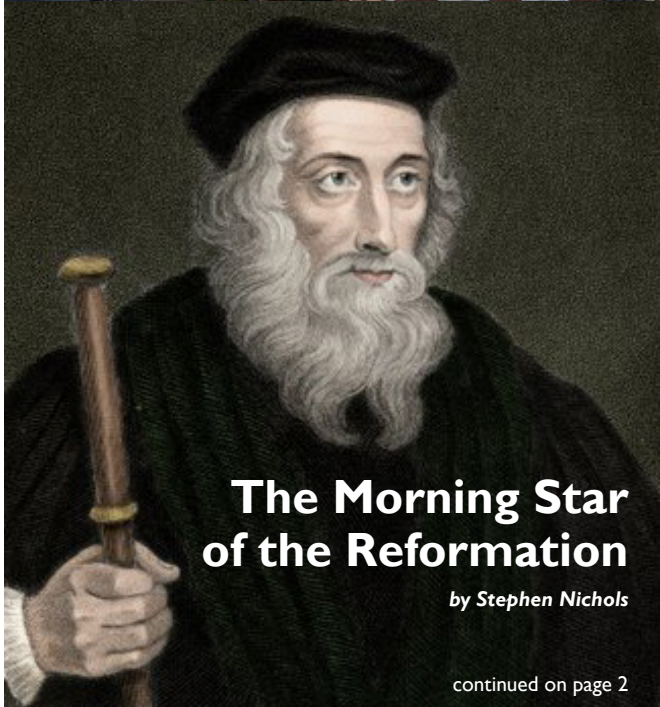


The West End Herald

Second Presbyterian Church, Greenville, SC



The Morning Star of the Reformation

by Stephen Nichols

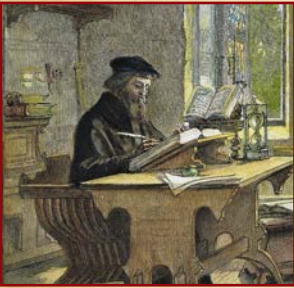
continued on page 2

Vol. CXXXII, Edition 40

October 13, 2024

In This Issue

- 1** John Wycliffe
- 3** Child Evangelism
- 4** Weekly Catechism
- 5** Corner of River/Rhett
- 6** Birthdays
- 7** Calendar
- 10** Announcements
- 12** The Intercessor



John Wycliffe has been called “The Morning Star of the Reformation.” The morning star is not actually a star, but the planet Venus, which appears before the sun rises and while darkness still dominates the horizon. The morning star is unmistakably visible. Darkness dominated the horizon in the fourteenth century, the century of Wycliffe, who was born in 1330 and died in 1384, almost exactly one hundred years before Luther was born. By his teenage years, Wycliffe was at Oxford. Thomas Bradwardine (known as “Doctor Profundus”) taught theology and William of Ockham (famous for “Ockham’s Razor”) taught philosophy. Before long, Wycliffe took his own place among the faculty. Appointed the Master of Balliol College, Wycliffe lectured and wrote in the field of philosophy. But the tug of biblical studies pulled on him. He applied himself rigorously to the study of theology and Scripture. As he did, he realized how much the church had veered off in so many wrong directions.

Setting the Stage

In the 1370s, he produced three significant works as countermeasures to the church’s

continued on page 9



Child Evangelism Fellowship



Since 1937

Child Evangelism Fellowship® is a Bible-centered organization composed of born-again believers whose purpose is to evangelize boys and girls with the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and to establish (disciple) them in the Word of God and in a local church for Christian living.

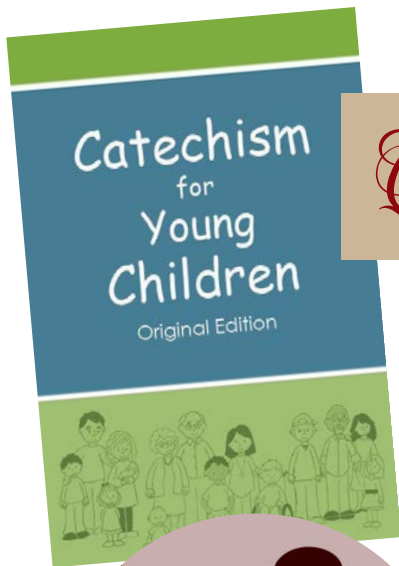
Good News Club® is an exciting, fun-filled hour held once a week. It includes: Dynamic Bible Lessons, Creative Learning Activities, Inspiring Missionary Stories, Meaningful Songs, Life-changing Scripture Memorization.

Children will learn:
Respect for Authority
Character Qualities
Moral Values
Biblical Principles

Good News Club® is open to all boys and girls ages 5–12, regardless of religious background. Clubs vary but K5 children are accepted based on volunteer availability. Parents are welcome to attend the club and are encouraged to be in close communication with the coordinator about their child.

