

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
WWW.GRACECOOKEVILLE.ORG
PHONE NUMBER: 931-537-6400

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Pastor's Corner: Upcoming Congregational Meeting

Caleb Cangelosi, Pastor

As we have mentioned the last two Sundays, there will be a congregational meeting immediately following the morning worship service this Lord's Day for the purpose of voting on the Session's recommendation to call Robert Row as an Associate Pastor of Grace Presbyterian Church. In the PCA, there are three different ways that a pastor can be related to a church: pastor, associate pastor, and assistant pastor. I have been called as the pastor (or in modern parlance, "senior pastor") of Grace Presbyterian Church. The Session desires Robert to be called as an associate pastor of our church. What is the difference between an associate and an assistant pastor? An assistant pastor is called by the Session, while an associate pastor is called by the congregation. This means that the associate pastor must be elected by a majority vote of the congregation, not merely a majority vote of the elders. One of the foundational principles of Biblical church government is that office bearers must be chosen by the people (cf. Deut. 1:13; Acts 1:23; 6:5-6; 14:23) – and so I personally have a hard time even seeing Biblical warrant for such a thing as an "assistant pastor," called only by the elders, oftentimes foisted upon the people of God.

An associate pastor, being elected by the congregation, is a member of the Session. In Robert's case, as he has already been elected as a ruling elder of this congregation, nothing will change in his relationship to the Session if he is elected as a teaching elder. He is already a member of the Session and already has a vote on the Session. The PCA is a two-office church; its belief and practice is that there are only two "classes" of office in the Church: elder and deacon. Within the class of elder are the two "orders" of teaching elder and ruling elder. Ruling and teaching elders jointly have the government and spiritual oversight of the Church, including teaching; but only those elders who are specially gifted, called and trained by God to preach may serve as teaching elders (1 Tim. 5:17). The ruling elder is examined and set apart by the Session, while the teaching elder is examined and set apart by the Presbytery (the body of elders from a geographical region, cf. 1 Tim. 4:14). The teaching elder, in addition to those functions he shares with ruling elders, is also responsible to feed the flock by reading, expounding, and preaching the Word of God and to administer the sacraments.

Thus this Sunday's vote is on whether you the congregation desire to call Robert to be one of those who are particularly charged with feeding you the Word of God. The Session is recommending him to you as Associate Pastor to Youth and Families. His job description would fall under four main areas: 1) Family Ministry; 2) Youth Ministry; 3) Children/Youth Christian Education; 4) Other (periodic preaching, presbytery duties, administrative duties, and maintaining his shepherding group until additional ruling elders are elected, etc.). If you do call Robert, the terms of his call would be as follows: *"The Grace Presbyterian Church being on sufficient grounds well satisfied of the ministerial qualifications of you, Robert Row, and having good hopes from our knowledge of your labors that your ministrations in the Gospel will be profitable to our spiritual interests, do earnestly call you to undertake the pastoral office in said congregation, promising you, in the discharge of your duty, all proper support, encouragement and obedience in the Lord. That you may be free from worldly cares and avocations, we hereby promise and oblige ourselves to pay you the sum of \$45,992 a year in regular payments, and other benefits, such as, retirement, insurance, health savings account, and four weeks vacation, during the time of your being and continuing the regular pastor in our church."* Having been called by you, the next step would be for him to be examined and approved by the Presbytery, which would happen in March and April.

The Session desires that Robert would be called as Associate Pastor of our church. It would be a privilege and joy for me to continue laboring with Robert, now as a fellow teaching elder. Robert himself senses the Spirit's call to gospel ministry among the saints at Grace Presbyterian. Ultimately, though, a call to the ministry is confirmed by the external call of a congregation and the approval of a court of the church, in this case the Presbytery. May our desire be for the Lord's will to be done for the good of His church!

Sunday Worship Schedule:

9:15 am Sunday School
Inquirers' Class

Romans

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 March

Pastor's Corner: Strategic Planning

Caleb Cangelosi, Pastor

The Strategic Planning Committee met on Saturday, February 27, at the Roberts Switch Activity Center (on the property of Tommy and Gracie Roberts), to begin work on a Strategic Plan for Grace Presbyterian Church. The Committee is made up of three elders (Caleb Cangelosi, Brad Bleasdale, Dennis Parker), two deacons (John Rust, Michael Savage), and three members at large (Kay Mitchell, Tommy Roberts, Steve Sperry).

