

**The Purpose of Grace
Presbyterian Church**
is to glorify God by gathering and growing His people in accordance with His word.

Grace Press

GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, PCA
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Pastor's Corner

Give thanks to God with me that Andy Berg passed his Presbytery exams! His formal installation service will be Sunday morning, March 6. Members of Presbytery will be here to install him as one of our pastors, and Dr. James Baird from Jackson, MS, a former pastor of Andy's, will preach the word to us. Don't miss it!

Last week Elizabeth and I had the privilege of attending the Desiring God Pastor's Conference in Minneapolis, MN. The trip was a gift from a friend down in Baton Rouge, and it was the first time that Elizabeth and I have gone to a conference together, alone, since the Lord gave us children. So needless to say, we were thankful for the time together. It actually turned into our tenth anniversary trip as well, because we had to stay a day longer than we intended due to the Chicago airport's being shut down by the blizzard/snow-cane/thundersnow (thanks for the new words, Jim Cantore!). But because our flight didn't leave out until Thursday, we were able to attend Bethlehem Baptist Church, where John Piper pastors; that was a great treat.

For those of you unfamiliar with Desiring God Ministries and John Piper, let me encourage you to go spend some time on their website. There are all sorts of free audio/video/article resources, and his books drip with passion for God's glory and the power of the gospel of Christ Jesus. The ministry of John Piper has had great significance in my own spiritual journey, as it has for so many around the world over the last twenty five years. One of the first theological books I read was *Desiring God* – I think it was during my first couple years of college. At some point during those years I became Reformed in my theological convictions, and as the Reformed community in Baton Rouge at that time was very tiny, for a short while I sincerely thought that I would never be able to get married, since I didn't know any women who believed like I did. But during my sophomore year at LSU, I attended a Ligonier Conference at Independent Presbyterian Church, at which R. C. Sproul and John Piper were speaking. The conference was on God's providence, and the church was filled with men and women; my faith in God's sovereignty was strengthened, and my hopes for marriage were renewed. All that to say, in spite of the fact that we disagree on the doctrine of baptism (and I'm sure other things as well), John Piper has meant an incredible amount to me as I have grown in the Lord and in my sense of His call on my life to gospel ministry. So it was a privilege to be at his conference last week.

The conference was on prayer, a part of my spiritual life that has always been a struggle. Praying continually (1 Thess. 5:18) has always been easier than devoting myself to prayer, keeping alert in it with thanksgiving (Col. 4:2). So it was good to be reminded of how important it is, especially as a pastor, to spend deliberate time in earnest prayer for myself, my family, the flock which has been entrusted to my care, and the nations. It's so easy to worry or to think rather than to pray; but a prayerless Christian is a powerless Christian and a prideful Christian – powerless, because God's ordinary way is to give in response to His people's cries for help (see Luke 11:13; 18:1ff.; James 4:2), and prideful, because prayerlessness is at its root self-reliance and self-righteousness. How often do we live without conscious dependence upon God's mercy and grace, crying out in desperation for Him to act on our behalf and on behalf of those we love? As your pastor, I feel my helplessness keenly. I cannot change you. My words alone cannot regenerate you or justify you or sanctify you. I cannot convince you to change your minds and your ways, to repent of your sins and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. I cannot make you love one another. I cannot create a hunger and thirst in your hearts for God, a passion for His word, a desire

Sunday Worship Schedule:

9:15 am
Sunday School

"Gospel Compassion:
Showing the Love of
Christ to the Poor"

10:30 am
Morning Worship

"Psalms from the Life of
David"

6:00 pm
Evening Worship

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

Wednesday Schedule:

See Announcements

The Session

Caleb Cangelosi
(Teaching Elder),
Brad Bleasdale,
Dennis Parker
(Clerk of Session),
Darryl Richards,
Landon Vick
Quinton Bain (Elder
Emeritus)

The Diaconate

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

Pastor's Corner Continued...

for the lost to know Him and His church to be built up. I can't even do these things for my children, whom I see and talk to every day. And therefore I must pray. Prayer must attend all my preaching and teaching and counseling. I am utterly dependent on God, as Jehoshaphat put it in II Chron. 20:12, "We are powerless before this great multitude who are coming against us; nor do we know what to do, but our eyes are on You."

