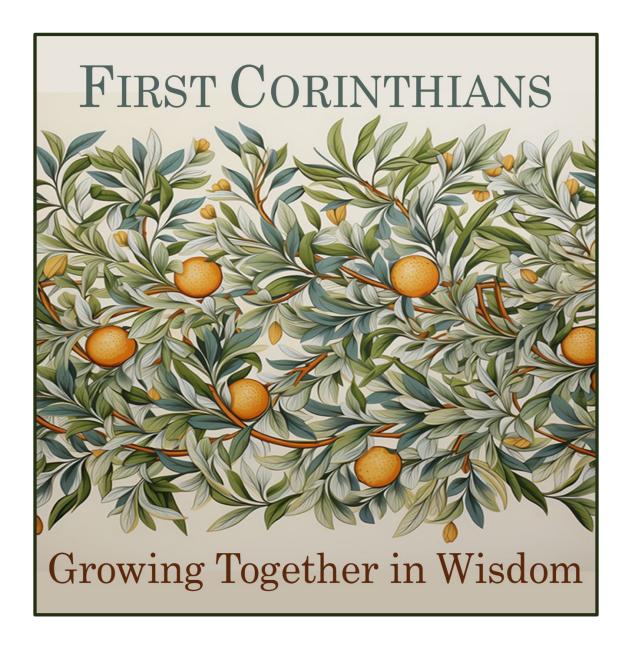


# CORNERSTONE

# Presbyterian Church



SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND GOSPEL RENEWAL

Sixth Sunday of Easter 05 May 2024

# Pastoral Notes

#### Dear Cornerstone Family,

As we receive an encouraging report today on the fiscal health of Cornerstone Presbyterian Church (see report below), it's appropriate to briefly reflect on three key aspects of the Bible's teaching on giving.

- **I. Giving is a spiritual discipline that requires forethought and planning.** At the end of I Corinthians, Paul speaks of the collection for the saints, and he says, "On the first day of the week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper, so that there will be no collecting when I come" (I Cor. 16:2). Notice, Paul teaches the Corinthians to set aside a portion of their resources each Sunday for giving to the work of the Lord and meeting the needs of the poor. Paul knows that if we're not intentionally setting aside resources and preparing to give, we will fall into the trap of using that money for other things. Setting aside your giving on the front end helps ensure that the Lord has first place in your budget.
- 2. Giving is to be commensurate with your income. In the passage I quoted above, Paul says to set "something aside" in keeping with how "he may prosper" you. He teaches the same principle in 2 Corinthians 8:12 when he says, "For if the readiness [to give] is there, it is acceptable according to what a person has, not according to what he does not have." Paul recognizes that resources rise and fall, and that our giving will rise and fall, too. He's instructing us to give proportionally, and to not be bound by a certain number, dollar figure, or percentage. But to instead, let your giving track with the normal ups and downs of income.
- **3. Give generously, cheerfully, and sacrificially.** In Luke 21:1-4, the rich were placing large sums in the offering box, but a poor widow placed just two small copper coins in the coffer. Jesus says of her, "Truly, I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them. For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on." On the surface, this principle appears to undermine principle #2, but that's not the case. Instead, the Bible is placing us in good biblical tension. We're being called to look at what we have and consider our basic needs, and then sacrificially invest in work of the church. The fact is we're not sacrificing if it doesn't cut into our lives. We know we're beginning to practice biblical giving if we're restraining our spending in order to support the work of ministry (see Acts 2:42-47).

By placing these principles beside each other, the Bible's inviting us into the wisdom of a giving pattern that's discerning, generous, and sacrificial (2 Cor. 9:6-15). As those who have been given so much, let's not try to get away with giving as little as we can. Instead, let's joyfully prove our earnest love for Jesus Christ by giving to the church in a manner that reflects, even faintly, the generosity of the gospel.

