



## ECPC Newsletter ~ October 11, 2017



### Reformed, Always Reforming: By Faith Alone, Part 1

This past Sunday we considered the clarity and sufficiency of the Scriptures. In Luther's day, the Roman Catholic Church had concluded that God's people couldn't be trusted to read and interpret the Scriptures for themselves. The result was the people of God didn't have a bible in their language and didn't feed upon it. Luther challenged that arguing the Scripture, while sometimes difficult to understand, is clear enough for a child to read and comprehend. He translated the bible into the German language and thanks to the new technology of the printing press, it was published far and wide. For the first time in a long time, God's people could read the bible in their own tongue and build their lives around its teaching.

While Sola Scriptura (by the Scripture alone) is the formal principle of the Reformation, Sola Fide (by faith alone) is the material principle. In other words, once the authority and sufficiency of the Scriptures is established, we can build a theology from what we read. If Sola Scriptura is the heart of the Reformation, Sola Fide is the circulatory system.

You probably know the story of how Luther wrestled with his sin and couldn't rest in his salvation. The Roman Catholic Church taught that a person is made right with God by faith with good works. To be justified by God was to be "made" righteous. "Justification for medieval thinkers didn't merely refer to a status by which one was declared to be in the right before God, but denoted the ongoing change and transformation in the lives of Christians... The medieval consensus was clear that justification portrays the renewal of the human being and the process of that renewal." (Faith Alone, Thomas Schreiner, pg. 38) Luther struggled to understand why he still sinned and was burdened with fear that led him to severe acts of penance like walking up the tower stairs on his bloodied knees.

But Luther was confronted with the teaching of Romans 3:21-31 and concluded that his standing with God was changed when he received righteous standing from Christ. This righteousness was received by the gift of faith alone. Luther was liberated! So changed that he wrote his apprentice, Melancthon, "Be a sinner, and let your sins be strong (sin boldly), but let your trust in Christ be stronger, and rejoice in Christ who is the victor over sin, death, and the world." Luther had a new confidence in God's justification by faith alone.

So come Sunday, and let's consider what it means to be declared righteous (justified) by Faith Alone!

~Pastor Tim

---

### Upcoming Events

October 11 & 18	Communicants' Class
October 13	Playgroup
October 22	Children's Ministries: Volunteer Training Event
October 29	Starting Point
November 2 - 4	Marriage Retreat
November 5	Mission Sunday Covered Dish Luncheon
November 11	Membership Class

### Officer Nominations

The Session is calling for nominations for church officers (Elders and Deacons) through October 22. Members of the congregation are invited to nominate men for either office. Please be in prayer as a church family during this process. Once nominated, the candidate will attend a training course and then be examined by the Session according to our Book of Church Order. The congregation will then vote on the men that have been certified by the Session. You may fill out and submit a [form online](#), or pick one up in the atrium on Sunday and turn in to a Deacon, an Elder or the church office.



### Mission Sunday Covered Dish Luncheon - November 5

Join us for a covered dish luncheon after the service on November 5 to celebrate Missions Sunday. Our focus will be on Missionary Care Teams. Learn what Care Teams are, hear from Care Team members, and find out how you

support our missionaries by joining a Care Team. Missionaries Dan & Isabel Gregoire and Marc & Sam Summers will be attending, so it will be a great opportunity to catch up and hear what they are doing for God's Kingdom.

Please bring a dish to serve 10-12. For your convenience, you may drive up to the church doors under the portico between 9:30 - 9:55am, and someone will receive your dish for the luncheon. After that time, please bring your dish to the large kitchen by the gym.

If you are able to come around 9:15am to help set up and/or receive food, please indicate that on the sign-up. Thank you!

### [Covered Dish Sign Up](#)

---

### Scrap Fabric Needed

We are in need of about 20 scraps of fabric that can be cut into 6" circles for Sunday, October 22. (Bonus points if you want to cut your fabric into 6" circles for us.) If you have some scrap fabric to spare, please drop it off in the basket outside the Children's Ministries office this Sunday. Questions? Contact Christina Fisher ([christina@ecpca.org](mailto:christina@ecpca.org))



### Change for a Change

We have joined with ECCS in their campaign to collect money for Feeding the Orphans' water pump project: Change for a Change. Last year the church raised over \$900, and the school raised \$2600! It takes \$5,000 to build one well. Grab a water bottle from the narthex the next time you are at church. When empty, cut a slit in the bottle, and begin to collect change. All the money raised goes to help build a water pump in a village in

Ghana. Bottles are due back on October 22.



### Fall Challenge: Everyone Serve One

Every Life Group and Journey Group find a service/ministry project to do together! Examples: Change For A Change, MUST Ministry meal, neighbor in need. October 1-November 5. Share your story with us on our ECPC Facebook page!

---

### Playgroup - October 13

Our playgroup is for preschoolers and young homeschoolers & their moms and provides a great time of fellowship for the moms and their children. Email Mikki at [mikkimardis@gmail.com](mailto:mikkimardis@gmail.com) for an address or more info. about playgroup on Friday, October 13.

