



# 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: Inerrancy***

Not only does Lewis's view of inspiration fall short of biblical teaching but it also leads him to believe that the Scriptures contain "naivety, error, contradiction, and wickedness."<sup>1</sup> Since Lewis believes that the Scriptures are just men's writings that are taken up to be God's Word, he concludes that they contain some error.<sup>2</sup> Of course, this is easily refuted by asking the question, "By what standard?" By what standard do the Scriptures contain error? Lewis does not offer a compelling argument for his beliefs and I believe that this is where we begin to bump into C.S. Lewis as a Rationalist. Just like Adam and Eve in the garden, Lewis was guilty of deciding what is good and true by his own reason instead of submitting to God's instruction (Gen. 3:1-6). It is always tempting to think of ways to explain the Word of God but Christians must always remember that it is the Word of God that explains us. We do not have the freedom, the authority, or the rational capacity to stand above the Scriptures; it is the Scriptures that stand above us. The Bible is the Christian's standard of standards, it is our ultimate authority, and anything less than that is sinful and dangerous.

This is obviously true but many have accused this position of circular reasoning. Circular reasoning is a fallacy<sup>3</sup> that assumes the truth of a conclusion in the premise of an argument. We do not want to commit fallacies because we are called to walk in the truth, so how can we avoid circular reasoning while honoring the Bible as our highest authority? We must first distinguish between *viciously* and *virtuously* circular arguments. A viciously circular argument would be saying that the Bible is true because the Bible is true. One does not have to be well versed in logic to discern that something is wrong with that argument. Virtuously circular arguments, on the other hand, are arguments that are consistent and coherent with one's ultimate standard of truth. In light of this distinction, I would posit that no one can argue for anything apart from that which their own ultimate standard dictates as true. For instance, the only way to prove that science and empiricism is the standard of truth is by appealing to science and empiricism as proof. Similarly, the only way to prove reason is the arbiter of truth is appealing to reason. Furthermore, if you try to explain your ultimate standard by appealing to something else then you have abandoned your standard for one more ultimate and this will only continue ad infinitum. This is why apologetics is not so much about pointing to science or reason as it is about comparing the consistency and coherence of the ultimate standards by which people make decisions. For the Christian, the ultimate standard for faith and life is God and His Word, and there is no authority over God or His Word because He is the Great I AM.

Since this is true, then Lewis cannot, as a Christian, coherently say that the Bible contains errors when the Bible teaches that it is the inerrant Word of God (Pr. 30:5). Yet Lewis believes that the Bible does contain errors and he does so by appealing to a standard that is more ultimate than the Scriptures: his own reason. Lewis believes this in spite of his Christian beliefs and his view is honestly absurd since his finite reasoning is a mere bread crumb compared to the infinite wisdom, knowledge, and reasoning of our God (Isa. 55:8-9).

1. Lewis, C. S. *Reflections on the Psalms*. 1st edition. (New York: Mariner Books, 1964), 111.

2. Lewis, *Reflections*, 116.

3. A fallacy is a deformed way of thinking.



*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 this fall.*

*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  
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!*

*The WOC (Women of the Church) Quarterly Meeting  
will be held on **Sunday, September 9**, immediately  
following worship. This is a luncheon meeting (so bring a  
dish to share), and **ALL ladies are welcome to join us!**  
You don't have to be a member of Mint Hill Presbyterian  
to come. We would love to have you!*



