

*the*  
***Visionary***  
 GENDER ROLES

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# Godly Womanhood

Pastor Carl Robbins

Our culture is hopelessly sunk in androgyny. This is the view that seeks to blend the genders to the point that men and women are no longer distinguishable in appearance or roles. Androgyny tries to make men soft and women hard.

Godly womanhood will look different than godly manhood in many ways. One exception to this is in a woman's VERTICAL relationship to the Triune God which will look exactly like a man's. Woman is made in the image of God just like man; both are justified by faith alone; she is trusting in the exact same God-Man Jesus Christ; and she is indwelt by the exact same Holy Spirit. A woman obeys the same moral law as a man; she is a co-heir of the grace of God (1 Peter 3); and she also has/is an eternal soul. Woman's calling, like man's, is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever.

A woman's PHYSICAL BODY should look very different from a man's. Woman's body was made to receive, grow, and nurture life, whereas man's was not. She was made to be a life-giver, like Eve – the mother of all the living (Genesis 3:20). God so highly esteemed women that He designed them to give life to humanity. He made the survival of the human race to hang on their care and nurture. And so, you see why the Evil One would so diligently foment support for abortion. He wishes to gut a key part of the glory of womanhood. Some women ARE called to singleness, but many (most) are called to marriage and motherhood. They will find happiness and deep satisfaction in this way of life.

Sidebar - So, what about UNMARRIED women? Are they second-class? No, a thousand times no! A woman doesn't become a godly woman when she gets married, in the same way a man doesn't need marriage to be masculine.

Our Lord Jesus was single, enough said. Single womanhood is a gift (1 Cor 7) - the single woman has been brought into the family of God, His Church. Her "helper design" (see below) shines and flourishes in the church as she gladly submits to and follows her elders.

MATURE womanhood is in view in Titus 2:3, where Paul tells us that older women are to be "reverent," i.e., devout, pious worshippers. They are also to take seriously their mandate to be teachers of younger women and "spiritual mothers," modeling Proverbs 31 for young women.

A woman's HORIZONTAL relationships should be very different from a man's. This is seen throughout the history of the evangelical church by some God-used books such as:

*Female Piety: A Young Woman's Friend and Guide*, written by John A. James in 1860

The fine book (studied by our women's group a few years ago) entitled *Womanly Dominion*, penned in 2008 by Mark Chanski

The emphasis in each of these volumes is that a woman is meant to see the world and her duties and calling completely differently than a man.

Godly womanhood means seeing one's self as a "helper" (Genesis 2:18-20) as this was God's unique role given to Eve. (Adam was NOT created as a helper for Eve!) The Apostle Paul reiterates this in 1 Cor 11:9. Woman does not help from a position of inferiority but as complementary to man. So, men can never legitimately say that they don't need women. God said that it was "not good" for Adam to be alone, so He created Eve to complement him, not to compete with him.

Parenting - Raising sons and parenting daughters will look very different since there are different goals with boys than with girls. Again, the culture wants to make boys soft and girls

hard. Resist the world! Do not be pressed into its mold. (We always told our daughter to steer clear of boys that smelled better than her and cared more about their appearance than she did.)

Lastly, godly womanhood is deeply concerned with modesty. Both the Apostles, Paul and Peter, address this bluntly (1 Timothy 2:9-10; 1 Peter 3:3). But, modesty is NOT the same as frumpiness; it simply avoids extravagance and public sensuality. The godly woman always bears in mind Proverbs 31:30, *“Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.”*

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Pastor Carl Robbins  
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*“Wives,  
likewise, be submissive  
to your own husbands,  
that even if some do not  
obey the word, they,  
without a word, may be  
won by the conduct of  
their wives.”*

1 P E T E R 3 : 1

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# Godly Manhood

Pastor Dan Dodds

Two words. Each one can require pages of material to define and qualify, especially in this culture. But I'll just touch on the big points and perhaps spur the reader on to other sources for deeper understanding.

Because we're talking about *godly* manhood, we'll not trouble ourselves with the culture's take on the subject; Pastor Anderson's article can address that. Rather, let's begin with the biblical view of what it is to be a man.

Clearly, the Scriptures teach us that God made man and woman separately. The man was created from the dust, the woman from the man – they are not the same in origin. The difference in chromosomal structure, the man having XY chromosomes while the woman has XX, suggests that God wanted that distinction to remain intact in spite of our sinful desire to erase it. No amount of hormonal treatments or surgery will ever change the structure in the DNA. Another biological distinction (other than organs) is body strength; men typically have more physical strength than women. But are these the only differences?

