSALM 16

Preserve me, O my God;  
I put my trust in You.  
LORD, I confess, You are my Lord;  
No good have I but You.  
The godly ones on earth,  
Those holy in Your sight,  
The noble and majestic ones,  
Fill me with great delight.

Their sorrows multiply  
Who after idols seek.  
To them I’ll no blood offerings make;  
Their names I’ll never speak.  
The LORD the portion is  
Of my inheritance.  
He fills my cup, my lot prepares,  
Secures to me His grants.

The lines that fell to me  
Enclose a pleasant site.  
The heritage that I received  
To me is a delight.  
I bless the LORD Who guides  
With counsel that is right.  
My heart within me He directs  
To teach me in the night.

I always keep the LORD  
Before me, Him to see.  
Because He is at my right hand  
I never moved shall be.  
Thus gladness fills my soul;  
My joy must be expressed  
With my whole being, for my flesh  
Securely finds its rest.

My soul You will not leave  
In death’s dark pit to be.  
Corruption You will not permit  
Your Holy One to see.  
The path of life You’ll show;  
Of joy You hold great store.  
Before Your face, at Your right hand,  
Are pleasures evermore.

TUNE: LEOMINSTER SMD (25A)  
("Not What My Hands Have Done")

Based on *Book of Psalms*, 1871, and Psalm 16A,  
*The Book of Psalms for Singing*, 1973; alt. 1994

March

(Year 1-10)

## PSALM 23

- 1 The Lord’s my Shepherd,  
I’ll not want;
- 2 He makes me down to lie  
In pastures green; He leadeth me  
The quiet waters by.
- 3 My soul He doth restore again;  
And me to walk doth make  
Within the paths of righteousness,  
E’en for His own name’s sake.

4 Yea, though I walk in death’s dark vale,  
Yet will I fear no ill;  
For Thou art with me, and Thy rod  
And staff me comfort still.

5 A table Thou has furnished me  
In presence of my foes;  
My head Thou dost with oil anoint,  
And my cup overflows.

6 Goodness and mercy all my life  
Shall surely follow me;  
And in God’s house forevermore  
My dwelling place shall be.

TUNE: CRIMOND CM (23B)  
Based on *Scottish Psalter*, 1650

(Year 11-15)

## #4 ALL PRAISE TO GOD WHO REIGNS ABOVE

Johann J. Schütz (1675); Tr. Frances E. Cox (1864)

All praise to God, who reigns above,  
The God of all creation,  
The God of wonders, pow’r, and love,  
The God of our salvation!  
With healing balm my soul He fills,  
The God who every sorrow stills.  
To God all praise and glory!

What God’s almighty pow’r hath made  
His gracious mercy keepeth;  
By morning dawn or evening shade  
His watchful eye ne’er sleepeth;  
Within the kingdom of His might,  
Lo, all is just and all is right.  
To God all praise and glory!

I cried to Him in time of need:  
Lord God, O hear my calling!  
For death He gave me life indeed  
And kept my feet from falling.  
For this my thanks shall endless be;  
O thank Him, thank our God, with me.  
To God all praise and glory!

Ye who confess Christ’s holy name,  
To God give praise and glory!  
Ye who the Father’s pow’r proclaim,  
To God give praise and glory!  
All idols underfoot be trod,  
The Lord is God! The Lord is God!  
To God all praise and glory!

*See next page for last stanza*

Then come before His presence now  
And banish fear and sadness;  
To your Redeemer pay your vow  
And sing with joy and gladness:  
Though great distress my soul befell,  
The Lord, my God, did all things well,  
To God all praise and glory!

## 2023 Psalms & Hymns of the Month

*Booklets containing the 2023 Psalms and Hymns of the Month are now available on the booklet rack between Telfair and the choir room.*

TUNE: MIT FREUDEN ZART 8.7.8.7.8.8.7.  
Bohemian Brethren's *Gesangbuch*, 1566

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

1 Jerry Campbell	7 Pam Dykema	13 Luann Baker	21 Jason Helton
2 Glen Umberger	7 Gordon Hassing	14 Emily Stevens	22 Sandra Helton
2 Shelly Madden	7 Billy Tedder	15 Jim Woods	22 Mearl McArthur
3 Sarah Brodmann	8 Henry Nolan	15 Wyatt Nolen	23 Greg Harris
3 James Stevens	8 Charles Jackson	16 Kris Warren	24 Mitchell Waters
4 James Gray	8 James Van Grouw	16 Kelly Chester	24 Thomas Nyce
4 Ethan Crowe	8 Jennifer Daniell	16 Collette Siemens	25 Judith Rushing
4 James Scott	10 Eric Reid	16 Amelia Scharer	26 Tevis Garnett
4 Brian Finnegan	12 Forrest Williams	17 Paul Allen	26 John Teasley
5 Pat Adams	12 Brad Fennell	18 Mark Nyce	27 Lauren Kenard
5 Lucie Allen	13 Evan McKee	19 Josh Espinosa	28 Larry Smith
5 Charlotte Laffitte	13 Samuel Taylor	19 Bryan Wade	
6 Frank Brannen	13 Jack Jefferson	20 Beth Oliver	

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

1 Ella Murns	9 Priya Goeser	17 Heather DeMott	27 Julia Miles
1 Grace Stacy	9 Louisa Laffitte	18 Betsy Kelly	28 Shirley Parker
1 Harper Tanner	9 Med James	18 Tyler McCracken	28 Camille Kim
2 Gloria Horstman	9 Gracie Gergacs	18 Stewart Monroe	28 Jesse Allen
2 Jackson Biemiller	10 Jackson Gift	19 Jim Scott	29 Emily Johnson
2 Lauren Espinosa	10 Bellamy Fennell	19 Brandon Carter	29 Will Black
2 John Madden	10 Jeffrey Klein	19 Jean Ross	29 Mae Nolen
3 David Wade	10 Rachel McCracken	20 Nancy Sullivan	29 Lorie Irish
3 Paula Barlow	12 Margaret Helmly	20 Philip Dusek	29 Steph Tomlinson
3 Judy French	12 Frank Tilton	21 Megan Mullinix	30 Arthur Broadwick
3 Bob Ellis	12 Saura Winge	21 Gordon Fenwick	30 Stella Helton
4 Donna Parrish	12 Emily Brown	21 Chance Cribbs	30 Frankie Longo
4 Kathryn Brodmann	12 Austin Oliver	21 Victor Rosenfeld	30 Ashley Allen
4 Christopher Barlow	13 Matthew Barlow	22 William Rodgers	30 Avery Allen
4 Alice Jane Hogan	13 Jody Laing	23 Ernest Mitchell	31 Linda DePue
5 Kay Harwood	14 Harriette Adams	23 Witt Hayes	31 Samuel Miles
6 Nichole Ambos	14 Melba Gibson	24 Michael Rustine	31 Peggy Campbell
7 Claire Parrish	14 Susan Mullinix	25 Mary Brodmann	31 Matt Coleman
8 Todd Fruit	14 Mac Thompson	25 Derek Stoen	
8 Sue Greene	14 Bryand Cruzado	26 Amy Milling	
9 Posey Helton	14 Amalia Howard	26 Bobby Tanner	

# IPC Messenger

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The 2023 Christian Life Conference  
AUGUSTA, GEORGIA

MARCH  
3-4

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