



# News in Brief

*Mint Hill Presbyterian Church exists to glorify God by seeking the lost, making disciples and worshipping the Savior.*



## C.S. Lewis: The Theology of a Mere Christian

C.S. Lewis is perhaps the most well-known Christian author and theologian of the Twentieth century. He is a hero among evangelicals and he is respected among many Roman Catholic and Orthodox theologians. His writings were vast, perceptive, and full of imagination. In fact, I cannot commend his writings enough. The writings of Lewis have challenged me, encouraged me, comforted me, and fed me with the truth of God and my guess is that I am not alone. However, for all of the things of Lewis we ought to commend there are some things that we must approach with caution and discernment. These do not negate the value of his teachings at large but they ought to be addressed for what they are: limitations of a mere Christian. In fact, the only theologian you will ever stumble across that does not 'miss the mark' and contain some errors is Jesus of Nazareth and even He, as a man, grew in his understanding (Mt. 2:41-52; Heb. 5:8-9).

In light of the great influence of this man I want to share with Mint Hill Presbyterian a series I wrote in seminary that set out to analyze his thought and provide an overview of C.S. Lewis's theological views. This is in no way comprehensive but it does try to touch upon some of the more important issues and concerns in his theology. The series will run for over a year and is structured by six main divisions: God, Scripture, Creation, Fall, Redemption, and Consummation. There are also several subsections within each main section (except for the God section). The purpose of this series is not to bash Lewis or naively praise him but to give an honest account of what he believed. Therefore, you will find some of my own commentary here and there but by and large what follows will be *his* theological views.

### *The Theology of a Mere Christian: God*

C.S. Lewis did not spill a lot of ink developing an elaborate and sophisticated theology of God. My guess is that he thought other theologians could do a much better job at that but he does discuss a few things that should be noted. The first is that Lewis believed that the God of the Bible was different than all other concepts of god or gods. For example, Lewis understood that while God created the universe, and that the universe reveals His glory, He is also distinct from it which is contrary to the pantheistic notion of deity. Lewis also believed that the God of the Bible is a Person, and not just one person, but three Persons in one Being. In other words, Lewis was a Trinitarian. Other aspects of his theology of God surface throughout his writings but it is safe to say that C.S. Lewis had an orthodox understanding of God.

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1 Lewis, C. S. *The Complete C. S. Lewis Signature Classics*. Reprint edition. (New York, NY: HarperCollins, 2009), 40.

2 Lewis, *Signature Classics*, 40.

3 *Ibid*, 133.



Please join us!  
8528 Brief Road  
Mint Hill, NC

Prayer Circle - Sunday morning 8:50 a.m.  
Adult Sunday School 9:00 a.m.  
Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.

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Tuesday evenings -  
WOC Bible Study - The ladies are now on summer break,  
but will resume our study in 2 Peter in September!

Thursday Mornings  
Men's Bible Study at 6:00 a.m. at the church.  
Women's Bible Study - 10:00-11:30 a.m. at the church  
(Childcare provided!)

Thursday Evenings -  
Praise Team Rehearsal - 6:30 PM  
Choir Rehearsal - 7:15 p.m.



Holy Communion will be  
served on Sunday,  
July 1.

### Come to Sunday School!



The Adult Sunday School  
Class meets "up on the hill"  
in the building next to the  
house. (Anyone will be  
more than happy to show  
you the way!)

We meet at 9:00 a.m. each Sunday morning.  
Steve Smith is currently teaching a character  
study on David from the books of 1& 2 Samuel. We  
have a lot to learn from David — a faith giant!  
Please join us!

### What's Up At This Summer Mint Hill Presbyterian!

**Women's Bible Study - Thursday mornings from 10:00-11:30 in the church.** All women are welcome and childcare is provided! We are studying the book entitled "Prayer" by Tim Keller. The study is led by Korina Opgenorth. We have already had our first session and this looks to be a very rich study! We had a group of about 11 ladies!

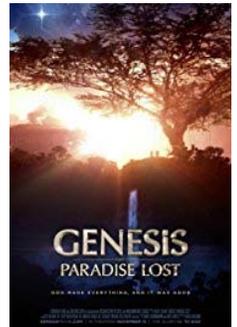
**Men's Bible Study - Thursday mornings at 6:00 in the church** - The Ten Commandments using the Westminster Larger Catechism. Light breakfast & coffee provided! All men in the church are welcome and encouraged to come!