When we try to describe what it is to be male or female apart from the obvious physical distinctions, it can get a little dicey. For example, we might say that men need to be brave, but does this allow women to be cowardly? Being a woman throughout most of history has required strength of character that we might consider bravery. We could add words such as 'take initiative' or 'lead,' often associated with men, and find that women frequently need such character qualities as well. 'Toughness' is another. I know plenty of women who've had to be tough in very difficult circumstances. In fact, it was their toughness (recognizing the role of God's grace) that held them together in these circumstances.

Rather than trying to find a character quality that can be isolated to one or the other sex, it is perhaps better to look at the question from the perspective of role: Do men and women have different roles? If you are trying to define a godly man (or woman) from Scripture, the answer is clearly "yes." At the level of man and woman, God has spelled out certain specific roles that each is to play. Let's look at several Scriptures on this issue.

First, we read in Genesis 2:18, *"And the LORD God said, 'It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.'"* Pastor Robbins will flesh out the godly woman issue, but here we note that if the woman is to be a man's helper, the man must have some work to which he is called. An important distinction has already appeared. The man is to be oriented to his work and the wife is to be oriented to her husband in coming alongside to help him achieve that work. Thus, if any man believes that his foremost responsibility is to help his wife achieve her career aims, he is already out of sync with the biblical model. So, what is it that the man is to do? The answer is found in the creation mandate.

The creation mandate is found in Genesis 1:28: *"Then God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.'"* We see that God gave the man and his wife the mandate to multiply (we might say here, marry and multiply) and exercise dominion over the creation.

Now, that leaves a whole lot of open field, doesn't it? Exercising dominion can cover a myriad of vocations (callings) from street cleaning to neuroscience. And though the category is very wide, the Bible is helpful in telling us when we move to unlawful vocations.

Given this wide variety, we still want to ask the question: “Is there anything that all men have in common regardless of their calling?” The answer is “yes,” and, of course, it is also found in Scripture.

We read in Genesis 2:15, “Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it.” The words ‘tend’ and ‘keep’ are very helpful in getting us to a more specific understanding. In Rick Phillip’s book, *The Masculine Mandate*, he includes the following description:

**Work:** to labor to make things grow... (including) nurturing, cultivating, tending, building up, guiding, and ruling.

**Keep:** to protect and to sustain progress already achieved...(including) guarding, keeping safe, watching over, caring for, and maintaining.

What these responsibilities will look like varies from calling to calling, but they are a great beginning in answering the question, “What is godly manhood?”. And remember, this is not just in taking dominion but in raising a family as well.

In conclusion, we can look at other passages in Scripture and see roles to which men, and only men, are called. In the church, elders and deacons are offices to be held only by men. In the civil realm we could argue that men are designed by God to be the front-line fighters in battle. Of course, there too are many murky waters into which we might wade where the clarity of role is not so black and white. Those are beyond the scope of this article and should be considered with the help of your pastor and elder.

Pastor Dan Dodds  
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*“Husbands, likewise,  
dwell with them with  
understanding, giving  
honor to the wife, as to the  
weaker vessel, and  
as being heirs together of  
the grace of life, that your  
prayers may not be  
hindered.”*

1 PETER 3:7

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# Making Gender Distinctions

Pastor Scotty Anderson

Why in the world do we have to write about making gender distinctions? (That's not exasperation, it's a real question.) The answer: Because at key points in our world - the places where the rules are made and enforced, where voices are the most amplified, and where the consequences are applied most painfully - binary gender distinctions are being vilified and erased. It is the apex (so we hope) of the postmodernist societal deconstruction bent on erasing all hierarchies to obliterate the distinction between men and women. Following are five reasons to make gender distinctions and five ways to encourage them in our thinking and our world.

The creation account by itself gives a sufficient argument for making gender distinctions. First, biological maleness and femaleness are part of the created order for higher life forms: *"So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them."* (Gen 1:27) Second, like all the animals to which Adam was introduced, man also was given a companion suitable for him: the woman taken from man. She was a helper *"fit"* for him. (Gen 2:18, 20) This means she would be a counterpart that fit together with him. It was a physical compatibility at the simplest level (but even more than that). Third, from the physical compatibility came the biological possibility of multiplication (Gen 1:28) which was not possible until someone was fit for him. Fourth, the Bible, and Adam in particular, celebrates the appearance of a fellow human in possession of obvious distinctions: *"This is now bone of my bones And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man."* (Gen 2:23) Fifth, this is the means by which the dominion mandate is fulfilled and the expansion into the world takes place. After the creation of male and female, God *"blessed them"* and gave them the

five-fold commands to: *"be fruitful," "multiply," "fill the earth," "subdue"* and *"have dominion."* Implicit here is that together, according to their creation as *"male and female,"* they would be able to obey God in these commands.

Now as to preserving God's design and intention, there are things that we ought to think and do on a very practical level. I recommend we start with areas such as the use of two gender pronouns and biologically determined restrooms. But there are things beyond this for thinking Christians to do.

