



October Calendar

Sunday Schedule

9:15 a.m. Sunday School

K-2nd Grade: *The Gospel Project*
3rd Grade and older: *Catechism Class*
Adults: *Understanding Your Place in the Church*

10:30 a.m. Morning Worship

Gospel of Matthew

6:00 p.m. Evening Worship

II Thessalonians

-
- Sat 10/6 Memorial Service, George King, 2:00 p.m., GIPC
- Sun 10/7 Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, 10:30 a.m. Worship
- Each Tuesday: Young Men's Bible Study, 7:00 a.m., Wake Up Coffee, SSI
- Wed 10/10, 17, 24, 31
Midweek Prayer Meeting
7:00 p.m., Brown home
- Sat 10/13 Men's "2nd Saturday" Bible Study
8:30 a.m., Brown home
- Tue 10/16 Savannah River Presbytery at Grace Church of the Islands
- Mon 10/22 Stated Session Meeting
- See page 3 for the Women's Prayer Group and Bible Study schedules.

What the Church needs now is not great men, but a great move of God.

By Alexander S. Brown, Minister

OCTOBER IS a month that brings our minds back to the very birth of the Reformed Church. Or rather, the *re-birth* of the Reformed Church, as the historic doctrine of the Apostles and the Early Church was rediscovered and applied to the life of the Church – first in Europe and then around the world.

C. S. Lewis once famously warned of the danger of “chronological snobbery,” uncritically accepting that the present intellectual climate is superior to that which has gone before.

In other words, it is essential that we do not limit our understanding of ourselves to ourselves, or to the one or two generations that preceded us. We all stand on the shoulders of those who have gone before, we are all heirs to their legacy, good or bad. And for us in the Reformed Church, our legacy is a good one – in fact, it is a great one!

We see that we don't just stand on the shoulders of the people who have gone before, but we stand on the shoulders of the *giants* that have gone before us.

Now, lest we be accused of hagiography, we have to admit that these men (and women!) who have gone before us were not perfect.

For every great churchman, theologian, or ordinary Christian whose virtues can be extolled, there is always a “skeleton in the closet” that reminds us that they were not perfect. And there are times when we don't want to hear that. We like to have our heroes, and don't particularly want their pedestals rocked.

However, it is crucially important that we see the heroes of the faith, including the Reformers, as they truly were. The truth is that these men and women were not super-saints. These were not Christians who had attained to a greater level of spiritual power. These were not Christians that were extraordinary. In fact, they were decidedly ordinary, even to the point that we could say that they were not heroes at all.

The hero of the Reformation was not Martin Luther, or John Calvin, or Ulrich Zwingli, or John Knox.

The hero of the Reformation was Jesus Christ, as He worked powerfully, through His Holy Spirit, in men who were distinctly flawed.

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Reformation

(Continued from page 1)

What we see in the Reformation is not sharp tools being used to re-craft the Church, but a Craftsman using blunt and broken tools skillfully to reform His Church into something beautiful.

Martin Luther even testified to this fact when he said (in a quote that sits framed on my bookshelf because I think it is so important),

“I simply taught, preached, wrote God’s Word; otherwise I did nothing. And then, while I slept, or drank Wittenberg beer with my Philip and my Amsdorf, the Word so greatly weakened the papacy that never prince nor emperor did such damage to it. I did nothing. The Word did it all.”

As Luther reflected on the Reformation, his conclusion was that he really had done nothing, God had done it all, working powerfully through the Scriptures by His Holy Spirit. It was the Word that did it, not Luther. It was God who Reformed His Church. He is the Hero of the Reformation.

THIS IS so important for us to realize as we remember and celebrate the Reformation, because it shapes how we understand and pray for the condition of the Church now.

What the Church needs now is not great men, but a great move of God. As we look at the current state of the Church, our greatest need is neither for better men nor for new heroes.

Our greatest need is for God to, again, work through deeply flawed servants and to do an incredible work through them.

And what that means is that the Church’s greatest need is not a new program, or a new kind of training, or something to create better men.