---

### Starting Point

#### Starting Point - October 29

Starting Point is for visitors and designed for those in our community who want to meet our pastor and his family. Come enjoy lunch and a time of fellowship Sunday, October 29 from 11:45am - 1:15pm at the home of Pastor Tim & Debbie Locke (5253 Pikes Peak Court, Marietta, 30062). Children are welcome. You may make your reservation online [here](#), or contact Donna Minday in the church office (770) 973-4114 x100 or [donna@ecpca.org](mailto:donna@ecpca.org).

---

### Membership Class - November 11

If you are new to ECPC and want to learn more about us, please consider attending our next Membership Class on Saturday, November 11 from 8:30am - 1pm. The class provides a look at the beliefs and ministry philosophy of the church and a chance to ask questions and meet other newcomers. The class is required for membership, but attending it does not obligate you to join. If you would like to attend the class, RSVP below or contact Donna Minday in the church office at (770) 973-4114 x100 or [donna@ecpca.org](mailto:donna@ecpca.org).

### [RSVP for Membership Class](#)



### ECCS Silent Auction

We have over 100 items to auction off, and we would love ECPC to bid as well. Silent auction items will be available to bid on this Sunday, October 15, and the week of October 16-20, ending Friday, the 20th. ECCS is raising money for new drinking fountains, class storage and furniture, possibly new playground equipment, and a new fence outside the school office. We have a 5 night stay in Crested Butte, Co, Braves tickets, summer camps, gym memberships, movie passes and a whole lot more! Contact Kim Gilmore (412-400-5161 / [davidandkimgilmore@gmail.com](mailto:davidandkimgilmore@gmail.com)) with any questions.



## We're Expecting...

.... lots of new little babies at East Cobb Presbyterian Church!

Our Infant Care Room is available at the back of the sanctuary for families who prefer to keep their infant children with them during worship, but need to step out of the sanctuary. Items purchased from our registry will be available for use by new moms and their children on Sunday mornings.

Please join us in celebrating these new little ones and their moms by participating in ECPC's online baby shower through October 29. (Items can be shipped to ECPC or dropped off at church.)

Click to view our [Target registry](#). Click to view our [Amazon registry](#).

Questions? Contact Christina Fisher ([christina@ecpca.org](mailto:christina@ecpca.org)).

Thanks for helping us love these new moms and their children by making this a warm and welcoming space for them!

---

## Early Education (Nurseries, 2s & 3s)

**We are in need of two additional volunteers to add to our rotation to teach our Green Lambs class (2 year olds).** Volunteers serve 2-3 times per quarter (8-12 times per year). If you are interested in serving with this age group, please contact Christina Fisher ([christina@ecpca.org](mailto:christina@ecpca.org)).

Visit this [link](#) to view your serving schedule and confirm your volunteer dates. Questions? Contact Christina at [christina@ecpca.org](mailto:christina@ecpca.org) or text 540-538-9237.

### Serving October 15:

Purple Lambs (infants): Joyce Leonard & Kathy Grady

Yellow Lambs (toddlers): Dan & Bonnie Porter, Kaitlyn Wallace

Green Lambs (2s): Brian & Natalie Wallace and Sarah

Blue Lambs (3s): Nancy Hull & Teresa Staley, Carter Wallace

### Serving October 22:

Purple Lambs (infants): Glenn & Karen Sherman

Yellow Lambs (toddlers): Dan & Bonnie Porter and Caley Anderson

Green Lambs (2s): Andrew & Rachel Wideman

Blue Lambs (3s): Nancy Hull & Teresa Staley



## Women's Ministries

**Women's Bible Studies:** Join one of our studies this fall to connect with other women and dive into the Word!

### **Revelation study: The Returning King: 7:15–8:45pm on Tuesday**

**evenings in conference room A101** The study looks at Revelation's core message and ensures that its details do not cloud the big picture. The author shows Revelation to be a picture book, not a puzzle book, relevant and applicable to the daily lives of Christians.

**Amazing Collection, Year 3: From Romans to Revelation: 10am on Thursdays in the conference room A101** Get a 30,000 foot view as we study one book a week and see the pieces of God's Word fit together. Weekly reading and prep work required. Newcomers welcome!

**Proverbs: NavPress Life Change Series: 10am on Thursdays in the Loft.** Explore the book of Proverbs' timeless teachings and helpful guidelines on many aspects of personal conduct, including goodness and sin, friendships and family, and life and death.

For more information and to find out about ordering books, go to: [ecpcwomen.com/biblestudies](http://ecpcwomen.com/biblestudies).



## Student Ministries

### ***YOUTH MISSIONS TRIP - Panama! March 31 - April 7/8, 2018***

The first Team Meeting is Sunday, October 15, immediately after worship from 11:15am - 12:45pm in the conference room. Bring your own lunch. This meeting is for those who know they are going and for those interested in going. Trip participant and one parent are welcome to come to the first meeting.

