

FLAT BRANCH COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

130 Darroch Rd., Bunnlevel, NC 28323

910-893-8578

June 2025

FATHERS AND THE FATHERHOOD OF GOD

by Pastor Tom Cox

Father's Day comes each June on the third Sunday of the month. Every year this "Hallmark Holiday" serves as a reminder of our own fathers, whether good or bad. Moreover, it is an opportunity for us to go to God our Heavenly Father in prayer, regardless of how our earthly Dad dealt with us. But sometimes that's hard for us to do...

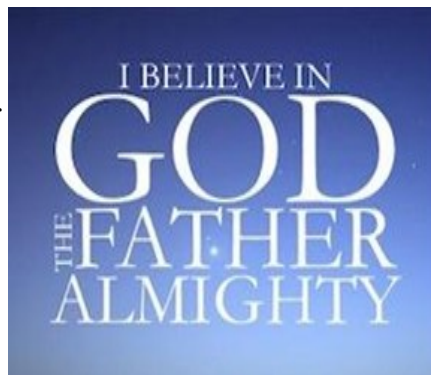


There seems to me to be different parenting styles of fathers in America. There is *Dad the Provider*: the strong, silent type who viewed the extent of his parental responsibilities as going faithfully to work in order to put food on the table. You didn't get a lot of communication from this model of earthly father-- maybe a word or two about the benefits of getting an education or, if you were lucky, "The Talk" about the birds and the bees, but that was about it. Here's another fatherly approach: *Dad the Playmate*—this father rolls around on the floor with the kids in wrestling and tickle battles, coaches their sports teams, adopts the stance of being their "buddy" and sometimes plays the "Good Cop" pitted against Mom, the bad cop who has to act as family enforcer, even with her own perpetually adolescent partner.

I myself was somewhat of a *NextGen Dad*: the kind of father who took a more active role and had greater involvement in changing dirty diapers, scrubbing heads in the tub, and attending parent-teacher conferences and visits to the doctor—roles that a previous generation assigned largely to Moms in the family division of labor. Still others of us were fortunate to have had a *godly father*: a Dad who walked with the Lord, loved his wife, took the family to church, and actually opened up a bit about his own life, failings, and walk with the Lord. What a blessing it is to have a godly heritage and to leave a legacy of faith in Christ in one's own family.

However, yet others suffered under *abusive fathers*: men who were alcoholics or physically violent or emotionally cruel. Such Dads leave deep scars. So do *absent fathers*, dads who leave their family in the lurch. I still remember the night my own father walked out on our family: I'm middle aged now, and it still hurts.

The good news of the gospel is that our Heavenly Father has sent His one and only Son, Jesus, into this world to save sinners. Together, the Father and the Son have sent the Holy Spirit into the lives of we who are in Christ. As such, we have received the Spirit of sonship (see Romans 8:15 and Galatians 4:5) and been adopted into the family of God. Yes, we are truly sons and daughters of the Most High God (see Isaiah 43:6 and 2 Corinthians 6:18). We can cry out to our Heavenly Father and know that He always gives good gifts to His children. Will you call out, "Abba, Father!" to Him now?



2 Corinthians

6:16-18

16 What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said,

"I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people."

17 Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you,

18 and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty."

ON THE USE OF SERMON OUTLINES

by Pastor Tom Cox

As we continue *There Is a Redeemer*, our current series on the Book of Ruth, I thought it might be of some use to explain why I publish a sermon outline each week. So, here are a few reasons why I think it is a helpful practice:

Following along is easier with an outline in front of you- Ever listened to a sermon and found yourself thinking, “Now that’s a good point”– yet still wondering where the message is leading you? An outline lets the listeners know “where the train is going once it leaves the station,” as I sometimes say. I think it is only polite to bring your hearers along on a journey of uniting the Word of God with faith in their hearts by giving them an inkling of what you’ll be talking about and why they ought to listen. Even if you’re not in the habit of taking notes, simply glancing at the outline helps keep us all on track.

The act of putting pen to paper helps make it stick. The simple act of writing sends signals to the brain that this piece of information is useful. While some people make a practice of keeping their outlines and reflecting upon them on occasion (as do I), others may toss it in the trash or recycling bin afterwards. Even so, having put pen (or pencil) to paper still helps you to engage with the text as an active listener. You can even journal your own thoughts as we go.