#### 3rd Quarter Financial Report

	<u> 3rd Quarter Year to Date</u>			<u>2023/24 Full Year</u>
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Giving	\$2,008,166	\$1,112,000	\$896,166	\$1,450,000
Expenses	\$1,087,641	\$1,087,551	\$ 90	\$1,450,000
Difference	\$920,525	\$ 24,449	\$896,076	\$ 0

#### Cash Position

Total cash position on March 31, 2024 was \$565,000

#### Major Projects

YTD renovation project expenditures were \$540,000 at the end of this quarter.

The Chapel mortgage was fully paid off this year for \$660,000

These expenditures are reported on the balance sheet and are not included in the budget expenses above. They impact our cash position, but not our budget performance.

Your servant.

Nate

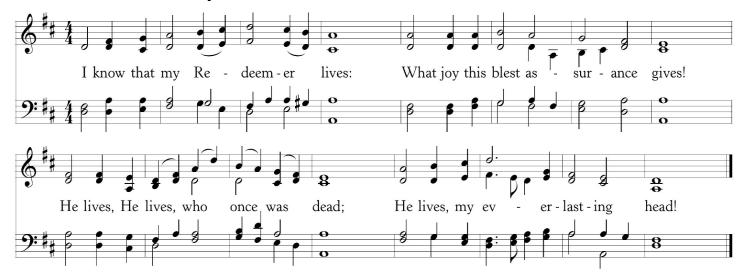
Worship Notes— This Sunday's sermon text is I Corinthians 1:17-25, in which Paul corrects the Corinthian church's love for worldly means (wisdom, eloquence, power) rather than for the simple message of "Christ crucified" which conceals the power and wisdom of God. The Call to Worship from Psalm 19 speaks of God's wisdom which pervades all of creation and all of His law, the law that "makes wise the simple." "Rejoice, the Lord is King" as our opening hymn reminds us of God's wise plan for our redemption, from creation to Christ's second coming and instructs to "rejoice give thanks and sing" in light of this Gospel which seems so foolish to those who do not know its power. The *Old Testament Reading* from Psalm 2 instructs us that, though the nations and kings rage against the Lord and "the Son," the way of wisdom is to "serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling." The *Prayer of Confession* comes from Romans I in which we confess that "claiming to be wise, we became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for earthly things." The hymn following our Assurance of Pardon is "In Christ Alone" which reminds us that only the person and work of Christ is where our "hope is found; He is my light, my strength." During communion we sing "If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee" in which we proclaim that to "trust in God's unchanging love builds on the rock which naught can move" and even in the face of sufferings His word is a more sure hope than all the wisdom and power of men. The second communion hymn, "May the Mind of Christ," is a prayer to follow Christ's example, to "look only to Jesus as I go." As our final hymn, we sing "My Hope is Built on Nothing Less" with its refrain "On Christ the solid rock I stand; all other ground is sinking sand." — Maxwill Shell

## Prelude, Announcements, and Preparation

#### GOD CALLS HIS PEOPLE AND REVEALS HIMSELF

God calls His people to worship and come before Him. The Creator of all things reveals Himself through His Word and calls us into His presence.

# Introit—I Know that My Redeemer Lives, Vs I



Text: Samuel Medley, 1738-99; Music: DUKE STREET, John Hatton, 1793.

#### Call to Worship—from Psalm 19:1, 7, 10, 14

Pastor: The heavens declare the glory of God,

All: and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.

Pastor: The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul;

All: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple;

Pastor: More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; All: sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.

Pastor: Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart

be acceptable in your sight,

All: O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

# Hymn of Praise—Rejoice, the Lord Is King



Text: Charles Wesley, 1746; Music: DARWALL, John Darwall, 1770.

# Prayer of Praise and Thanksgiving

# Old Testament Reading—Psalm 2

Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain?

