

THE LINK

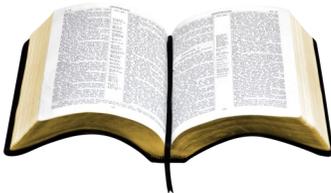
February 2019



OLD PEACHTREE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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The Word of God in Worship

At Old Peachtree, we want to be faithful not only to our own Reformed tradition, but primarily to the Bible, in having worship that is centered on the word of God. I do not know where the following pattern came from (I first heard it from Dr. Ligon Duncan), but I think it is helpful as we think through our worship and its foundation on the Word of God. In worship...

We read the Word. This is perhaps the most obvious way the Word is present in the service. All of our services will have the reading of the sermon text. We usually have at least one other reading in addition to the sermon text and often two. Why? Because we want to hear from God. We need to hear of his grace to sinners. We need to hear of the finished, sufficient work of Jesus for us. We need to be instructed in how we live now that we have known God's saving grace in Christ. The passages we read are chosen either because they have some connection to the sermon text or because they come next as we read through a book of the Bible

We preach the Word. Preaching is the explanation and application of the Word of God, specifically with the intent of proclaiming salvation in Christ. It is not (or should not be) merely the preacher declaring his opinions on the issues of the day. God has chosen the preaching of his Word to be the primary means by which he draws sinners to repentance and faith in Christ and growth in him (Romans 10:14; 1 Corinthians 1:21).

We pray the Word. Prayer is our response back to God as he speaks to us in his word. Our prayers should draw much from Scripture. From the Scriptures we learn the subjects of prayer: Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplication. We learn the language of prayer, even drawing directly from memorized Scripture as we pray to God. In the Word we read the promises of God, which we plead back to him.

We sing the Word. Sometimes this means singing the actual words of Scripture—a metrical adaptation of a Psalm or some other words from the Bible. Sometimes we sing the Word more broadly, as we sing human compositions that set forth the categories (e.g., repentance, faith, missions, affliction) and theology of the Bible. What a congregation sings has a profound effect on its theology over time. So we want to be certain that the words we sing, and the concepts they express, are thoroughly biblical.

We see the Word. We see the Word of God in baptism and the Lord's Supper. The sacraments are physical, tangible—and therefore visible—representations of the truth of Scripture. They drive home to us in graphic ways the same truths that we read in the written Word—We have a Savior who died for us, who cleanses us, who feeds our souls. He is sufficient for us in our daily pilgrimage as Christians.

We want our services of worship to be governed by and saturated with the Word of God. This is what any true church should want, regardless of worship style. The Lord blesses where his word is honored.

Alan Johnson

FEBRUARY BIBLE STUDIES

WOMEN

Monday Evening

This study meets 6:30-8:00 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month (6:30-8:00 p.m.) (*Reading Ephesians with John Stott*) (February 11 & 25). All women are welcome to attend! Contact Jenni Sickert (jsickerts@gmail.com) or Jane Horner (jane@outstand.com) if you have questions.

Tuesday

The OPPC Tuesday women's Bible study meets every week at 9:45 a.m.—11:45 a.m. Childcare is provided. The study is Philippians using *In All Things, a nine-week devotional Bible Study on Unshakeable Joy* by Melissa Kruger. Please join us.

Saturday

The Saturday women's study meets approximately every other week (February 23) from 9:00–11:00 a.m. No childcare is provided. Please feel free to join us at any time as we study Ephesians using the study guide *Reading Ephesians with John Stott*.

All women's Bible studies meet at OPPC in the fellowship hall.

MEN

Tuesday

The men's Bible study meets every Tuesday at 11:00 a.m. at Duluth Diner (3620 Peachtree Ind. Blvd., Duluth 30096). Questions? Contact Ken Larson (pro2bug@gmail.com).

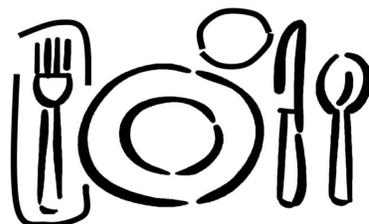
JOHNS CREEK SMALL GROUP

Please join us for Johns Creek Small Group on Wednesday, February 20, at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Owen and Tina Malcolm (310 Dewpoint Lane, Johns Creek, GA 30022). If you are interested or need information, please contact Owen Malcolm (owen.malcolm@unitedcp.com) or Tina Malcolm (tinammalcolm@gmail.com).

YOUTH GROUP FOOD SCHEDULE

Those who have volunteered to supply food for the Youth Group on Sunday evenings (5:30 p.m.) in February are listed below. Thank you for your help with this fellowship for our OPPC youth. If you are not able to serve on your volunteer day, please contact Jennifer Taylor (taylorkhandan@yahoo.com). A new food list is posted in the OPPC kitchen.