You’ve got the Scriptures right in front of you. Not everyone that comes to a public worship service is in the practice of bringing a Bible with them or opening the pew Bible. The outlines I produce give each person a copy of the text that is to be addressed that day. Many of you will also note that I’ve taken to emphasizing certain aspects of the Scriptures by highlighting important verses and putting key words in bold-face type and the like. I hope this helps you to get the sense that God’s Word, which is “alive and active” (see Hebrews 4:12 on this point), is jumping off the page at you. In fact, this brings me to my last point...

Producing an outline helps me, the preacher, to stay on point and to focus my own thoughts. Yes, the outline is a benefit not only to those of you in the pews but also it has become an integral part of my sermon development process. Creating an outline each week helps crystalize main ideas in my mind. I trust that this makes me a more effective communicator of the gospel of Christ crucified and risen. That is, after all, what it’s all about!

I hope this makes sense to you. Thanks for reading– and for listening.

DATES:

July 19 - 24, 2025

Saturday - 07/19/2025 - 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Sunday - 07/20/2025 - 6:00 PM - 8:30 PM

Monday - 07/21/2025 - 6:00 PM - 8:30 PM

Tuesday - 07/22/2025 - 6:00 PM - 8:30 PM

Wednesday - 07/23/2025 - 6:00 PM - 8:30 PM

Thursday - 07/24/2025 - 6:00 PM - 8:30 PM

REGISTER @ <https://kideventpro.lifeway.com/myEvent/?id=71009&fbclid>





DISCIPLE-MAKING 101

By, Pastor Cox

Jesus' famous saying in Matthew 28 is called "The Great Commission." In those marching orders He gave prior to leaving earth, He commanded His followers to "make disciples" (see verse 19). Sounds good, but....What did our Savior mean by this?

Starting in late June, we'll have a summer sermon series on this vital topic. From the Scriptures, we'll seek to answer the following key questions:

- ♦ **WHAT ARE DISCIPLES?**
- ♦ **WHAT DO DISCIPLES DO?**
- ♦ **HOW DO WE MAKE DISCIPLES?**

Join us in worship this summer to address what it means for us to follow Jesus.. *together!*

Worship service starts at 11 AM each Sunday. Come and see and invite a friend or two!

Matthew 28:16-20 (ESV)

The Great Commission

¹⁶ Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷ And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. ¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."



SUMMER READING LIST, Part 1

**Abbreviations: Introductory (Intro), Intermediate (Med.), or Advanced material (Adv.).*

Apologetics

The Reason for God – Tim Keller (Intro)
Making Sense of God – T. Keller (Med.)
Every Thought Captive – R. Pratt (Intro)

Basic Christianity

Basic Christianity – John Stott (Intro)
Mere Christianity – C.S. Lewis (Intro)
Knowing God – J. I. Packer (Med.)

Covenant Theology

Chosen by God – R.C. Sproul (Intro)
Confessing Christ – Calvin Knox Cummings (Intro)

Christian Growth

Baptism & Fullness – John Stott (Intro)
Disappointment with God – P. Yancey (Intro)
Shattered Dreams – Larry Crabb (Med.)
Prodigal God – Tim Keller (Intro)

Church History

A History of Christianity – Kenneth S. Latourette (Intro)
History of the Christian Church, Philip Schaff (Med.)

Church Polity (Government)

On Being Presbyterian – S. Lucas (Intro)

Creation & Evolution

Darwin's Black Box – M. J. Behe (Adv.)

Discipleship

Master Plan of Evangelism – Robert Coleman (Intro)
The Training of The Twelve – F.F. Bruce (Med.)

Evangelism

Powerful Evangelism for the Powerless – John Miller (Intro)
Evangelism & the Sovereignty of God – J. I. Packer (Med.)

To Purchase These Resources:

Christian Education & Publication - <https://www.cepbookstore.com>
Westminster Theological Seminary - <http://www.wtsbooks.com>
Christian Book Distributor - <http://www.christianbook.com>
Monergism Books - <http://www.monergismbooks.com>
Amazon - <http://www.amazon.com>

Go to church
Read your Bible
Obey what you read
Witness

FBCPC COMMITTEE CORNER

Worship Committee:

Communion will be observed on June 1st. Graduates will be honored on June 8th. We still have room for new and old voices in the Adult Choir. Practice is at 6:00 p.m. on Thursdays

Finance Committee:

CHURCH FINANCES THROUGH APRIL 2025

Year to date Budget	\$55,060
Actual Giving	\$56,421
Actual Spending	\$53,277
Giving minus Spending	\$3,144

Property Committee :

The Kitchen Renovation Project is progressing. Several areas have been completed with volunteer labor and donated materials, including a new ceiling, removal of the dishwasher (to be replaced by storage cabinet for large items), and replacement of all the electrical receptacles and switches. Special thanks to Lynn Lotter, Edna Bailey, Matt Adams and Lloyd Viox.