- <sup>2</sup>The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against his Anointed, saying,
- <sup>3</sup> "Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us."
- <sup>4</sup>He who sits in the heavens laughs; the LORD holds them in derision.
- <sup>5</sup> Then he will speak to them in his wrath, and terrify them in his fury, saying,
- 6"As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill."
- <sup>7</sup>I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to me,
  - "You are my Son; today I have begotten you.
- <sup>8</sup> Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession.
- You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel."
- <sup>10</sup> Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth.
- <sup>II</sup> Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling.
- <sup>12</sup>Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, for his wrath is quickly kindled. Blessed are all who take refuge in him.

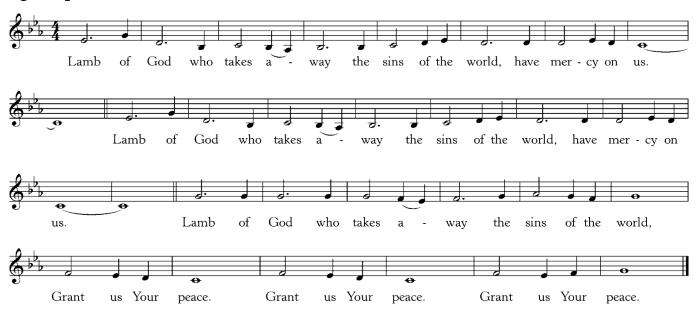
Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

## GOD CALLS HIS PEOPLE TO CONFESSION, REPENTANCE & RECONCILIATION

The People of God respond to His Word by confessing their sins, repenting of their sinful ways, and seeking God's favor through the reconciling work of Jesus, the Son of God.

# Sung Response—Lamb of God



Text: John I:29; Music: Franklin Agnus Dei, Gregory D Wilbur, 2009. ©2009 Greyfriars Press.

# Congregational Prayer of Confession—based on Romans 1:18-23, 25

Leader: Lord, we come in prayer and confession.

Your wrath is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of man, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.

All: What can be known about You is plain because You have shown it to us.

Leader: Your invisible attributes—Your eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly perceived ever since the creation of the world in the things that have been made.

All: We are without excuse, for although we knew You, we did not honor You or give thanks to You.

Pastor: We became futile in our thinking and our foolish hearts were darkened.

All: Claiming to be wise, we became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for earthly things.

Pastor: We have exchanged the truth about You, O God, for a lie and worshipped the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever!

# Silent Prayers of Confession

# Assurance of Pardon—based on Ephesians 2:8-10

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

+++New Arrivals are Welcome to be Seated+++

#### Hymn of Praise—In Christ Alone



# Senior Recognition

I\* Service—High School: Jackson Allen, Zach Brewer, Emmaline Chapman Quinn Johnston, Braden Millard, Katie Shurden, Ashley Williams

Ist Service—College: Everett Vencel

2<sup>nd</sup> Service—High School: Lauren Cline, Walker Kessler, Vivian Kelley, James Patton, Lucy Raymond 2<sup>nd</sup> Service—College: Noah Aikens, Gabby Shell, Andrea Stowe

# The Reading of the Word—I Corinthians I:17-25

<sup>17</sup> For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

<sup>18</sup> For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup> For it is written,

"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

<sup>20</sup> Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup> For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup> For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, <sup>23</sup> but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup> but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup> For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

Leader: The grass withers, the flower fades;

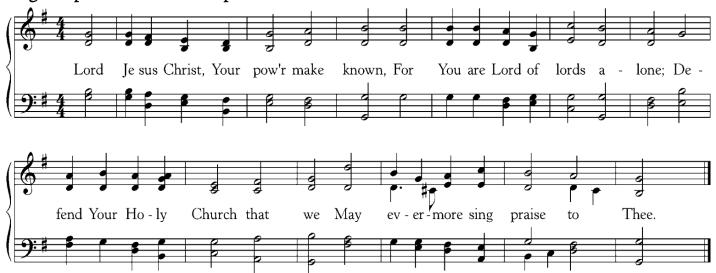
All: But the Word of our God will stand forever.