Some of you may be wondering, "Why do strategic planning?" The primary reason is that the Session desires to think deliberately and strategically about where we are going as a church and how we are going to get there. We want to develop unity around a common, known, and committed-to purpose. We want to promote confidence in the leadership of the church as well as provide day to day direction and accountability for all that we do. Finally, we want to walk in wisdom. Thinking strategically and planning strategically are not merely tools of the secular world; there is a biblical basis for planning.

Consider first these proverbs: "The plans of the heart belong to man, but the answer of the tongue is from the LORD" (Proverbs 16:1); "Prepare plans by consultation, and make war by wise guidance" (Proverbs 20:18); "The plans of the diligent lead surely to advantage, but everyone who is hasty comes surely to poverty" (Proverbs 21:5); "Prepare your work outside and make it ready for yourself in the field; afterwards, then, build your house" (Proverbs 24:27); "Without consultation, plans are frustrated, but with many counselors they succeed" (Proverbs 15:22). In the New Testament, we see Jesus, Paul, and others making plans, (see Luke 8:22; John 4:4; Romans 15:23-28; Titus 3:12; I Corinthians 16:5-9). Clearly it is the height of wisdom to plan ahead for the future, and folly to "fly by the seat of your pants."

All of our planning, of course, must occur in the knowledge and with the hope that God is sovereign over all of our plans. "The mind of man plans his way, but the LORD directs his steps" (Proverbs 16:9). "Many plans are in a man's heart, but the counsel of the LORD will stand" (Proverbs 19:21). "Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring forth" (Proverbs 27:1). "Come now, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit.'¹⁴ Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away.¹⁵ Instead, you ought to say, 'If the Lord wills, we will live and also do this or that.'¹⁶ But as it is, you boast in your arrogance; all such boasting is evil" (James 4:13-17). We must humbly submit all our plans to the Lord, and trust that He will accomplish His sovereign will through, and perhaps even in spite of, our plans. "Commit your works to the LORD and your plans

will be established" (Proverbs 16:3). We plan in prayerful dependence upon the guidance of the Holy Spirit, firmly committed to the plans we make, but ready and willing to change as He leads (cf. Acts 16:6-10).

With these truths in mind, the Strategic Planning Committee got to work. Acknowledging that very few have our current purpose statement memorized, and that this process should begin from the beginning, the committee undertook to consider the purpose of the church: why are we here? why do we exist? what is our reason for being? We aimed for succinctness, comprehensiveness, and clarity. After several hours of conversation, the committee formulated the following purpose statement, which the Session approved at its March stated meeting: "**The purpose of Grace Presbyterian Church is to glorify God by gathering and growing His people in accordance with His word.**" Let's unpack this statement a little bit...

The church of Jesus Christ is a spiritual institution that exists for God, for those who are lost, and for those who have been found. The chief end of man, and of the church, is to "glorify God and to enjoy Him forever" (Westminster Shorter Catechism #1). We have been saved "to the praise of His glory" (Eph. 1:12, 14). All that we do is to be done "to the glory of God" (I Cor. 10:31). In Him we live and move and have our being, and from Him and through Him and to Him are all things; therefore to Him belongs the glory forever (Acts 17:28; Rom. 11:36).

For His own glory God the Father gave a people to the Lord Jesus Christ, choosing them before time began in the Son to be conformed to the image of the Son (Eph. 1:4; Rom. 8:29; John 6:35-40; 17:2, 6, 9; Titus 1:2). When God draws us to Christ, He does not immediately take us home to heaven. Rather, He leaves us on earth in order that He might use us to gather to Himself all of His elect. He has His sheep in every tribe, tongue, nation and people (John 10:16; Acts 18:10; Rev. 5:9; 7:9), and He has sent His church into the world to make disciples of all the nations (Matt. 28:18-20). We are called to be a blessing and a holy priesthood to the nations, seeking the welfare of the nations by serving them and speaking to them the word of the gospel so that they too might trust in the Lord Jesus Christ, repent of their sin, and glorify our Father in heaven (Gen. 12:1-3; Exo. 19:3-6; I Peter 2:9-12; Jer. 29:7; I Cor. 10:32; Matt. 5:13-16; Matt. 20:28 with John 17:18; Rom. 10:14-15; Phil. 2:14-16; I Thess. 2:8).

The lost sheep who are found by Christ are united together into a body of justified sinners who are struggling together to lay hold of that for which Jesus has laid hold of us (Luke 15; Eph. 4:4; Rom. 4:5; Phil. 3:1-21). We are individually given gifts for the sake of the whole church (I Cor. 12; Eph. 4:7; Rom. 12:4-8), that we might play our part in building up the whole body of Christ (Eph. 4:7-16; Col. 2:19; I Cor. 10:24; 14:12; Phil. 2:1-11; Heb. 3:12-14; I Pet. 4:10-12).

