



the
Visionary
 PERSONAL PIETY

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Your Personal Piety is Dependent Upon Your Use of Scripture

Pastor Carl Robbins

In this issue of *The Visionary* the pastors of WRPC will each be addressing a different spiritual discipline. I am speaking (briefly) to the basic premise: Your personal piety is dependent upon your use of the scriptures. The scriptures are the means to godliness and maturity.

Ours is an incredibly undisciplined age which shows up even in (especially in) the church. Oh, there are many who are disciplined about their physical fitness, their golf game, their career advancement, or their financial goals, but not about their advancement in godliness. Godly, mature men are always disciplined men. There are no exceptions. Didn't Jesus say, *"If anyone desires to come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me."* (Luke 9:23)

Self-discipline is a heart issue and should be recognized as such. If a person knows that the Bible, consistently studied, will yield the rich fruits of maturity, holiness, and wisdom, and still does not read and study it, what does that say about them?

Let's talk about all the different ways you should be taking in the Word of God:

The Word: Hearing it

This is the easiest of all the spiritual disciplines: Simply placing yourself under the preaching and teaching of the Bible. Do you purpose to be under the ministry of the Word weekly on Sunday morning, Sunday evening, and Sunday School? Jesus said, *"Blessed are those who hear the Word of God...."* (Luke 11:28)

The Word: Reading it

76% of evangelicals never open their Bibles except between 9 a.m. and noon on Sundays! Why is this when Jesus often asked questions that began with, *"Have you not read?"* (Matt. 12:1-5; 19:3-4; 21:14-16; 21:40-44) Why is this when

Jesus said, *"Man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."*? (Matt. 4:4) Surely, He intends for us to read every word!

We only have to be realistic and honest with ourselves to know how regularly we need to turn to the Bible. Since we face problems, temptations, and pressures every day, we need wisdom, instruction, guidance, and encouragement from the Bible every day.

The Word: Studying it

If reading the Bible can be compared to cruising across a lake in a motorboat (an overview and a swift passing view of its depth), then studying the Bible is like slowly crossing the lake in a glass bottomed rowboat. We have great models of Bible students in the Bereans (Acts 17). Why do men today fail to study the Bible? Not because it is dull or difficult to understand, but because it is work! The problem is not a lack of intelligence or even study resources - it is laziness.

The Word: Meditating upon it

One of the busiest men in the history of civilization was Joshua. He was the military, political, and economic leader of an embattled country and a busy husband and father - but he was not too busy to meditate on the Scriptures! God commands him (Josh. 1) to give himself to meditation. David was an even busier man: general, musician, builder, and King. But, he also commends the practice of meditation upon the Scriptures. When I use the word 'meditation' don't think of the New Age form (passively emptying your mind). Christian meditation involves filling your mind with a text of Scripture and actively thinking, memorizing, reflecting, and praying the text. If hearing the Word is like

one dip of a tea bag into a cup of hot water, then studying would represent a second and third dunk of the tea bag. But meditation would be like immersing the tea bag completely and letting it steep until all the rich tea flavor has been extracted and the hot water is thoroughly tintured brown.

How often have you done your perfunctory Bible reading in the morning and by lunch realized you couldn't even remember what you read? That's because there was no in-depth study of the text, no memorization of it, and no meditation upon it.

Pastor Carl Robbins
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Preparing for the Worship of God

You cannot prepare adequately just before worship if you are late in arriving. At Woodruff Road Presbyterian Church we start our worship service at 9:30 AM, so if you are parking the car at that time you'll miss the beginning of worship.

Plan to be in your seat, preparing your heart and mind, at least five minutes before the worship starts.

Why is the Lord's Day Holy?

Pastor Dan Dodds

When you were young your parents likely had a list of do's and don'ts that were reinforced verbally (and/or even corporally!). You had a sense that you were supposed to do what they said even though you may not have understood their reasoning; their authority as parents sufficed to justify their commands.

But as you got older you began to question some of those rules. "Why can't I jump out the window?" "Why do we have to go to bed so early?" Sometimes, the answers made good sense: "Because we live on the third floor and you'll crack your head open." At other times, the answers seemed a little stretched or without merit: "I need *you* to go to bed because *I'm* tired." (I will say that last one makes a lot more sense to me now as a parent!!)

What can be observed in the life of a child is true also in the life of a Christian. We see a command in Scripture, such as, "you shall not murder," and we accept it at face value because we know we are not supposed to question God and it makes sense anyway not to haphazardly reduce the population. So far so good.