**August 11 - Meal & Movie Night - See below.**

**The Mint Hill Men** have started a study led by Pastor Aaron on the Ten Commandments using the Westminster Larger Catechism as our guide. The study group meet at the church on Thursday **mornings** from 6:00-7:15. Coffee and a light breakfast will be provided. This study is open to all of the Mint Hill Men. **If you are interested please fill out the sign-up sheet in the foyer or talk to Pastor Aaron for more details.**

### Coming up August 11! Meal and a Movie Night!

Yes, it's back! We will be viewing the movie **Genesis - Paradise Lost**. A couple members of our Session have seen this documentary and highly recommend it for our viewing!



*If there is one part of the Bible that has undergone more scrutiny and abuse than any other, it is the very beginning-GENESIS. Both from within and without the church, assaults on GENESIS continue to question the Creation and ultimately the Creator. So, what exactly happened at the "Creation," at the "Beginning?" Creation Today and Seven Fold Films is proud to announce that for the first time ever, using stunning visual effects and the latest in scientific research, GENESIS will come to life right before your very eyes. We have heard the phrase "In the beginning" many times; now we get to see it on the big screen.*

**We will have hamburgers and hotdogs at 5:00 p.m., followed by the movie at 6:00.** Come join us for a special night!

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*We thank the Lord for all His blessings* - for our church family and our freedom to worship God openly in this country. We thank the Lord even for the hard times. *“And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.” (Romans 8:28)* Brothers and sisters, He is molding us into the image of His Son.

**Pray that Mint Hill Presbyterian will be a godly church and that its leaders will seek the Lord first—in all decisions.** Praise God that He has a mighty plan for Mint Hill Presbyterian! **Pray that many in our congregation will desire to serve and that the needs of the church will be met!** May we all strive to be like Jesus in every way. Pray for our church growth (in Spirit and in Truth as well as numbers)!

**We thank God for His loving-kindness and goodness to us! Rev. Aaron and his family are already blessing our congregation with the work God has called them to do. We praise the Lord for sending us such a wonderful family and shepherd to lead us!**

**We pray that the Lord will hold us closely together as a church body, keeping us from falling into the schemes of the enemy who would seek to destroy Mint Hill Presbyterian, especially now in our new transition.**

**Please thank the Lord and remember our police officers and emergency technicians** and pray for their safety and protection from all the evil they see. Pray for their families to be able to live in the peace of Jesus Christ.

**Remember to pray for our missionaries all over the world,** putting their lives on the line in many situations to bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to those who don't know. We lift up the **Goodmans, the Millers, the missionaries in the Middle East, and Josh Grimm.** We also continue to lift up Andrew Brunson and pray for God to miraculously set him free from his captors!

**Please be sure to read the prayer requests sent out each week!** Put them with your Bible, read them daily and pray for these requests! The people on that list will certainly appreciate your prayers, and **God is listening!** Think back on how He has answered so many of our prayers! And He continues to!

*Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*  
— 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

*"Prayer should not be regarded as a duty which must be performed, but rather as a privilege to be enjoyed, a rare delight that is always revealing*



*some new beauty."*

— E. M. Bounds

The Bruecks' address is:  
  
332 N. Clifton Avenue  
Wichita KS 67208

The McKinnons' address is:  
  
147 Palmetto Green Drive  
Longs SC 29568

***Special Prayer Request from Marc Migdal***

Marc has asked that we pray and get the word out for his neighbor, Tracy Andrews, who is waiting for a new kidney, having been on dialysis now for 3 1/2 years. So far, no matches have come through, including her children. She is looking for a healthy individual between the ages of 18-65 with a blood type of O positive (or negative) willing to donate a much needed kidney. If you desire to be tested for a match or know anyone who is the right blood type and is willing, please let Marc know so he can give the news to this fine Christian lady.



***Sermon Series from Galatians  
June, July, August & September***

Pastor Aaron continues the sermon series entitled "Freedom in Christ" taken from the book of Galatians.

