

## 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  
Grace For the World

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

# Grace Press

GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, PCA  
WWW.GRACECOOKEVILLE.ORG  
PHONE NUMBER: 931-537-6400

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## Community Groups

Robert Row, Director of Family Ministries

Starting the week of January 17<sup>th</sup> we will begin our Community Groups. The purpose for these groups is simple: That we would grow in our love for God and one another so that we may be a light in our community for the gospel of Jesus Christ. That may sound like a platitude but we sincerely mean it and it is Biblical. We pray that these home Bible studies will provide great opportunities for families to grow closer to our Savior. We pray that families will grow deeper in their fellowship with one another. We pray that as we experience the love of Christ through His Word and genuine fellowship that our zeal would be renewed to take the gospel to the World around us.

Below are the studies being offered in each Community Group. To be a part of one of these studies contact the email listed beside the study leader. We are also asking that you purchase your own material for the studies. **A note on childcare:** Each group is responsible for handling childcare. Although, each group is also strongly encouraged to creatively think through how children and youth might be integrated into the study on a regular basis.

### Community Group #1:

**Title:** "WHEN I DON'T DESIRE GOD" —

A study on D.V.D.

**Description:** Pastor, Author, Speaker and Founder of DESIRING GOD ministry, John Piper, convinces us that "God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him". (Or . . . When our joy is the kind of satisfaction that sustains a Christian through the most devastating circumstances. First, he reminds us that Jesus endured the cross for the joy that was set before Him and that we are to experience that joy: Then he reminds us that this truth is liberating when we're convinced of it yet devastating when we consider that we don't consistently have such a blissful joy: Then he offers strategies (weapons) for Christians to use as we fight for what are actually emotions or feelings of joy and contentment.

**Time:** Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m. (First meeting will be Tues., Jan. 19<sup>th</sup>)

**Location:** Darryl and Mary Richards' Home

**Leader:** Steve Sperry [stevels2@twlakes.net](mailto:stevels2@twlakes.net)

### Community Group #2:

**Title:** "THE FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT"

**Description:** Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Wow what a list. This study will take an in-depth look at the fruits of the Spirit in our lives so that we will be challenged and encouraged to look to Christ for these fruits to be ripened in our own lives by the power of His Spirit.

**Time:** Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. (First meeting will be Wed., Jan. 20<sup>th</sup>)

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

**Leader:** Andy Berg [acberg@ymail.com](mailto:acberg@ymail.com)

### Community Group #3:

**Title:** "TRANSFORMING GRACE"

**Description:** The author of this book, Jerry Bridges, writes, "The grace of God is one of the most important subjects in all of Scripture. At the same time it is probably one of the least understood." This is a vital study for every Christian. Peter tells us to "grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (2 Pet. 3:18). This study is a continuation from last semester but that does not mean you will be lost. A new study will begin at the end of February.

**Time:** Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. (First meeting will be Wed., Jan. 27<sup>th</sup>)

**Location:** Church Office

**Leader:** Dennis Parker [parkit@blomand.net](mailto:parkit@blomand.net)

### Community Group #4:

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

**Description:** The Reformed Faith is a rich tapestry of biblical understanding that encompasses all of thought and life. Those who embrace that understanding find it to be practical and life-changing – reformation for the sake of transformation. This book – a call to rediscover the richness of the Reformed faith – provides insight into four crucial biblical concerns: 1. Conversion, 2. The Covenant, 3. The Church, 4. The Christian Life.

**Time:** Thursdays at 6:00 p.m. (First meeting will be Thursday, Jan. 21<sup>st</sup>)

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

**Leader:** Robert Row

[robert.row.grace@gmail.com](mailto:robert.row.grace@gmail.com)

## Pastor's Corner

Caleb Cangelosi, Pastor

Well, the holidays are over and a new year is upon us. Elizabeth and I had a wonderful time down in Baton Rouge with my family. She's actually still down in Mississippi with our children, visiting her family. I'll pick her up in Birmingham on Saturday.