But later, we come across commands that rub us the wrong way, laws that perhaps hit a little close to home; they make us uncomfortable and the questions begin. "Does this still apply today?" "Why did God command this?" "I think God is mainly concerned with the heart, don't you?"

Perhaps one of the best examples of this in the church today is the issue of keeping the Lord's Day holy. Huh? Are we still supposed to keep the Lord's Day holy? Why? Scripture gives us three reasons that God has (graciously) revealed the law to us.

The first reason is that the law reveals the holiness of God and the sinfulness of man. The

law exposes our sins and our need for a Savior. The second reason for the law is for civil application, i.e., the law provides a code of conduct by which people in society are to govern themselves and one another. The third reason for the law is our sanctification - so that we might grow in holiness.

Okay, but what about the Lord's Day, why keep it holy? Well, besides the reasons above, there are at least three more good reasons to keep the Lord's Day holy.

First, God said to. Do we need to go any further? Any time God commands us to do something, our first response should be "yes Sir" even if we have questions. We teach this to our children - "Say 'yes sir' first and then ask your questions." Given Who God is - and who we are - the only right response is an enthusiastic "yes!".

But there are other reasons. We need to keep the day holy as a way to point to and demonstrate the heavenly rest that we will one day enjoy. Each Lord's Day is a mini practice session for eternity, as we have a day dedicated to worship and rest from our labors. Wouldn't it be a shame to refuse this weekly gift and practice session just so that we could go tailgating or make a little more money? It destroys the picture of heaven, doesn't it? The culture around us, let alone our children, will not have that valuable weekly reminder that all of the stuff they put up with day in and day out is for a purpose - the glorious future of heavenly rest.

When we treat the Lord's Day like any other day, we are proclaiming that there is nothing beyond what we have right here and now. Given that premise, we might as well get one more day of what we already have; why waste it in worship?

But there is another reason that we should observe the Lord's Day and keep it holy. Maybe the first two reasons made you think, "Ok, guess I'll have to put off my agenda for God's - that's what I got when I signed up as a Christian, so I suppose I'll have to do my duty even though I don't really want to." This kind of response betrays the seriously flawed thinking that somehow our joy and God's laws are at odds with one another - may it never be!!! In fact, Scripture is clear that our obedience to His laws are the pathway to OUR joy! (Ps. 1:1-3; Ps. 119; a myriad of other verses)

In light of our finiteness and remaining sin, it should not surprise us when we don't always clearly see the benefits of obeying God's statutes; but, in light of His omniscience and grace, we should presume that both His glory and our joy are wrapped up in all His commands for His children. And we must remember that our joy does not refer to 'always, right now happiness' but to the deep-seated, eternal joy of soul that results from the creation properly responding to its Maker.

In light of these reasons, we can more fully understand the prophet Isaiah's words when he wrote, "*If you turn away your foot from the Sabbath, From doing your pleasure on My holy day, And call the Sabbath a delight, The holy day of the LORD honorable, And shall honor Him, not doing your own ways, Nor finding your own pleasure, Nor speaking your own words, Then you shall delight yourself in the LORD; And I will cause you to ride on the high hills of the earth, And feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father. The mouth of the LORD has spoken.*" (Isa. 58:13-14)

Amen and Amen.

Pastor Dan Dodds
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Preparing for the Worship of God

You cannot expect to rush into church after an exhausting Saturday night and "be worshipful."

Try to get a good night's rest so that you can be alert and attentive to the majesty and presence of the Lord.

Conscious acknowledgment of who God is will prepare your heart for coming into his presence.

On Saturday night, before sleeping, read individually (or pray with your husband/wife/children) passages of Scripture which remind you of who God is and pray that even as you sleep, the Lord would prepare you to worship him (Psalm 127:2).

The Private Duty and Privilege of Prayer

Pastor Scotty Anderson

The 1647 *Westminster Directory for Family Worship* begins this way:

“Besides the publick worship in congregations, mercifully established in this land in great purity, it is expedient and necessary that secret worship of each person alone, and private worship of families, be pressed and set up; that, with national reformation, the profession and power of godliness, both personal and domestick, be advanced.

