

Who We Are

Covenant Reformed Baptist Church is a Bible-believing church striving to promote the glory and enjoyment of God. We hope you will find our worship to be reverently and joyfully God-honoring, Christ-centered, and Spirit-filled. We are "Reformed" in our theology because we embrace those biblical truths and practices that were central to the Protestant Reformation, such as salvation by grace alone through faith alone, in Christ alone. We also believe that the Scripture alone is the authoritative and sufficient basis for all faith and life, and therefore we give the exposition of God's word the central place in our worship. We welcome visitors to all of our services. A nursery is provided for children ages two and under during each service.

Food for Thought

"I have chosen thee in the furnace of affliction."
— Isaiah 48:10

Comfort yourself, tried believer, with this thought: God says, "I have chosen thee in the furnace of affliction." Does not the word come like a soft shower, assuaging the fury of the flame? Yea, is it not an asbestos armor, against which the heat hath no power? Let affliction come – God has chosen me. Poverty, you may stride in at my door, but God is in the house already, and he has chosen me. Sickness, you may intrude, but I have a balsam ready – God has chosen me. Whatever befalls me in this vale of tears, I know that he has "chosen" me. If, believer, you require still greater comfort, remember that you have the Son of Man with you in the furnace. In that silent chamber of yours, there sits by your side One whom you have not seen, but whom you love; and oft times when you know it not, he makes all your bed in your affliction, and smooths your pillow for you. You are in poverty; but in that lovely house of yours the Lord of life and glory is a frequent visitor. He loves to come into these desolate places, that he may visit you. Your friend sticks closely to you. You can not see him, but you may feel the pressure of his hands. Do you not hear his voice? Even in the valley of the shadow of death he says, "Fear not, I am with thee; be not dismayed, for I am thy God." Remember that noble speech of Caesar: "Fear not, thou carriest Caesar and all his fortune." Fear not, Christian; Jesus is with you. In all your fiery trials, his presence is both your comfort and safety. He will never leave one whom he has chosen for his own.

"Fear not, for I am with thee," is his sure word of promise to his chosen ones in the "furnace of affliction." Will you not, then, take fast hold of Christ, and say –

"Through floods and flames, if Jesus lead,
I'll follow where he goes."

– C.H. Spurgeon

Upcoming Events for February

- 4 Lord's Table, Benevolence Offering (AM)
- 17 Couples Dinner
- 18 Nursing Home Ministry 4PM
- 18 Lord's Table (PM)
- 21 Annual Business Meeting

Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 10 Serena Noonkesser
- 10 Victoria Noonkesser
- 12 Jessica Noonkesser
- 15 Khloe Sanders
- 23 Nicolas Brown
- 24 Lessie Musco
- 25 Becky Scheffer
- 29 Anna Sanders

Couples Dinner

You are cordially invited to a quiet evening of food and fellowship at CRBC on Saturday, February 17 at 6:30 PM. The cost is only \$12 per couple and childcare will be provided. Reservations are required. Please make your reservation by Sunday, February 11 on the bulletin board in the kitchen. Dinner attire would be appropriate but is not required.

Annual Business Meeting

Our annual church business meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 21 at 7 PM at the church. Anyone interested is invited to meet at the church at 6 PM for pizza. Cost is \$5.00 per family. Sign up by February 18.

Greenville Conference

Greenville Presbyterian Theological Seminary Spring Conference: *The Person and Work of Jesus Christ, the Lord of Glory*. March 13-15, 2018. For more information and to register, go to their website at www.gpts.edu/conference.

Family Conference

July 24 - 27, 2018

On behalf of the pastors and members of Grace Reformed Baptist Church in Mebane, North Carolina, we warmly invite you to our 2018 Family Conference – *Abounding in Hope!* – at Ridgecrest Conference Center in Asheville, North Carolina. Speakers will be Pastor Gary Hendrix, Pastor Cal Walden and Pastor Salvador Gomez. For more information and to register, see the website at www.grbc.net.

Meet our Families

This month meet Richard and Natalie Jones

Richard and Natalie were both born in the Carolinas, to military families – Richard with the Air Force and Natalie with the Navy. In God’s providence, both sets of parents settled in Mauldin when they retired from military duty. Natalie’s father was a scoutmaster with the Explorers, the coed version of the Boy Scouts, and that was where Richard and Natalie met. Theirs is a true high school sweetheart romance that God directed. Richard worked as a car hop, cleaned toilets and stocked groceries before he joined the Air Force and worked in civil engineering. After military service, he worked for the Greenville County Tax Assessor, first in the mapping department then as a property appraiser. He has also been an assistant manager at Advance Auto Parts, built PCs at NCR and then set up grinders at Valenite in Westminster. When Sandvik bought out Valenite, Richard stayed on and now works as a process engineer at Sandvik. He spends his time programming grinding machines, designing tooling for these machines, and trying to make the manufacturing process more efficient.

Natalie has done some outside jobs, but her talent has always been home making and, according to Richard, “She has excelled in this area.” At CRBC we all know what an excellent cook she is, but this has mostly come from her desire to serve others, particularly her husband and her family. The Joneses have four children, Laura, Andrew, Matthew and Kristin, spread out between Westminster and Fort Mill. They also have ten grandchildren. Richard enjoys hiking in the mountains and reading. His special interests are Bible and theology and anything that catches his fancy at the moment which is why he claims, “I know a little about a lot of things but not much about anything.” Natalie also enjoys hiking in the mountains with Richard as well as reading her Bible (which is falling apart), walking and exercise (this is when she meditates on God’s goodness), her

grandchildren, grocery shopping with her daughters and granddaughters. Her greatest joy is ministering to her family.

After driving all the way from Westminster for ten years, they recently moved to Liberty to be closer to the church. They are convinced this is where the Lord wants them for now, and at CRBC we are very thankful for God’s leading them to us.

From Pastor Powell's Den

Hebrews 13:7 – “Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith.”

There are many rich blessings that we can reflect on as Christians to help us in our journey to heaven, not least of all are the many godly examples of men and women, who by God’s grace, have been preserved and have kept faithful throughout the course of their lives. We are living in a time when compromise and pragmatism within the greater Christian context are part and parcel of what it means to make progress and be effective in this world as a Christian. Success, not faithfulness, is lauded today; yet like never before are examples of faithfulness and perseverance needed among God’s people. It is Christ who will make you to be a choice vessel in God’s sight, who will mold and shape you into the faithful man or woman he wants you to be. He will keep you and preserve you, though you are tempted, tested and challenged with the inner struggle and the outward battle. He will keep you as He has kept many through the ages.

Services

Each Sunday, we enjoy a special fellowship meal immediately following the morning worship services. Our visitors are always welcome to join us. We celebrate the Lord’s Table together following the morning worship service on the first Sunday of every month and following the evening service on the third Sunday of the month.

Sunday School	9:30 AM
Morning Service	11:00 AM
Evening Service	6:00 PM
Wednesday Prayer	7:00 PM

Covenant Reformed Baptist Church
1709 Arial Street Easley, SC 29640
864.306.7788
crbc@yourservant.com
www.crbceasley.org