The turning of the calendar reminds me that I'm one year closer to death, and closer to glory. It is always a good thing to remember our frailty and finitude, as well as the Lord's eternal and immortal nature. Psalm 90 is one of the best passages in this regards: "Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were born or You gave birth to the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God. You turn man back into dust and say, 'Return, O children of men.' For a thousand years in Your sight are like yesterday when it passes by, or as a watch in the night. You have swept them away like a flood, they fall asleep; in the morning they are like grass which sprouts anew. In the morning it flourishes and sprouts anew; toward evening it fades and withers away... So teach us to number our days, that we may present to You a heart of wisdom" (Psalm 90:1-6, 12). I pray that God will give us all grace to be wise in 2010, and that He will renew us in our commitment to Christ and His work in the world.

This Lord's Day we have the privilege of communing with Christ and one another at the Lord's Supper. I encourage you to spend some time in self-examination before Sunday, in accordance with Paul's words in I Corinthians 11:27ff., "Whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner, shall be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord. But a man must examine himself, and in so doing he is to eat of the bread and drink of the cup." Search your heart: are you a Christian (II Cor. 13:5)? Do you love the brethren (I Cor. 11:17-34)? Are you resting in Christ in faith and hope (Phil. 3:7-11, Heb. 3:12-14)? Are you growing in your hatred for sin (Rom. 7:14ff.)? I love the way the Heidelberg Catechism #80 explains who may come to the table: "Those who are displeased with themselves for their sins, yet trust that these are forgiven them, and that their remaining infirmity is covered by the suffering and death of Christ; who also desire more and more to strengthen their faith and to amend their life. But the impenitent and hypocrites eat and drink judgment to themselves." May God give us grace to come to the table not as self-assured, prideful, self-righteous Pharisees, but as broken, humbled, needy, hungry sinners, clinging to our Savior for life and refreshment.

### Ask the Pastor

**Does God change His mind?** This question arises because of passages in the Old Testament like Exodus 32:14, which comes after the golden calf incident and Moses' intercession for Israel: "So the LORD changed His mind about the harm which He said He would do to His people." How do we reconcile verses like this with passages like Numbers 23:19 ("God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should repent; Has He said, and will He not do it? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?") and I Samuel 15:29 ("Also the glory of Israel will not lie or change His mind; for He is not a man that He should change His mind.")? Does the Bible contradict itself? No, the Bible does not contradict itself, although a surface reading of the text might lead one to that wrong conclusion. The narrative passages of Exodus and other places where the text states that God changes His mind or repents must be interpreted in light of didactic passages like Numbers and I Samuel. God does not learn new information; He is never surprised; He is never swayed from His eternal purpose. He is not a man. Rather, in those passages in which it declares that He changes His mind or repents, He is writing Himself into the narrative as one of the characters, and presenting Himself to us as one of the actors. From our perspective, God does seem to change His mind. But God is condescending to our weakness; just as the Bible says God has an arm, so it says He repents. John Calvin helpfully explains: "What, therefore, does the word 'repentance' mean? Surely its meaning is like that of all other modes of speaking that describe God for us in human terms. For because our weakness does not attain to his exalted state, the description of him that is given to us must be accommodated to our capacity so that we may understand it. Now the mode of accommodation is for him to represent himself to us not as he is in himself, but as he seems to us... So we ought not to understand anything else under the word 'repentance' than change of action, because men are wont by changing their actions to testify that they are displeased with themselves. Therefore, since every change among men is a correction of what displeases them, but that correction arises out of repentance, then by the word 'repentance' is mean the fact that God changes with respect to his actions. Meanwhile neither God's plan nor his will is reversed, nor his volition altered; but what he had from eternity foreseen, approved, and decreed, he pursues in uninterrupted tenor, however sudden the variation may appear in men's eyes" (*Institutes*, I.xvii.12).

Your Pastor, Caleb

## Notes Regarding the Upcoming Events

- Tuesday, January 19th 10:00—11:30 am**

Nancy Leigh DeMoss is coming to Algood!!!

Bible Study open to all women in the church begins Tuesday, Jan, 19th from 10-11:30 at the Cooper house next to the church offices. Book is titled A 30 Day Walk With God In the Psalms. Author is Nancy Leigh DeMoss, a popular, reformed Bible teacher and author of many books. Child care will be provided. Book may be purchased at her website - [www.Reviveourhearts.com](http://www.Reviveourhearts.com), Lifeway, Cornerstone, or Books-A-Million. Class will be taught by Jan Stevens, please contact her with any questions at (931) 432-2443 or [wjstevens123@charter.net](mailto:wjstevens123@charter.net). Let her know if you will be bringing children. Please come with first lesson completed. We will be studying one psalm a week and utilizing Calvin's Commentaries on the psalms and additional study aids as needed. These materials will be provided. This is a TERRIFIC study in which Nancy incorporates Reformed theology into her lessons enriching not only our faith, but drawing us into a closer walk with our Lord. If you do only one Bible study this year, THIS IS THE ONE!!