I. And first, for secret worship, it is most necessary, that every one apart, and by themselves, be given to prayer and meditation, the unspeakable benefit whereof is best known to them who are most exercised therein; this being the mean whereby, in a special way, communion with God is entertained, and right preparation for all other duties obtained: and therefore it becometh not only pastors, within their several charges, to press persons of all sorts to perform this duty morning and evening, and at other occasions; but also it is incumbent to the head of every family to have a care, that both themselves, and all within their charge, be daily diligent herein.”

You get the sense there of the indispensability of private prayer. If you go back to the full title, it's actually called *Directions of the General Assembly, Concerning Secret and Private Worship, and Mutual Edification; for Cherishing Piety, for Maintaining Unity, and Avoiding Schism and Division*.

That's a lot of pressure being placed on prayer, but prayer is obviously up to it. Prayer is up to doing those things because the maintaining of the peace, purity, and piety of the church is the work of the Spirit of God who acts in response to our prayers. Truly, there is no way you can expect

any of those things to be preserved apart from prayer.

Notice also that the *Directory* says secret worship (prayer and meditation) is to “be pressed and set up.” The pastors and elders are to encourage these disciplines in every member of the church. It's a worthy and productive investment they're making when they do. I can testify myself because I have benefited directly from two men who changed my prayer life.

The first was Jimmy Covey, the Navigators Rep at the Air Force Academy (later to become a PCA teaching elder and RUF Campus Minister there). Jimmy took me and a handful of peers on a spring break service trip and spent the evenings taking us through a training course on how to pray in public and private. It began a lifetime habit of rising early for prayer, using a disciplined pattern and biblical content. It was transformative, not only for my own piety, but for the great majority of that dozen or so college students who participated. Not surprisingly, several of those men are now deacons, elders, or pastors in conservative, reformed churches.

The second was Milton Hodges. Milton is a PCA Ruling Elder who took my young family into his care and regularly invited us into his home for great discussions and encouragement. One of the best things he did was to show us with simplicity and minimal effort how to open up the Bible after dinner and read, reflect, and pray as a family. He took something foreign and complicated and made it as natural as could be by his ordinary example. Again, a family transformed.

But what if you're short on example? Actually, you're not. The ability to pray is a universal. From the moment of your adoption you are enabled to cry out, “Abba! Father!” by the Spirit you have received (Gal. 4:6; Rom. 8:15). You are

instructed by your Savior in how to pray and for what to pray (Matt. 5:44; 6:5-15; Luke 10:2; 21:36). You are instructed by the example of your Savior to go to the Father privately and frequently (Matt. 14:23; 26:36-39; Mark 6:46; 14:39; Luke 5:16; 6:12). And you are further encouraged to pray with boldness because of Who your Savior is and what He has done for you (Heb. 4:16; 10:19). And, what if, in spite of all that, your prayers are still failing? Remember our Lord in the garden when the disciples had failed their Master in prayer: (Mark 14:37-38) "And He came and found them sleeping, and He said to Peter, 'Simon, are you asleep? Could you not watch one hour? Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The Spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.'" Pray still. The answer to a failure to pray is prayer itself.

Pastor Scotty Anderson
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Youth Events

- ◆ Hymn Sings - Various Dates
- ◆ Fall Conference (David Sanders) - November 15-17
- ◆ Winter Formal - TBD

Preparing for the Worship of God

*You must have a fertile heart
Sunday morning. Sunday
morning is the time when you
should especially be with the Lord
in a quiet time before coming to
church.*

**Spend time alone with the Lord
Sunday morning before coming to
church (Psalm 5:3).**

WIC Report

Linda Wade, WIC President

Fall Ladies' Bible Studies

Morning Study – Heart Work

Led by Val Domagalski

September 14—November 16

WRPC Choir Room

Thursdays from 10:00—11:30 a.m.

Childcare and kid's programs available for infants to age 11

Evening Study – The Son of David: Seeing Jesus in the Historical Books

September 14—November 16

Home of Suzanne Patterson

Thursdays at 7:00 p.m.

211 Crepe Myrtle Court (Forrester Woods)

*“And Hannah prayed and said:
‘My heart rejoices in the Lord;
My horn is exalted in the Lord.
I smile at my enemies,
Because I rejoice in Your salvation.
No one is holy like the Lord,
For there is none besides You,
Nor is there any rock like our God.’”*

1 SAMUEL 2:1-2



Welcome Brunch

Diana Bekins held a well-attended brunch at her home to welcome visitors and new members. The brunch presented a great opportunity for the ladies to get to know each other better and build a bond for further fellowship and ministry.