# Sermon—I Corinthians: Growing Together in Wisdom, part 4

Preaching the Cross

—Nate Shurden, *Pastor* 

## Sung Response—Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word, Vs 2



Text: Martin, Luther, 1541, Trans Catherine Winkworth, 1863, Alt. 2007; Music: OLD HUNDREDTH, *Genevan Psalter*, 1551.

# Profession of Faith—The Apostles' Creed

We believe in God, the Father Almighty, the Creator of heaven and earth,

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,

who was conceived of the Holy Spirit,

born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell. On the third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into Heaven

and now sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty,

from whence He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic\* church,

The communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,

The resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

<sup>\* &</sup>quot;Catholic" refers to the universal church of God's people throughout all time and from all places

#### Sung Response—Sanctus



CCLI #11121087 Text: Is 6:3, Rev 4:8, Mt 21:9; Music: Franklin Sanctus, Gregory D Wilbur, 2009. ©2009 Greyfriars Press.

high - est.

men.

san-na in the

# Pascha Nostrum—I Corinthians 5:7-8, Romans 6:9-II

Pastor: Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us;

high - est, Ho

All: therefore let us keep the feast.

san-nah in the

Pastor: We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again;

All: death no longer has dominion over him.

Pastor: For the death he died he died to sin, once for all,

All: but the life he lives he lives to God.

Pastor: So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin

All: and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

God offers to His people the gift of communion with Him through the grace of the sacrament and we respond in thanksgiving.

#### Words of Institution and the Lord's Table

#### Guidelines for the Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper is the family meal for Christians. We invite all baptized Christians who are members of a congregation that proclaims the gospel, and who are at peace with God and with their neighbor, and who seek strength to live more faithfully for Christ to join us.

If you are not a Christian, or if you are not prepared to share in this meal, we encourage you to spend this time in prayer. You can find some sample prayers on the next page. We hope that this time is helpful to you as you consider your relationship with Jesus Christ and with His people, the church.

At Cornerstone, we come forward to receive communion. Proceed to the first table for the bread, and then on the second for wine/juice.

#### Hymn of Communion—If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee



If thou but suf - fer God to guide thee What can these an - xious cares a - vail thee These nev - er ceas - ing Be pa - tient and a - wait His lei - sure Alla - like be - fore the High - est: Sing, pray, and keep His ways un-swerv-ing,

And hope in Him through all thy ways, moans and sighs? In cheer-ful hope, with heart con - tent eas - y for God, We know, our Per - form thy du ties faith - ful - ly,



He'll give thee strength, what - e'er be - tide thee, And bear thee through the days. thou be - wail thee O'er each dark mo - ment as What can it help if flies? take what-ever To Fa - ther's plea-sure And His dis-cern - ing love hath sent, raise thee up, though low thou li - est, To make the rich man poor and though un - de - serv-ing, Thou yet shalt find And trust His Word: true thee.



Who trust in God's un - chang-ing love Builds on the rock that naught can move. Our cross and tri als do The heav-ier for bit but press our ter - ness. Nor doubt our in - most wants are known To for Him who chose us His own. True won-ders still Himare wrought Who and brings to naught. set - teth ир The soul that trust - ed Him in - deed. God nev - er yet for - sook in need

Georg Neumark, 1641, trans Catherine Winkworth, 1855; Music: NEUMARK, Georg Neumark, 1657, Mod. 2011.

#### Prayers for Those Not Taking the Lord's Supper

If you are not able to partake in the Lord's Supper today, please use this time to meditate on one of the following prayers.

Prayer for Those Searching for Truth. Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open me to the reality of who you are. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life you promise. Amen

Prayer of Belief. Lord Jesus Christ, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever dared admit, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt on the cross, taking what I deserved in order to offer me complete forgiveness. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and Lord. Amen

Prayer of Commitment. Lord Jesus, you have called us to follow you in baptism and in a life of committed discipleship through membership in your church. Grant that I may take the necessary steps to be one with your people, and live in the fullness of your Spirit. Amen

## Hymn of Communion—May the Mind of Christ



Text: Kate B. Wilkinson, 1925; Music: ST. LEONARDS, A. Cyril Barham-Gould, 1925. Arr. Gregory D. Wilbur 2007

# Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name.

Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, On earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen

## Hymn of Praise—My Hope is Built on Nothing Less



Text: Edward Mote, 1834: Music: SOLID ROCK, 1992. © 1992 Greyfriars Press. Used by Permission.

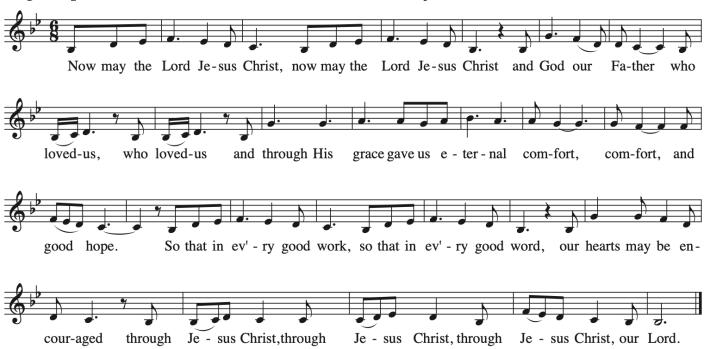
#### GOD SENDS HIS PEOPLE OUT TO BE LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

After calling His people into His presence, forgiving their sins, instructing them in His Word, and providing a foretaste of the marriage supper of the Lamb, God sends His people into the world to show His light in the darkness.

#### Benediction—Ephesians 3:20-21

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

# Sung Response—II Thessalonians 2:16-17 Now May the Lord Jesus Christ



©2023 Text and Music: Karin Simmons & Gregory Wilbur, 2023

Welcome to Cornerstone! If you are visiting with us today, we are glad you're here! We invite you to fill out a visitor form by scanning this QR code so that we may welcome you personally. Alternatively, visitor cards are available at either entrance to the chapel and can be placed in one of the offering boxes as you leave.



# Focus on Church Ministry

#### Golf Tournament Fundraiser: Next Week!

Sign up now for a Golf Tournament at the Franklin Bridge Golf Club next Monday, May 13, starting at 1:00 p.m. to support our youth mission team heading to Belize. Scan this QR code to play, sponsor a hole, or simply donate



(to donate without registering to play, enter an amount in the first question of the form and leave all other fields blank). Thank you for helping our youth get to Belize!

#### Book Discussion: May 6

Tomorrow we will gather at The Corner House to discuss All the Beauty in the World by Patrick Bringley. This memoir shows the beauty of slowing down, looking around, and seeing the people and world that God has made. Join us at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, May 6.

Upcoming discussions:

June 3, The Ballad of the White Horse by G.K. Chesterton July I, The Princess and the Goblin by George MacDonald

#### Life at the Corner Podcast

Have you kept up with the latest episodes of Life at the Corner? Tune in every week to hear Nate discuss a wide range of matters—theology, books, movies, current events, etc. Let us know what you think or submit questions to lifeatthecorner(a)cstonepres.org.

#### Women's Summer Bible Study

Sisters, mark your calendars for Tuesday evenings in June and July! We will meet in the Chapel at 6:30 p.m. every Tuesday from June II to July 30 for the second half of Saved: Experiencing the Power of the Book of Acts with Nancy Guthrie. Bring your friends and invite your neighbors!

#### Giving

There are boxes for tithes and alms at both entrances to the Chapel, or you may give safely and securely online through the website and app.

#### Loving Franklin's Elderly

On the first Sunday of each month, a group from Cornerstone leads a brief worship service at Morning Pointe of Franklin. We'd love to have you offer friendship to the residents and lend your voice to the singing of hymns. Please join us after the service today from I:30-2:15 p.m. Contact: ethan@cstonepres.org

#### Overflow Has Moved

Additional seating for services is now located in the Fellowship Hall.