- Saturday, January 23rd 8:30—12 noon**

There will be a workday at the church Saturday, January 23 from 8:30am until around 12:00pm, rain or shine. Anyone 12 years old or older is needed. We will be working outside removing brush and fences from the property line. Please bring saws or limb cutters if you have them. You may also work inside painting and doing odd jobs at the new office home. There are still hardwood trees down at the back of the church property. Anyone may have them for firewood if they saw them up and take them away. Contact any deacon if you have questions.

- Directory Update**

We are in the process of updating the Grace Directory. If you have corrections or updates to submit, or if you would like a new photo taken, please contact Helen Morse at [newsletter@jmmorse.com](mailto:newsletter@jmmorse.com).

### Shepherding Meal Schedule

Date	Elder	Location
1/10	Parker	Church Property
1/17	Row	
1/24	Bleasdale	
1/31	Churchwide Fellowship Meal	

### Nursery Volunteers and Greeters

	1/10	1/17
SS Babies	A. Wienke	H. Morse
AM Worship Babies and Toddlers	B/B Bleasdale Families	Enochs'/Bailey Lee
PM Worship Babies	Parker	Craig
Greeters	McClearen/Bleasdale	Craig/McCall

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1/10 Lord's Supper	1/11 12 Noon Calvin's Institutes Church Office 6:00 PM Session/ Diaconate Mtgs. 7:00 PM Joint Officers' Mtg. Anniversary! Dobbins	1/12  Birthday! Caleb Cangelosi Jessica Welch Tom Taylor	1/13  9:00 am WIC Council Meeting Burks' Home	1/14  6:00 pm Young & Happy El Tapatio	1/15	1/16
1/17	1/18 12 Noon Calvin's Institutes Church Office	1/19 10-11:30 am Womens Bible Study Cooper House  6:00 pm Community Group Richards' Home	1/20  6:00 pm Community Group Bergs' Home	1/21 6:00 pm Community Grp Rows' Home  7:00 pm Young & Happy Women Dolce Cafe  Birthday! Joseph Robertson	1/22  Birthday! Brad Seitzinger	1/23 8:30 am – 12 noon Church Work Day at the Property

## Grace for the World

Robert Row, Director of Family Ministries

Over the past couple months Pastor Caleb and I have been preaching on the theme: Grace for the World. As followers of Christ we are compelled by the love Christ has for us to show love to our neighbor. We see this fleshing itself out in many different ways in our lives: 1. Individually - through individual Christians loving their neighbor where they live, work, and play; 2. Corporately - through the church serving our community. Not only is love for neighbor to mark the individual Christian but God's church as well. It is especially important for the body of Christ as a unit to be visible in the community because our world today focuses so much attention on the individual, especially in regards to Christianity. There is something different communicated to others when they see the church serving as one body for the good of His Kingdom. One of the overarching themes of scripture is building up the Kingdom of God and it is clear that the church plays a major role in God's sovereign plan to do that. Therefore, we must remember to serve, not for the purpose of padding our own pews but for the purpose of building up God's Kingdom. We will be doing these acts of love with no strings attached, simply to see God's Kingdom grow in the hearts of men, women, and children in our community. If our pews grow as a result – great! But it should not be our primary motive; love should be. Below we have listed a few opportunities for service and love to our Algood School Community.

TASK	OBJECTIVE	NEED	SCOPE
Goody Bags for teachers	Love and encouragement	People / resources	Quarterly
Lunch for staff - at Church Offices	Love and encouragement	People / resources	4 times a year
Tutoring	Mentor and teach children	People	Weekly
School Grounds – flowers, tree planting, weed eating	Beautification	People/resources/\$	Year-round
Be a Guest Speaker – teach a skill	Opportunity for common grace	Expertise or skill in a field of interest	Anytime



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