

THE FIRST EPISTLE

VOLUME 42, NUMBER 14



APRIL 10, 2009

Dr. J. Ligon Duncan III PREACHING SCHEDULE

Easter Sunday, April 12
8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

Dr. Derek Thomas
“Tempted, Tried But Never
Failing”
Luke 4:1-13

6:00 p.m.

Dr. Derek Thomas
“Is God Safe?”
1 Samuel 5:1-12

Wednesday, April 15
6:30 p.m.

Rev. Billy Joseph
What Is A Healthy Church
Member? (3)
“A Healthy Church Member
Understands and Lives the
Gospel”

CALVARY'S ANTHEM



O Lord, for ever will thy free forgiveness live
that was gained on the mount of blood;
In the midst of a world of pain
it is subject for praise in every place
a song on earth, an anthem in heaven,
its love and virtue knowing no end.
I have a longing for the world above
where multitudes sing the great song,
for my soul was never created to love the dust of earth.
Though here my spiritual state is frail and poor,
I shall go on singing Calvary's anthem.
May I always know
that a clean heart full of goodness
is more beautiful than the lily,
that only a clean heart can sing by night and by day,
that such a heart is mine when I abide at Calvary.

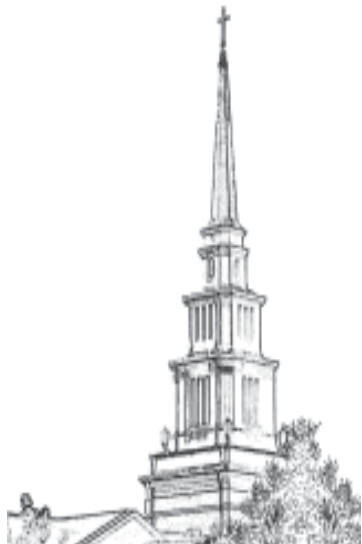
—The Valley of Vision

“Company’s Coming!”

Sunday Evening, April 19 at 6:00

On Sunday evening, April 19, the choirs and congregations of Pear Orchard, Trinity and Providence Churches will join with our choir and congregation for a Sunday night hymn sing. This promises to be a fine evening of fellowship and worship. Their choir directors and organists, along with ours, will lead us in the hymn singing. We will have brass and percussion to add to the festivities.

Our singers have been rehearsing for some weeks now. The directors have been working together, too, so we will all be “singing off the same page” as it were. All of the hymns will be familiar and will include ones that we all would consider old favorites. Among the selections will be “And Can It Be That I Should Gain,” “My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less,” and “For All The Saints,” just to name a few. The ministers of our sister church, along with our own Ligon Duncan, will be leading the service. Ken Pierce, Minister of Trinity Presbyterian, will preach a brief sermon. Our goal is to have a full service but not a long service so that parents of school-aged children will feel comfortable about bringing them to this worship hour. There will be no children’s devotional and no children’s classes. A nursery will be available for children up to five years old. While our Ministers and Elders are able to know and fellowship with their counter parts in our sister churches through Presbytery, it is not often that our congregations have occasions to get together. This evening offers us just such an opportunity. We think you will appreciate very much hosting these fine fellow Presbyterians and friends from these churches. A couple of which are daughter churches We can rejoice with them as we see them now mature and thriving branches of the Body of Christ. So, as we say, “company’s coming” and we hope you will be here to greet them and to enjoy the visit as we worship together!



Nathan Bingham, over at the Cal.vini.st blog interviewed me on the occasion of my visit to Australia last week. I thought you might be interested, since much of what he asked me about pertains to the "New Calvinism." Here it is:

NB - Thank you so much for agreeing to do this interview. I have included 11 questions that I would be grateful if you could answer. Several of the questions have been submitted by Christians online, others have stemmed from discussions observed generally in the blogosphere, and others as they specifically relate to your visit to Australia.

NB - (1) Interest in Reformed theology, or more specifically the 'Five Points of Calvinism', has experienced a lot of growth recently, especially amongst young people. What can these young people (or new converts to the 'Five Points') learn from the more established Reformed churches?

LD - What is being called "the young, reformed, awakening" (not only by in-house evangelical organs like *Christianity Today* but also by the mainstream media, for instance *Time* magazine) is real. I meet it everywhere I go. But it is especially exploding in contexts where theology has been most anemic. Young people are encountering truth that the Reformed and confessional churches have long treasured (but have perhaps of late taken for granted and downplayed), but the old theology is being mediated to them by figures that do not represent the older Reformed bodies of faith. Mark Driscoll, John Piper, C.J. Mahaney, John MacArthur, Al Mohler, each in very different ways, have served as major transmitters of Reformed theology to a new generation. The only major figure from an old-line presbyterian and reformed denominational tradition who has their level of name-recognition and reach is R.C. Sproul. To R.C. must be added the name of J.I. Packer, a confessionally Reformed Anglican.

