



42nd General Assembly

By Alexander S. Brown, Minister

On June 17-20 the 42nd General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America will meet in Houston, Texas.

This is the annual meeting of our denomination as a whole, and it is a great time of fellowship as old friendships are rekindled, new friendships formed, and we collectively fix our eyes on Jesus and worship together as a united Church, jointly focused on reaching North America and beyond for the glory of Christ. One of the highlights of my year is being able to gather with these brothers-in-arms and hear stories of God's blessing, compare 'war wounds', and sharpen one another like iron sharpens iron.



42nd General Assembly
Houston, TX - June 17-20

It is at the General Assembly we find out how our denomination is doing as we hear reports from the various Committees and Agencies that work within our denomination. We hear reports from the "front-line" ministries such as Covenant College, our denominational Liberal Arts college on Lookout Mountain – how God is using that ministry to train generations of Christian leaders prepared to enter the world to live lives focused on making "Christ preeminent in all things"; Covenant Seminary and their work training Pastors and lay-leaders; Mission to the World and Mission to North America, working to spread the Gospel and establish Gospel-centered churches both here and abroad; and Reformed University Ministries, working on our nation's campuses to proclaim the glories of Christ in the academy, taking the Gospel to the future leaders of America.

But we also hear about the work done by the less glamorous support ministries like that of Ridge Haven (the PCA's camp and conference center in North Carolina), Retirements and Benefits (which help Pastors make appropriate arrangements for the long-term care of their families), and the PCA Foundation (the PCA's financial investment wing). These "Cinderella" ministries work faithfully behind the scenes to support our denomination, and free us to do the work that God has called us to do.

It is a wonderful thing to be able to gather as a denomination and take our temperature, and hear of how God is at work among us and how He is using us for His glory.

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May Calendar

Sunday

9:30 a.m. Sunday School
"CrossReference"

10:30 a.m. Morning Worship
I Corinthians

6:00 p.m. Evening Worship
The Gospel of John

Children's Church, Nursery available

- | | | |
|-----|-------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Wed | | Prayer Meeting
(6:30 p.m., GIPC) |
| Thu | 5/1 | National Day of Prayer |
| Sun | 5/4 | Sacrament of the Lord's Supper (AM Worship) |
| Sat | 5/10 | Men's Breakfast Bible Study
(8:00 a.m., Browns) |
| Sun | 5/11 | Mother's Day
CareNet's Change-for-Life
Baby Bottle campaign begins. |
| Mon | 5/12 | Bible Study for Women
(6:00 p.m., Dr. Diane Bowen's office) |
| Tue | 5/13 | Stated Session Meeting
(6:00 p.m., GIPC) |
| Wed | 5/14 | Book Group
(9:30 a.m., Browns) |
| Wed | 5/21* | Bible Study for Women
(9:30 a.m., Browns)
<i>*This will be the final meeting.</i> |
| Mon | 5/26 | Memorial Day Holiday |

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42nd General Assembly

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HOWEVER, General Assembly is more than a pep-rally. Fundamentally, it is a court – the highest court in our system. And so in addition to the celebration there is a lot of hard work that has to be done as we consider matters that pertain to our denomination as a whole. Now this is the point at which most people’s eyes glaze over... the notion of a meeting of 1500 men debating motions in strict accordance to Robert’s Rules is enough to make

Commit to pray for the General Assembly.

even the most alert eyes droop. But before you nod off, or put this article down, let me encourage you to look at this differently, and to see that this is not irrelevant to you, but is in fact something to which you are intimately connected, because it is on these things that the health of the denomination rests.

One way to look at Presbyterian history is as a history of General Assemblies. Neither the Church of Scotland nor the Presbyterian Church (USA) began their slide into liberal theology from congregations – the slip began with decisions made at the General Assemblies. As go the GAs, so goes the denomination.

These decisions are rarely immediately felt in the pews, but over time they determine the trajectory of the denomination. The decisions of the General Assembly do not often immediately affect the conduct or practice of a local church, but they do affect the conduct and practice of the Presbyteries, which then influence which men are ordained, which then influence the congregations over which these ministers serve. So while the business of one week in June in a city far, far away may not directly affect us this year, it may in years to come.

