

TCBC JOURNAL

The Newsletter of Twin City Bible Church

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Winter Edition

As the daylight shortens and the beauty of the North Carolina landscape dulls, the winter season is a helpful reminder to fix our eyes on our unchanging God. Just as He commands winter's hardened scenery and brings the beauty of spring's warmth, He has providentially prepared every circumstance in our life to teach us more of His perfect character and to transform us into the image of His Son. It is a joyful duty to humbly submit to even the dark seasons of our life, knowing that God is always good and always does good for His children (Psalm 119:68).

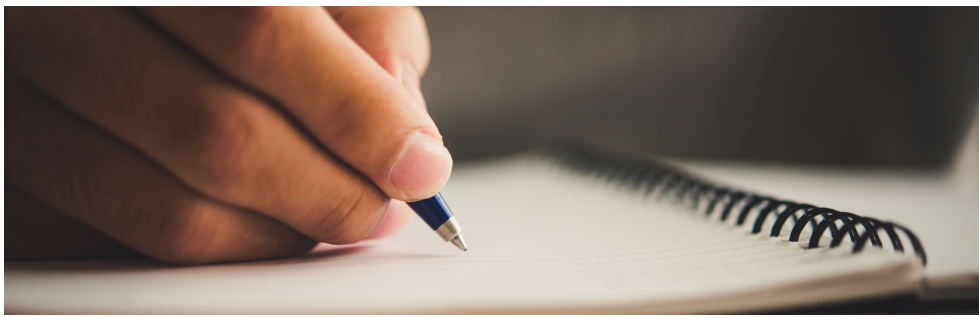
We trust that this quarterly newsletter will point you to resources and church ministries that will serve you and your family in this next season. Please be sure to check our website, Facebook page, weekly Lord's Day bulletin (available on our website), and in-person announcements at our worship services for the most up-to-date information.

*We are a church family committed to Christ-centered worship, biblical ministry, and expository preaching.
Proclaiming salvation by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone.*



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Elder's Note

The past three months have been surprisingly not scary. Let me explain. After contracting COVID, I figured being fairly healthy meant I wouldn't fair too poorly. Whoops! Almost on a ventilator 2 or 3 times and hospitalized for 27 days means I figured wrong. The surprising severity of this illness was known by God because it was His will for me just as much as my redemption. These truths are what comforted me through the most difficult days. There were a few moments of sorrow but they were far outnumbered by the blessings that God showed me through this trial. The most profound example was when I experienced both in the same event. I had tuned in to the church livestream for the first time. As the singing started, in an instant I was shaken by the realization that I couldn't sing. No praises. No joyful noise. My lungs couldn't push more than 2 words at a time. That's the first time I cried tears of sorrow. Seconds later the Lord turned my sorrow into joy.

A nurse walked in to find me this way and asked if I was OK. When I explained that I was sad that I couldn't sing praise to my God it opened up a wonderful opportunity to speak to this young man about the Lord. My sorrow over not having the breath to praise Him was immediately met with the opportunity to use what little breath I had to speak His truth to someone who needed to hear it. When he left the room, I cried tears of joy.

Another blessing is having a more accurate perspective on what it's like to be on the receiving end of the kindness, compassion, care, and prayers of the saints while in a trial. I truly saw the end result of a people who sit under the sound ministry of the Word over the years. In the end, God used our church family to be the greatest encouragement for my family. We will always be in your debt. Thank you.

- Mike Ryals, Elder



"The surprising severity of this illness was known by God because it was His will for me just as much as my redemption. These truths are what comforted me through the most difficult days."

Book Review

My Five 'Must-Read' Books - Pastor Daniel Gumprecht

Selecting five must read books is a joy and a challenge—a joy, because it prompts reflecting on God’s grace that has steadily corrected, taught, and trained me in the course of my Christian life. Yet, it is also a challenge as it means other books must be left aside—like Volume 1 of Spurgeon’s New Park Street Pulpit, Dallimore’s two volumes on Whitefield, or *The Pilgrim’s Progress*.

