

THE FAITH MESSENGER

The Official Newsletter of
Faith Presbyterian Church

Thank you for joining our mailing list!
We're so excited to have you in the Faith family.

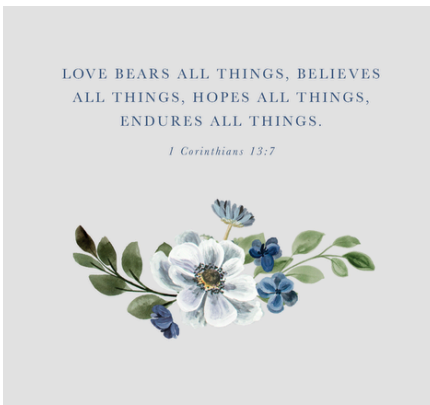
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Announcements

FCA will hold graduation ceremonies Thursday, May 23rd, at the church beginning at 6pm.

Our graduates will be recognized on Sunday, May 19th, and May 26th.



Dear women of Faith PCA,
I cannot thank y'all enough for the amazing bridal shower y'all hosted for me. Y'all truly made me feel so special and so loved and I am greatly appreciative for all of the time and effort y'all put in to doing this for me. From the food to the decorations, everything was perfect and beautiful. I absolutely loved the cook book y'all passed around and gave to me. I feel honored to be given some of these amazing recipes and I can't wait to attempt to make them all! I'll have to let y'all know how it goes. Thank y'all again for the love and support you've all shown Wade and I.

Love,
Hailey Bryant ♡

The most important daily habit we can possess is to remind ourselves of the gospel.

C.H. SPURGEON



Monthly Mission Spotlight



This month, we are excited to highlight Emily Arnold at RUF at William & Mary as our mission partner. RUF stands for Reformed University Fellowship, which is a Christian association that operates on college campuses. The local chapter of RUF at William and Mary aims to provide a welcoming community for students to explore Christianity and strengthen their faith.

You can sign up for her ministry newsletter updates using the QR code down below.



Emily Arnold, a Campus Ministry Intern, has a two-year position that enables her to learn and minister alongside a seasoned campus minister at RUF: Reformed University Fellowship, the PCA's campus ministry. She reaches out to students, shares the gospel, and helps them form lasting, Godly friendships, serving the College of William & Mary. Every week, she hosts small and large groups with freshmen students.



We kindly request you to keep the Summer student conference of 2024 in your prayers and support Emily as she raises the financial support she needs for her second year as a Campus intern in 2025.

Please visit the following website for further information: wmruf.org



Book Review

The Fulfillment of the Promises of God, An Explanation of Covenant Theology

Chapter 7 of the *Westminster Confession of Faith* is the basis of much of our understanding of the two covenants which God has entered into with mankind. The first covenant is known as the Covenant of Works, and the second is known as the Covenant of Grace. This “bi-covenantal” structure of the *Westminster Confession* is the central idea that Dr. Dick Belcher explores in his recent book on Covenant Theology titled: *The Fulfillment of the Promises of God, An Explanation of Covenant Theology*. The importance of the way that Dr. Belcher organizes and presents the material is that he holds firmly to the classical, Reformed understanding of the two covenants and how they are related to each other. Additionally, the book presents the third covenant that was made in eternity past between the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit, commonly referred to as the Covenant of Redemption.

Dr. Belcher begins with a general overview of the field of Covenant Theology in the first chapter in order to introduce the topic to those who may not be as familiar with the terminology or those who may need a refresher of some the topics. He provides a working definition of a Biblical covenant as “a legal agreement between two parties that is ratified by certain rituals that emphasizes the binding nature of the agreement.” (p. 18) In doing this, Belcher firmly reinforces the legal emphasis of covenants in Scripture. The covenants are legally binding because they contain laws or stipulations that must be met by the parties involved. When covenant conditions are not met, the covenant is said to have been broken. “There are blessings for keeping the covenant, and curses for breaking the covenant.” (p. 18) One of the most important statements that Belcher makes in the book is this:

“When Christ kept the law, He was fulfilling both the historical Covenant of Works made with Adam and the pre-temporal covenant He made with the Father and the Spirit...the basis upon which the Covenant of Grace rested because salvation is applied to the elect based on the work of Christ.” (p. 19)

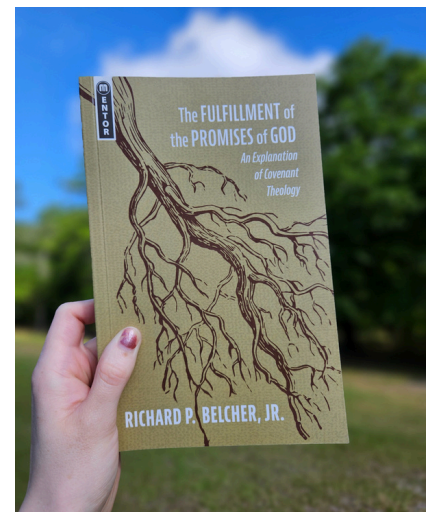
Chapters 3 through 8 detail the establishment of the Covenant of Grace beginning in Genesis 3:15 with the protoevangelium, the first promise of the Gospel and the Covenant of Grace. Subsequently, each following chapter will focus on the major covenants that develop the concepts of the Covenant of Grace: the Noahic Covenant, the Abrahamic Covenant, the Mosaic Covenant, the Davidic Covenant and finally, the New Covenant. Each chapter thoroughly examines the role the particular covenant takes in the overarching Covenant of Grace.

The final chapters (chapters 9 through 14) explore the variations and exceptions that scholars have taken with the Westminster Confession’s description of covenant theology. In the Reformed tradition, Belcher explores the deviation of Dr. Meredith Kline as presented in Kline’s major work *Kingdom Prologue*. Belcher provides a fair critique of Kline’s exceptions while reinforcing the classical, Reformed understanding. Additionally, Belcher tackles Federal Vision theology and John Murray’s “Adamic Administration”, along with several others.

If you are interested in this most important of topics, I would heartily recommend this book for your study. It is more technical than previous books I have reviewed, but it is not beyond anyone’s intellectual reach.

Soli Deo Gloria,

Pastor Joe





The Faith Messenger a monthly newsletter



May Birthdays

1st	Sam O'Neal
4th	Randy Sandifer
13th	Tony Oakley
22nd	Nola O'Neal
23rd	Wade Lofton
25th	Lee Lackey
27th	Betty Eskridge



Public service announcement

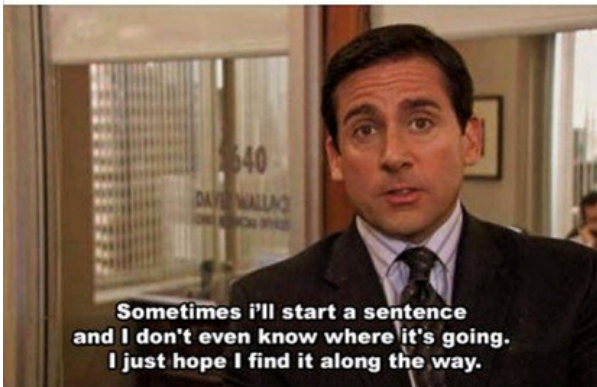
The Lord moves in mysterious ways but you don't have to. Please use your blinker.

Good Reminder

Out of my control



When you get asked to pray with no notice



Contact Details:

Office Hours 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
 Tuesday, Wednesday and
 Thursday

(843) 537-7264
 Address: 900 State Road
 Cheraw, SC 29520
 faithpcacheraw@gmail.com