What this means is that as we gather in Houston and conduct our business we walk a tightrope, trying not to fall off the side of laxity but also trying not to fall off the side of undue severity either. While we want to guard against sin, we do not want to descend into a fortress of fear.

AND that is why I am writing this article a month before we meet. I would love it if you would commit to spending May in prayer for the General Assembly, praying that God would be preparing the hearts of every commissioner, that we might be wise and alert – that the synapses of our brains would be firing on all cylinders, and we would be able to reason effectively through our business, and that there be a spirit of brotherly-love in all of our business, disagreeing with gentleness and respect as men who are desperately aware of their position as blood-bought sinners. There is no doubt that at meetings like the General Assembly the devil is on high-alert, and so please pray that we would not give him a foothold and that all that is done be done for the glory of Christ. ■

► Learn more about the PCA General Assembly here:

www.pcaac.org/general-assembly/resources/about-general-assembly/

B & G Committee

The committee is establishing general cosmetic maintenance for the building to include scheduling carpet cleaning in the coming months.

Additional electrical work was completed in April to improve building safety.

Finance Committee

Loan Update

Loan Balance 4/17/14	\$753,940
May Payment:	
Interest	\$ 2,518
Principal	\$ 2,733
Total Payment	\$ 5,251

Men’s Ministry

“2nd Saturday”

Men’s Breakfast Bible Study

May 10th, 8:00 a.m.

Brown home

This will be the final meeting before summer break.

Significant Sessional Actions

- Approved Rev. Ro Taylor to preach Sunday, June 15th;
- Approved renewal of *The Island Directory* advertisement.

On Sunday, April 13th the congregation of GIPC approved a recommendation to refinance the church debt by a new loan from our existing bank. Minutes of the meeting are available upon request.

GOLDEN ISLES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Phone: 912.638.2563

E-Mail: office@gipc-pca.org

48 Hampton Point Drive
Saint Simons Island, GA 31522
gipc-pca.org

MAY

"From childhood you have been acquainted with the holy Scriptures." (II Timothy 3:15)

Family Worship

Old Testament Reading

Date	Book	Chapter	✓
1	Numbers	8	<input type="checkbox"/>
2		9	<input type="checkbox"/>
3		10	<input type="checkbox"/>
4		11	<input type="checkbox"/>
5		12,13	<input type="checkbox"/>
6		14	<input type="checkbox"/>
7		15	<input type="checkbox"/>
8		16	<input type="checkbox"/>
9		17,18	<input type="checkbox"/>
10		19	<input type="checkbox"/>
11		20	<input type="checkbox"/>
12		21	<input type="checkbox"/>
13		22	<input type="checkbox"/>
14		23	<input type="checkbox"/>
15		24	<input type="checkbox"/>
16		25	<input type="checkbox"/>
17		26	<input type="checkbox"/>
18		27	<input type="checkbox"/>
19		28	<input type="checkbox"/>
20		29	<input type="checkbox"/>
21		30	<input type="checkbox"/>
22		31	<input type="checkbox"/>
23		32	<input type="checkbox"/>
24		33	<input type="checkbox"/>
25		34	<input type="checkbox"/>
26		35	<input type="checkbox"/>
27		36	<input type="checkbox"/>
28	Deuteronomy	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
29		2	<input type="checkbox"/>
30		3	<input type="checkbox"/>
31		4	<input type="checkbox"/>

