

THE CHURCH FAMILY

Presenting Everyone Complete in Christ

FROM YOUR PASTOR'S DESK

In our sermon series “Doctrine Matters” we are working through the acrostic TULIP which is also called the “five points of Calvinism.” This five point summary, coming out of the Council of Dort in 1619, was developed over 50 years after Calvin’s death. Do the “five points of Calvinism” accurately capture Calvin’s teachings? While his writings include the foundational principles on which TULIP is formed, this 5 point summary does not necessarily reflect how he would have summarized or organized his views.

When many people hear the name John Calvin they think of Predestination. This idea that God has predestined some to salvation and others to destruction, which is the unifying theme of TULIP. However, it is important to note that this was not the first subject that Calvin deals with in his *“Institutes of the Christian Religion.”* In fact, it isn’t until Chapter 21 of Book Three on page 920, that Calvin begins his teaching on “Eternal Election.” What is the focus of the 919 pages leading up to the predestination theme? It is *“The Knowledge of God the Creator”* (Book 1), and *“The Knowledge of God the Redeemer in Christ”* (Book 2). And book three has this encouraging title: *“The Way in Which We Receive the Grace of Christ: What Benefits Come to Us From it and What Effects Follow.”* Doctrine should first teach who God is and how He set in motion, from before time began, His plan of redemption (salvation) for His chosen people.

Ephesians 1 shows us that predestination is not Calvin’s invention, it is straight from the Bible. *“In love He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will,”* Ephesians 1:5 (NASB) Predestination is intimately linked to God’s love and the kindness of His will.

Therefore, predestination is not a doctrine that should upset us, but should give us great assurance of God’s love for sinners like us. This is the beautiful reality of predestination that gave Calvin confidence. He says *“He will reckon us in his flock and enclose us with his fold...What did Christ wish to have us learn from this but to trust that we shall ever remain safe because we have been made his once for all?”* -John Calvin, *“Institutes of the Christian Religion.”* Ed. John T. McNeill (The Westminster Press: Philadelphia), 1960, Vol. 2, p. 972-3.

May you have peace that you are chosen to be God’s possession, *“that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.”* I Peter 2:9(ESV)

Chosen in Love,

Steve



THANKS
TO ALL
WHO SERVED
AND THOSE WHO
CONTINUE TO SERVE!

CHRISTMAS MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES



Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Ministry

The deadline has been extended! Deadline for turning in your **loose donations is Friday, 11/15**. **Filled boxes** ready for shipping need to be dropped off no later than **Sunday, 11/24**. Please drop either of these off in the designated area at the back of the Sanctuary extension.

Angel Tree

Our Angel Tree is here and you have the opportunity to bless a local child this Christmas. Each angel on the tree represents a child in need. Please consider taking an angel and purchasing the gifts listed. You may do so individually or pair up with other people. Stop by the tree located at the back of the Sanctuary extension and take an angel.



If you adopt an angel, please be sure to sign your name on the list next to your child's corresponding number so we'll know who has which child. Do **NOT** wrap the gifts. Place the unwrapped gifts in a large bag and attach the colorful angel tag with the child's number to the bag. If the gift is too large for the bag, be sure to put the child's number on it. All gifts should be placed in the church library (Room 113) **no later than Sunday morning, November 24!** Copies of these instructions are also available at the Angel Tree.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS

All children are invited to our Children's Ministry Christmas Party on Sunday, December 1, 6:00 - 7:30 PM. The Children's Ministry Team will be providing Gingerbread houses for the children to decorate! Children are asked to bring an old shoebox (to carry home their creation) and a goodie to share on our food table!



WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS BANQUET

All women are invited to our Annual Christmas Banquet on December 2 at 6:30 pm. \$5/person reserves your space with all proceeds going to our Food Pantry. We will be having an ornament exchange for those who would like to participate (\$5 or less). Sign-up at the WIC bulletin board in the main hallway next to the literature display. Place your money in an envelope with your name on it in the black lock box to the left of the bulletin board. (Checks should be made payable to FPC.) The deadline to sign-up is November 24.

WITH OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Christian sympathies are extended to **Darwin, Kathy and Casey Paramore** in the death of Kathy's mother. **Peggy Creech**, age 87, passed away in Kinston, NC on October 27.

Wendy Ham had surgery on October 29.

As we go to print on this edition of The Church Family, **Alice Jessen** is in recovery following heart valve replacement surgery. She is scheduled to have a Pace Maker put in on Thursday. Please keep her in your prayers as she recovers.

WITH LOVING THANKS

We would like to thank all of our church family for the cards, prayers and phone calls during my recent surgery and recovery. Also, a special thanks to the Burrell Life Group for the group card. It was very special! Thank you and may God be with you.

*With love,
Tom and Jerry Barton*

2019 MISSIONS CONFERENCE GOALS UPDATE

We currently have:

180 people committed to pray for our missionaries

and

\$171,290 committed for Faith Promise giving.

STAFF POSITION

We will be in need of a new financial secretary by the end of the year. If you know someone who might be interested please have them call the church office for more information.

Birthdays to Celebrate in November

16 Lennie Burrell

18 Missy Smith

19 Rachel Bynum
Cameron Cozart
Jacob Greenly
Taylor Mundy
Charlotte Riopel

20 Lorie Hamrick

21 Paul Drenth
Gloria Marsh
Trevor Redding

22 James Magill

24 Jason Bryant
Theresa Pitts



25 Steve Smith
Brandon Youngblood

26 Jeremy Abernathy
Becky Hensley

29 Michaela Brooks
Rob McMinn
Susan Mesimer

30 Mark Beatty
Chet Greeson
Ronnie Smith

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Pastor Steve Jessen • Assistant Pastor Thad Davis
Sunday School 9:00 AM • Worship 10:15 AM



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