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Pastor's Corner—Continued from Page 2

None of us exists for ourselves, alone on an island, but we exist for the Lord and for the sake of the church, “pursuing the things which make for peace and the building up of one another” (Rom. 14:7, 19). It is through our ministry to one another that we all “grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ” (II Pet. 3:18).

The church of King Jesus lives by and under the word of our King. All that we need for life and godliness is found in the great and precious promises He has made to us in His word, the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament (II Pet. 1:3-4; 1:21; II Tim. 3:16-17; Deut. 8:3). The word is our only rule of faith and practice. It is the chief means by which God converts the unconverted and builds up His people (I Peter 1:23-2:3). It must inform and struc-

ture all our ministry. It is indeed the lamp for our feet and the light for our path (Ps. 119:105).

Please be in prayer for the Strategic Planning Committee as it meets throughout the year. The next meeting is Monday, March 15, at the Roberts Switch Activity Center again; you are more than welcome to come sit in and listen to the discussion. In a couple of weeks, we will be asking for your direct input in the area of goals you believe we as a church should be striving to attain in light of our purpose as a church. We desire the whole congregation to be a part of this process, so that the end result is something to which everyone is committed. May God establish our plans as He enables us to roll our works to Him.

Your Pastor, Caleb

2010 Financial Summary

As of February 28, 2010

General Fund Balance	\$35,832.86
Emergency Fund	\$22,217.33
Building Fund Balance	\$88,841.61
Benevolence Fund	\$4,469.98

Building Surveys

Members and Regular Visitors: Please return your Building Survey this Sunday, March 14th!

Shepherding Meal Schedule

Date	Elder
3/14	Parker
3/21	Row
3/28	Bleasdale
4/4	Richards

Nursery Volunteers and Greeters

	3/14	3/21
SS Babies	S. Sperry	A. Wienke
AM Worship Babies and Toddlers	Richards Family	Bleasdale Families
PM Worship Babies	K. Barnhart	R. Parker
Greeters	Parker	B. Williamson/G. McCall

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3/14 Building Surveys due	3/15 12 Noon Calvin's Institutes Meeting House 6:00 pm Strategic Planning Committee	3/16 10-11:30 am Women's Bible Study Meeting House	3/17 Anniversary! Hobbs	3/18 Young & Happy	3/19	3/20
3/21 Anniversary! Sperry	3/22 12 Noon Calvin's Institutes Meeting House 7:00 pm Building Committee	3/23 10-11:30 am Women's Bible Study Meeting House 7:30-9:30 PM Titus 2 Tuesday at Vick's home	3/24 4:30 pm Cookeville Rescue Mission Meal	3/25 Young & Happy	3/26 Anniversary! R/K Farris	3/27

Upcoming Events

- **Sunday, March 28**

Church Garden

Matt McClearn is organizing a church garden on the property. If you are interested in having a plot to grow food for yourself or to give away to others contact Matt at 931-349-0259 (turbocharger90@gmail.com) no later than March 28th. Each individual will be responsible for their own plot (planting, fertilizing, watering, weeding, harvesting, etc.).

- **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.

- **Monday, April 5 6:00 pm—Tuesday April 6** **Creation Museum Field Trip**

Grace Presbyterian Church is sponsoring a trip to the Creation Museum in northern Kentucky. We are leaving Monday, April 5th, at 6:00pm. We will be spending the night at a hotel near the Museum and spend the following day, Tuesday, April 6th at the Museum. We'll return home that evening by 10:00pm. Costs for the museum are \$17 for adults, \$13 for seniors 60 and over, \$9 for children ages 5-12 and free for children under 5. Visitors may also see a planetarium show for an additional \$7. For more information about the museum check out their website creationmuseum.com. Please contact Todd or Cheryl Burks at 931-537-7404 by March 22nd for more information and to reserve a place on the trip.

- **Monday, June 7—Friday, June 11**

Vacation Bible School

Make plans now for VBS...we will seek out the Lord of the universe with a study titled Genesis 1: Space Probe 2010.

- **June 14-19**

Senior High RYM Trip

- **June 21-25**

Junior High RYM Trip

- **Fall Family Retreat**

The Family Ministry Committee is planning a Fall Family Retreat (instead of a retreat April 30-May 1). More details will be provided this summer, but we hope you will make plans to attend!



2226 Burton Branch Road
Cookeville, TN 38506