

The Purpose of Grace Presbyterian Church

is to glorify God by equipping individuals and families with the Word of God so that by God's grace they will grow in their service and worship of God, cultivate a genuinely loving fellowship, and influence the world for Jesus Christ.

Sunday Worship Schedule:

Sunday

9:15 am Sunday School
Church History I

Galatians

God Is At Work:
The Sovereignty of God in
Your Life

10:30 am Morning Worship
Colossians: Our Sufficient,

Glorious Christ

6:00 pm Evening Worship

The Gospel of Mark:
The Suffering King Has
Come to Save

The Session

Caleb Cangelosi
(Teaching Elder),
Brad Bleasdale,
Dennis Parker
(Clerk of Session),
Darryl Richards,
Robert Row (Director
of Family Ministries),
Quinton Bain (Elder
Emeritus)

The Diaconate

*Todd Burks,
Chuck Craig,
David Cunningham,
Jamey Farris,
Jason Morse (Treasurer),
John Rust (Chairman),
Michael Savage,
Wes Stevens

*Deacon for January

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Youth Group Study

Robert Row, Director of Family Ministries

For the spring semester the youth will be studying through the Gospel of John. Each week in Youth Group we will be working through this rich gospel that looks at the life of Jesus from a different angle than do the other gospels. I liken the gospels to looking at one diamond under a microscope. If you have ever had the opportunity to do so it is an amazing sight to see all the different angles and prisms of light that the diamond creates. The gospels are like a diamond, each one reflecting the beautiful life of Jesus Christ in a different way. In order to see His beauty we must be that microscope and look deeply into His Word and study it. Therefore, one of the goals for our Youth Ministry is that students will graduate knowing how to study the Bible on their own. Our hope is that they will look for the beauty of Jesus in all the pages of Scripture. Therefore, throughout this study I have challenged our students to read, observe, and ask questions. They were asked to create a journal of their study and I will be assigning them passages to read and reflect on each week. Parents of youth, I ask you to remind and encourage them in their own time of Bible study. My goal this semester is quite simply: teach them how to study the Bible. The Youth Group meets every Wednesday night at Al-good School starting at 6:00 pm.

Ask the Pastor

Caleb Cangelosi

What is the difference between a non-communing and a communing member?

In the Presbyterian Church in America, we believe that the visible church consists of all those who make profession of their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, together with their children. Those who have made a profession of their faith, have been baptized, and have been admitted by the Session to the Lord's table are "communing members." The children of believers are, through the covenant and by right of birth, "non-communing members" of the church. That is, they are entitled to the sign of baptism, and to the pastoral oversight, instruction and government of the church, with a view to their embracing Christ and thus possessing personally all benefits of the covenant – but because they have not yet made a profession of faith in Christ, they do not yet have the right to come to the Lord's Table and commune with Him.

This distinction comes from 1 Corinthians 11:27ff. In that passage, Paul declares that those who come to the table must examine themselves, and judge the body rightly. These commands presuppose on the one hand that saving faith, repentance, and the fruits of the Spirit are present in those who come to the table (it is these things for which believers are examining themselves), and on the other hand that there is an ability and maturity to perform the tasks of self-examination and discerning/judging the body of Christ. Thus, Presbyterians have taught that those who are devoid of faith or of an ability to do a self-examination should not come to the Lord's Table, lest they eat and drink judgment to themselves (1 Cor. 11:27, 29).

Our Book of Church Order has several wise things to say in regard to non-communing members: "They are to be taught to love God, and to obey and serve the Lord Jesus Christ. When they are able to understand the Gospel, they should be earnestly reminded that they are members of the Church by birth-right, and that it is their duty and privilege personally to accept Christ, to confess Him before men, and to seek admission to the Lord's Supper. The time when young persons come to understand the Gospel cannot be precisely fixed. This must be left to the prudence of the Session, whose office it is to judge, after careful examination, the qualifications of those who apply for admission to sealing ordinances [the Lord's Table]" (57.1-2). What if children grow up and never embrace Jesus Christ personally? "If they are wayward they should be cherished by the church and every means used to reclaim them... Adult non-communing members, who receive with meekness and appreciation the oversight and instruction of the Church, are entitled to special attention. Their rights and privileges under the covenant should be frequently and fully explained, and they should be warned of the sin and danger of neglecting their covenant obligations" (28.3-4).

Let us pray that God would give our children the gifts of faith and repentance, and that they would improve their baptisms and walk in a manner worthy of the Lord Jesus Christ who invites them day in and day out to come to Himself and be saved. Let us pray for parents as they instruct and nurture their children in the faith. And let us never take for granted the great privilege that we have to come to the table.

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Pastor's Corner

Caleb Cangelosi, Pastor

This past Sunday was a sweet time of worship in the Spirit for me, and I hope for you as well. Several of you have remarked how timely Psalm 46 was to you; one even requested that I preach that sermon once a year! Perhaps not the same sermon – but it is a wise request to ask that God's sovereignty in suffering be addressed from the pulpit regularly. Pray that I will be sensitive to the leadings of the Spirit in what I preach and how I apply the word. Preaching consecutively through books of the Bible ensures that a balanced diet of God's word will be fed to God's people, but there are certainly times when particular topics need to be addressed expositionally.