Here is the July schedule:

- 7/1 Galatians 3:23-29
- 7/8 Galatians 4:1-7
- 7/15 Galatians 4:8-11
- 7/22 Zeeshan Sadiq, Guest Minister
- 7/29 Galatians 4:12-20

*( This series will go into September.)*

**Children are very important to us!** Nursery is available to infants and young toddlers during worship services, and is located on the right side of the sanctuary as you enter. **Children's Church** is available for families with young children ages 8 and under. It is available after the offering and Doxology, and is located on the left side of the sanctuary as you enter. Please feel free to keep your children in the sanctuary to participate in the worship service. We place a high value on children participating in the worship of God, and on families being able to worship together.

*But Jesus said, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven."*

—Matthew 19:14



**Nursery Schedule - July**

- 1 **Kristin Skipper**
- 8 **Sue Johnson**
- 15 **Alissa Depaoli**
- 22 **Linda Shelden**
- 29 **Carrie Ann Hanes**

**Children's Church Schedule - July**

- 1 **Sam Hanes**
- 8 **Bea Zamboni**
- 15 **Barbara Porter**
- 22 **Mary Stokes, Sandra Bigham**
- 29 **Donni DeHart**

Members of the choir who have also volunteered to serve in the nursery or children's church will sing in the choir during the anthem and then go to minister with the children. *Thank you* for your willingness to serve in multiple areas of the church!

Thank you to all who have stepped up to serve our Lord in this role. This is such an *important* part of a child's life!

***If you are scheduled for Children's Church and there are no children who will attend Children's Church that day, please assist with nursery needs. We need two people! Thank you for serving!***

**Officers of the Month - July**  
**Steve Smith, Helen Scheffel**

**The Diaconate will meet on Monday,  
July 10 at 7:00 p.m.  
The Session will meet on July 18 at 7:00 p.m.**

**July Birthdays**

**9 Eleanor Kracke**



**Items for Homeless**

Eleanor Kracke will collect items for the homeless again this year. The basket is located in the back of the Sanctuary. If you have questions about what to donate, just ask! She'll be glad to help you! Eleanor delivers these boxes in December each year. **This year she says she will need help getting the items to the Crittenton Home in December.** This is a real blessing to those who receive these items! Ask Eleanor if you have any questions about what to donate and thank you for your donations!

**MANSE WORK DAY!**



A work day for the manse has been set for **July 14, from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.**

We will be doing yard work and we your help! Bring yard tools if you plan to be there.

**Special Request from Jessica Wallin**

We are trying to find someone who wants a full-time child care job. As of right now I will have to go back to work the second week of July. Originally we thought we had a friend of mine to watch Avery but she is having a baby in July, so that's out for a little while. More than likely we will need someone Monday-Thursday or Tuesday-Friday each week.



## How We Can Help in Other Ways

**UPDATE:** We have received over \$800 so far from donations to our Samaritan's Purse project! That amount *alone* can supply eight families with clean water filters to be installed in their homes. And there are lots of other ways we can help fund, from helping new mothers provide infant care to providing animals for various needs. So many ways to help!

A chart is on the table in the back showing what we can fund a person, family, or entire village, and how much money it takes to achieve that goal. We will be able to see how the fund grows. In fact, I need to make an updated chart since we're doing so well!

If you would like to donate cash, a jar will be in the back of the church (where the OCC basket used to be). It will be locked after worship. You may write a check as well, with "Samaritan's Purse" put in the memo line.

I am very excited to see what God will do! Please pray that He will lead you and help you to discern if you should donate money or choose to pray for the ministry. I know *I* would appreciate your prayers in this new endeavor!

Thank you for your participation and your prayers!  
To God be the glory!

— Patti Smith

### Example of gifts we can give:

- Help Persecuted Christians
- Loving Care for An Orphan
- Children with Disabilities
- Feed a Family
- Chickens
- Clean Water Projects

And the list goes on...



Again, thank you again for whatever you do, decide to give or to pray, or both! More details are on the table in the back of the church. Check out the "growth chart!" The funds are growing!



**Betty Morris**  
1939-2018

On June 10, 2018 our beloved sister in Christ, Betty Morris, entered the Church Triumphant and into the arms of her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Our prayers go out to her husband Bill, and the rest of the Morris family as they grieve her passing. Our prayer is that they will grieve well in the hope that Jesus gives us of eternal life.

The Morris family greatly appreciates all the flowers, memorials, love, texts, cards, and visits during this difficult time.