First, in the **church**, we need to resist dismissing gender roles. Everywhere in evangelical, and even PCA, churches these distinctions are being intentionally played down with diaconates including females, women teaching Sunday School classes attended by men, and women leading worship and reading Scripture publicly. All this is being done in spite of the clear apostolic teaching on the subject (1 Tim 2:8-15). There's no reason for the church to be any more embarrassed by having clearly delineated gender roles than we are of the penal substitutionary atonement. It's what the Bible teaches and what we believe.

Second, in **parenting and raising children**, as a community we need to preserve gender roles. Boys should not be made into girls and girls should not be made into boys. It's right and good to emphasize the nature of a boy and the nature of a girl with appropriate toys, celebrations of manliness and femininity, suitable play opportunities (i.e., rough-housing for boys or playing house for girls), and frequently telling them what they are supposed to be. That doesn't mean that we don't teach our boys self-control and civility or that we don't ask our girls to do hard work. But we do strive to foster a world for

them in which they get to be and have celebrated what they actually are.

Third, in **education**, it's right and good to honor gender distinctions. The current educational fad is to push women into STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) because of the disproportionate male dominance in these fields. It's as if there is something unnatural or inappropriate about being disinclined (or inclined) to a certain kind of work and study. We flourish individually and as a culture when educational pursuit is balanced between inclination and utility, not by coercing conformity to an artificial outcome. Likewise, in the educational context, while there are a few occasions when mixed athletics might be okay, girls ought to be protected from the disproportionate strength of boys and boys ought to be protected from the moral conundrum of competing against girls (winning is shameful but losing is even more shameful).

**Vocation** follows closely to education and we need to be guarded here. The Bible does not say that women are not allowed to work outside the home. However, it does say that young women, particularly in the context of being married and having children, are to be *"homemakers/working at home"* which is a single Greek word. (Titus 2:4-6, cf 1 Tim 5:14) The pattern of work that we follow and encourage ought to reflect our situation and context. In general, a man ought to be outside the home, in the world, working to provide for himself and his family. Likewise, a woman should be working in the home if she is a wife and mother or working outside the home if her circumstances dictate (without able husband or children). But, even then, her work should be appropriate to her gender. Combat military positions, dangerous professions, or work that requires a woman to become masculine ought to be avoided. At the same time, we have to be broadminded enough to see that the Bible recognizes a host of outside-the-home jobs that women do (shepherdess, judge, trading, tentmaking, etc.). The point is that some

vocations fit better than others based on gender distinctions and we do much better when we honor those.

Finally, we should mention appropriate **dress**. Fashion is important and biblical. Along with the call to modesty (1 Tim 2:9-10; 1 Peter 3:3-4) there is a call to gender distinction. In Deuteronomy 22:5 the Lord's view of the transvestite is made quite clear: *"A woman shall not wear anything that pertains to a man, nor shall a man put on a woman's garment, for all who do so are an abomination to the Lord your God."* Even though everyone would have been wearing some version of a dress or robe at that time, the clothes still accentuated gender distinctions. Men and boys need to look like what they are and ought to be discouraged, if not condemned, for dressing against the created order. Women, likewise.

God made us two for this world, male and female. It takes a ridiculous amount of brainwashing to overcome that. Unfortunately, this amount of brainwashing is happening all around us. We must be careful to exercise biblical wisdom and discernment for there are issues here that may apply differently in different situations. There are also exceptional circumstances and areas of freedom. But, the bottom line is that God abhors the male, made female, and the female, made male. Such can never generate His blessing. Thus, it is always worth thinking very hard about any situation that goes against the flow of nature but even much, much more so, the Scripture.

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# What They're Reading

Reading recommendations from the pastoral staff

## Pastor Robbins

What is keeping YOU from prayer, personal interaction with other believers, service, devotional reading, being present with your spouse and children, and more? Could it be your phone? Tony Reinke has penned a 200-page book you MUST read, entitled *12 Ways Your Phone is Changing You*. Parents, Reinke will show you that it is probably unwise to put a smartphone in the hands of a child, or even an adolescent, knowing how much maturity and self-control it takes to use one wisely and as a careful steward.

Every era of the church has its heresies and ours is certainly no exception. For over 60 years the American evangelical church has been plagued by "The Prosperity Gospel." Kate Bowler has provided a marvelous analysis by penning *Blessed: A History of the American Prosperity Gospel*. She has done years of careful, on-site study, completely immersing herself in the nutty sphere of everyone from Benny Hinn to Joyce Meyer. Her research is impeccable, especially evident in "Appendix B: Naming Names," which shows the reader the vocabulary of this movement. The only criticism I'd have is that she does not engage in enough theological critique and correction of this horrendous movement.