Apart from all that I learned in the area of prayer, something else particularly struck me: how important it is never to separate truth and godliness/piety, and how fundamental God-oriented affections/emotions are to true piety. The knowledge of the truth is according to godliness, says Paul in Titus 1:1, and yet it is so easy to make the acquisition of knowledge an end in and of itself. I saw a former seminary classmate from RTS at the conference, and he remarked to me how spiritually dry his seminary time was. I gave thanks to God as I recalled my four years in Jackson, for I can truly say that by His grace those four years were anything but dry for me. Part of the reason for that was that I had grown up around a superficial piety that didn't care much about pursuing the knowledge of the truth; coming to RTS was a breath of fresh air, for I was finally around people who had "a mind for truth and a heart for God" (the motto of RTS). But the danger is always among us – particular us who are Presbyterian/Reformed – to be so committed to or intent on knowing the truth, that we forget about godliness and piety: we neglect love for and fear of and obedience to and passion for and desire for and delight in the God of truth, and we neglect to love and be patient toward and forgive and show compassion for our neighbors. The answer obviously isn't to stop caring about the truth – the answer is to hold together what the Bible holds together, to be passionately committed to holding to the truth in love.

I wonder about us sometimes – have we lost our first love, like the church of Ephesus in Revelation 2:4? Do we have a name that we are alive, but we are really dead, like the church of Sardis in Revelation 3:1? Are we lukewarm, complacent in our self-righteousness and self-reliance, like the church of Laodicea in Revelation 3:15-17? Have we neglected private worship/Bible study/prayer/memorization and meditation upon God's word? Have we neglected family worship, singing, reading God's word, and singing with our spouses and children? Have we forsaken the assembling together of the saints for worship on Sunday mornings and evenings? Have we forsaken hospitality, and bold witnessing to the lost? Do we hide and tolerate sin in our life, like sexual immorality, drunkenness, covetous greed, hatred, bitterness, unforgiveness, gos-

sip, selfishness? Ultimately, all these questions resolve themselves to this: Do we have a heart-felt passion to know God and to make Him known? Do we desire to glorify Him above all things, by gathering and growing His people in accordance with His word? Is God our chief delight and chief desire? If you see that the answer in your heart is "No," then don't do anything else until you cry out to Him for mercy in Jesus Christ; repent and believe the gospel, that Jesus Christ has given Himself for you to redeem you from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds and zealous for His glory (Tit. 2:11-14). Forget what lies behind and reach forward to what lies ahead, pressing on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

May the Lord continue to sanctify us, transforming us in the whole man into the image of His beautiful Son.

Your Pastor, Caleb

Meet the PCA

Each newsletter, we hope to highlight one of the committees/agencies of our denomination, so that you will get to know a little bit about the work of the church beyond our community.

Mission to the World is the mission-sending committee of the Presbyterian Church in America, helping to fulfill the Great Commission by advancing Reformed and covenantal church-planting movements through word and deed in strategic areas worldwide. MTW advances the work of the body of Christ worldwide through a wide variety of word and deed ministries by identifying, selecting, training and sending men and women and integrating these into church-planting movements. It ministers among unreached people groups in cities as well as hinterland areas, partnering with national churches and indigenous leaders whenever possible. MTW also partners with local PCA churches to glorify God through the discovery and engagement of their unique potential, purpose and passion for cross-cultural ministry. MTW believes that the Church is God's instrument to complete the missionary task. Its approach is to advance movements of the gospel through the planting of self-propagating, self-supporting, and self-governing churches, which live out a dynamic Reformed and covenantal faith through trained and empowered leadership. As of the end of 2009, there were 635 long term missionaries and 5,754 short term missionaries. We support two MTW missionaries, Pete and Ruth Mitchell in Marseilles, France, and Perry and Betty in Italy

What Else Is Going On At Grace?

Upcoming Spring Quarter Sunday School Classes

1. *The Book of James* – How do we live out our faith in the nitty gritty details of life? What does the Christian life look like? The book of James answers those questions and more, covering topics such as rejoicing in trials, sin and temptation, anger, true religion, discrimination, faith and works, the tongue, wisdom, conflict, wealth and poverty, and prayer. Bob King will teach through this very practical book written by the brother of Jesus.
2. *He is There and He is Not Silent* – God has spoken, in creation and in His Word. Yet there are so many questions surrounding His revelation of Himself in creation and in His Word. This class, taught by the elders and Todd Burks, will think about the Bible and about God's revelation in creation. We'll consider the necessity of the Bible, the inspiration and authority of the Bible, the inerrancy of the Bible, how we know the Bible is God's word, how the canon came to be formed, how the Bible relates to various scientific disciplines such as Astronomy, Physical Science, Chemistry, Biology, Physiology, and Geology, and how the knowledge of God's revelation in creation should change the way we live our lives today.