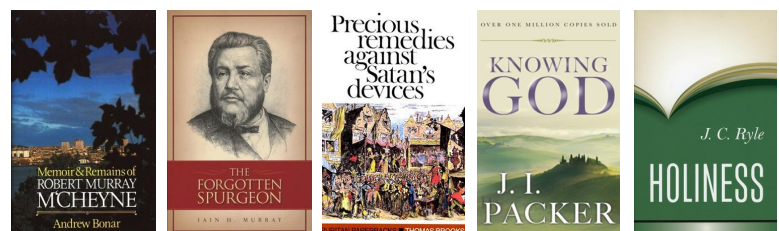
Following Scripture, the book that has been most formative and influential, and thus, my first ‘must read’ is *Memoir and Remains of Robert Murray M’Cheyne*. How stirring, challenging, convicting, and compelling! The striking simplicity yet deep depth of the private comments in M’Cheyne’s diary are forever etched in my mind, as well as the profound wisdom distilled in his letters, sermons—even hymns (“I Am a Debtor” or Jehovah Tsidkenu). This book changed the way I view knowing, loving, and proclaiming Christ, reading Scripture, prayer, zeal for God, a heart for the lost, and personal holiness. My copy even has a distinct olfactory effect—no other book I own smells like this one—a fragrant favorite.

Next is *The Forgotten Spurgeon* by Iain Murray. My upbringing shaped my understanding of Spurgeon—that he was merely witty, jovial, quotable, and devotional. Little did I know he was firmly committed to biblical doctrine and a staunch proclaimer of the doctrines of grace. Seeing Spurgeon’s faithfulness amidst controversy and refusal to compromise over God’s word was eye-opening. Reading the eyewitness account of Spurgeon being voted out of the Baptist Union brought me to tears. Even the footnotes in this book are must read! Murray’s explanation of man’s nature—shaping and directing man’s will—connected the dots for me regarding depravity, responsibility, and God’s sovereignty.

The Puritans have been some of my closest companions and counsellors—and this is all due to my entry point, *Precious Remedies Against Satan’s Devices* by Thomas Brooks. One line hooked me, and ever since I have sat closely at their feet: “Ah, souls! When you shall lie upon a dying bed, and stand before a judgment-seat, sin shall be unmasked, and its dress and robes shall then be taken off, and then it shall appear more vile, filthy, and terrible than hell itself...”

Another is *Knowing God* by J. I. Packer. The opening line from young Spurgeon’s master sermon on the immutability of God began to open my eyes to God’s glory and grandeur; yet, the chapter “Sons of God” opened my eyes to God’s loving heart and the highest blessing the gospel brings, adoption into His family.

In God’s providence, it took me ten years to read *Holiness* by J. C. Ryle. Why that long? Only eternity will make clear, but it will also reveal the indelible imprint Ryle’s scriptural wisdom has made on me. Even the chapter titles are moving: ‘A Woman to be Remembered’, ‘Lovest Thou Me?’, ‘Christ is All’. A must read, to be returned to often.



Ministry Spotlight



TCBC Music Ministry

The music ministry at Twin City Bible Church exists to utilize music, paired with scriptural lyrics, to exalt God and to edify, encourage, and instruct believers in biblical truth. We strive to carry out our mission through:

- Utilizing servant-minded volunteers who are committed members of TCBC
- Exercising musical gifts in a way that is skillful and undistracting from our mission
- Using congregationally-accessible tunes and scriptural texts that represent Psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs from all eras for the gathered worship services of TCBC
- Training the next generation of musical worshipers and leaders through our children's and youth choirs and other available musical instruction and service opportunities

Music Groups

There are a variety of music groups that allow TCBC members to exercise their musical gifts.

- The Worship Team is comprised of musicians who demonstrate vocal or instrumental independence within a small group dedicated to supporting the congregational singing at the worship gatherings of TCBC.
- The adult choir is a perfect place for members who love to sing and would like to contribute to a larger group. The choir's primary ministry focus is preparing music for Legacy Conference, the Christmas Concerts, and the Good Friday and Easter morning services.
- For those who have at least a high-school band level proficiency in an orchestra instrument, our church orchestra provides an opportunity to accompany our congregation as well as our choir for special services.
- Our children are also trained to use their God-given musical talents for lifelong participation in corporate musical worship. All children ages 3 through 5th grade who attend Sunday School learn basic singing technique under the direction of Chris McDowell and Jill Aguiar. They also direct a Kids Chorale, a select group of faithful, elementary-aged members of the larger choir who practice separately and prepare music for special services throughout the year.

