

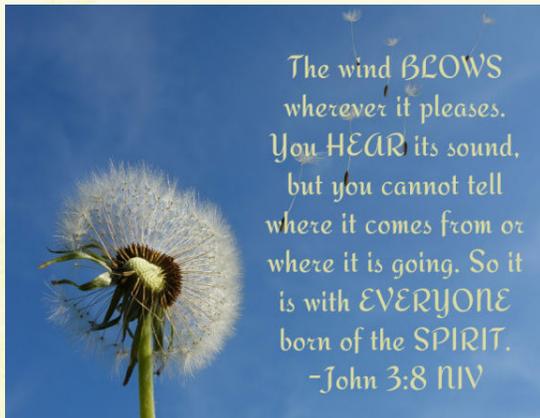


THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

KCPC's 15th Anniversary Celebration

"Knowing the love of Christ together with all the saints." - Eph. 3:18-19

Week Ending April 7th, 2018



Congregational Memory Verse for 2018—KCPC's 15th anniversary! "For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ." -2 Peter 1:5-8

Prepare for worship by spending time in prayer each Saturday evening, preparing your hearts for the Lord's Day and praying for the worship of our God. Pray for the Holy Spirit's blessing on the preaching of the Word and our fellowship!

Our seminar on the Holy Spirit will continue this week in the adult Sunday school class.

A congregational meeting will be held this Sunday, April 8th after morning worship to vote on candidate Bob Trombadore for elder. Bob has completed his training and written and oral exams and has been certified as a candidate by the Session; feel free to speak with him about any questions you may have.

Evening worship this Lord's Day at 6pm; we will continue our series through John and enjoy a fellowship meal together.

French Creek Bible Camp will feature Pastor Biggs as the keynote speaker this summer, Aug. 6th-11th. He will teach on the topic of "The Parables of Jesus." If you're considering a family camp, especially for your middle school-aged students, consider French Creek Bible Camp (located just north of Philadelphia). Pick up a brochure from the table in the narthex, and if you have any questions, ask Pastor Biggs.

Missions March may be over, but the mission continues! For more information on outreach and evangelism, please go to www.outwardopc.com; if you are interested in short-term missions, opportunities to consider can be found at <https://www.opcstm.org>.

Lowell Ivey's testimony of God's saving grace can be seen at www.youtube.com/watch?v=38yMUYoX38w; he now pastors Reformation OPC in Virginia Beach.

Women's Bible studies meet in the daytime on 2nd & 4th Tuesdays 12:30-2:30pm, going through William W. Harrell's *Let's Study 1st Peter* (contact Joanie Leake at j2leake@gmail.com for details), and in the evening on 1st & 3rd Tuesdays at 7pm, studying Ecclesiastes using Zack Eswine's book *Recovering Eden* (for more information, contact Margaret Biggs at missmargaretbiggs@comcast.net).

*"Who has seen the wind? Neither I nor you:
But when the leaves hang trembling,
the wind is passing through.
Who has seen the wind? Neither you nor I:
But when the trees bow down their heads,
the wind is passing by."
-Christina Rosetti*

A Study of the Shorter Catechism “Speaking Well of God, Part 1”

-Rev. Charles R. Biggs

An Explanation, Continued: During times of suffering and conflict, we should desire to have Job’s heart and mouth, so that we can praise the LORD, saying: “Shall we receive good from God, and shall we not receive evil?” God commended Job for praising His name even in difficulty: “In all this Job did not sin with his lips” (Job 2:10b). God is good to all creation, to both the just and the unjust, and His goodness and lovingkindness is intended to lead all men to repentance (Ps. 104:14-15, 27-34; Mt. 5:45; Rom. 2:4). God will judge unrepentant sinners who fail to acknowledge His name and dishonor Him by living in ungrateful idolatry in spite of His clear revelation (Rom. 1:19-32).

