



PROVIDENCE TIMES

Happenings on Harshaw

2252 Harshaw Road Murphy, NC

Tuesday, February 3, 2026

Remain Alert and Aware



“Christian Nationalism” — what is it, and why should I care? This term describes a viewpoint and set of teachings to which many in our nation now subscribe and which has become the source of much confusion, division, and dissension even within orthodox, conservative church circles, including the PCA. This term is notoriously difficult to define, with different people meaning different things by it, which means that we should remain alert and aware of its teaching.

It has to do with how we view the relationship between God’s Church and civil authority, an area, of course, in which the Bible, and thus the Westminster Standards, has much to say. As with many “isms” of the past, most of us would find much of the teaching acceptable and even commendable (e.g. appreciate and embrace that our nation was founded on biblical principles, desire that Christianity hold a prominent place in the public square, and seek elected officials who are committed to the faith). Yet, there is also much that is doctrinally troubling and that can draw the church away from its Gospel-centered task.

One indication of how deeply this is impacting the PCA came at last year’s General Assembly (GA), where four Presbyteries successfully petitioned the body to erect and convene a “*Christian Nationalism Study Committee*” to report and provide us with pastoral guidance. If you are interested in hearing more on this topic, let me know, and we can open it up in future issues and perhaps address it in the classroom once the report is released (*hopefully* at GA 2026 in June). - P. David



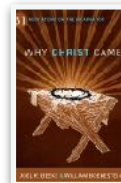
Website Highlight



We want our new website to be user friendly and well worth your time to visit. Note the announcement bar that broadcasts important messages to visitors to the site. It is always visible at the top of a page regardless of scroll position. If you look at the top of the [home](#) or [sermon](#) page, you will see an example of this for the livestream. Changes to our worship schedule due to inclement weather will also be announced here and via email as well as other important announcements, visible on all pages. Keep an eye out for announcements!

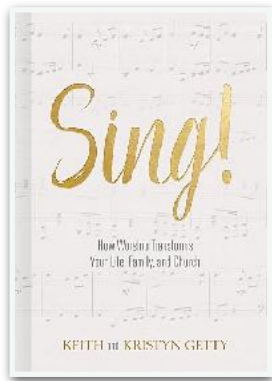


More Books!!!



We have two new books in the library this month. The first is *Why Christ Came* by Joel R. Beeke & William Boekestein along with “*Christmas Thoughts*” by J.C. Ryle. Both books will be on the library cart in the foyer. Take a peek to see if you would enjoy them!

Sing to the Lord!



"Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth! Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into his presence with singing!" (Psalm 100:1-2)

As the body of Christ, we are called to sing, but when we are studying God's word and looking back at his wonderful providence and grace in our lives, we should also desire to sing. As an accompanist, it is my joy to help assist in worship by playing the piano, but as a congregation, God has gifted us with the ability to sing. We are one voice together. So I encourage you to lift your voices because you are created to sing. "Oh come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!" (Psalm 95:1)

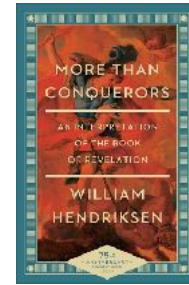
Through Singing, we show the light of Christ to the world. As a member, your participation in singing praise to our God sets an example to other believers and shows Christ's love to those who are not trusting in Him. As you sing, you are demonstrating your love for Christ and gratitude for the work he has done in your life.

"Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his excellent greatness!" (Psalm 150:2). "Sing to the LORD, all the earth! Tell of his salvation from day to day." (1 Chronicles 16:23)

Note: For further reading about our calling to sing, visit the Providence library to find a copy of "Sing!" by Keith and Kristyn Getty.

~ Eliana Meiners ~

Readers Take Note!



In relation to our Sunday School study of the book of Revelation, this scholarly yet very accessible commentary stands out among many, proving to be instrumental not only to pastors and students of theology but to laypeople as well. The author, Dutch-born American minister and New Testament scholar William Hendriksen, understood that when studying Revelation, which is of the apocalyptic literature genre, it is of vital importance to consider the targeted readers, persecuted first-century Christians.

Rather than interpreting the Book of Revelation as a linear historical narrative, this author's approach is one of recapitulation, whereby passages cover the same time periods or events, emphasizing different aspects each time, each ending with the coming of the Lord in judgment.

He describes in detail and with copious scripture references what he recognizes as seven parallel sections of Revelation. He also explains what he calls the two major divisions of the book.

Hendriksen wrote, "The purpose of the book of Revelation is to comfort the militant Church in its struggle against the forces of evil. It is full of help and comfort for persecuted and suffering Christians." And, "The theme is the victory of Christ and of His Church over the dragon (Satan) and his helpers."

We have a copy of this book in our library, and I (Jennifer) am very willing to lend out my copy. P. David will also have a few copies available for purchase during the class.

Missions We Support Report



Corey and Holly Pelton, whose faces have been familiar around Providence of late, are faithful servants of our Lord Jesus Christ. We asked Corey to provide an update on his ministry, and he graciously sent us this:

“Rural Church Development began four years ago when Corey Pelton was called by Tennessee Valley Presbytery to be an Evangelist for three counties: Gilmer and Fannin in Georgia and Polk county in Tennessee. The purpose was to serve these counties by driving weekly to the communities in order to build relationships (with a focus on the unchurched, de-churched, and under disciplined), gathering those willing into small groups and Bible studies that could potentially become a church plant team and resourcing them with a PCA pastor. In this way, the goal was to have at least three churches within a geographical region with mutual pastoral support and relationship.

“Through the process of consistently going to the same places week by week over a long period of time and asking questions of curiosity, the Peltons have learned much about the culture of the area and have built relationships with both “from heres” and “come heres.” The Lord blessed their efforts and there is now a mission church with a pastor in Ellijay, GA.

“Corey continues to build relationships in Fannin and Polk counties. Recently, folks from Providence, particularly the Meiners family band, helped with a traditional Lessons & Carols service at Copperhill Brewery in Copperhill, TN. The purpose is to continue to build relationships for potential future Bible study and to see if the Lord might raise up a church planting team and, eventually, a pastor.

“In the last two years, Mission to North America, the church planting agency of the PCA, has called upon Corey to work part time as Rural Church Planting Director to help be a resource to the denomination throughout North America. Historically, the PCA has not focused on small town church planting. The ministry he does locally helps inform his national leadership and vice versa.”

Corey preached a wonderful sermon here at Providence on January 4, 2026, titled Laborers for the Harvest. If you missed it or just wish to hear it again, click [here](#) and scroll down til you see it.

† The Reality of Spiritual Warfare †

Some of us ignore, downplay, and even deny altogether the role that Satan plays in our lives as Christians. On the other hand, there are those of us who give the evil forces of Satan and his minions far too much traction in our lives. Satan is a created being and not, like our almighty God, omnipotent, omnipresent, or omniscient. That said, the Apostle Peter warned us to, “Be sober minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour,” (1 Peter 5:8). Remember the book of Job, [chapters one and two](#).

With regard to spiritual warfare, which we all experience, there are a few things that are important to remember. While we endure the purifying trials of sanctification, we will not be given more than we can bear (1 Corinthians 10:13); it is not you personally who is under attack, it is Christ in you being attacked, with the goal of undermining your faith in Him; and Christ defeated death and Satan with his grueling, horrifying, and painful work on the cross (Colossians 2:15, Hebrews 2:14-15). We have already obtained victory over Satan in Jesus; thus we can and must persevere!!!