The Church’s greatest need now, as ever, is to pray and ask God for this incredible move of His Spirit. If we are not doing that – if we are not looking for this move of God, then we cannot expect anything great to happen.

I heard a minister once say that when he has spoken to Christians from other cultures and asked them what it was that first struck them about the American Church, they invariably say that it is very entrepreneurial. In other words, the Church in America has adopted its culture’s “can do!” attitude.

And while that it is not always a bad thing – it means that in many ways the Church is more active and deliberate, and quick to adapt when it needs to – it can easily develop into a self-reliance, which says if only we do the right things in the right way with the right men, we will get the right results.

But if there is a lesson from the Reformation that we should remember this month, it is that Reformation (growth, development, refining, maturity) in the Church is not, fundamentally, about what we do – it’s about what God does. And so while we must be entrepreneurial in looking for opportunities for the growth and health of the Church, that can never be divorced from a spirit of prayerful dependence.

If we are to see real change and real growth in the Church; if we are to see a new Reformation and Revival, we have to be praying that the Word would do it all. That Christ would do it, so that while we sleep or drink beer (or coke, or Starbucks) the Word would so weaken the idols of our culture that the Church might flourish. ☞

The Five Solas of the Reformation

Sola Scriptura Scripture alone

Sola Fide Faith alone

Sola Gratia Grace alone

Solus Christus Christ alone

Soli Deo Gloria Glory of God alone



Sermon Podcasts

Subscribe to our sermon podcast by searching “Golden Isles Presbyterian Church” wherever you get your podcasts.

Missed a Sunday? Sermons are available at:

gipc-pca.org/sermons

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New The Adult Sunday School Class (“Understanding Your Place in the Church”) is available online, beginning with the second class taught on September 30th. *Click on the sermon page link above.*

Significant Sessional Actions

- Approved cancellation of the Evening Service on November 11th in lieu of the Community Thanksgiving Service;
- Approved GIPC’s participation in the annual Kirkin’ O’ The Tartan service at St. Simons Presbyterian Church (January 2019).

The next Stated Session Meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 22nd, 1:00 p.m. at the Patton home.

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Announcements & Updates

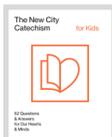
Children's Discipleship

Sunday School Classes (9:15 a.m.) are available for school-age children, as follows:

K-2nd Grade: *The Gospel Project*

3rd Grade and older: *Catechism Class*

The Catechism Class is using material based on *The New City Catechism* (52 short questions and answers based on Calvin's Geneva Catechism, The Westminster Shorter and Larger Catechisms, and the Heidelberg Catechism).



> Copies of "The New City Catechism for Kids" are available at the Book Stall in the foyer.

Save the date!

GIPC's Annual World Missions Conference will be held November 2-4, 2018.

Friday Evening:

"International Dinner and Keynote Address"

Saturday Morning: "Meet the Missionaries!"

Sunday Morning: "Faith Promise Sunday"

The conference will conclude after Sunday Lunch.

Men's Discipleship

"2nd Saturday" Men's Bible Study

October 13th, 8:30 a.m. | Brown home

Current study: *Discipleship Explored* (based on Philippians)

All men are invited to attend.

Each Tuesday: Young Men's Bible Study

7:00 a.m.—Wake Up Coffee, St. Simons

"Beyond the Pages" Book Group

"Open to all those who enjoy reading and discussing books"

The book group will meet on Tuesday, November 13th (note revised date) to discuss "These Honored Dead: A Lincoln and Speed Mystery Paperback," by Jonathan F. Putnam.



The group meets at Magnolia Manor on St. Simons at 1:00 p.m. in the second floor lounge of the large building beside the water fountain.

December selection: "Skipping Christmas," by John Grisham.

