



News in Brief

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



The Theology of a Mere Christian: The Inspiration of Scripture

Out of all the troubling beliefs of C.S. Lewis, his view of Scripture is probably the one that should cause Christians the greatest concern. In fact, what you will find is that many of his other theological errors find their root in his deficient theology of the Word of God. It is not as though Lewis did not value the Bible or submit his thinking and writings to the Scriptures, because he actually believed that the Bible truly is the Word of God.¹ However, if you try to understand what exactly he meant by the ‘Word of God’ you will start to find problems.

For one, Lewis believed that some portions of Scripture were more inspired than other portions and he understands inspiration as God exerting his divine compulsion on the biblical authors differently. He says, “There are prophets who write with the clearest awareness that Divine compulsion is upon them. There are chroniclers whose intention may have been merely to record. There are poets like those in the Song of Songs who probably never dreamed of any but a secular and natural purpose in what they composed.”² It is hard to tell if the authors of Scripture knew to what degree they were under divine compulsion as they wrote, but the problem with Lewis is that he is claiming that the more aware the author was of divine compulsion, the more inspired were his writings. This is a dangerous error since it hinges the inspiration of Scripture in the understanding of man as opposed to will and mind of God.

This mistake leads Lewis to categorize different portions of Scripture on a continuum of divinity. He categorizes the words of Jesus as being the most inspired, the Apostle Paul’s writings a little lower, and the rest of Scripture lower still.³ If you try to understand how he arrives at that decision, you will find something close to Neo-orthodox presuppositions. Lewis believes that the Bible “carries the Word of God” which means God uses texts that were written by men to accomplish His purposes.⁴ Now God certainly does use the Bible to accomplish His purposes but the issue lies in that Lewis believed the Bible to be the Word of God *only* when it was being used by God for a specific purpose. This is incredibly similar to the doctrine of inspiration that Karl Barth taught which is essentially that the Bible *becomes* the Word of God.⁵ Both of these views are unbiblical and contrary to the orthodox position that the Bible *is* the Word of God.

The orthodox and biblical position is called plenary verbal inspiration which essentially teaches that every word in the Bible is directly inspired by God and therefore the Scriptures, as a whole and in particular, are the Word of God.⁶ This doctrine is grounded all throughout the Scriptures but most clearly in 2 Timothy 3:16 where Paul says that “All Scripture is God-breathed.” In other words, the orthodox understanding is not that the Bible has the ability to become or carry the Word of God, but that the entire Bible was directly inspired by God himself. The Bible’s words are God’s words.

¹Lewis, C. S. *Reflections on the Psalms*. 1st edition. (New York: Mariner Books, 1964), 109.

²Lewis, *Reflections*, 111.

³Ibid, 113.

⁴Ibid, 112.

⁵Christensen, Michael J. *C. S. Lewis on Scripture: His Thoughts on the Nature of Biblical Inspiration, The Role of Revelation and the Question of Inerrancy*. (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2002), 87.

⁶Alcorn, Randy, Philip Graham Ryken, Kevin J. Vanhoozer, and Douglas Wilson. *The Romantic Rationalist: God, Life, and Imagination in the Work of C. S. Lewis*. Edited by John Piper and David Mathis. (Wheaton, Illinois: Crossway, 2014), 42.



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.

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.

**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. This is a very rich study! Please join us!

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.

August 19 - Baby Shower for Lorin Melton (see pg 5)

The Mint Hill Men continue in a study led by Pastor Aaron on the Ten Commandments using the Westminster Larger Catechism as our guide. The study group meets at the church on Thursday **mornings** from 6:00-7:15. Coffee and a light breakfast are provided. This study is open to all of the Mint Hill Men. **If you are interested talk to Pastor Aaron for more details.**



Holy Communion will be served on Sunday, August 5 .

Come to Sunday School!

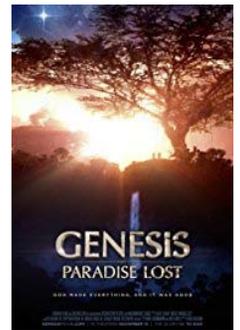


The **Adult Sunday School Class** meets "up on the hill" in the building next to the house. (Anyone will be more than happy to show you the way!)

We meet at **9:00 a.m. each Sunday morning.**
Steve Smith is currently teaching a character study on David. We are in 1 Kings and 1 Chronicles now studying as David's earthly life comes to an end. We have a lot to learn from David — a faith giant!
Please join us!

**Saturday, 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. (Faith Films Network)

We will have hamburgers, hotdogs & chicken drummets at 5:00 p.m., followed by the movie at 6:00. A sign-up sheet is located in the church foyer for side dishes and desserts. Come join us for a special night! **Childcare will be provided!**

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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***

An update on Tracey. Unfortunately they have found a spot on her old kidney and the doctors are assuming it is cancerous. The damaged kidneys were not removed at the time of her original transplant (which from we understand is normal not to remove the old kidney, they just shrivel up and the new kidney takes over the kidney function). Tracy has been removed for the transplant list for now until they do surgery to remove the old kidneys. This will be done in a couple of weeks and we pray that that is successful and she will be able to go back on the transplant list.

