

Current Schedule

Morning Worship: 10:45am

Sunday School: 9:30am

Ladies Bible Study:

Tuesdays @ 9:30am

Children's Catechism:

Wednesdays @ 6:30pm

Midweek Prayer Meeting:

Wednesdays @ 7:00pm



4406 Longfellow Street
Jacksonville, Florida 32210

OCTOBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Oct. 11 - North Florida Presbytery Meeting @ Christ Church Intown

Oct. 15 - Session Meeting (6:30pm)

Upcoming

Nov. 3 - Chili Cook-off

Nov. 9-10 - Mens' Retreat on SSI

Jan. 6 - Weekly evening worship begins

Committees Forming

Fellowship Committee: We'd like to have more opportunities for fellowship outside of the church's stated meetings without crowding your schedules. If you'd like to help plan and organize quarterly fellowship events/outings, speak with Aubrie Miller about how you can help.

Sound Committee: We're looking for several men and teenagers to be trained and placed on the rotation to run the sound and record/upload sermons on Sunday mornings. See Chuck Sowers to get on the list.



Issue 1 - October 2018

Pro Ecclesia (*for the church!*) is a monthly publication for the worship, community, and mission of Ortega Presbyterian Church (PCA).

Ortega's Officers

The Session

Josh Hinson, Pastor
Nick Ainsworth, Ruling Elder
Carl Hunter, Ruling Elder

The Diaconate

Mike Butler
Clif Estes

PRO ECCLESIA

"for the Word of God, and the testimony of Jesus Christ." ~ Revelation 1:9

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Four Reasons to Catechize Your Children

Rev. Joshua Hinson

the cynic asking, "And after you've catechized my child, will you then make him an altar boy?"

The practice of catechesis is actually very simple, and thankfully, many are recovering the practice as an effective tool for believers to teach Christian doctrine to their children. Here are four reasons you should catechize your children.

1. Because it is your responsibility.

This point is certainly general in nature. I'm not suggesting that Christian parents who have faithfully taught their children, but without a catechism per se, have been unfaithful. However, we all have a creed whether it is written or not and the content of what we teach our children as a summary or interpretation of Scripture is a confession of faith.

(continued on next page)

(Note: Even if you don't have children, memorizing our catechism is a wonderful way to learn the system of doctrine found in Scripture. Take a peak at the Westminster Shorter Catechism and you'll see it isn't merely a document for children.)

Catechism is a Christian word. If you were raised in the Catholic, Lutheran, or Reformed traditions of Christianity then you'll most certainly be familiar with the term and practice. If your background is one of the many flavors of evangelicalism, then it's almost as certain that you won't.

Catechesis, simply put, is oral instruction through question and answer. A "catechism" is a form or collection of such questions and answers, usually accepted by a church or denomination. A catechumen is the student under instruction. In the broadly evangelical Christian culture of the Bible Belt, words like catechism (not to be confused with *circumcision*) and sacraments connote "high church" practice. I can hear

OCTOBER FAMILY WORSHIP GUIDE

Although Christians may (and do) disagree over the isolation or integration of the school, church, and home, Scripture is clear that parents in general, and fathers in particular, are to instruct their children in the faith once for all delivered to the saints (Deut. 6:4-9; Eph. 6:1-4).

The church nurtures families and families nurture children. Parents, the responsibility is first with you.

2. Because of historical precedent.

From the earliest days when converts would be called on to answer “What do you believe?” before baptism — all the way down to the Heidelberg and Westminster Catechisms, and the Baptist Catechism by Benjamin Keach – this practice in the history of the church has a long tenure. The Princeton Theologian B.B. Warfield shares the benefit of catechetical instruction with an excerpt from the life of the evangelist, D.L. Moody:

An anecdote told of evangelist Dwight L. Moody will illustrate the value to the religious life of having been taught these forms of truth:

Moody was staying with a Scottish friend in London, but suppose we let the narrator tell the story. ‘A young man had come to speak to Mr. Moody about religious things. He was in difficulty about a number of points, among the rest about prayer and natural laws. ‘What is prayer?,’ he said, ‘I can’t tell what you mean by it!’ They were in the hall of a large London house. Before Moody could answer, a child’s voice was heard singing on the stairs. It was that of a little girl of nine or ten, the daughter of their host. She came running down the stairs and paused as she saw strangers sitting in the hall. ‘Come here, Jenny,’ her father said, ‘and tell this gentleman ‘What is prayer.’ Jenny did not know what had been going on, but she quite understood that she was now called upon to say her Catechism. So she drew herself up, and folded her hands in front of her, like a good little girl who was going to ‘say her questions,’ and she said in her clear childish voice: ‘Prayer is an offering up of our desires unto God for things agreeable to his will, in the name of Christ, with confession of our sins and thankful acknowledgment of his mercies.’