The Session met last Monday, January 11, and approved several noteworthy items. After the good response to Robert's Sunday evening question and answer session, the elders voted to try that on a regular basis on the first Sunday evenings. So on February 7, come with your questions, and pray that God's Spirit would lead our discussion of His word, previous sermons, tough theological issues, or anything else that's on your mind. If you would like to email me your questions ahead of time, that would be great, as it would give me more time to prepare an answer – but you still might hear "I don't know" at times!

Your elders also approved a recommendation that the Building Committee brought to the Diaconate, to hire the architectural firm AEI to develop a Master Plan for our property on Burton Branch Road. This project will cost right around \$11,000, and it will help us proceed wisely when we begin building. When AEI is done, we should have a better idea of what the eventual sanctuary and education facilities will look like on our land. I'm excited about this progress, and encourage you to be praying regularly for the building committee as it works to move us forward. Phil Wilbourn, who has served faithfully and wisely as chairman of the building committee this past year, has asked to step down as chairman but to remain on the committee. Wes Stevens has agreed to be the new chairman of the building committee, so keep him in your prayers as well.

Finally, the Session approved the formation of a Strategic Planning Committee, consisting of elders, deacons, and church members. The aim is to approve a written strategic plan for Grace Presbyterian Church by the end of 2010 – where are we going and how will we, Lord willing, get there? The Session feels keenly its responsibility to provide leadership and direction for the church as we grow and mature into a new stage of life, and has good hopes that the time spent prayerfully contemplating these questions will bear much fruit for the present and the future. Pray that God will be leading and guiding the committee as it forms and begins meeting.

Two things are coming up of which you should be aware. **First**, community group Bible studies are beginning this week at various homes throughout our church family. I hope that each one of you will be a part of some smaller group for fellowship and study, for it's often in these times that we are best able to put hands and feet to the word of God. **Second**, on January 31st we will be having a congregational meeting in order to present the 2010 church budget to you. The Finance Committee, Diaconate, and Session have worked long and hard on this budget, and we want you to know how the money you give to the church will be spent. (In the Presbyterian Church, the congregation does not approve the budget; that responsibility falls to the elders, who are elected by the congregation. Pray that the officers have wisdom as they spend the Lord's money this year.) Following the congregational meeting, we will have a church wide fellowship meal – which will occur every time there is a fifth Sunday in a month. That evening, we will have a joint worship service with First Presbyterian Church of Crossville and Faith Presbyterian Church (OPC) of Cookeville (another regular fifth-Sunday occurrence from here on out, so mark your calendars). This time, we'll be meeting in Crossville. We will meet at the Algood School parking lot at 5:00 p.m. to caravan together. I hope we can bring as many folks up the mountain as they brought down, to be an encouragement to our sister congregations!

Your Pastor, Caleb

It isn't too late to join a Community Group!

Community Group #1:

Title: "WHEN I DON'T DESIRE GOD" —

A study on D.V.D. by John Piper

Time: Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m.

Location: Darryl and Mary Richards' Home

Leader: Steve Sperry stevels2@twlakes.net

Community Group #2:

Title: "THE FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT"

Time: Saturdays at 6:00 p.m.

Location: Andy and Carol Berg's Home (location will vary in different homes)

Leader: Andy Berg acberg@ymail.com

Community Group #3:

Title: "TRANSFORMING GRACE"

Time: Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.

Location: The Meeting House (formerly "The Cooper House")

Leader: Dennis Parker parkit@blomand.net

Community Group #4:

Title: "BACK TO BASICS – Rediscovering the Richness of the Reformed Faith"

Time: Thursdays at 6:15 p.m.

Location: Robert and Rebecca Row's Home (location will vary in different homes)

Leader: Robert Row robert.row.grace@gmail.com

Meet the Deacon: John Rust

Last year we introduced the Elders of Grace Presbyterian—this year, it's time to meet the Deacons! We will start with John Rust, the current Chairman of the Diaconate. Tell us about yourself, John!

"I am the youngest of 3 children born and raised in the blue-collar suburbs of Detroit, Michigan until the fall of 1973. Life changed considerably when my family moved to Sparta, Tennessee! I graduated from high school in 1980 and enrolled in Tennessee Tech to pursue a Marketing degree. That lasted about 2 quarters. I attended barber school and pursued that career until I finally completed a Psychology degree in 1990. Since that time, I have worked in about every sector of the social services field imaginable.

The Lord graciously saved me in my early 20's. For most of my life, I attended the Hampton's Crossroad's Baptist Church. God provided a great reformed Baptist pastor, Mike Shrum, to disciple me in the early years of my salvation.

The Lord knew that I would need a great wife. He moved me to Washington Avenue Baptist Church where I met Kathy. It took her a about a year to warm up to me; but she did come around. We married in November, 1993. Karelyn came to us in May, 1995 and again in 2008, Corban was born in November 1998 and Claire in August 2001. Our quiver is full.

I still remember the first night of visiting Grace after being encouraged to do so by Jeff and Denise Enochs way back in 1993. Seven friends decided to quietly go "check out" the services. I think that we outnumbered the congregation. We were warmly welcomed; I was asked to play the piano for services and we all left as excited as anyone could be to hear such great truth from God's word. I guess you can say that we liked the church; we have been attending and serving ever since."



GRACE
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