

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:

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

Wednesday Schedule:

6:00 pm
Youth Group
Algood School

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 February

Grace Press

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Sunday School Classes: Spring Quarter

New Adult Sunday School classes begin in March! We will have three offerings from March to May:

1. **Inquirers' Class** – This class, usually offered each quarter, is for those who have been visiting and want to learn more about our church, or for members who want to be reminded of what we believe and why. It covers the basics of the gospel, the nature and purpose of Scripture, the doctrines of grace, the covenants, Presbyterian church government and history. It is taught by an elder, and is required for membership if you are not already a member of a PCA church.

2. **The Book of Romans** – Taught by Bob King, this class will be an introduction to Paul's great letter ("Romans 101," according to Bob). This letter hits all the main themes of the gospel: the sinfulness of man, the work of Christ on the cross, justification, union with Christ, sanctification, adoption, the work of the Spirit, election, and practical Christian living. If you are hungry to dig into and discuss the Scriptures, this class is for you.

3. **Family Life** – Good Kids or Godly Kids? Taught by Robert Row.

Starting in April, I (Robert) will be teaching a Sunday School class on "Family Life" so I have started gathering information and developing the study (this class will be open to parents of all ages so if there is a topic you would like to discuss in the class email me your ideas – robert.row.grace@gmail.com). I recently watched a DVD about Family Worship which really got me thinking about some things. One concept in particular stood out to me: Is my desire for my children simply to hold the line? To keep them in order, making sure they are "productive" members of society? We want our children to be respectful, obedient, hard working, educated, "athletic", "well adjusted", and have a high "self-esteem." We often construct five to six days of our week and a massive amount of our energy to accomplish these purposes. Some of the major energy consumers on us are education, athletics, and the constant need for leisure. Yet, there is one glaring thing missing from the above list and one glaring thing missing from our energy as parents: Raising children who are passionate about Jesus Christ. It seems that we are too often content with settling for mediocrity in our children's walk with God. I think I understand why, because we are too often content with mediocrity in our own relationship with God. Therefore why would we expect anything different for our children? This mediocrity results in lower expectations for us and our children. We find ourselves being content with our children simply being "good kids." Is that really enough? Is that really all we hope for in our children? Do we not see the urgency in our child's lukewarmness towards Christ? Do I have the sense of urgency in my own life? Do we fear legalism so much that we have given them no zeal for being passionate followers of Christ and really just given into legalism in a different form? May God give us the grace to not settle for "good" kids but strive to raise "godly" kids. Godly kids who see their sin and need for Jesus Christ every day. May the tone of our children's lives be, "O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water. So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory. Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you. So I will bless you as long as I live." As a parent, where are you spending your energy with your children? Here are some other passages to consider as you prepare for this class: Psalm 78:1-8; Judges 2:10; Jeremiah 6:16-20; 1 Cor. 6:12, 8:13; 2 Cor. 6:17, 18.

Pastor's Corner

Caleb Cangelosi, Pastor

The past two Lord's Days we have seen from Colossians 1:1-8 that the gospel of Jesus Christ is truth that transforms us into people of hope, faith, and especially love. Knowledge of the truth, therefore, is imperative, both in order to become a Christian and in order to grow as a Christian. Yet it is possible to have knowledge of the truth without it changing us the way it ought to do – it is possible to have “head” knowledge without an accompanying “heart” knowledge. Jonathan Edwards has written powerfully about the necessity of both knowledge and “affection,” that is, the fruit the Spirit grows in the hearts of those He causes to be born again:

As there is not true religion where there is nothing else but affection, so there is no true religion where there is no religious affection. As, on the one hand, there must be light in the understanding as well as an affected fervent heart; where there is heat without light, there can be nothing divine or heavenly in that heart; so, on the other hand, where there is a kind of light without heat, a head stored with notions and speculations, with a cold and unaffected heart, there can be nothing divine in that light; that knowledge is no spiritual knowledge of divine things. If the great things of religion are rightly understood, they will affect the heart (from Edwards' *–The Religious Affections*).

It is possible to know much about Jesus without knowing Jesus, loving Jesus, trusting Jesus, or hoping in Jesus. It is possible to know much about Jesus without knowing or being known by other people, loving other people, serving other people, denying yourself for other people, reaching out to hurting and lonely people. "Knowledge puffs up, but love edifies" (1 Corinthians 8:1). We need to be in earnest prayer that the Lord would keep us from a hypocritical and useless knowledge.