### **New Application Deadlines:**

Early Bird Special - Sunday, October 15 - Turn in application and \$100 deposit

Late Deadline - Sunday, November 5 - Turn in application and \$125 deposit

Applications have been emailed. If you didn't receive one, please email Jordan Ross at [jordanross78@gmail.com](mailto:jordanross78@gmail.com). Applications can also be found outside the office of the Director of Student Ministries.

Trip size max is 20 people. Early bird sign up gives you priority on going and saves you money. We need about 4-5 adults to be trip leaders.

### **UPCOMING HIGH LIFE EVENT**

- **Friday, October 13: Murder in the Dark!** Junior High: 6-8:30pm / Senior High: 9-11:30pm Invite friends!

### **JUNIOR HIGH LIFE**

If you are interested in signing up for our JHL text reminders, just text @easypeazy to 81010!

- **Jr High Life** - Oct 15, NO Jr High Life - Crew Leaders' Meeting from 6-8pm.
- **Save the Date:** Sunday, October 29: JHL Costume Dodgeball, from 6-9pm.

## SENIOR HIGH LIFE

If you're interested in signing up for our SHL text reminders, just text @JordanRoss to 81010!

- **Sr High Life** - Tonight from 7-9pm. Continuing our series on Habakkuk.
- **Discipleship Groups** - Meet this Sunday at 3pm at the church.
- **Tuesday Morning Prayer** - October 10 at 6:30am. We meet at the Palmers' home (3270 Running Cedar Dr., Marietta). Afterwards, we will go to Biscuits & More for breakfast. Please text or call Jarrod if you will need a ride to school afterwards.
- **HS Retreat** - Camp ToKnowHim (Pisgah, AL), November 17-19. Our speaker will be Daniel Cohee, a pastor/missionary from Taiwan. **Early Bird price is \$190. Deadline is TODAY! Click the button below to RSVP.** Tomorrow the price goes up to \$215.
- **Save the Dates:**
  - Wednesday, November 1: SHL Costume Dodgeball - 7-10pm
  - Wednesday, November 29: NEW Night of Service from 6-10:30pm. We will be working with Operation Christmas Child to pack shoe boxes for children at their Atlanta Warehouse! A wonderful service opportunity! We have space for 50 people, students 13 and over, plus parents, leaders and drivers.

[HS Retreat Sign Up](#)

## Giving Status as of 9/30/2017

Ministry year started July 1.

Budgeted Income: \$207,538  
 Tithes & Offerings: \$205,092  
 Variance: (\$ 2,446)

### Giving on the Go...from your phone!

You can give even from your mobile phone when you are out of town and not at church. From your phone, go to the church website, [ecpca.org](http://ecpca.org), click Give Online, and you'll see the new simple online giving page. Just enter the amount of your gift, choose the fund to give to, enter your credit card number and some basic information, and you're done! It's that easy.

Tip: If you are using an iPhone and you've stored your credit card number in Safari on your phone, you can autofill that information into the form to make giving go even faster.

[Click to Give Online at ECPC](#)



## 2018 Holy Land Tour!

Join us on a Holy Land Tour!

**NEW Deadline to sign up and pay is November 5th**

Come visit Israel on a guided tour and walk in the footsteps of Jesus and experience the Bible in ways never imagined. It's not just a vacation, it's life changing! The new Director of Student Ministries, Jordan Ross, will be leading the trip February 19 - March 1, 2018, and it will be a joint trip with his former church in Maryland. Jordan spent a semester abroad in Jerusalem, was a History major, loves biblical history and would love to share this trip with his new church family as well. Trip information, itinerary and registration form are [www.2020youthvision.com/holy-land-tour-2018](http://www.2020youthvision.com/holy-land-tour-2018) - The Trip Information and Registration Packet are also outside the Student Director's office door. You can also contact Jordan Ross if you have any questions at [jordanross78@gmail.com](mailto:jordanross78@gmail.com) or 443-418-2338.

## "Thy Kingdom Come" ELI Fall Banquet

Chuck Emerson's sending agency, **Equipping Leaders International**, is having a special event in the Atlanta area, and you are invited! Come and enjoy dinner together, and hear updates on ELI's work around the world. Special guests include ELI's Executive Director, and two of ELI's Indian national partners, reporting on ELI's impact on churches in India and other nations. This is an opportunity to get the "big picture" of the state of the church in far-off lands, and how the Lord is at work. So come, and be encouraged! There is no cost, but donations will be gladly accepted.

Time: **Friday, Oct 20.** 6:30 Registration/Silent Auction. 7pm Dinner.  
 Location: **Midway Presbyterian Church**, 4635 Dallas Hwy. Powder Springs, GA  
 Register in advance [here](#).  
 Questions? Contact Chuck at 770.355.1528

East Cobb Presbyterian Church | 4616 Roswell Rd., NE | Marietta, GA | 30062 |  
[donna@ecpca.org](mailto:donna@ecpca.org) | [ecpca.org](http://ecpca.org)

STAY CONNECTED