What They're Reading

Recommended Reading from the Pastoral Staff

Pastor Robbins

Sandy and I are reading (together) David McCullough's marvelous biography, *The Wright Brothers*. (I recommend you read anything McCullough writes – his prose is a joy to behold.) Any reader will be astounded at Wilbur and Orville Wright's brilliance, determination, work ethic, morality, and deep commitment to family. The story that McCullough does NOT develop is the brothers' apostasy from the Christian faith. Their father was a bishop in a small Protestant denomination, a Bible-believing conservative, yet the Wright brothers quickly wandered away from any attachment to Christ in their early adult years. Amazingly, they were still dogged in their Sabbath observance, refusing to do any labor on Sundays!

Conscience: What It Is, How to Train It & Loving Those Who Differ, Andrew Naselli & J.D. Crowley (150 pages).

I recently mentioned the conscience in a sermon on 2 Timothy 1. This book is the best contemporary and accessible resource on the Christian conscience. It is especially good for those who are weaker brothers and have an over-sensitive conscience.

Joel Beeke's *Parenting by God's Promises: How to Raise Children in the Covenant of Grace* is the best comprehensive book on parenting that I've read (and I've read a bunch!). The marvelous thing about this book is that it is blessedly fad-free and just so... normal.

Pastor Dodds

How to Read the Bible Supernaturally: Seeing and Savoring the Glory of God in Scripture, Piper.

I'm still reading this and finding it a great encouragement to remind myself before the

reading of the Word of what I am about to read and how to approach it.

Hillbilly Elegy, J.D. Vance.

While interesting from a sociological point of view, this book is otherwise depressing except for the gospel.

Emotional Intelligence, Daniel Goleman.

Goleman discusses distinctions between IQ and EQ. He shows the importance of self-awareness, empathy, and other important qualities that assist in one's 'success' over and against the prevailing theory that one's IQ is the determining factor. For those interested, Ken Sande (the author of *Peacemaker*) has a Christian version of this called Relational Wisdom.

A Morbid Taste for Bones, Ellis Peters.

Sounds gruesome, but not so. This is from a book series about a monk named Cadfael who is a medieval sleuth. No, really!

Out of the Silent Planet and *Perelandra*, Lewis.

These are books one and two from C.S. Lewis' sci-fi series. I haven't read the third book yet (*That Hideous Strength*) which is supposed to be the best...

Pastor Anderson

I've never read a book by a sitting U.S. senator, but if they were all so good (either books or senators) our country would be in a better state. Ben Sasse (making the news a lot of late) has written a fairly apolitical assessment and a few prescriptions for the root problems ailing this country. *The Vanishing American Adult* is comprehensive and colorful. He addresses history, sociology, contemporary education, and unintended consequences of both policy and parenting. There's a lot to learn here. And he's in our camp too (member of a PCA church). Every member, but especially parents, would find a lot

to appreciate here that their kids might become as Sasse encourages “fully formed, vivacious, appealing, resilient, self-reliant, problem-solving souls who see themselves ... called to love and serve their neighbors.”

And speaking of resilient, self-reliant, and problem-solving: Thomas Kidd’s *Benjamin Franklin: The Religious Life of a Founding Father* is more interesting than you might expect. Kidd explores more fully the religious formation and inconsistencies of that larger than life figure from our country’s formation. To be sure, Franklin was some version of a deist, but he was far more complicated than we give him credit for. He was the child of English Puritans, brought up in the biblical and catechetical tradition. He was a friend of the famous Calvinistic Methodist, George Whitefield, who prayed for, but never saw, Franklin’s conversion. His view of human depravity and thorough knowledge of the Bible followed him throughout his life. Morality and personal improvement were as much a priority for Franklin as for Jonathan Edwards and He even seemed to retain a belief in the resurrection. Yet he despised doctrine and doctrinal preaching, frequently mocked religious people, and avoided religious worship at almost any cost. His depravity also worked itself out, leaving a trail throughout his life of moral failures according to God’s word and his own standards. He despised religious hypocrisy but bore enough of his own. This book is a good reminder that people’s lives are more complicated than we realize and that even the smartest of men find it incredibly difficult to escape the presence of God in His world.