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Family Worship

Psalms Reading

Date	Book	Chapter	✓
1	Psalms	44	<input type="checkbox"/>
2		45	<input type="checkbox"/>
3		46,47	<input type="checkbox"/>
4		48	<input type="checkbox"/>
5		49	<input type="checkbox"/>
6		50	<input type="checkbox"/>
7		51	<input type="checkbox"/>
8		52-54	<input type="checkbox"/>
9		55	<input type="checkbox"/>
10		56,57	<input type="checkbox"/>
11		58,59	<input type="checkbox"/>
12		60,61	<input type="checkbox"/>
13		62,63	<input type="checkbox"/>
14		64,65	<input type="checkbox"/>
15		66,67	<input type="checkbox"/>
16		68	<input type="checkbox"/>
17		69	<input type="checkbox"/>
18		70,71	<input type="checkbox"/>
19		72	<input type="checkbox"/>
20		73	<input type="checkbox"/>
21		74	<input type="checkbox"/>
22		75,76	<input type="checkbox"/>
23		77	<input type="checkbox"/>
24		78:1-37	<input type="checkbox"/>
25		78:38-72	<input type="checkbox"/>
26		79	<input type="checkbox"/>
27		80	<input type="checkbox"/>
28		81,82	<input type="checkbox"/>
29		83,84	<input type="checkbox"/>
30		85	<input type="checkbox"/>
31		86,87	<input type="checkbox"/>

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Private

Old Testament Reading

Date	Book	Chapter	✓
1	Song of Solomon	6	<input type="checkbox"/>
2		7	<input type="checkbox"/>
3		8	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	Isaiah	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
5		2	<input type="checkbox"/>
6		3,4	<input type="checkbox"/>
7		5	<input type="checkbox"/>
8		6	<input type="checkbox"/>
9		7	<input type="checkbox"/>
10		8,9:1-7	<input type="checkbox"/>
11		9:8-10:4	<input type="checkbox"/>
12		10:5-34	<input type="checkbox"/>
13		11,12	<input type="checkbox"/>
14		13	<input type="checkbox"/>
15		14	<input type="checkbox"/>
16		15	<input type="checkbox"/>
17		16	<input type="checkbox"/>
18		17,18	<input type="checkbox"/>
19		19,20	<input type="checkbox"/>
20		21	<input type="checkbox"/>
21		22	<input type="checkbox"/>
22		23	<input type="checkbox"/>
23		24	<input type="checkbox"/>
24		25	<input type="checkbox"/>
25		26	<input type="checkbox"/>
26		27	<input type="checkbox"/>
27		28	<input type="checkbox"/>
28		29	<input type="checkbox"/>
29		30	<input type="checkbox"/>
30		31	<input type="checkbox"/>
31		32	<input type="checkbox"/>

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Private

New Testament Reading

Date	Book	Chapter	✓
1	Hebrews	6	<input type="checkbox"/>
2		7	<input type="checkbox"/>
3		8	<input type="checkbox"/>
4		9	<input type="checkbox"/>
5		10	<input type="checkbox"/>
6		11	<input type="checkbox"/>
7		12	<input type="checkbox"/>
8		13	<input type="checkbox"/>
9	James	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
10		2	<input type="checkbox"/>
11		3	<input type="checkbox"/>
12		4	<input type="checkbox"/>
13		5	<input type="checkbox"/>
14	I Peter	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
15		2	<input type="checkbox"/>
16		3	<input type="checkbox"/>
17		4	<input type="checkbox"/>
18		5	<input type="checkbox"/>
19	II Peter	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
20		2	<input type="checkbox"/>
21		3	<input type="checkbox"/>
22	I John	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
23		2	<input type="checkbox"/>
24		3	<input type="checkbox"/>
25		4	<input type="checkbox"/>
26		5	<input type="checkbox"/>
27	II John	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
28	III John	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
29	Jude	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
30	Revelation	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
31		2	<input type="checkbox"/>

Week beginning APRIL 27

Psalms 34:19-22

Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD delivers him out of them all. He keeps all his bones; not one of them is broken. Affliction will slay the wicked, and those who hate the righteous will be condemned. The Lord redeems the life of His servants; none of those who take refuge in Him will be condemned.

Week beginning MAY 4

John 15:7

If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

Week beginning MAY 11

Acts 5:29b

We must obey God rather than men.

Week beginning MAY 18

James 1:22-24

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like.

Week beginning MAY 25

James 4:7-8a

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you.