*Holy Communion will be  
served on Sunday,  
September 2 .*

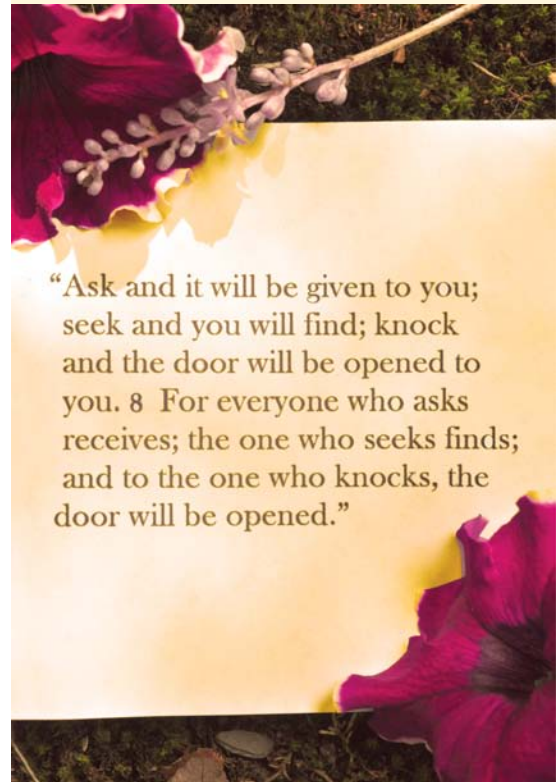
*Come to Sunday School!*



**For the month of  
September Steve Smith  
will be taking a break and  
Debby Lutz will be  
teaching a Sunday school  
class entitled "*Singing with***

*Confidence"* that is designed to teach and help the  
congregation sing and read music. This class will be  
held in the sanctuary beginning at 9:00 a.m., and  
would be great for anyone who is not confident in  
their musical or singing abilities!!! **All** are welcome  
and encouraged to come. Please talk with Debby if  
you have any questions.

*Sermon Series Coming Up Soon*



*"Ask and it will be given to you;  
seek and you will find; knock  
and the door will be opened to  
you. 8 For everyone who asks  
receives; the one who seeks finds;  
and to the one who knocks, the  
door will be opened."*

Pastor Aaron's next sermon series  
will be entitled "*Praying the Bible*"  
which will look at the various prayers  
found throughout the Bible. This  
series will begin September 30, 2018.

Photo by Patti Smith

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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

***“A full measure of the Word and prayer each day gives a healthy and powerful life.”***

— Andrew Murray



**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.

9/2 *Galatians 6:1-10*

9/9 *Galatians 6:11-18*

***Pastor Opgenorth will be on vacation with his family for two weeks in September. A new sermons series date is listed on page 2.***

**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 - September**

- 9/2 *Mary Stokes*
- 9/9 *Korina Opgenorth*
- 9/16 *Carrie Ann Hanes*
- 9/23 *Linda Shelden*
- 9/30 *Barbara Porter*

**Children's Ministry Schedule - September**

- 9/2 *Sue Johnson*
- 9/9 *Sam Hanes*
- 9/16 *Sue Johnson*
- 9/23 *Sue Johnson*
- 9/30 *Sue Johnson*

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 - September*  
*Donn DeHart, Tom Vehue*

The Session and the Diaconate will not meet in the month of September but will resume meetings in October.

**September Birthdays**

- 2 *Debby Lutz*
- 3 *Richard Brueck*
- 5 *Aaron Melton*
- 7 *Steve Smith*
- 7 *Tom Vehue*
- 7 *Vance Porter*
- 13 *Claire Depaoli*
- 16 *Shirley Saine*
- 19 *Butch Bigham*
- 25 *Kuyper Opgenorth*
- 27 *Emmerson Skipper*
- 29 *Helen Scheffel*



**September Anniversaries**

- 8 *Alex & Anne Depaoli*
- 21 *Lee & Julie Leslie*
- 22 *Bill & Mildred Rhyne*

*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 new chart is will be on the table in the back soon showing what we can fund a person, family, or entire village, and how much money it takes to achieve that goal.

If you would like to donate, a jar is in the back of the church (where the OCC basket used to be). It is 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!



Please note that the note from Rachel Buechler from Samaritan's Purse is for your information. I will not be involved in this, but encourage any of you who may want to take part in it to do so! From what I understand, it is quite an experience!