Currently over 125 school-related Good News Clubs are held across Greenville, Anderson, Oconee, and Pickens Counties reaching over 9,500 children each week.

Second Presbyterian Church holds a club at Augusta Circle Elementary School on Tuesday afternoons. If you would like to volunteer to help, please contact Cyndi Player. ♦



Question 101:

What is the tenth commandment?

Answer:

The tenth commandment is, Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbor's.



People often think they are law-keepers because they have never done anything that would send them to jail. They are not criminals so they must be good people. This is not how God sees it. God gave this law, "You shall not covet," for people who think they are good just because they have never gone to jail. All of us would have to admit that we have broken this law. All of us have been unhappy because we did not have something we wanted. We have felt jealous because of what someone else had or was allowed to do. God wants us to see that we all break this law. He wants us to know that even if this were the only law we have ever broken, we would be just as guilty as if we had broken every law there is. ♦

from *Training Hearts, Teaching Minds*, Starr Meade



at the corner of

River & Rhett

**Praise God
for another
wonderful
Conference!**

Greenville Conference on Reformed Theology October 4–6, 2024



October **Birthdays**



- 13 Laura Fultz, Amelia Griffin,
Loyd Hansen**
- 14 Ava Grace O'Donald, Mary Weiland**
- 15 David Bragdon, Bryan Leang,
Frank Mahon, David Walton**
- 16 Sylvia Long, Matthew VanDoodewaard**
- 17 Frances Duncan, Patrick Love,
Annie-Claire Roy**
- 18 Lois McCall, Nathan Upton**
- 19 Jim Church, Jason Sauer, Chuck Swope**

This Week

MORNING SERMON

Dr. David Sinclair

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

John 19:28–30

EVENING SERMON

Rev. Mark Kuo

ALL PEOPLES SHALL WORSHIP

GOD THE KING

Psalm 47:1–9

Sunday, October 13

- 8:30 A.M. MORNING WORSHIP
9:55 A.M. Children's Chapel (*Sanctuary*)
10:00 A.M. Membership Class (*Room C-209*)
10:00 A.M. Sunday School
11:00 A.M. MORNING WORSHIP
12:30 P.M. Chapel Class Luncheon (*Gym*)
5:00 P.M. Finance Committee (*Conference Room*)
5:30 P.M. Season of Prayer (*Chapel*)
6:00 P.M. EVENING WORSHIP
7:30 P.M. Worship & Music Committee (*Conference Room*)

Monday, October 14

- 6:30 A.M. Men's Bible Study (*Fellowship Hall*)
9:30 A.M. Rafiki Bible Study (*Conference Room*)
6:30 P.M. Joint Diaconate/Session Meeting

Tuesday, October 15

- 10:00 A.M. WIC Bible Study (*Fellowship Hall*)
1:00 P.M. Henning Memorial Service (*Sanctuary*)
6:30 P.M. Lightbringers (*Fellowship Hall*)

Wednesday, October 16

- 12:00 P.M. Winsome Widows (*Fellowship Hall*)
5:30 P.M. FAMILY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP SUPPER (*Gym*)
6:15 P.M. Hope Choir (K4–K5); Covenant Choir (Grades 1–6);
Youth Choir (Grades 7–12)
6:30 P.M. Administration Committee (*Conference Room*)
6:45 P.M. Missions Moment (*Gym*)
6:45 P.M. WIC Circle 1 (*Conference Room*)
7:00 P.M. CAT Kids (Ages 3–Grade 4); Covenant Kids (Grades 5–8)
7:00 P.M. Jr. & Sr. High Bible Studies
7:00 P.M. Adult Prayer Meeting & Bible Study (*Gym*)
7:30 P.M. Chancel Choir

Thursday, October 17

- 9:30 A.M. Precepts Bible Study (*Conference Room*)

Friday, October 18

- 9:15 A.M. Raising Up Mothers (*Fellowship Hall*)
12:00 P.M. Men's Luncheon and Bible Study (*Gym*)
1:30 P.M. Mission to Main

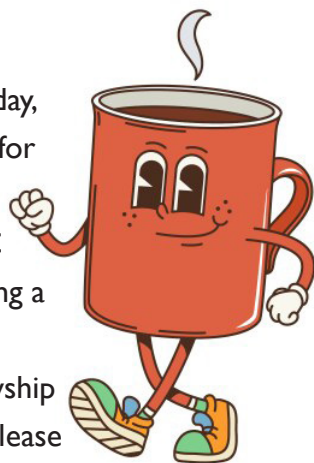
Upcoming Events

spcgreenville.org/calendar

- October 12** Fall Picnic at the Jacob Gamble Home
- October 14** Joint Diaconate/Session Meeting
- October 20** Baptism Sunday
- October 20** The Lord's Supper in the Evening Service
- October 24** Calvary Presbytery (Laurens)
- October 26** Masculine Mandate Seminar
- October 30** Reformation Party