What can young people attracted by this faithful presentation of a big God,

with huge grace, deep truth and strong love learn from the older confessional communions? In a word, ecclesiology (how the Bible says that we are to be and what we are to do together as the people of God; that is, how we are to live and minister in the Christian community and in the world). The doctrine of the church has long been a lacuna in evangelicalism, and it is no different now, even among those attracted afresh to the doctrines of grace. And without confessional commitments and a biblical theology of the church, the awakening won't amount to much in the long run.

NB - (2) Following on from the previous question: there are those today that would say that it is too narrow to view Reformed theology as simply the 'Five Points of Calvinism,' and that what is often promoted today under the name 'New Calvinism' has no place in associating itself with historic Calvinism or Reformed theology. Firstly, what are your thoughts on whether 'New Calvinism' is historically Reformed, and secondly, do you think its influence (if any) will be positive or negative for the next 150 years of Presbyterianism in Australia and the United States?

LD - Well, yes, of course, being Reformed means much more than "the five points of Calvinism" and no, much of the "New Calvinism" is not historically Reformed in a confessional sense. But I'm thrilled that young folk are open and even attracted to the doctrines of grace and the sovereignty of God. And I think we who are part of historic confessional Reformed churches ought to thank God for what He is doing and indeed for the new opportunity that He has given us in this awakening. Because it does, I think, open the door for the confessional Reformed community to reach out with a more comprehensive biblical theology of the life and ministry of the church.

I often tell my Presbyterian friends that as I am out and among the "young, restless and reformed" types, I feel as if I'm meeting people who are rummaging through our bins and pulling out

things we have thrown away and saying, "Isn't this glorious?" By that I mean that we sometimes can be indifferent about truths that are an important part of our theological legacy, truths that this generation finds electrifying and attractive.

If you walk among young Reformed, Presbyterian ministers in the States, you'll find many of them excited about "re-thinking how we do church" but a lot of them won't be excited about Reformed soteriology. I think this is a mistake on our part when we fail to appreciate and celebrate biblical truth that is a significant part of our confessional heritage, especially when so many out there are showing an interest in these very truths.

As to what the influence of the new Calvinism will be in the next 150 years, I'd say (again) that unless the new Calvinists adopt a biblical ecclesiology, the influence of the movement will not continue long.

(To be continued)

WIC April Circles

■ Monday, April 13, 10:00 a.m.

- #2 Karan York
1739 Douglas Drive
- #3 Elizabeth Johnson and
Connie Wadsworth
1335 St. Ann
- #4 Frances Shipp
Church Parlor
- #5 Laura Blaylock and Bess Corbitt
Youth House

Monday, April 13, 12:00 noon

- #14 Susan Turner
Miller Hall (brown bag)

■ Tuesday, April 14, 10:00 a.m.

- #9 Judy Ellison
Church Parlor
- #10 Kathryn Edwards
71 Saint Andrews Drive
- #11 Barbara Hederman
Youth House

Tuesday, April 14, 12:00 noon (Lunch)

- #13 Janet Quayle
Miller Hall

Tuesday, April 14, 5:30 p.m. (Dinner)

- #7 Marian Ware
Miller Hall

Women's Ministry Mission Trip to Palmer Home June 14-18

Registration Deadline: May 8th

Possible projects include: working in the thrift store, landscaping, and small construction projects, as well as activities with the Palmer Home children and staff.

Appropriate Ages: We encourage mothers and daughters to attend together—young and old and in between are invited—there will be something for everyone! This is a great opportunity for your daughters to get to serve other kids. Grades 3-8 (at the discretion of the parent) must attend with her mother or grandmother. It will be summer and hot, and we are planning full work days—however, the pool will be open in the evening and our youth are welcome and encouraged to swim with the Palmer Home kids. Sr. High (9th-12th) may attend without a parent, as we will have a youth intern with us!

Training: Our next meeting for team training and prayer will be Wednesday, **May 13th from 5:15—6:30 p.m.** in Westminster Hall (bring your dinner to the meeting). All team members will need to attend, as we will need to assess our talents and determine projects and needs.

Cost: Housing and meals will be provided by Palmer Home at the cost of \$15 per day, \$35 for a half week, and \$75 for the full week. We will need to know exactly which days you plan to be in Columbus.

Information Packets: Information packets are available in the Christian Education Office. Enclosed are forms for Palmer Home and forms for FPC that must be filled out and returned by **May 8th**.

Questions about the Trip: If you are interested in finding out more, please contact Anna Brand at 601-992-6018 or annabrand@bellsouth.net or Ashley Hall at 601-973-9118 or ashleyh@fpcjackson.org

To Register: Contact Omega at 601-973-9115 or omegas@fpcjackson.org

Welcome to Our Fellowship

Miss Ann Irvin Armstrong
147 Kristen Drive,
Jackson, MS 39211

Miss Mary Claire Burge
5425 Carolwood Drive
Jackson, MS 39211

Miss Betsy Byrd
4793 Crestwood Drive
Jackson, MS 39211

Miss Annabelle Chinchon
242 Rollingwood Drive
Jackson, MS 39211

Mr. Clay Coker
200 Kirkwood Place
Jackson, MS 39211

Miss Mae Mae Cook
4128 Sand Ridge Drive
Jackson, MS 39211

Miss Caroline Cotten
2202 Culleywood Road
Jackson, MS 39211

D r. and Mrs. Milam Cotten (Betty Jo)
200 Dominican Drive #5201
Madison, MS 39110