‘Ah! That’s the Catechism!’ Moody said, ‘thank God for that Catechism.’

Of course, this historical practice is much more particular than the general principle that parents should teach the content of our faith to their children. What then, is the best practice? Well, catechesis has a proven record. Furthermore, the use of a historic catechism accepted by a church or denomination as the doctrinal standard of that Christian body recognizes that each generation of parents isn’t called upon to reinvent the wheel.

3. Because you hope to send them out.

“*Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one’s youth. Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them!*” (Ps. 127:4-5a).

In this Psalm, children are described as arrows in the hand of a warrior. What are the purpose of arrows? Hint: They’re not made to remain in the quiver. Our children are under our care for a time, but ultimately they are to be released into the world to penetrate the kingdom of darkness and advance the kingdom of God in the earth.

But they aren’t ready to be released before they’re properly sharpened. They must learn the content of our faith according to their age and ability. We begin with milk and we move to meat when they are able to chew and digest it. In the classical model of education children learn according to the way God has made them. In the early stages they love memorizing, singing, and have the ability to retain facts. As they mature they begin to ask questions and think about how things work and fit together. Finally, they need to be able to express and argue for what they have learned in order to be a well rounded student. Catechetical instruction can also take advantage of these stages. Small children can be taught to parrot the answers to catechism questions. During the “middle school” years, the children can learn the logic of the catechism; i.e. why these things are true according to Scripture. Finally, as those preparing for adulthood, our children can be challenged to express and give a defense for their faith.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY

Oct. 1-7

Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant 5or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; 6it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. 7Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. - **1 Corinthians 13:4-7**

Oct. 8-14

I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you. [9Be not like a horse or a mule, without understanding, which must be curbed with bit and bridle, or it will not stay near you.] - **Psalms 32:8-9**

Oct. 15-21

Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised. - **Proverbs 31:30**

Oct. 22-28

Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, 20but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. - **Matthew 6:19-21**

Oct. 29-Nov. 4

So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. - **1 Corinthians 10:31**

SHORTER CATECHISM

Oct. 1-7

Q. 80. **What is required in the tenth commandment?**

A. The tenth commandment requireth full contentment with our own condition, with a right and charitable frame of spirit toward our neighbor, and all that is his.

Q. 81. **What is forbidden in the tenth commandment?**

A. The tenth commandment forbiddeth all discontentment with our own estate, envying or grieving at the good of our neighbor, and all inordinate motions and affections to anything that is his.

Oct. 8-14

Q. 82. **Is any man able perfectly to keep the commandments of God?**

A. No mere man since the fall is able in this life perfectly to keep the commandments of God, but doth daily break them in thought, word and deed.

Q. 83. **Are all transgressions of the law equally heinous?**

A. Some sins in themselves, and by reason of several aggravations, are more heinous in the sight of God than others.

Oct. 15-21

Q. 84. **What doth every sin deserve?**

A. Every sin deserveth God’s wrath and curse, both in this life, and that which is to come.

Q. 85. **What doth God require of us that we may escape his wrath and curse due to us for sin?**

A. To escape the wrath and curse of God due to us for sin, God requireth of us faith in Jesus Christ, repentance unto life, with the diligent use of all the outward means whereby Christ communicateth to us the benefits of redemption.

Oct. 22-28

Q. 86. **What is faith in Jesus Christ?**

A. Faith in Jesus Christ is a saving grace, whereby we receive and rest upon him alone for salvation, as he is offered to us in the gospel.

Q. 87. **What is repentance unto life?**

A. Repentance unto life is a saving grace, whereby a sinner, out of a true sense of his sin, and apprehension of the mercy of God in Christ, doth, with grief and hatred of his sin, turn from it unto God, with full purpose of, and endeavor after, new obedience.

Oct. 29-Nov. 4

Q. 88. **What are the outward and ordinary means whereby Christ communicateth to us the benefits of redemption?**

A. The outward and ordinary means whereby Christ communicateth to us the benefits of redemption, are his ordinances, especially the word, sacraments, and prayer; all which are made effectual to the elect for salvation.