For more information regarding the music ministry, please contact Kyle Harding:

kharding@twincitybible.org

Ministry Update



Devoted Ministry

Under the leadership of Pastor Kevin Huang, the Devoted ministry exists to equip college students and young professionals (ages 18-29) to honor, serve, and love Jesus Christ in the midst of all the challenges of life on campus and at work. We meet every Friday evening at 7:00 PM in the church lobby for good coffee, food, fellowship, prayer, and time around God's Word.

We pray that our young adults will tremble at God's Word, strive for holiness, stand for the Truth, prioritize the Church, and evangelize the world wherever God places them. Furthermore, we exist to help our students and young professionals integrate deeper into our church family, experience the richness of full-range body-life, and receive particular pastoral care and instruction in one of the most difficult, yet pivotal seasons as a Christian.

Devoted Conference

Established in 2020, this yearly conference at Ridgecrest near Asheville, NC brings together like-minded College and Career Ministries for a focused time of biblical teaching and fellowship. This year, the young adults were instructed by Pastor Jon Anderson from Grace Bible Church in Tempe, AZ around the topic of *Devoted to the Scriptures*.



Next year, our own Pastor Carey Hardy will teach alongside Dr. Rick Holland from Mission Road Bible Church in Kansas City, KS on the theme of *Devoted to Christ*.



Please visit the [website](#), [Facebook page](#), or [Instagram feed](#) for the Devoted Conference to register, to view archived teaching sessions, and to watch a preview video for next year's conference.

Current Devoted Staff:

Kevin & Keli Schwert, Jason & Christine Harris, Stephen & Marta Nelson, Mike & Amanda Ryals, Jon & Valerie Adams, Pastor Kevin & Melissa Huang

Missions Update - The Zelaya Family



We would like to share a few special prayer requests for this upcoming month. We are so thankful to each of you for your constant support, love and prayers!

- We would like to ask you to pray especially for the seminary as they close out this year of classes. Please pray for all the students and professors that they would finish out the year well, and with a better understanding of God's Word to apply it to their lives and ministries. We ask that you would specifically keep Edwin in your prayers, as this module is one of the hardest in terms of the workload for him. Please pray that the Lord will give him a special grace and strength so that he can serve his students well.
- Also, we would like to ask you to join us in thanking the Lord for our graduation ceremony that was held on Saturday, Nov. 20. It is the largest graduating class we have had to date, with 18 graduates, which we are very excited about! This year we are also celebrating the SEPE seminary's 15th anniversary, and it is such an amazing privilege to witness and be a part of all that the Lord is doing through the ministry here.
- Finally, we would also like to ask prayer for our country here, as the Honduras presidential elections took place on November 28. In the past there has been a lot of violence and unrest following the elections, so we would ask prayer that this year might be a peaceful transition. Also that we would always continue to trust and rest in God's perfect plan for the leadership of this country, but that whoever ends up in office might be favorable to the spread of the Gospel.

Because of His Grace,
Edwin, Kimberly, Lukas, Lia, Levi, and Logan Zelaya

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks;
for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus."

- 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Upcoming Events



Membership Matters Class - December 5, 12:30-4 pm

This class is a required step for all those pursuing membership at TCBC. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet the elders and to learn the essential doctrines and practices of our church. Lunch is provided as well as childcare for those needing it. Please sign-up in the lobby if you plan to attend.



Christmas Concerts - December 10, 7 pm & December 12, 6 pm

The TCBC band, adult choir, orchestra, and Kids Chorale will present selections that cause us to once again marvel at the incarnation of our Savior. There will also be congregational songs, Scripture readings, and a gospel message. Invitations are available at the Welcome Desk.



Christmas Communion Service - December 22, 7 pm

Bring your family to sing Christmas hymns, read Scripture passages centering on the birth of Christ, and partake in the Lord's Table.



SPA Women's Bible Study - 1st and 3rd Tuesdays

The ladies of TCBC will resume their SPA season in the book of Luke on January 18. Each teaching session will conclude with small groups to further apply the passage and and to enjoy a time of prayer. Two times will be offered: 9:30-11:30am (childcare provided) and 7:00-8:30pm.