Mr. Holt Crews, Jr.
198 Kirkwood Place
Jackson, MS 39211

**Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Dickie
(Christina)**

Miss Kate Dickie
4147 Dogwood Drive
Jackson, MS 39211

Miss Sarah Kennedy Duncan
2215 Heritage Hill
Jackson, MS 39211

Mr. Andrew Fisher
1827 Lyncrest Avenue
Jackson, MS 39202

Miss Kennady Galloway
22 Highland Meadows Drive
Jackson, MS 39211

Miss Ann Howard
1500 Peachtree Street
Jackson, MS 39202

Miss Marion Manning
5 Little Creek Road
Flowood, MS 39232

Mr. and Mrs. Alan Matthews (Nancy)
Miss Janie Matthews

13 Highland Meadows Drive
Jackson, MS 39211

Mr. Jack McBride
3727 Montrose Circle
Jackson, MS 39211

Mr. and Mrs. Brad Mills (Carrie)
602C McDonald Drive
Clinton, MS 39056

Mr. Harrison Moore
4233 North Honeysuckle Lane
Jackson, MS 39211

Miss Karina Nasekos
175 B Twin Lakes Road
Florence, MS 39073

Mr. Brock Newman
3922 Cambridge Street
Jackson, MS 39211

Miss Emily Owen
1814 Bellewood Road
Jackson, MS 39211

Mr. Peyton Parker
908 Newland Street
Jackson, MS 39211

Mr. Don Pittman
5875 Baxter Drive
Jackson, MS 39211

Mr. Harrison Porter
2489 Meadowbrook
Jackson, MS 39211

Mr. Rhodes Skelton
1230 Belvoir Place
Jackson, MS 39202

Miss Ainsley Smith
4216 N. Honesuckle Lane
Jackson, MS 39211

Mrs. Stacy Smith
112 Diamondback Lane
Brandon, MS 39047

Mr. Bryan Sumner
125 Marblehead Court
Jackson, MS 39211

Mr. Daniel Teh
80 Sunline Drive
Brandon, MS 39042

Miss Molly Terry
4265 Athens Drive
Jackson, MS 39211

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Ed Watson (Marla)
Miss Haleigh Watson

Miss Sydney Watson
2515 Honeysuckle Lane
Jackson, MS 39211

Mr. Robert Wilkins
1518 Kirkwood Circle
Jackson, MS 39211

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Williams II (Ann)
1616 Poplar Boulevard
Jackson, MS 39202

VBS Crafts Collection

Vacation Bible School is June 1-5. We are collecting large size glass baby food jars with the lids on and the labels removed. Please place items in the bin marked VBS beside the information desk. Thanks!

Pray for One Another

Friday

Dr. and Mrs. James Coleman III
and Family

Saturday

Mr. and Mrs. T. Harris Collier III

Sunday

Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Collier
and Family

Monday

Mrs. Mitch Collins

Tuesday

Mr. and Mrs. Riley B. Collins

Wednesday

Miss Anne Comfort

Thursday

Miss Christine Comfort

April and May in Sew and Sow

Fridays from 9:00 – 11:00am

■ **April 17, 24** This month, we will be completing projects for the Peru House of Glory, including knitting caps and booties and sewing diaper bags.

■ **May 1 and 8** - A taste of French hand sewing will be taught by Judy Wallace of Kosciusko. Please join us for fellowship, learning and helping. Sew and Sow will not meet during the summer months, but stay tuned for summer sewing camps that will be sponsored by Sew and Sow!

Sewing Project for Twin Lakes Summer Camp

Ladies, we need your help! We are sewing costumes for the Twin Lakes Summer Camp this year. We will be holding a workshop to make these costumes on April 23, 24, 27 and 28. There will be a morning session from 8:30 - 12:00 and an afternoon session from 12:30 - 4:00. We can use your help even if you do not sew. There is cutting, ironing and sewing that needs to be done. Even if you could only give an hour or two of your time it would be a great help. This will be a fun worthwhile project. If interested, please call Cindi Alexander at 601-992-5243.

**Non FPC members*

Worship Greeters

Sunday, April 12

After 8:30 a.m.

David and Rebecca Cleland

Harry and Nan Fulcher

After 11:00 a.m.

Mark and Rhonda Baird

Dick and Elizabeth Johnson

Sunday Churchtime Helpers

April 12, 2009

3's Neil and Victor Smith

Ryan and Lisa Perkins

4's James and Amy Coleman

Thomas and Courtney Hewitt

■ Senior High Insight

Sunday, April 12

Walker Dowell (110 Rockingham Circle)

Address Service Requested

Jackson, MS 39202-2095

1390 North State Street

THE FIRST EPISTLE

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Media Ministry • Sundays: "Hymns of the Faith" WJNT 1180 AM Talk Radio 9:00 a.m. • WLBT TV3 10:00 a.m.