BREAKFAST Food Needed

The next Masculine Mandate Seminar is Saturday, October 26, at 8:00 A.M. Ladies, please sign up for food, help setting up, serving, and clean up using the sign up genius you received in a WIC church e-mail. If you are unable to sign up using a computer, please contact Sharon Phillips. Food should be brought ahead of time to the Fellowship Hall kitchen or on the morning of the event. Please arrive with food, or have your husband arrive with food, no later than 8:00 A.M. A huge thank you to all for supporting the men in our church as they study God's Word and his design for godly masculinity.



corruption. The first one, *On Divine Dominion* (1373–1374), took aim at papal authority. Wycliffe was at a loss to find biblical warrant for the papacy. In fact, he argued that the papacy conflicts with and obscures the church's true authority, Scripture. The second major work was *On Civil Dominion* (1375–1376). Here Wycliffe targeted the Roman Catholic Church's assertion of authority over the English crown and English nobility. He saw no reason for England to be obliged to support a corrupt church. In his third major work, *On the Truth of Sacred Scripture* (1378), he further developed the doctrine of the authority of Scripture.

These three works were crucial to setting the stage for the Reformation. Two faculty members visiting at Oxford returned with Wycliffe's writings to their home city of Prague, which in turn influenced Jan Hus. He would consequently go on to be a second "Morning Star" of the Reformation. Martin Luther's early writings reveal the fingerprints of John Wycliffe. Yet, as important as these works are, they pale in comparison to his most important contribution, the Wycliffe Bible.

Reformation Began with Translation

In *On the Truth of Sacred Scripture*, Wycliffe called for the Bible to be translated into English. According to Roman Catholic law, translating the Bible into a vulgar, common language was a heresy punishable by death. It is almost impossible to imagine why a church would want to keep God's word from people, unless that church wanted to hold power over the people. Wycliffe was more convinced of the power of the word of God than the power wielded by the papal office. Consequently, he and a group of colleagues committed themselves to making the word of God available.

Not only did the Bible need to be translated; it also had to be copied and distributed. This was before the printing press (invented in 1440), so copies had to be made painstakingly by hand. Despite the

Announcements

Operation Christmas Child

This is a ministry that seeks to share the love of Christ and the gospel in both word and deed with less fortunate children around the world. Look for the red and green shoe boxes on the counter outside the church library and on the table outside the gym. November 20th is the due date for returning your filled boxes to the table outside the Gym. Please contact Attee Leigh with any questions.



SPC MEMBERSHIP CLASS

This no-obligation class meets for eight weeks. It is open to anyone interested in learning more about our beliefs or joining our church. Gather with others and our minister, Dr. Phillips, as we explore together our church distinctives.

Date: Sundays—began September 22 (not too late to attend!)

Time: 10:00 A.M.

Place: Room C-20

Teacher: Dr. Richard Phillips

Register: spcgreenville.org/signup

Reformation Party—October 30

Join in on this annual family-friendly celebration! Children are encouraged to dress up as Reformation or other wholesome characters. The congregation is asked to provide wrapped candies and small prizes. Items may be dropped off in the designated box in the Gymnasium. If you would like to provide a game/booth, please contact Rev. Early.

There will be no Prayer Meeting or Bible Study that night.

WIC International Dinner

All ladies are invited to the annual International Dinner at the SPC Gymnasium on Friday, November 8, at 6:30 P.M. Please bring a dish of your choice (main dish, vegetable, bread, or dessert) from the country of your choice! Ramona White will be our guest speaker.

Death of a Church Member

Emil Henning passed into Glory on October 6. A Memorial Service will be held at SPC on Tuesday, October 15, at 1:00 P.M. with visitation afterwards.



continued from page 9

challenges, hundreds of the Bibles were produced and distributed to Wycliffe's troop of pastors, who preached across England as the word of God made its way to the people. Wycliffe's followers came to be called Lollards. They were enclaves of reform not only in England, but across Europe.

These efforts in translating, copying, and proclaiming the Bible in English were driven by a singular motive, expressed by Wycliffe this way: "It helps Christian men to study the Gospel in that tongue which they know best." In his final years, Wycliffe endured falling out of favor with the church and nobility in England. Of course, he had long ago fallen out of favor with the pope. Yet, Wycliffe declared, "I am ready to defend my convictions even unto death." He remained convinced of the authority and centrality of Scripture and devoted to his life's calling to help Christians study the Bible. Having suffered two strokes, John Wycliffe died on December 30, 1384.

"Heretic" and Hero

In 1415, the Council of Constance, which condemned Jan Hus to death, declared Wycliffe a heretic. His bones were exhumed and burned, and the ashes were put into the River Swift.

But the reforming efforts of Wycliffe could not be quenched by the flames or stopped by a council's declarations. This Morning Star shone brightly against the horizon, signaling the soon coming of daylight. ♦

Dr. Stephen J. Nichols is president of Reformation Bible College, chief academic officer for Ligonier Ministries, and a Ligonier Ministries teaching fellow.