Practical tip:

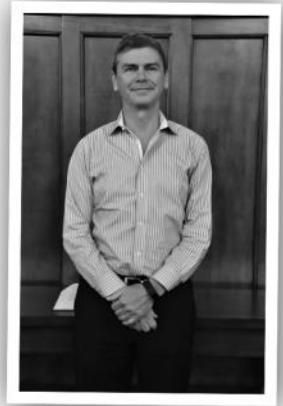
Where do you get the finest books for the best price? At the WRPC Library, or on the web at www.heritagebooks.org

New



Grace Brown

Membership Vows
10/8/2017



Henry Harrison

Membership Vows
9/5/2017

Joyce Ballenger
Membership Vows
8/20/2017



Jenna Dodds
Membership Vows
10/8/2017

Virginia Clark
Membership Vows
10/8/2017



Members



Dr. Martin & Joy Erdman

Membership Vows

9/17/2017



Jimmie & Jo Ann Harris

Membership Vows

8/27/2017

**Not pictured
Barbara Holmes
2/1/17**



**Mike & Lisa Downing
Christina Downing**

Membership Vows

9/24/2017

*"So the churches were
strengthened in the
faith, and increased in
number daily."*

ACTS 16:5

Building Men at WRPC

Pastor Dan Dodds

Men at the Gates – Reading Group

We have two groups of men who meet to read and discuss books on a wide range of topics. The first group meets at 6:15 a.m. on Tuesdays in the church library. The second group meets at 12:15 p.m. on Thursdays at IHOP on Woodruff Road (at I-385 interchange). We are currently studying the book *Amazing Grace* by Eric Metaxas. Even if you have not read the assignment for a particular week, the conversation and fellowship are still very worthwhile.



Father/Son Getaway

Our father/son getaway is scheduled for February 9-11, 2018 at Ridgehaven. Paul Sanders will be our guest speaker. You do not need a son to attend!

Men's Prayer

Friday mornings at 6:30, several men get together in the church office for Bible study and prayer.

Men's Service

We have several service projects each year. They are announced from the pulpit and by emails. Upcoming projects include:

- ◆ Men's Workday — Dec 2, 2017-provide assistance for widows and others of WRPC
- ◆ Ridgehaven service project – May 2-5, 2018 – tentative date

Also, to help on a more regular basis, please contact Nathan Sicko (Deacon Chairman) to be placed on the deacons' volunteer list.

Men's Socials

Two or three times a year, the men meet for a time of fellowship and camaraderie. The most recent event was a Meat and Greet around the fire at Frederic Marcinak's house. The next event is TBD.

Men's Outdoor Activities

Each year we have a father/daughter, father/son, or family campout. This year we had a father/daughter campout in October at Lake Hartwell.

Men's Email

Don't forget to sign up for the men's email group. It provides an opportunity to ask for help or 'advertise' an item for giveaway or sale. Call the church office if you'd like to sign up.

Contact info: For more information on WRPC's men's ministries please contact Pastor Dan Dodds at 864-386-0714 (mobile) or dan@woodruffroad.com.

Missions Update—Reformed Presbyterian Church in Haiti

The Delfils family sends their greetings in Christ and warm gratitude to the congregation of WRPC. They are so thankful for your prayers and financial support over the years. In particular, your gifts enabled RPCH to purchase a reliable vehicle for the ministry, thus relieving Pastor Octavius of a stress that he had been patiently bearing for many years. Thank you, and may the Lord bless you!

After two years of uninterrupted work in the field, the Delfils family spent the month of July in the U.S. visiting supporting churches and relaxing a bit with family and friends. It was a time of encouragement and refreshment that prepared them to go back to Haiti with renewed energy.

As you may know, Octavius and Marie have two children, Carlens and Farah. Their son, Carlens, graduated from high school in June and was able to obtain a student visa to attend a community college in the Port St. Lucie area of FL. While in school, Carlens will be living in the home of long time RPCH supporter, Pastor Bernie Van Eyk of Grace Community PCA. Octavius and Marie's daughter, Farah, is still living at home and doing well as an 11th grader in Port-au-Prince. Please pray that Carlens and Farah will continue to grow in Christ as they pursue their studies and mature into adulthood.

Marie stays very busy – showing hospitality in their home, discipling the women in the church, helping with VBS, and working as a nurse in a children's hospital in Port-au-Prince. Please pray that she will continue to delight in the Lord as she helps Octavius in so many ways.

Octavius, or Pastor Tav as we like to call him, labors day in and day out preaching, teaching, discipling, evangelizing, praying, and translating. He continues to work closely with Pastor Ben Hopp on the OPC Mission Team to Haiti, and together, they collaborate with Mr.