Failure to pray is also failure to keep the Third Commandment. God commands His people to pray, believing that He will hear and bless us beyond what we could ask or imagine (2 Chr. 7:14; Mt. 6:6-7; 26:41; Eph. 6:18-20; 1 Thes. 5:17). We fail to pray because we do not believe God is good, kind, and merciful, or because of doubt that keeps us from looking to Christ for all things (Jas. 1:5ff). God has sworn by His own name to be good to all those who call on Him in Christ! Let us honor His name by praying in faith (Isa. 29:13-14). As Calvin wrote, “Just as we are prohibited from taking [God’s name] in vain, so we are commanded to use it to His glory, by ascribing to Him all honor for strength, goodness, help, and comfort. This we do when we ask and expect these things from Him.”

Taking God’s holy name in vain also includes speaking carelessly, irreverently, or inappropriately concerning Him. Our irreverent culture does not uphold God’s honor and name, and even in the church there is much irreverence rather than the fear of the LORD. Let our mouths reflect hearts that fear God, not merely avoiding worldly talk, profanity, and foul, unedifying speech, but acknowledging God and honoring His name by using our mouths to praise His goodness rather than complaining, to sing loudly of His faithfulness, to speak well of Him with our Spirit-tamed tongues for His honor and glory alone, even when we don’t feel like it! The Apostle Paul teaches us not to let corrupting talk come out of our mouths, but to use our mouths for edification, “that it may give grace to those who hear” (Eph. 4:29). Let us edify and encourage, giving grace to all who hear us speak!

The LORD Jesus Christ has come to speak kindly of the beauty and glory of God’s name to sinners, to reveal Him as a forgiving, faithful God who promises His Spirit to us in Christ so that our hearts can be transformed and our tongues tamed for the glory of the Triune God! Set free from sin by His powerful Spirit, we can give God the glory due His name and tell of His goodness all of our days.

Isn’t He good to us? Isn’t He great? Hasn’t He, doesn’t He, won’t He continue to reveal His goodness and greatness to us in Christ by His Spirit?! Isn’t it wonderful to be set free from the sinful, selfish bent that is ours by nature, seeking to talk of ourselves, and make ourselves glorious, in order that we might say honestly: “Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us, but to Your Name be all the glory!!”

Prayer: Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name! We recognize how we have sinned against You and we desire to honor and exalt Your most holy name. We confess our sins, knowing that You are faithful and just to forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness in Christ. By your Holy Spirit, let us offer to you the sacrifices of praise in Christ; warm our hearts with Your grace, and tame our tongues to sing Your praises! O for a thousand tongues to sing, indeed! Amen.

“Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom. But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice.”

-James 3:13-16

THIS LORD'S DAY

Sermon:

“Loved”

-Rev. Charles Biggs



Theme of Sermon:

The Beloved of God is the beloved of God's people, too!

Scripture Lesson:

Hosea 11:1-4; John 13:34-35; 21:15-25

Sermon Text:

1 Samuel 18

Hymns

Lord, with Glowing Heart I'd Praise Thee, 80

My Heart Does Overflow, 169

Fairest Lord Jesus, 170

Questions for Meditation and Preparation

- Read 1 Sam. 18. Children: How is David revealed as the “Beloved” in this chapter? Who loves him? Who doesn't? What makes David so lovable to some...and a threat to others?
- Read 1 Sam. 18:6-9, and compare with Phil. 2:2-3, Prov. 27:4, 1 Cor. 3:3, Gal. 5:20, and Jas. 3:13-16. How would you describe Saul's character in 1 Samuel? What are the symptoms of his sinful disease? How can this particular corruption destroy a man, a marriage, and a congregation of Christ? Be specific and discuss together.
- In 1 Samuel 18, how do we see the principle that what some mean for evil, God intends for good, for the saving of many lives (Gen. 50:20)?

“Temptation...is anything, or any reason, that exerts a force of influence to seduce and draw the mind and heart of man from the obedience which God requires of him, to sin at any level.”

-John Owen