Speaking of prayer, that spiritual discipline is going to be the subject of the next passage we will be studying together (Colossians 1:9-12). If you are like me, you don't find prayer to be easy. I find great comfort in Jesus' disciples asking Him to teach them how to pray (Luke 11:1). Jesus' answer is the model prayer that we know as the Lord's Prayer. There are many other model prayers throughout inspired Scripture, and one of the best ways to learn how to pray is to mimic the words and patterns of Paul, David, Solomon, Ezra, Daniel, Nehemiah, and other saints of old. "Pray with your eyes open" was the advice of Richard Pratt's book – that is, pray with your eyes on the pages of Scripture, turning the words you read in the Bible into prayer. Commandments become petitions, promises become thanksgivings, and descriptions of the Father,

Son and Spirit become praises.

In his great book on prayer, *A Call to Spiritual Reformation*, D. A. Carson gives eight lessons he has learned from those more mature in the faith: 1. *Much praying is not done because we do not plan to pray.* 2. *Adopt practical ways to impede mental drift.* 3. *At various periods in your life, develop, if possible, a prayer-partner relationship.* 4. *Choose models, but choose them well.* 5. *Develop a system for your prayer lists.* 6. *Mingle praise, confession, and intercession; but when you intercede, try to tie as many requests as possible to Scripture.* 7. *If you are in any form of spiritual leadership, work at your public prayers.* 8. *Pray until you pray.*

If these pique your interest, then I encourage you to read the book. I'll quote from Carson's comments upon the last instruction, since it's a bit mysterious:

This is Puritan advice...What they meant is that Christians should pray long enough and honestly enough, at a single session, to get past the feeling of formalism and unreality that attends not a little praying. We are especially prone to such feelings when we pray for only minutes, rushing to be done with a mere duty. To enter the spirit of prayer, we must stick to it for awhile. If we 'pray until we pray,' eventually we come to delight in God's presence, to rest in his love, to cherish his will. Even in dark or agonized praying, we somehow know we are doing business with God. In short, we discover a little of what Jude means when he exhorts his readers to 'pray in the Holy Spirit' (Jude 20) – which presumably means it is treacherously possible to pray *not* in the Spirit... In our Western world we urgently need this advice, for many of us in our praying are like nasty little boys who ring front door bells and run away before anyone answers.

Pray that the Lord bless our study of Paul's prayer, teaching us the things for which we ought to be praying, the spirit in which we should pray, and the hope that is ours in prayer.

On a related note, the PCA's General Assembly is going to be held on June 29 – July 2 in Nashville, TN. General Assembly is the annual gathering of the elders to deal with matters pertaining to the whole church. There is a need for volunteers, so if you have time that week to serve, let me know and I will put you in contact with the folks in charge. Please be in prayer for the General Assembly, that God would give us wisdom, humility, and love. And make plans to come to one of the worship services on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings. I'll have more information soon.

Your Pastor, Caleb

Community Groups

Community Group #1:

Title: "WHEN I DON'T DESIRE GOD" —

Time: Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m.

Leader: Steve Sperry stevels2@twlakes.net

Community Group #2:

Title: "THE FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT"

Time: Saturdays at 6:00 p.m.

Leader: Andy Berg acberg@gmail.com

Community Group #3:

Title: "TRANSFORMING GRACE"

Time: Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.

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.

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

Notes Regarding the Upcoming Events

- Wednesday, February 24 4:30 pm-6:00 pm Cookeville Rescue Mission Meal**

Molly Gleason is coordinating the monthly meal that Grace Presbyterian provides for the Cookeville Rescue Mission. Please contact her at (931) 520-8444 if you would like to bring food (main dish, side, bread, salad, or dessert) or if you can help setup, serve, and/or cleanup. We serve approximately 40-45 men, ladies, children, and staff.

- Thursday, February 25—Sunday February 28 Youth Group Assurance Weekend: Do Hard Things**

The Youth Group will be going on a Winter Retreat to the Great Smoky Mountains. During this weekend we will have in-depth Bible study, great singing, great fellowship, and a lot of fun. Throughout the weekend we will be studying God’s Word tackling a subject from a book written by the Harris brothers entitled: “Do Hard Things – A teenage rebellion against low expectations.” To accompany this study we will be doing a work project for the homeless shelter in Cocke County called the “Mission” and also enjoy some difficult hiking in the beauty of God’s creation. We have twenty-seven youth going on this trip so please pray for safety. Also pray that our students would be confronted with God’s Word and learn how to run to the foot of the cross over and over again in their lives, indeed a Hard Thing to do. Our chaperones for this trip need your prayers: Rebecca Row, Renee Craig, and Joey Stewart.