Betty, we miss you very much, but we rejoice that you are now free from the bonds of pain and sickness and you are whole and happy!



**Over the next several months, the Opgenorth family would like to invite all the people and families of Mint Hill Presbyterian into our home for a time of food and fellowship,** because we feel as though it is important for us to know you and for you to know your pastor and his family. Now in order to keep

things on a more personal level, we will be limiting our guests to no more than six people for one meal. If this piques your interest and you want to come over to our house, **please sign up on the sheet in the foyer or talk to Korina Opgenorth for more details. From what we hear, they have been having a great time getting to know us!**

### Guest Minister on Sunday, July 22



Rev. Zeeshan Sadiq is the Pastor at Bethlehem ARP church Sahiwal, Pakistan. He has served there since 2007, and he has been serving as the Secretary of ARP Synod Pakistan since 2011.

Zeeshan is married and the father of three beautiful children. His wife is a certified teacher but stays at home to take care of the family. His church consists of almost 100 families, and around 150 folks get together for worship every Sunday. These days he is in the US to study at Erskine Theological Seminary in South Carolina. Pastor Zeeshan already has a Master of Divinity degree from Gujranwala Theological Seminary Pakistan but is now working on a MATS degree at Erskine. Please pray for his family, ministry, and studies at Erskine. He will be with us on July 22 to deliver the Proclamation of the Word.

All of the food was delicious and thank you's go out to all who contributed to our goodies!

### Ladies' Tea and Fellowship - So Fun!

See some great memories made on Tuesday, June 19 during our WOC Ladies' Tea which celebrated our Tuesday Night Bible Study. We had a great time! This hopefully will begin a tradition with our WOC for years to come!

A huge thank you to Debby Lutz for coming over early and making our sanctuary look beautiful for us! We got to be little girls at a tea party again!



Pastor Aaron came down (left) to give us encouraging words of appreciation while Ayda and Kuyper got to munch on cookies & eclaires!



Also, Carolyn Pinkston (right) was able to come and fellowship with us! She is the author of the Bible studies we have been doing ever since last January. It was a real pleasure to get to know her!





# July 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <p>1</p> <p>Prayer 8:50 am Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Worship - 10:00 am Holy Communion</p>	2	3	 <p>4</p> <p>Independence Day</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Women's Bible Study 10-11:30 am</p> <p>Praise Team Rehearsal 6:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal 7:15 p.m.</p>	6	7
8	9	10	11	<p>12</p> <p>Women's Bible Study 10-11:30 am</p> <p>Praise Team Rehearsal 6:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal 7:15 p.m.</p>	13	14
<p>Prayer 8:50 am Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Worship - 10:00 am</p>		Diaconate Mtg. 7 p.m.				Manse Work Day 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
15	16	17	18	<p>19</p> <p>Women's Bible Study 10-11:30 am</p> <p>Praise Team Rehearsal 6:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal 7:15 p.m.</p>	20	21
<p>Prayer 8:50 am Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Worship - 10:00 am</p>			Session Mtg. 7 p.m.			
22	23	24	25	<p>26</p> <p>Women's Bible Study 10-11:30 am</p> <p>Praise Team Rehearsal 6:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal 7:15 p.m.</p>	27	28
<p>Prayer 8:50 am Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Worship - 10:00 am Guest Minister: Zeeshan Sadiq</p>						
29	30	31				
<p>Prayer 8:50 am Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Worship - 10:00 am</p>						



**News in Brief**

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Music Director Debby Lutz  
Newsletter Editor Patti Smith

**Congregational Officers**

Chairman Steve Tarrant  
Treasurer Barbara Porter

**Session**

Moderator Rev. Aaron Joel Opgenorth  
Class of 2019, Education Chair Donn DeHart  
Class of 2020, Fellowship & Outreach Butch Bigham  
Class of 2022, Worship Chair Steve Smith

**Diaconate**

Chair Tom Vehue  
Class of 2018 Helen Scheffel  
Class of 2019 Aaron Melton  
Class of 2020 Tom Vehue

**Women of the Church**

President Gloria Bigham  
Vice-President Linda Shelden  
Secretary Carrie Ann Hanes  
Historian Helen Scheffel  
Treasurer Mary Stokes



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**Deadline for the August 2018 issue of *News in Brief*  
is July 21, 2018**

Please send articles and information for the next issue to Patti Smith at:  
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