Save the Date:

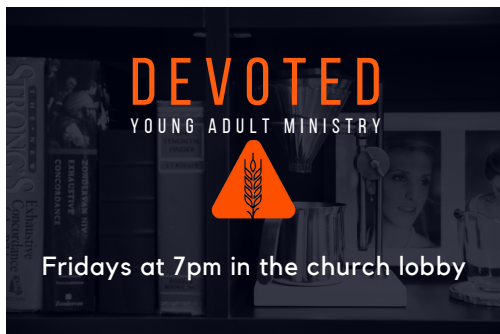
Women's Conference - March 4 - 5

Ladies, mark your calendars for our annual Women's Conference. This year's theme will be *Speaking Truth in Love*, taught by Cheryl Marshall. Cheryl, with co-author Carolyn Newheiser, just published a book entitled *When Words Matter Most: Speaking Truth with Grace to Those You Love*. This will be a wonderful time of fellowship and biblical instruction.



Speaking Truth in Love

Ongoing Ministries



Devoted Young Adult Ministry

The Devoted ministry exists to equip college students and young professionals to honor, serve, and love Jesus Christ in the midst of all the challenges of life on campus and at work. We meet (almost) every Friday evening at 7:00 PM in the church lobby for good coffee, food, fellowship, prayer, and time around God's Word. Contact Pastor Kevin Huang for more information.



Resolved Student Ministry

Resolved is open to any student in middle school or high school. These two groups meet together on Wednesday evenings at 7 pm in the Fireside Room and separately on Sunday mornings at 10:45 am - high school in the Seminary Room and middle school in the choir room.



Men's Ministry

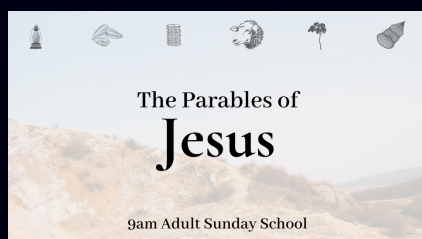
Journey Groups are small groups for the men of Twin City that meet around the Triad at various times. The purpose of Journey Groups is the encouragement of growth in godliness through close accountability, fellowship, discussion, and prayer. Project Manhood will take a break in December, to then resume our once-a-month Sunday evening gathering in January with a new study in the book of Proverbs: *God's Wisdom for God's Man*.

GOD'S WISDOM FOR GOD'S MAN



Adult Sunday School

We currently offer an adult Sunday school class at 9 am and 10:45 am in the Fireside Room. The 9 am class is a study entitled *The Parables of Jesus*. The 10:45 am class is studying *Ruth: Famine to Faith* from November 28 through December 19. Following that study, they will begin a study entitled *Show Me Your Glory: The Attributes of God*. Beginning in early 2022, there will also be a marriage class offered at 9 am entitled *Marriage Refresher*.



Ministry Opportunitites

Moving Ministry



The moving ministry is looking for individuals who are willing to serve along side our fellow brother and sisters. This is a non-committal position looking for volunteers. We would even love to use the Moving Ministry as a possible outreach to our community someday. If you would like to be on a the list to help with moving, please contact Ryan Houseman, who will be organizing and coordinating this ministry (ryanhouseman91@icloud.com, 843-609-3931). Text or call is the best way to reach him.

Children's Ministries



This is a vital ministry every Sunday. From infants through age 10, our children's ministry volunteers care for the youngest attenders at Twin City during our two morning worship services. There is always a need for more volunteers in both the nursery and our children's Sunday school. Please contact Ethan or Amie Yun for more information about Sunday School and Julie Sager for the nursery. In addition to regularly scheduled volunteers, there is also a need for substitutes who would be available to fill gaps in the schedule.

A/V Ministry



Each service, there are many behind-the-scenes volunteers who ensure that our in-house audio and video as well as our global livestream support the ministry of the Word. If you have experience in this area or would be willing to be trained, we are always looking to add servant-minded, skillful volunteers in our A/V ministry. Please contact Micah Brown or Kyle Harding for more information.

New Members Since September, 2021



Nathan Doucette



Stephon Giles



Leonard & Ashleigh
Jurena



Sophia Lang



Leslie Montoya



Mandie
Schaefer



Adam & Christa
Carmichael



Torrey & Victoria
Ferrell



Hadyn Simms

New Members Since September, 2021



Tim & Jackie
Carr



Kevin & Catherine
Bell



Lucas & Raquel
Thomas



Levi & Mandy
Kauffman



Tom & Kiristin
Ryan

New Members Since September, 2021



Kathryn
Shoaf



David & Mary Jane
Miller



Gary
Roberts



Caroline
Wilcox