#### **Exploring Cornerstone**

Want to learn about the history, beliefs, vision, and ministries of Cornerstone, as well as meet key ministry leaders? Interested in becoming a member? Exploring Cornerstone is the class for you. We will meet on Friday, May 31, from 6:00-8:30 p.m. and Saturday, June 1, from 8:00 a.m.-noon. Childcare will be provided. Please visit the website to register.

#### Cornerstone Youth

We will meet this Wednesday, May 8, for youth group from 5:30-7:30 p.m. There will be no Wednesday night gatherings for the rest of May. The summer session will begin on June 5!

Our last spring Sunday School will be on May 19, resuming for summer June 9.

#### Lost and Found

Did you know that Cornerstone has a collection of lost and found items? Check the lost and found in the kitchen to see if you've left behind any mugs, notebooks, jackets, etc. Items left longer than a month will be donated to GraceWorks.

## Taking the Message Home

Today's message, "Preaching the Cross," is taken from I Corinthians I:17-25. Please take time to discuss the questions below with your family, friends, or Home Fellowship Group.

- Can you explain how the word of the cross destroys the wisdom of the wise and thwarts the discerning (vs. 18-19)?
- Unpacking worldly wisdom, Paul says "Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom" (v. 22). How are you tempted by these worldly forms of wisdom?
- What must happen for the "folly of what we preach" to be savingly compelling to the hearer (see v. 18, 24)?
- Why is preaching God's chosen delivery method for the word of the cross? Does your attitude toward preaching match the esteem God gives it?
- How did today's message humble you? How did it encourage you? How did it lead you to worship?

# CORNERSTONE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

#### Presbyterian Church in America

Pastor: Nate Shurden (615-618-4707 Office) or nate@cstonepres.org
 Assistant Pastor: Tony Giles (615-430-8801) or tony@cstonepres.org
 Worship and Chief Musician: Greg Wilbur (615-512-4156) or greg@cstonepres.org
 Church Life Coordinator: Dan Fiedler (615-812-4032) or dan@cstonepres.org
 Interim Office Administrator: Whitney Ruff (615-618-4707) or admin@cstonepres.org

**Bookkeeper:** Tammy McCoy bookkeeper@cstonepres.org

Women's Ministry Director: Martha Brooks (615-591-1683) or women@cstonepres.org

Men's Ministry: men@cstonepres.org

Young Adult Ministry: Taylor Thompson (717-371-0848) or youngadults@cstonepres.org

Director of Youth and Families: Drew Abercrombie (407-489-1724) or drew@cstonepres.org

Children's Director: Meredith Suits (865-250-3579) or elementary@cstonepres.org

Nursery Coordinator: Christy Shurden or nursery@cstonepres.org

Administrative Assistant for Discipleship: Kelley Shell (662-231-9814) or kelley@cstonepres.org

Home Fellowship Information: HFG@cstonepres.org
Prayer Requests: prayer@cstonepres.org

#### Ruling Elders

Randy Allen (615-260-1884) Chuck Emerson: *Emeritus* (615-943-8443) Ron Moffat (629-215-5135)

Preston Brooks (615-838-0359) Joe Haworth (615-289-7543) Jim Payne (615-497-0613)

Terry Cheney (615-579-7089) Will Kesler (423-313-7493) Jim Smith (615-347-4188)

John Millard (423-443-8852)

#### Deacons

 Mark Elliott (615-477-1041)
 Mike Payne (615-579-6453)
 Matt Suits (706-218-2823)

 Matt Faulk (714-801-7596)
 Wes Pittman (615-406-6209)
 Casey Taggart (662-813-3563)

 Dan Fiedler (615-812-4032)
 Brent Roberts (615-394-0662)
 Larry Thompson (901-734-1520)

 Mark Mitchell (630-835-7754)
 Jim Robinson (615-587-0442)
 Bob Vermilye (615-943-8139)

 \*Todd Russell (615-319-4803)

\*On Sabbatical

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All Scripture quotations from the English Standard Version