Randy Lodder, director of the Adoration Christian School. The Lord has knit the families of these men together in a special way. Pastor Tav and Pastor Ben are currently preaching through the books of Matthew, Ruth, and Acts, and they are teaching the *Westminster Shorter Catechism* during Sunday School. Please pray that the gospel labors of these families would produce much fruit.

As Pastor Tav and Pastor Ben strive to nurture their congregants in the reformed faith, they would covet your prayers in other ways. Pray that God would raise up men to be qualified elders and deacons. Related to that is the need to pray for their efforts to form an indigenous Haitian presbytery. This December they will be hosting a training seminar on the topic of church government followed by a meeting of all the church leaders in their area identified as reformed and presbyterian. This includes Pastor Esaie Etienne and Pastor Jean Paul, both of whom have ties with the PCA.

If you would like to communicate with the Delfils family, feel free to email them at odelfils@gmail.com, or write them at 3170 Airmans Dr., #2127 RPCH, Ft. Pierce, FL 34946.

Let the Redeemed of the Lord, Say So! (Psalm 107:2)

Anthony Rogers

I was born in 1974 to nominally Christian parents and raised in Orange County, California. Apart from a couple of notable exceptions, such as my Mom using a Bible to teach me how to read and singing hymns on family road trips, Christianity was not practiced in our home and church attendance was, at best, sporadic and usually non-existent.

Since the wicked go astray from the womb (Ps. 58:3) and man is born to trouble as surely as the sparks fly upward (Job 5:7), I had an unsurprising penchant for seeking and finding trouble. Because of various exploits around town, it was not uncommon for the police to bring me home at night. I can't remember a time from the second grade on when I didn't get in trouble at school. In the sixth grade I was even assigned a permanent seat in the principal's office.

During my teen years in the late 80's and early 90's, as LA began to swell with gangs that spilled over into Orange County, my appetite for sin and vice continued to grow and found new channels through which to express itself. During this time, I was kicked out of every high school in our area, the last of which was occasioned by my involvement in a large gang fight.

Throughout this time, my Dad was an engineer who worked as an independent contractor for McDonnell-Douglas and Aerospace Technology. Since these companies started to decline, and in the hope that changing my environment would also change my behavior, my Dad retired in 1992 and we moved to Las Vegas, Nevada, at which time my Mom got a job at the Nevada Test Site (best known for Area 51, a remote detachment of Edward's Air Force Base).

Things were quiet for a short time until I threw in my lot with a new band of criminals (Prov. 1:8-19). After being arrested at eighteen years old for stealing a car, which turned out to belong to



Ralph Lamb, the former sheriff of Clark County, Nevada, and younger brother of Floyd Lamb, who had served for many years as a member of the Nevada Senate, I was sent to prison where I did 2½ years on a seven-year sentence.

Finding myself in prison, I decided to pass the time by reading the Bible. Although I could only recall reading two books up to that point since the days when my Mom taught me to read from the Bible (i.e., *James and the Giant Peach* and *The Call of the Wild*), reading came easy and I had nothing but time, so I read the Bible twice in a three-month period. I did not become a believer immediately, but I was struck by a number of things: 1) the exalted majesty and transcendent glory of God (something I was especially impressed with upon reading the Lord's reply to Moses in Exodus 3:14); 2) the greatness of God's wrath toward sinners (e.g., flooding the world and leaving only eight survivors, opening the

ground and swallowing up Korah and his entire family, etc.); and 3) the inescapable knowledge that I had sinned against such a God and was of all people most deserving of His wrath.

Around this time, I was providentially relocated in the prison and placed in a cell with a Christian roommate named Willie Nelson (no, really). Soon after that he introduced me to Dr. Dean Haywood, a man who regularly visited the prison and taught classes on the Bible and Christian theology. It was through his teaching and preaching that I came to understand the gospel and reposed my entire confidence in the Lord Jesus Christ. Since that time, I have had no greater desire than to know Him more, love Him better, and proclaim His name to others.

Upon my release in 1995, I became a member of Spring Meadows (PCA) in Las Vegas, where Dean became the assistant pastor to Carl Robbins. Janis started coming in 1999 and was converted under Carl's preaching. In 2000 the Robbins moved to Greenville and Janis and I married the following year. It is a great joy to now intern under Carl and serve here at WRPC.