— Patti Smith

## 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!"

### Opportunities with Samaritan's Purse



It's that time of the year again!! *Samaritan's Purse - Operation Christmas Child* has seasonal, paid employment opportunities available and we would like to share them with your church family to help find people

who might be called to work with us this season.

While we do have many Associates that will be returning this year, we have need for over 700 people and there *are* many jobs available for warehouse workers, certified forklift operators, team coaches, data entry keyers and mail processing staff on both first and second shifts. The processing season (when the Associates would actually be working) begins mid-November and runs through mid-December. These positions are temporary, full-time opportunities, Monday through Saturday, and require a solid commitment for the duration of the project. We have attached a flyer for your church, a bulletin insert, and a PowerPoint slide that may help you share this information with your congregation.

As a Christian Ministry, we would like to make these limited opportunities known to qualified members of local churches. We are currently accepting applications and will begin setting up interviews at the end of September. Instructions for applying on line are included in this email. If you or your church members have any questions or would like further information about Samaritan's Purse, Operation Christmas Child, or these opportunities – please feel free to contact me directly, or you may check out our website at <https://www.samaritanpurse.org/our-ministry/processing-center-seasonal-employment/>

Below is a short video that you are free to use to share with your congregation.

<https://www.samaritanpurse.org/our-ministry/processing-center-seasonal-employment/>

Thank you in advance for helping us share this opportunity.

Blessings,

**Rachel Buechler**

**SAMARITAN'S PURSE**

Seasonal Recruiter | HUMAN RESOURCES

704-916-8006 – Direct

[rbuechler@samaritan.org](mailto:rbuechler@samaritan.org)

[SAMARITANSPURSE.ORG](http://SAMARITANSPURSE.ORG)

### *Joni & Friends Family Retreat Memories*

Sue Johnson and Tom Vehue attended the Joni & Friends Family Retreat this year as short-term missionaries (STM's). Here are a few photos from their time there with their "buddies." We heard from them recently in worship about the awesome week they had there and how the Lord worked!



*And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'*

— Matthew 25:40

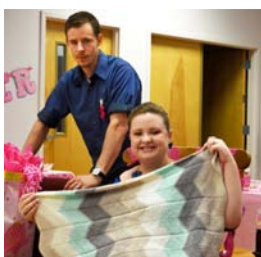


### *Baby Shower for Lorin & Aaron (and Serenity Grace!) Melton*

The ladies (and Aaron Melton!) had a great time at a baby shower given to the Meltons by the Women of the Church. Here are some memories from that afternoon! We can't wait to meet little Serenity Grace!



As you can see, Lorin and Aaron got lots of great gifts for little Serenity!



Photos by Patti Smith



# September 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
Prayer 8:50 am Sunday School Sing with Confidence begins 9:00 a.m. Worship - 10:00 am Holy Communion	3  Labor Day	4	5	6  Women's Bible Study 10-11:30 am  Praise Team Rehearsal 6:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal 7:15 p.m.	7	8
Prayer 8:50 am Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Worship - 10:00 am WOC Quarterly Luncheon Meeting after worship	10	11	12	13  Women's Bible Study 10-11:30 am  Praise Team Rehearsal 6:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal 7:15 p.m.	14	15
16  Prayer 8:50 am Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Worship - 10:00 am	17	18	19	20  Women's Bible Study 10-11:30 am  Praise Team Rehearsal 6:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal 7:15 p.m.	21	22
23 Prayer 8:50 am Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Worship - 10:00 am  30	24	25	26	27  Women's Bible Study 10-11:30 am  Praise Team Rehearsal 6:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal 7:15 p.m.	28	29



**News in Brief**

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MINT HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
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[minhillpresbyterian.org](http://minhillpresbyterian.org)

**Church Staff**

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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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exists to Glorify God  
by seeking the lost,  
making disciples,  
and worshipping the Savior.*



**Deadline for the October 2018 issue of  
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is September 21, 2018**

Please send articles and information for the next issue to Patti Smith at:  
**[ssmith6559@carolina.rr.com](mailto:ssmith6559@carolina.rr.com)**