Book Group Contact: Sharon Bolin

Women's Discipleship

Women's Monday Prayer Group

1st & 3rd Monday: 9:00 a.m., Parrish home
2nd & 4th Monday: 10:00 a.m., Parrish home

Morning Bible Study (Topic: *I John*)

1st & 3rd Monday: 10:00 a.m., Parrish home

Evening Bible Study (Topic: *I John*)

2nd & 4th Tuesday: 7:00 p.m., Chilton home

Community Thanksgiving Service

The Community Thanksgiving Service, facilitated by the churches of St. Simons Island, will be held Sunday, November 11th, 4:00 p.m. at St. Simons First Baptist Church (*Tom Jones, Senior Minister, St. Simons United Methodist Church, preaching*). The congregation is invited to attend; there will be no Evening Service at GIPC on November 11th.



Westminster Shorter Catechism

1 year plan—Q & A to review/study:

- Week of October 7: 82, 83, 84
- Week of October 14: 85, 86
- Week of October 21: 87, 88
- Week of October 28: 89, 90

Westminster Shorter Catechism Question #82

Question:

Is any man able perfectly to keep the commandments of God?

Answer:

No mere man since the fall is able in this life perfectly to keep the commandments of God, but daily breaks them in thought, word, and deed.

Westminster Shorter Catechism Question #83

Question:

Are all transgressions of the law equally heinous?

Answer:

Some sins in themselves, and by reason of several aggravations, are more heinous in the sight of God than others.

Westminster Shorter Catechism Question #84

Question:

What does every sin deserve?

Answer:

Every sin deserves God's wrath and curse, both in this life, and that which is to come.

Westminster Shorter Catechism Question #85

Question: What does God require of us, that we may escape His wrath and curse due to us for sin?

Answer: To escape the wrath and curse of God due to us for sin, God requires of us faith in Jesus Christ, repentance unto life, with the diligent use of all the outward means whereby Christ communicates to us the benefits of redemption.

Westminster Shorter Catechism Question #86

Question:

What is faith in Jesus Christ?

Answer:

Faith in Jesus Christ is a saving grace, whereby we receive and rest upon Him alone for salvation as He is offered to us in the gospel.

Westminster Shorter Catechism Question #87

Question: What is repentance unto life?

Answer: Repentance unto life is a saving grace, whereby a sinner, out of a true sense of his sin, and apprehension of the mercy of God in Christ, does, with grief and hatred of his sin, turn from it unto God, with full purpose of, and endeavor after, new obedience.

Westminster Shorter Catechism Question #88

Question: What are the outward means whereby Christ communicates to us the benefits of redemption?

Answer: The outward and ordinary means whereby Christ communicates to us the benefits of redemption, are His ordinances, especially the Word, sacraments, and prayer; all which are made effectual to the elect for salvation.

Westminster Shorter Catechism Question #89

Question: How is the Word made effectual to salvation?

Answer: The Spirit of God makes the reading, but especially the preaching of the Word, an effectual means of convincing and converting sinners, and of building them up in holiness and comfort, through faith, unto salvation.

Westminster Shorter Catechism Question #90

Question: How is the Word to be read and heard, that it may become effectual to salvation?

Answer: That the Word may become effectual to salvation, we must attend thereunto with diligence, preparation, and prayer; receive it with faith and love, lay it up in our hearts, and practice it in our lives.

OCTOBER

“Oh how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day.”
(Psalm 119:97)

Family Worship

Old Testament Reading

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

OCTOBER

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Family Worship

New Testament Reading

Date	Book	Chapter	✓
1	<i>Ephesians</i>	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
2		2	<input type="checkbox"/>
3		3	<input type="checkbox"/>
4		4	<input type="checkbox"/>
5		5	<input type="checkbox"/>
6		6	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	<i>Philippians</i>	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
8		2	<input type="checkbox"/>
9		3	<input type="checkbox"/>
10		4	<input type="checkbox"/>
11	<i>Colossians</i>	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
12		2	<input type="checkbox"/>
13		3	<input type="checkbox"/>
14		4	<input type="checkbox"/>
15	<i>I Thessalonians</i>	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
16		2	<input type="checkbox"/>
17		3	<input type="checkbox"/>
18		4	<input type="checkbox"/>
19		5	<input type="checkbox"/>
20	<i>II Thessalonians</i>	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
21		2	<input type="checkbox"/>
22		3	<input type="checkbox"/>
23	<i>I Timothy</i>	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
24		2	<input type="checkbox"/>
25		3	<input type="checkbox"/>
26		4	<input type="checkbox"/>
27		5	<input type="checkbox"/>
28		6	<input type="checkbox"/>
29	<i>II Timothy</i>	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
30		2	<input type="checkbox"/>
31		3	<input type="checkbox"/>