*“And when you pray,
you shall not be like
the hypocrites. For
they love to pray
standing in the
synagogues and on the
corners of the streets,
that they may be seen
by men. Assuredly, I
say to you, they have
their reward.”*

MATTHEW 6:5

WRPC Officer Nominations

The time to nominate church officers is quickly approaching. Prepare yourself for this task by reading 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1 carefully. As you prayerfully consider men who may meet biblical qualifications, please also consider the following:

1. Their agreement to be nominated
2. The length of time they have been a member of WRPC
3. Their faithful attendance to the Lord's Day services (AM & PM)
4. Their reputation inside and outside the church
5. Their understanding of the office to which they are being nominated and their willingness to serve if elected
6. Their agreement to attend all the required officer training classes

The Biblical Qualifications for Elders and Deacons – 1 Timothy 3:1-13

"This is a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a bishop he desires a good work.

² A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach; ³ not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not covetous; ⁴ one who rules his own house well, having his children in submission with all reverence ⁵ (for if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?); ⁶ not a novice, lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the same condemnation as the devil. ⁷ Moreover he must have a good testimony among those who are outside, lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

⁸ Likewise deacons must be reverent, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy for money, ⁹ holding the mystery of the faith with a pure conscience. ¹⁰ But let these also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons, being found blameless. ¹¹ Likewise, their wives must be reverent, not slanderers, temperate, faithful in all things. ¹² Let deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well. ¹³ For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a good standing and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus."



WRPC Thanksgiving Feast



PLEASE MAKE PLANS TO JOIN US FOR THE ANNUAL WRPC THANKSGIVING FEAST!

Sunday, November 19th, 2017 @ 5pm

Please bring food from the following Shepherding Groups:

McConkey/Dickerson - Salads

Marcinak/Pastors' - Veggies

Harris/Scott - Starches

XYZ (Bradenbaugh/Hopson/Johnson) - Desserts

The church will provide turkey, gravy, dressing, rolls,
and beverages.

Please drop food off at the Fellowship Hall before 4:45 PM.

We will begin serving at 5:00 PM.

Minutes and Actions of the Session

C.F. Marcinak, Clerk of Session

This December the congregation will nominate candidates to stand for election to the offices of elder and deacon. This is an important time in the life of WRPC, as we seek to identify those men the Lord is calling to serve and to lead our church. Given our growth in membership and the loss of several elders over the past few years, we especially need the Lord to raise up additional elders. Please be in prayer for this process and spend time thinking through the gifts and calling of the men of our church as you prepare for the nominations process to begin.

Administration

Received regular reports from the Treasurer on church finances; The Lord continues to bless WRPC with revenues in excess of budgeted amounts and expenses below budgeted amounts

Approved a website policy, a seminary student support policy, and amendments to the wedding policy

Approved the calling of a congregational meeting (date to be determined) for the congregation to consider calling TE Dodds and TE Anderson as associate pastors

Approved restoring Elder Emeritus Mayfield to a shepherding role with the XYZ group effective immediately

Christian Education

Approved (on a trial basis) an elective Sunday School class on evangelism to be taught by Larry Domagalski and Craig Bradenbaugh

Approved the presentation of an inscribed Bible to Miss Kara Grace Sicko in recognition of her recitation of the Shorter Catechism

Membership

Received Mrs. Joyce Ballenger and Mr. and Mrs. Jimmie Harris as communing members by letters of transfer from Mitchell Road PCA

Received Mr. and Mrs. Mike Downing as communing members by reaffirmation of faith

Received Mr. Henry Harrison, Miss Christina Downing, Miss Grace Brown, Miss Virginia Clark, and Miss Jenna Dodds as communing members by profession of faith

Approved the dismissal of Mr. and Mrs. John Todor to Grace PCA, Spartanburg

Music Committee

Instructed the Music Committee to recommend to the Session a new psalter (for purchase) that contains a reasonable translation of the Psalms set to meter with singable, familiar tunes and that is published with the musical score

Presbytery and General Assembly

Elected RE Mayfield, RE Johnson, and RE Marcinak as commissioners to the Autumn meeting of Calvary Presbytery

Approved overtures to Calvary Presbytery for further presentation to the 46th General Assembly proposing to lower the fee for ruling elder commissioners to General Assembly and to amend the *Book of Church Order* to expand ruling elder participation at General Assembly

Shepherding Matters

Received a presentation by TE Dodds on how to shepherd and counsel someone who is engaged in the sin of pornography

Approved proceeding with charges and specifications and formal discipline against a member for long term absence from corporate worship and non-fulfilment of covenant vows to the church

Appointed an ad hoc committee to investigate charges brought against a member of the church, to attempt reconciliation, and to report back to the Session

Wedding Request

Approved a request for Marshall Hervey to marry Emily Downing at WRPC with TE Anderson officiating

Worship

Approved changing the time of the evening worship service on December 24, 2017 to 5:00 p.m.