Painting of the cabinets, walls, etc. has been contracted and is scheduled for the week of June 9.

Currently getting estimates to replace the floor and the countertops. The serving window folding divider will soon be replaced with a barn door type closure.

Progress is also being made on the Handicap Accessible Bathroom Project but is not visible yet. Five different engineering disciplines have been contracted, and their design work (including a site survey) is nearing completion. Next the architect will create a "bid package" that combines his architectural plans together with the engineering designs so that we can begin getting bids from builders.

Also, thanks to Lloyd V. for repairing the uneven brick walkway leading into the fellowship hall.

Presbyterian Women News

Our annual yard and bake sale on May 3rd was a great success. We raised \$1,964 to support the Presbyterian Women's activities. Thanks to everyone whose efforts made it a success: those who donated items, those who worked to set up and sell items, and those who baked the cakes, pies, and cookies. It took a team to get it done! On May 8th, seventeen attended a luncheon at Chopsticks restaurant in Lillington to celebrate Betty Wilder's 90th birthday. Following lunch, everyone enjoyed birthday cake with Betty.

REMINDER: Mrs. Debbie Cann, aka Mrs. Santa, from Santa and Friends will be at Flat Branch on June 1st. Immediately following the worship service, she will meet with the Presbyterian Women and give a brief overview (approximately 15 minutes) of the Santa and Friends programs. All PW are encouraged to attend.

Happy Birthday

Debbie Hanks—6/4
Mary Flowers—6/14
Lynn Lotter—6/16
Betty Bain—6/20
Joe Keithley—6/20 (91 years old!)
Angie Wilder—6/21
Chris Smith—6/22
Janice Taylor—6/22
Braydon Adams—6/23
Ann Taylor—6/24
Benjamin Akam—6/29



Happy Anniversary

Ray & Becky McClutan—6/2
Mason & Mallory Parker—6/3
Jack & Debbie Hanks—6/7
Chuck & Kerry Messer—6/11
Tom & Marianna Shaw—6/13
(55 years!)
Ethan & Danielle Twiss—6/18
Mark & Donna Toney—6/30

Memorials

(through 5/18/25)

Harry Bailey

Reggie & Carol Bain
Carolyn Shaw

John H. Daskal

Dewayne & Kim Lee
Evan & Ashton Weaver

L. Holt Felmet, Jr.

A & A Farms
ARM Landscaping
Ronald & Frances Avery
Betty Bain
Howard & Norma Byrd
Steven & Harriett Carroll
Glenn & Marie Coleman
Carol Daskal
Joel & Carolyn Frasier
Pat & Patrilla Quick
Evelyn Shaw
Marie Taylor

Glenn G. Gregory

Reggie & Carol Bain

Nancy B. Smith

Glenn & Marie Coleman

Martin & Nora Lee Stone

Jo Stone-Ash

HAPPY, HAPPY

BIRTHDAY!!

TO OUR

“JUNE”

“GOLDEN

GUY”



Joe Keithley

91 Years Young!

HAPPY BELATED

BIRTHDAY!!

TO OUR

“MAY”

“GOLDEN

GIRL”



Betty Wilder

90 Years Young!

Be strong and of a good courage
be not afraid, neither
be thou dismayed

for the LORD thy God is with thee
whithersoever thou goest

Jos 1:9

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY

Prayer Requests

Our Pastor, Church Leaders and Church Family

Our Country (and Leaders) for many reasons

Our Military Personnel & Emergency Services

Western NC

Lester Skoblar—recovery from knee surgery

Cheryl Hamilton—recover from knee surgery

Brynlee Crawford & Family — Brynlee remains in NICU at Duke

Charlie Aslund— Cancer

Donnie Hamilton—health issues

Betty Bain—cancer

Evelyn Bordeaux—illness

Paul & Georgette Dempster— illness

Unspoken concerns

Shut-ins who are alone and lonely

Those who are struggling financially, physically, and mentally.

Those doing Mission work spreading the Gospel of Jesus throughout to World.

The needs are many and these are the ones that we're currently aware of. Please feel free to contact us by the church phone, email, website, or Facebook should you have a specific request.

(Additional updated Prayer Requests are distributed every Sunday at Worship Service)



*May
Memories
Made....*