- Friday, March 5—Saturday, March 6 Women in the Church Retreat**

Ladies, we hope you will join us for our weekend of fun and fellowship as we study how God uses our brokenness for His glory. The cost of \$30 includes dinner, breakfast and lunch. It is due THIS Sunday, February 21. Financial assistance is available.

- Friday, April 2 6:00 pm—9:00 pm Children’s Luau / Parents Night Out**

The Youth will be providing babysitting services for you so that you can go out on a date. Maybe you want to organize a group to go out to eat or just spend a quiet night with your spouse, its up to you. Drop your children off at Algood Middle School.

- Friday, April 30—Saturday, May 1 Family Retreat**

Mark your calendars for a Family Retreat at Cedar Lake Camp. Details to come!

Shepherding Meal Schedule

Date	Elder
2/21	Row
2/28	Bleasdale
3/7	Richards
3/14	Parker

Nursery Volunteers and Greeters

	2/21	2/28
SS Babies	L. Medley	G. McCall
AM Worship Babies and Toddlers	Estella/Racquel Nyhof	Cunningham Family
PM Worship Babies	Hadlock	Vick
Greeters	Majewski	Gleason/Stewart

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2/21 Youth Assurance Weekend Birthday! Dana Bleasdale	2/22 12 Noon Calvin’s Institutes Meeting House Session Meeting Birthday! Sonya Henderson	2/23 10-11:30 am Women’s Bible Study Meeting House 7:30-9:30 pm Titus 2 Tuesday at the Vicks’ home	2/24 4:30 pm Cookeville Rescue Mission	2/25 9:00 am WIC Meeting Youth Assurance Weekend Young & Happy Family Fellowship	2/26 Youth Assurance Weekend Birthday! Racquel Nyhof	2/27 8:00-12:00 Strategic Planning Retreat Youth Assurance Weekend Birthday! Tom Hadlock
2/28 Youth Assurance Weekend Birthday! Dana Bleasdale	3/1 12 Noon Calvin’s Institutes Meeting House 6:00 pm Diaconate Meeting	3/2 10-11:30 am Women’s Bible Study Meeting House	3/3 Birthday! Ian Robson Anniversary! Cangelosi	3/4 Young & Happy Men’s Fellowship	3/5 Women in the Church Retreat	3/6 Women in the Church Retreat Birthday! Dusty Williamson

Meet the Deacon: Todd Burks

Hello, I'm Todd Burks. My family includes my wife for almost 19 years, Cheryl, my son Michael 15, my daughters Rebekah 12, and Julie 6. I am a physical therapist at Cookeville Regional Medical Center in the outpatient rehabilitation center. I enjoy fishing, water skiing, bungee jumping and traveling. Thanks to chaperoning a youth group ski trip two years ago I have discovered I also like snow skiing.

About 12 years ago Cheryl and I were a perfectly content couple with two small children living in Knoxville. I came home one day and kind of rocked Cheryl's world. I told her I wanted to take a job in Sparta near Cookeville. She cried the next few days but did come with me. We decided to live in Cookeville, several miles from work but a bit bigger town like we were used to. We visited Grace Pres a few weeks after we moved here and started attending more frequently after our home in Knoxville sold. It seemed everyone in the congregation was friendly and genuinely interested in getting to know all about us. It was very easy to make friends after belonging to a church in Knoxville with about 2,000 members. Grace Pres just seemed like home. I remember when Joey asked me to be a deacon eight years ago. My instant reaction was no way. I didn't and sometimes still don't think I'm good enough or Christian enough to be a deacon. The more I thought about it the more I thought it was a direction God wanted me to take and I just couldn't see myself saying no to him. The thing I like most about being a deacon is having a chance to help people, having a chance to make a difference in someone's life.

I think if you would like to pray for me I would ask for prayer that I would learn how to be patient, especially in meetings. After

several years of this I still want the officers to reach decisions quickly and grow impatient when we have to talk things out in extended meetings. How do I think we should pray for our church? I pray that God will make us into the kind of church he wants us to be. I continue to pray that God will allow us to get a new church built and go through the process of building in a unified manner. I would pray that the hardship of meeting in a school for such an extended period of time will make us stronger. That being without a church home will give us a sense of purpose that we are sacrificing to build a really good church in Cookeville that people will be able to worship and grow up in long after we are gone.

What could anyone do to make a deacon's life easier? Just volunteer! If someone asks you to do something or you hear about opportunities to serve in announcements don't just say no. Say I'll think about it. Go home, think and pray about it. I believe God will use all the things you do to help you grow spiritually. You may not even realize it until much later.

I look forward to growing old here in this church, Lord willing. I look forward to getting to know you all better. May God bless you and your family.

Todd



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