“But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.”

MATTHEW 6:6

Pulpit Planner for November-December 2017

AM Sermons

- Nov 5** Dr. David Garner, in the midst of our Missions Conference, preaches “What’s So Great About the Great Commission?” from Matthew 28
- Nov 12** Pastor Robbins resumes the series in 2 Timothy with “Ignorant Disputes and Quarreling” from 2 Timothy 2:23-26
- Nov 19** “Perilous Times Will Come” is the focus of Pastor Robbins’ exposition of 2 Timothy 3:1-9
- Nov 26** 2 Timothy 3:10-12 is the text in view as Pastor Robbins preaches “All the Godly Will Suffer”
- Dec 3** Pastor Robbins begins a mini-series on John 1:14 with “The Word”
- Dec 10** Pastor Robbins continues the December examination of John 1:14, preaching “Became Flesh”
- Dec 17** “He Dwelt Among Us” is the focus of Pastor Robbins’ continuing mini-series on John 1:14
- Dec 24** Pastor Robbins continues in John 1:14 with “We Beheld His Glory”
- Dec 31** “Getting a Higher Perspective” is Pastor Anderson’s focus as he preaches Ecclesiastes 6 & 7

PM Sermons

- Nov 5** Dr. David Garner concludes our Missions Conference by preaching “A Mission That is Out of This World,” from Ephesians 1:3-6
- Nov 12** Pastor Robbins preaches a special Communion sermon to focus our thinking on receiving the sacrament; We will celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion
- Nov 19** After our annual Thanksgiving Feast, Pastor Robbins will preach a special Thanksgiving sermon
- Nov 26** Pastor Anderson preaches Ecclesiastes 5 and 6, “The Limits of Wealth”
- Dec 3** Pastor Robbins introduces a (D.V.) lengthy sermon series through The Book of Judges
- Dec 10** “The Record of the Faithful Tribes” will be the focus of Pastor Robbins’ sermon on Judges 1:1-26
- Dec 17** Pastor Robbins preaches “The Record of the Disobedience of God’s People” from Judges 1:27 through 2:23
- Dec 24** Christmas Eve Service – Pastor Robbins’ focus is on “Full of Grace and Truth” from John 1:14
- Dec 31** Pastor Dodds preaches “The Two Natures of Jesus” from Mark 14

Treasurer's Report

WRPC uses a fiscal year for budgeting purposes that runs April through March. Our budgeted revenues and expenses for 2017/2018 are \$1,200,947. Our current total cash on hand is \$345,000 (three months of operating expenses) and our renovation loan balance is \$655,000.

If you have any questions about our finances, please contact Eddie Roberts or Will Zettler.

Below is the financial report through September 2017.

WOODRUFF ROAD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH					
September 2017					
Accounts	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Budget Remaining	Fav / Unfav	Total Year Budget
Total Revenues	\$ 655,151	\$ 600,000	\$ (55,151)		\$ 1,200,000
Total PERSONNEL	\$ 298,924	\$ 300,018	\$ 1,094		\$ 600,037
Total IN HOUSE MINISTRIES	\$ 25,245	\$ 35,417	\$ 10,173		\$ 70,835
Total FACILITY AND OPERATIONS	\$ 148,697	\$ 138,700	\$ (9,997)		\$ 277,400
Total MISSIONS	\$ 119,083	\$ 126,650	\$ 7,567		\$ 252,675
Total Expenses	\$ 591,949	\$ 600,785	\$ 8,837		\$ 1,200,947
Net Total	\$ 63,202	\$ (785)	\$ (63,988)		\$ (947)

The deacons have several ongoing and upcoming building projects and are always open to designated giving. Some of these projects and needed items are listed below:

- ◆ Steeple Repair
- ◆ New choir chairs
- ◆ Repairing a drainage issue along gym classroom wall
- ◆ Upgrading security cameras

If you are looking to serve and want to find a place to plug-in and help out with our facilities, please ask a deacon and we can get you involved.

Eddie Roberts
Treasurer

“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.”

MATTHEW 7:21



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The radio program *The Presbyterian Pulpit* airs at 9:00 AM every Sunday on 106.3 FM and 1330 or 950 AM.