Finally, I urge you to read anything you see by the contemporary Scottish theologian Donald Macleod. He always stays right in the middle of the fairway and does not get into the weeds of speculation. I was handed *The Spirit of Promise* (a study of the Person and Work of the Holy Spirit) while in seminary and immediately became a fan. His *Behold Your God* is one of the finest studies on the attributes of God that is in print. I have most recently delighted in Macleod's *Christ Crucified: Understanding the Atonement*. After carefully

studying the Passion narratives, Macleod delves deeply into Substitution in a way that brings the reader to fall down and worship Christ. Then, the bulk of this marvelous tome is taken up with what the Cross has achieved: Expiation, Propitiation, Reconciliation, Justification, Redemption, and so much more. This is not light reading, but it will repay the careful student and take you from immaturity to wisdom.

## Pastor Dodds

*The Glory of Christ*, R.C. Sproul. While this is basic theology, it is a great (and typical) R.C. Sproul take on the many ways Christ reveals His glory throughout His life.

*The Sea Was in Their Blood: The Disappearance of the Miss Ally's Five-Man Crew*, Quentin Casey. This diversionary book describes the lives of several young men who were fisherman off the coast of Nova Scotia. I think it might be best described as a maritime version of Hillbilly Elegy.

*Becoming a Welcoming Church*, Thom Rainer. Do visitors feel welcomed at WRPC? This book does a nice job covering the many facets of what it takes to be a church that is hospitable to visitors. HINT: It requires a lot more than a friendly smile.

*The Creedal Imperative*, Carl Trueman. The author provides an excellent, succinct presentation of why we are a confessional church. He includes scriptural support as well as historical analysis of the development and contents of the various creeds of the faith.

## Pastor Anderson

As far as books from unbelievers go, *12 Rules for Life: An Antidote to Chaos*, by Jordan B. Peterson, is an all-time great in the "self-help" genre. If you choose to read this, make sure your apologetics are up to it. Peterson calls himself a

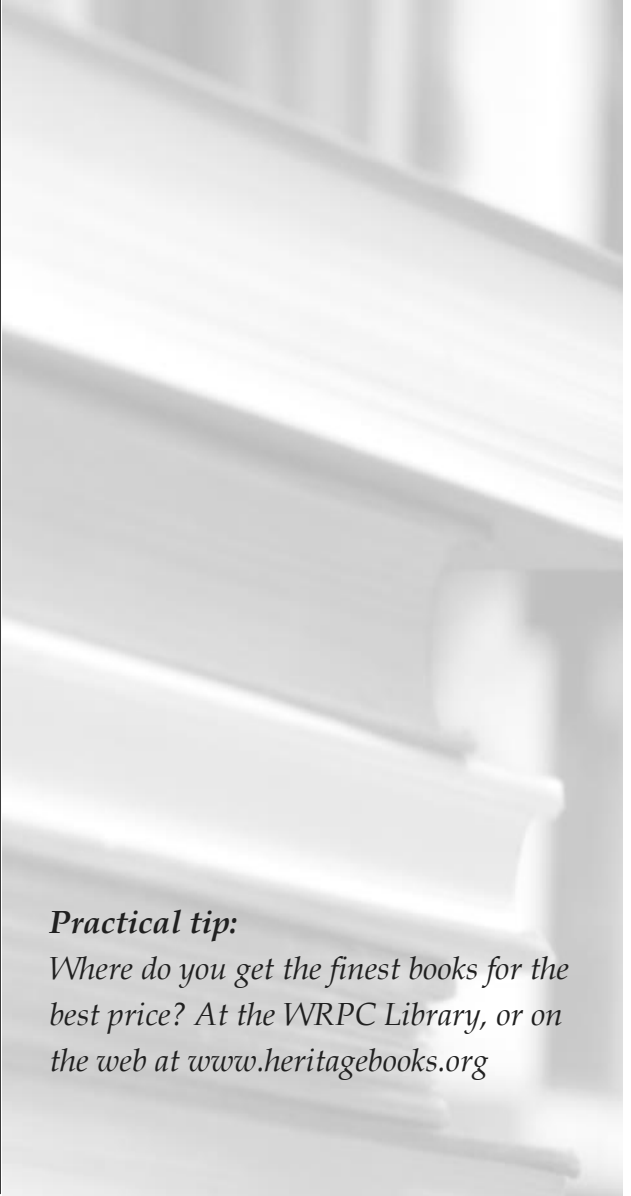


Christian but his Christianity is unrecognizable since he doesn't seem to actually believe in God but likes well enough the idea of the God of the Bible. Plenty of Christians have evaluated both the book and its author and rightly criticized him for where he is far from the Faith. But that doesn't mean his work is profitless. His criticism of modern day identity politics, postmodernism, Marxism, and contemporary feminism are devastating. He gives you a sense that you're neither crazy nor a hateful bigot for holding to the views you probably do. He comes up short in teleology (purpose) for his exhortation because he doesn't believe in a personal, divine Law-Giver. Even still, there is useful cultural examination that provides sanity to our modern context. Read it with your guard up, but read it.