Please keep her in your prayers as she has this procedure. Lift her up in prayer to continue to give her strength not only being a Mom to two teenage girls, one starting college this month but also the encouragement and strength for her to be on home dialysis that she has to do every night for 6 to 8 hours.



***Sermon Series from Galatians
continues through August
and into September***

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

- August 5 Galatians 4:21-31***
- August 12 Galatians 5:1-6***
- August 19 Galatians 5:7-12***
- August 26 Galatians 5:13-15***

(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 Ministry** is available for families with young children ages 5 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 - August

- 5 ***Korina Opgenorth***
- 12 ***Sue Johnson***
- 19 ***Kristin Skipper***
- 26 ***Carrie Ann Hanes***

Children's Ministry Schedule - August

- 5 ***Sue Johnson, Bea Zamboni***
- 12 ***Sam Hanes***
- 19 ***Donni DeHart***
- 26 ***Mary Stokes, Sandra Bigham***

Members of the choir who have also volunteered to serve in the nursery or children's ministry 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 Ministry and there are no children who will attend Children's Ministry that day, please assist with nursery needs. We need two people! Thank you for serving!

Officers of the Month - August
Aaron Melton, Butch Bigham

**The Diaconate will meet on Monday,
August 7 at 7:00 p.m.
The Session will meet on August 14 at 7:00 p.m.**

August Birthdays

- 9 ***Matthew DeHart***
- 19 ***Eddie Lutz***



August Anniversaries

- 8 ***John & Daphne Stroup***
- 9 ***Butch & Gloria Bigham***



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!



How We Can Help in Other Ways

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!



Opgenorth Hospitality Nights



The Opgenorth Hospitality Nights continue as the Opgenorth family would like to invite all the people and families of Mint Hill Presbyterian into their 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!"

Gideon Moore let us know that his wife Anne and their daughter Gracie made it home safely from Haiti, where there have been violent riots over the surging prices in gasoline. (We have been praying for them!) Their entire mission team had to be evacuated, at a significant cost, from the orphanage in Kenscoff, where they were working. Praise God that all are safe. The Moores used to live here in Charlotte, but now live in the St. Petersburg, FL area.

God is so good—ALL the time!



Baby Shower for Lorin Melton!

The WOC will host a baby shower on **Sunday, August 19, at 2 p.m.** for Lorin and little Serenity Grace (yet to be introduced to us!)



All the women in the church are welcome to come and celebrate with our sweet sister! Hope to see you there!

And speaking of babies... Chad and Julie McKinnon are expecting another baby boy in January! Congratulations to them and their sweet family!



Visit from Rev. Zeeshan Sadiq

Mint Hill Presbyterian was blessed with a visit from Rev. Zeeshan Sadiq, an ARP church planter in Pakistan on Sunday, July 22. Pastor Zeeshan brought us the message from Luke 5:1-11 about his contribution to the Kingdom of God has been and continues to be. It was such a pleasure to get to know him a little bit and hear about the ARP church in Pakistan. We so often take for granted how blessed we are here in the United States to be able to worship without fear of severe persecution.



After the worship service, we all stayed and broke bread together and fellowshiped with Zeeshan, as he answered questions about his ministry and how we can be praying for them. Here are some memories of that Sunday...



Photo above provided by Korina Opgenorth

A Huge Thank You from the Opgenorths!

The Manse Workday on July 14 was very much appreciated by the Opgenorths. They would like to thank each and every one of the guys who came out to help. *“They did an incredible job removing, trimming, and chipping all the overgrown bushes and trees around our manse!”* — Korina Opgenorth



As you can see, there were all sizes of helpers (above) and one very strange onlooker! (right) What a difference a little hard work can make!



Photos provided by Korina Opgenorth



August 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Women's Bible Study 10-11:30 am Praise Team Rehearsal 7 p.m.	3	4
 5 Prayer 8:50 am Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Worship - 10:00 am Holy Communion	6	7 Diaconate Mtg. 7 p.m.	8	9 Women's Bible Study 10-11:30 am Praise Team Rehearsal 6:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal 7:15 p.m.	10	 11 Meal & a Movie Night! Meal at 5 p.m. Movie at 6 p.m. Childcare provided!
12 Prayer 8:50 am Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Worship - 10:00 am Baby Shower for Lorin Melton 2:00 p.m.	13	14 Session Mtg. 7 p.m.	15	16 Women's Bible Study 10-11:30 am Praise Team Rehearsal 6:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal 7:15 p.m.	17	18
19 Prayer 8:50 am Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Worship - 10:00 am	20	21	22	23 Women's Bible Study 10-11:30 am Praise Team Rehearsal 6:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal 7:15 p.m.	24	25
26 Prayer 8:50 am Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Worship - 10:00 am	27	28	29	30 Women's Bible Study 10-11:30 am Praise Team Rehearsal 6:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal 7:15 p.m.	31	



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The General Synod of the Associate
Reformed Presbyterian Church
8528 Brief Road
Mint Hill NC 28227-8449
Church Office & Fax: 704-545-5199
minhillpresbyterian.org

Church Staff

Pastor Rev. Aaron Joel Opgenorth
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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by seeking the lost,
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**Deadline for the September 2018 issue of
News in Brief
is August 21, 2018**

Please send articles and information for the next issue to Patti Smith at:
ssmith6559@carolina.rr.com