OCTOBER

“Oh how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day.”
(Psalm 119:97)

Private

Old Testament Reading

Date	Book	Chapter	✓
1	<i>Ezekiel</i>	34	<input type="checkbox"/>
2		35	<input type="checkbox"/>
3		36	<input type="checkbox"/>
4		37	<input type="checkbox"/>
5		38	<input type="checkbox"/>
6		39	<input type="checkbox"/>
7		40	<input type="checkbox"/>
8		41	<input type="checkbox"/>
9		42	<input type="checkbox"/>
10		43	<input type="checkbox"/>
11		44	<input type="checkbox"/>
12		45	<input type="checkbox"/>
13		46	<input type="checkbox"/>
14		47	<input type="checkbox"/>
15		48	<input type="checkbox"/>
16	<i>Daniel</i>	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
17		2	<input type="checkbox"/>
18		3	<input type="checkbox"/>
19		4	<input type="checkbox"/>
20		5	<input type="checkbox"/>
21		6	<input type="checkbox"/>
22		7	<input type="checkbox"/>
23		8	<input type="checkbox"/>
24		9	<input type="checkbox"/>
25		10	<input type="checkbox"/>
26		11	<input type="checkbox"/>
27		12	<input type="checkbox"/>
28	<i>Hosea</i>	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
29		2	<input type="checkbox"/>
30		3,4	<input type="checkbox"/>
31		5,6	<input type="checkbox"/>

OCTOBER

“Oh how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day.”
(Psalm 119:97)

Private

Psalms

Date	Book	Chapter	✓
1	<i>Psalms</i>	83,84	<input type="checkbox"/>
2		85	<input type="checkbox"/>
3		86	<input type="checkbox"/>
4		87,88	<input type="checkbox"/>
5		89	<input type="checkbox"/>
6		90	<input type="checkbox"/>
7		91	<input type="checkbox"/>
8		92,93	<input type="checkbox"/>
9		94	<input type="checkbox"/>
10		95,96	<input type="checkbox"/>
11		97,98	<input type="checkbox"/>
12		99-101	<input type="checkbox"/>
13		102	<input type="checkbox"/>
14		103	<input type="checkbox"/>
15		104	<input type="checkbox"/>
16		105	<input type="checkbox"/>
17		106	<input type="checkbox"/>
18		107	<input type="checkbox"/>
19		108,109	<input type="checkbox"/>
20		110,111	<input type="checkbox"/>
21		112,113	<input type="checkbox"/>
22		114,115	<input type="checkbox"/>
23		116	<input type="checkbox"/>
24		117,118	<input type="checkbox"/>
25		119:1-24	<input type="checkbox"/>
26		v. 25-48	<input type="checkbox"/>
27		v. 49-72	<input type="checkbox"/>
28		v. 73-96	<input type="checkbox"/>
29		v. 97-120	<input type="checkbox"/>
30		v. 121-144	<input type="checkbox"/>
31		v. 145-176	<input type="checkbox"/>



Week beginning SEPTEMBER 30

Philippians 4:19 “Faithfulness (of God)”

And my God will supply every need of yours according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.



Week beginning OCTOBER 7

I Corinthians 10:13 “Sin, Battling”

No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and He will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation He will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.



Week beginning OCTOBER 14

Isaiah 53:4-5 “Work of Christ”

Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions; He was crushed for our iniquities; upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with His stripes we are healed.



Week beginning OCTOBER 21

Isaiah 53:6 “Work of Christ”

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.



Week beginning OCTOBER 28

I Peter 2:24 “Gospel”

He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By His wounds you have been healed.