David Powlison's, *How Does Sanctification Work?*, is a short and helpful treatise on how to read the Bible and allow it to "unbalance us" so as to bring needed change within ourselves. Powlison is a master illustrator and with a few words or a simple diagram can revolutionize our understanding of how God works on us. More than anything, this book is helpful in doing justice to the multitude of motives and means by which believers are sanctified and warns against being overly simplistic by attempting to describe every person's problem and its solution in the same way. It's certain that the Bible doesn't.

Lastly, Steven Mansfield's, *The Search for God and Guinness: A Biography of the Beer That Changed the World*, was a discovery and a delight. I learned some amazing things about the history of beer. St. Patrick evangelized Britain with his brew master, Mescan, at his side. It was Luther who said, "Do not suppose that abuses are eliminated by destroying the object which is abused. Men can go wrong with wine and women. Shall we then prohibit and abolish women?" Beer was a major, but rarely told, part of the story of the Pilgrims on the Mayflower and of the New England Puritans. In particular, this book tells the story of the godly and wise Arthur Guinness (of

the famed Guinness Stout Porter) and how he parlayed his beer into the Irish Sunday school movement, hospitals, and social reforms (anti-dueling), at least in part under the preaching of both John Wesley and George Whitefield.



***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](http://www.heritagebooks.org)*

# *New Members & Baptisms*



**Eric & Connie Arehart**

*Membership Vows*

April 1, 2018

With son Andrew

# *tyed, Covenant Children*

**Joe & Katherine Hoerl**

*Membership Vows*

February 18, 2018

With children Caroline, Abigail,  
Phillip, and Suzanna



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# Safety Update from the Diaconate

Deacon Shawn Speakman

If you've watched the news over the last few years, you don't need me to tell you that the world is a different place than it was ten, five, or even one year ago. The days are long gone of leaving our doors unlocked, letting our children run unsupervised around the neighborhood with the only instruction being "be home before dark," and Barney Fife keeping his one bullet in his pocket.

Considering the deterioration of society's view toward Christians and the times individuals have taken to violent acts against churches, the WRPC Diaconate has an intensified focus on safety. While there has not been any specific issue, threat, or circumstance at WRPC that causes us concern, we believe it is our responsibility to be diligent and proactive in our efforts toward the safety of God's house and His people. As such, there are new safety measures that have been put in place and others that are in the works.

The deacons are on a heightened awareness for any unusual activity or situations and at least one deacon has the specific responsibility for safety during each worship service. Ushers will soon go through a new training session that will cover various safety topics.

All exterior church doors are now locked during worship services, fellowship, and Sunday school. We recognize this may be inconvenient at times, but we strive to have at least one deacon or designated person in the narthex to let people in. We have also installed an emergency "lock down" button inside the Deacons' Office that immediately locks all exterior doors when pressed. A second button is scheduled to be installed in the narthex to be easily accessible to everyone.

The lights in the parking lot have been upgraded to LED to provide a higher quality of light. The two lights at the back of the property,

near GCA, have been ordered and should be installed soon. These lights are brighter and allow for directional adjustments. We are also in the process of upgrading security cameras and adding cameras in key locations.

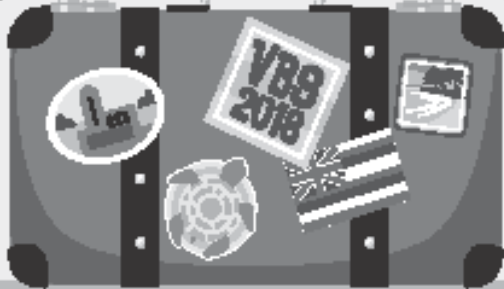
In the event of a potential situation, quick communication to several people will be very important. We will soon have two-way radios for ushers and deacons as well as the Nursery Monitor station.

Some time ago the table for collecting money on Wednesday nights was moved into the hallway and the deacons have maintained a presence in this area for safety and security reasons. Just this week (May 2) we began using a Greenville County Deputy for extra security on church property on Wednesday nights. This will most likely continue at various functions such as Vacation Bible School, etc.

If you have any questions about the safety and security measures of WRPC, please feel free to contact one of the deacons.

# VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2018

**THE  
SCOTTISH SLEUTHS**



**AND THE CASE OF THE  
DISCIPLES' DISTINCTIVES**



At Woodruff Road  
Presbyterian Church

2519 Woodruff Road Simpsonville, SC 29681 864.297.5257  
www.woodruffroad.com

**JUNE 18-22**

8:45 – 12 noon

JOIN US

AS WE STUDY

THE CASE OF THE  
DISCIPLES'  
DISTINCTIVES

We will be Investigating what it means to be one of Jesus' disciples. Disciples are CALLED to follow, CONFRONTED with their sin, COMMITTED to Jesus Christ, CHANGED by the Holy Spirit, and COMMISSIONED to make new disciples.

All children are welcome: Rising 1st through 6th grades (ages 6-11, by Sept. 1)  
Kids, Invite your neighbors, cousins and friends!

Preschool classes for ages 3-5 available to WRPC families only,  
ages 0-2 years for children of VBS staff only  
(Parents, this is a great reason to volunteer!)

Register Online May 7 - June 11 at [www.woodruffroad.com](http://www.woodruffroad.com)  
No registrations will be accepted after June 11.

Any questions? Contact Heather Hughes at [heatherchughes@hotmail.com](mailto:heatherchughes@hotmail.com)  
or Danielle Roberts at [ellebelleinsc@gmail.com](mailto:ellebelleinsc@gmail.com)

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# Youth Activities

Pastor Scotty Anderson

We are quickly approaching our summer conferences for Middle and High School students and Vacation Bible School for elementary age children. As a quick reminder, these are part of a comprehensive plan to grow up our kids into maturity.

As always, the heart of these activities is the biblical teaching that takes place. But that's not the only part or we'd just send you a few sermons to listen to and we could save a LOT of time, money, energy, and sleep. The soul of these intense weeks is that what takes place, takes place together.

The teaching is part of a unified theme learned in the company of fellow believers. The activities (whether a VBS craft or beach volleyball tournament) take place together.

The meals happen together. It's very much like the sacramental life of the church (no, I'm not saying VBS is a sacrament!) in that more is happening than what's obvious in the material aspects of it. It's not just spoken words, water, wine, or bread.

Neither is it just a busy week. In these occasions with our young people they are experiencing intense connections with each other, centered around Gospel truths, making precious memories, traveling roads together (whether to recreation or to Florida), singing the truths of the Bible, and sharing in emotions they don't normally have in the everyday.

That's right, I'm endorsing the emotional aspects of camp. God calls us to share in emotions: *"Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion."* Romans 12:15-16

In the same way we can unite over a college football team or through the hardship of basic

military training or experiencing a concert together, these exceptional weeks in the year are part of the ordinary way in which we strengthen bonds with the church of Jesus Christ, both locally and universally.

- ◆ June 18-22 – Vacation Bible School at WRPC
- ◆ July 9-14 – Senior High RYM - Panama City Beach, FL (Week #2)
- ◆ July 23-27 – Junior High / Middle School Conference - Ridge Haven, NC

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# Women In The Church (WIC)

Betty Smith, WIC President

By the time you read this, our Spring Bible studies will be completed. The *Seeing Jesus in the Old Testament* study was quite meaningful and helped us gain a better perspective on how the entire Old Testament points to Christ. Watch for announcements toward the end of Summer concerning Fall Bible studies. We hope you'll join us in the Fall.

In April we were blessed by our annual Women's Retreat. This is a special time for our women to take a break from their regular routine and to be filled with teaching from a guest speaker, to have fellowship with other women, to relax and have lunch together, to grow friendships, and to grow in the Lord.

With Bible study and the Women's Retreat over, it's important that we continue growing/fostering fellowship and friendships among the women in our church. So, we will have planned fellowship opportunities throughout the remainder of the year. If you signed up for a small fellowship group you should have been contacted about planning your meetings. I hope you enjoy this special time together and make some new friends. We will also be having several large group events. On May 1<sup>st</sup> our first such event was Dinner and Dessert at Crepe du Jour. If you missed it, please look for the next event in the coming months.

Finally, I'd like to mention that it seems as if we (WIC) aren't connecting with a large number of the women in our church. Of the est. 170 women at WRPC approximately 60 signed up for the two Bible studies, 75 for the women's retreat, 60 for small fellowship groups, and 70 for committees. I'm encouraged by this but would love to see so many more of you enjoying the blessings of our women's group. If you aren't involved, please consider joining us. You will be richly blessed with glorious fellowship, new

friends, and a stronger walk with the Lord. If you are already involved, please invite others to join us and let us encourage each other in the Lord.