February	10	-	Carter
February	17	-	Glass
February	24	-	Sickert



BAPTISM

Anthony Ethan Chremiak - January 20, 2019

WELCOME NEW MEMBER

Kelly Castle - January 2019

YOUTH GROUP—WESTMINSTER RETREAT—MARCH 1-2



Join us for our spring youth retreat (6th-12th graders) March 1-2 at Camp Westminster.

The retreat is called 2T1 after the theme of 1 Timothy 1:3-7.

Speakers:

Rev. Sam Belz (Westminster, Atlanta)
Paul Rodgers, director of youth and families (IPC, Savannah)
Rev. Joe Deighton (OPPC Assistant Pastor)

Cost:

\$100 (scholarships available) Includes lodging for 1 night, three meals, a t-shirt, notebook, and activities such as horseback riding, paintball, ropes course, floor hockey, and more.

Arrival:

Friday, March 1, 7:00 p.m. (leaving OPPC by 6:00 p.m.)

Departure:

Saturday, March 2, 9:00 p.m. (arriving back at OPPC by 10:00 p.m. at the latest).

MISSIONARY UPDATE



Andy and Bev Warren

Andy and Bev have served in Ethiopia for many years. Initially, their ministry was focused on providing medical care and counseling to the poor, especially those impacted by AIDS. While Andy and Bev are not doctors, God has used their gifts and talents to establish and grow a ministry that ministers to the poor both spiritually and physically.

The Ethiopian government has been so impressed with their work that they have allowed Andy and Bev to expand their ministry so that it now can work beyond the initial medical care they were providing, and thus impact a greater number of lives.

Some of the highlights from 2018 are:

- ◆ 10 individuals made a public profession of faith.
- ◆ 45 New families are being ministered to.
- ◆ 110 grants were issued to assist families in starting a small business.
- ◆ Two medical teams spent two weeks providing medical care in their clinic.
- ◆ 1,363 patients received high-quality medical care.

As you pray for our missionaries, please pray for Andy and Bev and the people they are ministering to.

OPPC ANNUAL WOMEN'S RETREAT—FEBRUARY 8-9

There is still time to register!

OPPC women look forward to fellowship, learning, and enrichment at the annual women's retreat on February 8-9 at the Courtyard by Marriott Sugarloaf.

Commuter registrations (only \$25) are still being accepted through Sunday, February 3, and scholarships are still available. Registration forms are on the tables in the narthex and fellowship hallway.



The speaker is Paula Miles, Women's Ministry Coordinator, Clemson Presbyterian Church. She is a conference speaker and also serves on the national women's ministry team for the PCA as a women's ministry trainer.

Paula will lead us through Ephesians 2:8-10, giving us time to think more deeply on themes we have explored in our small group studies in Ephesians. There will be testimonies of God's faithfulness from our own sisters in Christ and fellowship through discussion and prayer. There will also be time for fun and games!

Ladies (ages 16 and up), please join us at the Courtyard by Marriott Sugarloaf Hotel (1948 Satellite Blvd, Duluth, GA).

Contact Jessica Wilson for information (jljwils@gmail.com).



MEETINGS AND GROUPS

First Sunday Lunch

Join us for First Sunday Lunch on February 3. Please invite your friends and neighbors.

Communion Week

We celebrate the Lord's Supper in the morning service on February 10. We have communion on the second Sunday every month.

Deacons Meeting

The Diaconate meets Wednesday, February 13, at 7:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall (the second Wednesday of each month).

Session Meeting

The Session meets Wednesday, February 27, at 7:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall (the fourth Wednesday of each month).

Youth Group

All 6th grade -12th graders, even college students, are welcome to join us for dinner at 5:30 on Sundays except for the first Sunday of each month. Food volunteers are the Carter Family (February 10), the Glass Family (February 17), and the Sickert Family (February 24).

NURSERY SCHEDULE - FEBRUARY 2019

DATE	11:00 a.m.	6:00 p.m.
2/3	Carter, Malcolm, Sarah	No Service
2/10	Elmer, Rowe, Tabitha	Wilson
2/17	Akin, Jeans, Holley Kate	Foster, Smith
2/24	Malin-Davis, Wong, Anna Grace	Yamazaki



LINK DEADLINE: Please turn in articles and information for the March *LINK* by Thursday, February 21.

Old Peachtree Presbyterian Church exists to glorify God and to extend the kingdom of Jesus Christ. To accomplish this end, Old Peachtree aims to be a church that is continually growing in vital worship, in theological depth, in true fellowship, in assertive evangelism, and in deeds of compassion. The distinctiveness of Old Peachtree is in its desire to be Presbyterian in government and Reformed in theology, with the vitality that comes from evangelism and discipleship.

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