Q. 89. **How is the word made effectual to salvation?**

A. The Spirit of God maketh the reading, but especially the preaching, of the word, an effectual means of convincing and converting sinners, and of building them up in holiness and comfort, through faith, unto salvation.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Oct. 1	Eph. 1	Oct. 17	1 Thess. 3
Oct. 2	Eph. 2	Oct. 18	1 Thess. 4
Oct. 3	Eph. 3	Oct. 19	1 Thess. 5
Oct. 4	Eph. 4	Oct. 20	2 Thess. 1
Oct. 5	Eph. 5	Oct. 21	2 Thess. 2
Oct. 6	Eph. 6	Oct. 22	2 Thess. 3
Oct. 7	Phil. 1	Oct. 23	1 Tim. 1
Oct. 8	Phil. 2	Oct. 24	1 Tim. 2
Oct. 9	Phil. 3	Oct. 25	1 Tim. 3
Oct. 10	Phil. 4	Oct. 26	1 Tim. 4
Oct. 11	Col. 1	Oct. 27	1 Tim. 5
Oct. 12	Col. 2	Oct. 28	1 Tim. 6
Oct. 13	Col. 3	Oct. 29	2 Tim. 1
Oct. 14	Col. 4	Oct. 30	2 Tim. 2
Oct. 15	1 Thess. 1	Oct. 31	2 Tim. 3
Oct. 16	1 Thess. 2		

Ortega PCA Missions

"...all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD..."
- Num 14:21

Tommy Park -
Reformed University Fellowship (RUF) at the University of North Florida

Ray Clotaire - Elohim Evangelical Church of Jacksonville.

Wayne Shelton - Redeemer Presbyterian Church of Gardendale, Alabama

Greenville Presbyterian Theological Seminary

New Harvest Missions International (Nathaniel Adawonu)

Donald Cobb - Aix-en-Provence, France (Mission to the World)

MISSIONS SPOTLIGHT

Our missions spotlight for October is on Wayne and Michelle Shelton. Wayne is planting Redeemer Presbyterian Church in Gardendale, Alabama. The following is adapted from an email conversation between Wayne and Pastor Clay earlier this year.



Greetings Dan and grace to you in the name of Christ. It is so good to hear from you and through you, the people of Ortega PC. We give thanks to God regularly for your people and your faithfulness supporting us across these years. We are in our third year of morning worship and are still meeting at the Civic Center which belongs to the city. We rent one side of the center on Sunday morning to give us space for Sunday School and worship. We utilize the gymnasium and section off rooms with pipe and drape to make rooms for our age-graded children's work and nursery. And on the other side of the wing, we host a combined Bible Study class for students and any adults not teaching. During the fall we taught through the Westminster Confession and this semester we are working through the covenants.

We are currently taking seven men through an officer/candidate training class that is about halfway through and once done will have taken the men through the BCO with an emphasis on Guy Water's book, 'How Jesus Runs the Church' and the WCOF, working through Chad Van Dixhoorn's 'Confessing the Faith'. We pray the Lord grants us several men in the fall to serve as our first session. Presently, I am under a provisional session assigned through our Presbytery and we meet once a month.

We are blessed with children and have about 40 in regular attendance with between 35-40 adults regular attending. Of these, we have only two with any Reformed or PCA background. Moreover, over 70% of our folks were virtually what could be called 'de-churched' or 'un-churched'; however, the air they breathe in this area is a mixture of Baptist and Pentecostal with heavy influences of legalism and moralism. In other words, our people have little to no church experience, and certainly we have none with any church leadership experience. In many ways, we are building from the ground up.

The Lord has been good to us as we continue to meet folks and work to bring people to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. I am involved throughout the community in various civic affairs and numerous events. I am working to be able to serve as a first responder chaplain and regularly lead in Bible studies in local senior centers and homes. There is much to do and I covet your continued prayers.

As for prayers, let me note a few: for our officer training – that the Lord will provide godly men committed to serving as a shepherd/elder to His people; for the Lord to show us favor among the nominally religious people of our community; for the Lord to bring reformation in our communities (we have three areas we are targeting for small groups and, Lord willing, new works); for the Lord to continue to provide for our needs, and that we can become self-sustaining financially within another year or two.

We're all familiar with musical recitals, but there was a time when students would be called upon to recite what they had learned in other subjects as well. Having a goal for reciting catechism questions can challenge, evaluate, and give opportunity for the appropriate rewarding of children for their progress. Of course, our hope is that our children will come to know the God of their catechism and not merely the answers to questions. That being said, we see no dichotomy between knowing God and knowing about him.

Of course, this approach resembles a marathon and not a sprint, the mentality of a farm and not a factory. But as Christians, don't we want our children to grow the deeps roots of the first Psalm?