Hebrews 13:16, *"Do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased."*

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## *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).**

# Men at the Gates—Upcoming: Our 50<sup>th</sup> Book!

Pastor Dan Dodds

For this edition of the *Visionary* I decided to use the “Men’s Ministry” section to highlight a great accomplishment that began twelve years ago: **our next book will be our 50<sup>th</sup> book!!** Take a look at what we’ve read so far:

## Holiness

Manly Dominion

How To Be a Christian in a Brave New World

Don't Waste Your Life

Sinners in the Hands of An Angry God

Knowing God

Letters to heads of home/directory for worship

Pilgrim's Progress

The Sum of the Christian Life - Ch 7 Book 3

Helping People Change

Reverence and Awe

Respectable Sins

Persuasions

Five Minute Church Historian

The Screwtape Letters

The Hidden Smile of God

Pleasing People

Amusing Ourselves to Death

The Children's Story

Knowing Scripture

The Final Word

The Masculine Mandate

The Peacemaker

What Did You Expect?

Legacy of Sovereign Joy

## Think

Lit! A Christian Guide to Reading Books

Christ of the Covenants

Robinson Crusoe

Worldliness (World)

The Enemy Within (Flesh)

Men Counseling Men

Pilgrim's Progress

Delighting in the Trinity

Mere Christianity

Carry a Big Stick

The Hole in our Holiness

Shackleton - Endurance

Confessions

What Does the Bible Really Teach about

Homosexuality

One or Two

Relational Wisdom

It's Your Ship

John Piper - Are there two wills in God?

Jonathan Edwards on Contentment

The Secret of Contentment

Finally Free (pornography)

Christ of the Covenants

Amazing Grace

Trusting God

These books cover a variety of topics including biographies, counseling, sanctification, leadership, theology, history, relationships, apologetics, and philosophy. If you began with us 12 years ago, you could look back and see a great accomplishment. So, what's in store for the next 12 years? To the right are just a few options.

Our next book is *John G. Paton: Missionary to the Cannibals of the South Seas*. This is an exciting biography you won't want to miss. Join us on Tuesdays at 6:15 AM in the church library or on Thursdays at 12:15 at IHOP.





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# Pulpit Planner for March-April 2018

## AM Sermons

- May 6** Pastor Robbins will continue his series on “The Sermon on the Mount” by examining Matthew 5:8, “The Pure in Heart”
- May 13** Matthew 5:9 will be the focus of Pastor Robbins’ sermon, “The Peacemakers”
- May 20** “Persecuted for Righteousness Sake” is the subject of Pastor Robbins’ exposition of Matthew 5:10-12
- May 27** Pastor Anderson unfolds Ecclesiastes 9, “More on the Limits of Wisdom”
- June 3** Ecclesiastes 10, “Accepting Realities,” is the subject of Pastor Anderson’s message
- June 10** Pastor Dodds will be expounding Mark 14, “Jesus Stands Trial.” The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be served.
- June 17** Pastor Robbins resumes “The Sermon on the Mount” series by preaching Matthew 5:13-16, focusing on “Salt & Light.” After the service there will be a brief congregational meeting to elect new elders and deacons.
- June 24** “The Sanctity of the Law” is in view as Pastor Robbins examines Matthew 5:17-20

## PM Sermons

- May 6** Pastor Robbins continues in the Book of Judges by preaching on “Rampant Evil and God’s Discipline” from Judges 9
- May 13** “Renewed Apostasy” is the focus of Pastor Robbins’ sermon on Judges 10. The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be served.
- May 20** One of the most enigmatic characters in the Bible is the subject of Pastor Robbins’ exposition of Judges 11, “Jephthah Rejected and Restored”
- May 27** Pastor Dodds expounds Mark 14, “Betrayal”
- June 3** Pastor Anderson proclaims the message of Ecclesiastes 11, “A Path of Wisdom for a Fleeting Life”
- June 10** “A Path of Faith Before Life Ends,” from Ecclesiastes 12, is the focus of Pastor Anderson’s exposition
- June 17** Judges 11 provides the text for Pastor Robbins’ sermon on “Jephthah’s Dispute with the Ammonites”
- June 24** Pastor Robbins preaches on one of the most difficult and confusing texts in all of Scripture: Judges 11, “Jephthah’s Foolish Vow”

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# Minutes and Actions of the Session

C.F. Marcinak, Clerk of Session

## Administration

Continued to review and oversee the training of those nominated for church office.

Received regular reports from the Treasurer on church finances. The Lord greatly blessed WRPC in fiscal year 2017 (ended March 31, 2018) with actual spending well below budgeted levels and revenues well in excess of budgeted levels. At our March meeting, RE Bradenbaugh led the Session in prayers of thanksgiving for the Lord's blessings and for the congregation's faithfulness in giving.