Wednesday Evening Programs

- *6:00-6:30 PM—Snack Supper (\$2 adults/\$1 children). If you would like to help set up the supper, please contact Andy Berg at 931.397.9952.
- *6:15-7:30 PM—Adult Prayer Meeting and Bible Study. We are studying Isaiah 1-12.
- *6:30-7:30 PM—Kid's Skill & Drills is for preschool through sixth graders. We have a nursery for babies/toddlers
- *6:00 PM—Youth Group
- **Saturday, February 19th** --> We're helping Habitat for Humanity with a new neighborhood revitalization project. They need volunteers to walk through the neighborhood to take a survey of the residents. If you're interested in helping, meet at the McClellan Church of Christ on the corner of Garrett and McClellan at 9:00 a.m. The survey should take a couple of hours. Talk to John Rust or Caleb Cangelosi for more information. Also, if you'd like to help Habitat but don't want to do a survey, they need help in their ReStore. Talk to Bunny Williamson for more details.
- **Sunday, February 20th** --> Lord's Supper at the Evening Service
- **Wednesday, February 23rd** --> Cookeville Rescue Mission Meal—Brad Bleasdale's Shepherding Group
- **Friday, February 25th** --> YAHOO dinner at Made With Love, 5:30 p.m.; Caleb will be speaking at the Humanitas Forum at 7:00 p.m. on Learning to Use Catechisms in Christian Discipleship.
- **Saturday, February 26th** --> we're having a workday at the Church Office from 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. We need help cleaning out the garage, organizing things, and cleaning/painting the kitchen. Talk to Todd Burks for more information.
- **Friday, March 4th** --> Family Game Night at Algood Elementary School at 6:00 p.m. Bring dinner and your favorite game
- **Sunday, March 6th** --> Andy Berg's Installation Service
- **Sunday, March 13th** --> Lord's Supper at the Morning Worship Service
- **Sunday, March 20th** --> Lord's Supper at the Evening Worship Service
- **Sunday, April 24th** --> Easter Sunrise Service, followed by breakfast (if anyone is interested in organizing the breakfast, please contact the church office).
- **April 29th-May 1st** --> WIC retreat
- We need more people to serve as Nursery Workers and Greeters. Contact Linda at churchsecretary@frontiernet.net
- Don't forget to help the deacons break down chairs after worship on Sunday mornings.
- If anyone is able to help Ian set up the church on Saturdays, please contact him at 931.260.1847.
- Please don't go into the classrooms at Algood School on Sundays or Wednesdays.

~February Nursery/Greeter Volunteers~

	2/6	2/13	2/20	2/27
SS Babies	S. Seitzinger	Berg	E. Nyhof	McCall
AM Worship	Rust	Hoepner	Dobbins	Cunningham
PM Worship	Twitty	A. Farris	K. Farris	Vick
Greeters	Wilbourn	A/S Seitzinger	Majewski	Richards/Savage

February 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Grace Ladies' Bible Study Wed PM Programs	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 Grace Ladies' Bible Study Wed PM Programs	10	11	12
13	14	15	16 Grace Ladies' Bible Study Wed PM Programs	17	18	19 Habitat for Humanity
20 Lord's Supper	21	22	23 Grace Ladies' Bible Study Wed PM Programs Cookeville Rescue Mission Meal	24	25 YAHOO dinner Humanitas Forum	26 Church Workday
27	28					

~February Birthdays/Anniversaries~



2/1-Shelby Enochs
2/5-Tony Earnst
2/7-Laura Cangelosi
2/8-JoAnn Wilbourn;
Bunny Williamson
2/9-Elizabeth Cangelosi
2/10-Jack Dobbins; Rachel Parker;
Rebekah Burks
2/11-Adele Seitzinger; David Seitzinger
Richard Wienke

2/12-Molly Bleasdale
2/15-Wayne Bunting
2/17-Adrian Nyhof
John Vick
2/18-Greyson Farris
2/19-Zachary Henderson
2/22-Sonya Henderson
2/26-Racquel Nyhof
2/27-Tom Hadlock
2/28-Dana Bleasdale



2/13-Barnhart
2/17-Winston

GRACE PRESBYTERIAN BUILDING FUND

Our goal is \$60,000 for the basic building and approximately \$160,000 for the building with extras. As of today, we have received \$32,405.