4. Because if you don't, someone else will.

Like it or not, someone will catechize your children. If you don't, they will learn man's chief end from however their peers, the Disney Channel, their teachers, or the magazine rack at the grocery store checkout line defines it. That is a frightening alternative.

THE CHURCH IN PRAYER

Prayer for Ortega Pres, Her Ministries, Officers, and Members

- ◆ Lord's Day Worship
- ◆ Ladies' Study
- ◆ Tommy Park/RUF @ UNF
- ◆ Greenville Seminary
- ◆ North Florida Presbytery
- ◆ Sunday School
- ◆ 3 Members/Families of the Week (from weekly email)
- ◆ Donald Cobb, France
- ◆ Wayne Shelton/Redeemer PCA - Gardendale, AL
- ◆ Prayer MTG/Return of Crowded House
- ◆ Session
- ◆ Diaconate
- ◆ New Harvest/Nathaniel Adawonu
- ◆ Elohim Church/Ray Clotaire

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Financial Report

Budgeted Income:
\$92,779.93
 Actual Income:
\$92,868.47
 Actual Income vs. Actual Expenses:
-\$4,975.56*
 *Numbers reflect "year to date" through September 17th.
 Roof Fund:
\$41,378

October Birthdays & Anniversaries

2 - Victoria Estes
 10 - Pastor Emeritus David Burke
 12 - Katy Burke
 26 - Dr. Howard Acree

Nursery Schedule

Oct. 7 - Elin Ely & Karen Miller
Oct. 14 - Vickie Burke & Aubrie Miller
Oct. 21 - Nancy Butler & Melissa Melton
Oct. 28 - Christen Hinson & Samantha Barfield



Noah Jones, son of Ariel Jones, was baptized on May 13th



Camdyn & Cayde Hinson made their profession of faith in Christ public and were admitted to the Lord's Table in April.



Above: On August 26th we welcomed new members Chuck & Danielle Sowers (Charlie, Leola, Adele, Elliot), Aubrie Miller, David & Melissa Melton, and Tanner & Samantha Barfield (Isaac, Nolan, Micah, Beau).

Pictured Left: Beau Barfield, son of Tanner and Samantha, was baptized on September 2nd.

Adult Sunday School - Fall Quarter (Bible)

A CALL TO SPIRITUAL REFORMATION

priorities from paul and his prayers

by **D.A. Carson**

Sept. 2 - Intro & Ch. 1: Lessons from the School of Prayer

Sept. 9 - Ch. 2: The Framework of Prayer

Sept. 16 - Ch. 3: Worthy Petitions

Sept. 23 - Ch. 4: Praying for Others

Sept. 30 - Ch. 5: A Passion for People

Oct. 7 - Ch. 6: The Content of a Challenging Prayer

Oct. 14 - Ch. 7: Excuses for Not Praying

Oct. 21 - Ch. 8: Overcoming the Hurdles

Oct. 28 - Ch. 9: A Sovereign and Personal God

Nov. 4 - Ch. 10: Praying to the Sovereign God

Nov. 11 - Ch. 11: Praying for Power

Nov. 18 - Chapter 12: Prayer for Ministry



Got a good chili recipe? Prove it on Saturday, November 3rd at our chili cook-off! See Aubrie Miller for details.



This quarter in **Sunday School** the elementary & preschool children are learning what it means to obey God from the kings and prophets of the Old Testament as they make their way through the "Show Me Jesus" curriculum from *Great Commission Publications*. On **Wednesday evenings** the children study the catechism questions found in the family worship guide.

MEN'S RETREAT 2018

with Westminster & Grace Covenant

▶ Epworth by the Sea | St Simon's Island, Georgia | November 9-10
 Deadline to Register: October 26

Ladies Bible Study - Tuesdays | 9:45am

The Ladies' Tuesday morning Bible study, led by Audrey Ainsworth, reaches ladies in our church and community and is one of the longest standing ministries of Ortega PCA.

Get Connected:

Ortega PCA sends out a weekly update with announcements, the upcoming Lord's Day's bulletin, etc. If you would like to be added to the *Ortega Weekly* email list, please sign-up on the "Contact Us" page of our website or email the church office at office@ortegapres.org

Current Sunday School Offerings:

Adult Class - Systematic Theology, Church History, Bible, and Practical studies rotating quarterly.

Middle School & Teenagers - Systematic Theology

Elementary & Preschool - *Show Me Jesus* Bible Curriculum