Approved the annual budget for fiscal year 2018, with total budgeted spending of \$1,300,850. The areas your faithful tithes are supporting include:

- ◆ Missions spending of \$268,395.00, including supporting missionaries who are preaching the Word in Peru, Brazil, Haiti, Germany, Hungary, Romania, Honduras, Albania, and elsewhere
- ◆ RUF ministers who are faithfully laboring on nearby college campuses
- ◆ Greenville Presbyterian Theological Seminary
- ◆ Financial support for Justin Salinas as he studies to be a minister of the gospel
- ◆ Vacation Bible School
- ◆ A new piano for the sanctuary
- ◆ WRPC's debt for the 2013-14 renovation being paid off on an accelerated schedule

- ◆ Church plants in our local area
- ◆ Calvary Home for Children
- ◆ The broadcasting of Pastor Robbins' sermons on radio, locally, and in the mountain West

## Presbytery and General Assembly

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

## Membership

Approved the dismissal of Mrs. Julie Harrelson Worley to Fellowship PCA, Greer

Received Mr. and Mrs. Eric Arehart as communing members along with son Andrew as a non-communing member

## Shepherding Matters

Continued to shepherd the flock and to visit and pray for the sick

# Treasurer's Report

Eddie Roberts, WRPC Treasurer

This Treasurer's Report reflects the end of WRPC's 2017/2018 fiscal year (April 1, 2017-March 31, 2018) so there is a bit more information than normal. As you can see by the numbers below, we had a very good fiscal year. We received \$281,704.00 over our budgeted income. We also spent \$5100 less than our budgeted expenses. The session approved an increase to the 2017/2018 budget in the March meeting so that the piano in the sanctuary can be replaced. Also, as previously approved, we set aside monies in order to fund a complete site survey of our property.

WOODRUFF ROAD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH					
March 2018 - YEAR END					
Accounts	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Budget Remaining	Fav/Unfav	Total Year Budget
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$1,481,704.81</b>	<b>\$1,200,000.00</b>	<b>(\$281,704.81)</b>	Fav	<b>\$ 1,200,000</b>
Total PERSONNEL	\$600,982.04	\$600,036.00	(\$946.04)	Unfav	\$ 600,037
Total IN HOUSE MINISTRIES	\$105,885.69	\$120,835.00	\$14,949.31	Fav	\$ 120,835
Total FACILITY AND OPERATIONS	\$294,179.50	\$287,400.00	(\$6,779.50)	Fav	\$ 287,400
Total MISSIONS	\$254,797.90	\$252,675.00	(\$2,122.90)	Fav	\$ 252,675
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$1,255,845.13</b>	<b>\$1,260,946.00</b>	<b>\$5,100.87</b>	Fav	<b>\$ 1,260,947</b>
<b>Net Total</b>	<b>\$225,859.68</b>	<b>(\$60,946.00)</b>	<b>(\$286,805.68)</b>	Fav	<b>\$ (60,947)</b>

As of the end of March 2018 WRPC had \$615,000 in restricted funds. Of this amount, \$321,000 is our operating reserve, \$50,000 is reserved for the new piano, \$10,000 for the site survey, and \$17,000 is allocated to facility reinvestment. The diaconal accounts have a balance of \$52,000, and the remainder is for various missions and contingency funds.

In February, we refinanced our mortgage. When we renovated our building in 2013, the loan that we took out was a 20-year loan with a 5-year ARM, meaning, in 5 years we would have to refinance under whatever loan product or interest rate available. We refinanced a little early and were able to get a 10-year fixed-rate this time. We were also able to pay \$100,000 down which lowered our loan balance to \$534,000.

The Lord has graciously blessed our church! In the Book of Church Order (BCO), Chapter 9 deals with the office of deacon. Most people know that we as deacons deal with benevolence issues and the physical needs of the body but, in BCO 9-2, after speaking of the aforementioned duties, it speaks to "develop(ing) the grace of liberality in the members of the church." While I'm sure deacons at other churches have to deal with this, our diaconate does not because this congregation gives so faithfully! So, let me exhort you to continue to give cheerfully so that, through your abundance and sufficiency, we might be equipped as a church for every good work! (2 Cor 9:6-14)

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In the March joint Session and Diaconate meeting the Session approved the fiscal year 2018-2019 budget. The budget was passed with forecasted revenues of \$1,300,000 and expenses of \$1,300,850. Noted additions to this budget are:

- Pastors' and Administrator's cost of living increases
- Additional funds for pastoral conferences
- Additional funds for WIC conference
- Raised property maintenance and facility reinvestment amounts
- Added budget lines for new office furniture/ renovations and security
- Increased missions spending by \$15,000

The missions committee now has funds to take on new missionaries. Also, the committee recommended that all our church planting missionaries receive a 4% cost of living increase. All of this was included in the new budget.

If you have any questions about this report or our finances in general, please don't hesitate to ask.

Eddie Roberts  
WRPC Treasurer

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*“So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”*

GENESIS 1: 27-28



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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.