

REFLECTIONS

Grace OPC

WORSHIP IN HOLY ARRAY

By Pastor Brian De Jong

On the day that the ark came to rest in Jerusalem, King David led the people in worship of the great God of Israel. Drawing upon several of his psalms, David led them through a song of thanksgiving to God. In that psalm of praise we find this exhortation: *Ascribe to the LORD the glory due His name; Bring an offering, and come before Him; Worship the LORD in holy array.* (1 Chronicles 16:29; cf. Psalm 96:9) So what did David mean when he called God’s people to worship the Lord “in holy array?”

A clue is found in another Old Testament passage - Exodus 28:2 *“You shall make holy garments for Aaron your brother, for glory and for beauty.”* In order for Aaron and the priests to come before the Lord, they needed to be clothed in holy garments – priestly robes that were both glorious and beautiful. Without the prescribed clothing they were unfit for service at the altar, and could not lead God’s people in worship.

When I was young I was taught that God cares about what you wear in worship – so wear your very best! For this reason we had “Sunday clothes” that were nicer than our ordinary garb. When we showed up at church, we were scrubbed clean and dressed in our “Sunday best.” Now without any disrespect intended, I would ask – is that what David meant? Was he commanding us to dress up for church? [I am not advocating that we wear dirty or shabby clothes

to church, by the way!]

As much as I still appreciate my “Sunday clothes,” I do not think that wearing a nice suit or a fancy dress fulfills this obligation. There is something deeper that is needed.

The only garments that are acceptable for true worshippers of God are those which are truly, thoroughly and completely holy. In Ephesians 5:27 Paul describes “the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing.” She is “holy and blameless” because Christ has made her so.

So what does it mean to worship the Lord in “holy array?” It means coming to worship clothed in Christ’s righteousness alone. For when we are robed in His righteousness, then we are completely holy and thoroughly acceptable in God’s sight. He views us as He views His own dear Son – as having kept the law in its entirety – as if we had never sinned and had lived a perfect life of complete obedience.

When we enter into worship, we should remember that it doesn’t matter so much what we look like outwardly. Our fine outward appearances are not that important in God’s sight. He looks upon the heart. Is that heart trusting in Christ alone for salvation, as Christ is offered in the gospel? That is what matters.

Likewise, we should not come into worship thinking that our own good works are crucial. It is tempting to think....

Continued on page 8



Volume 6, Issue 2

February 2011

Inside this issue:

<i>Pastor’s Article</i>	1
<i>C. S. Lewis on Sanctification submitted by Shary De Troye</i>	2
<i>Joint Worship Service</i>	2
<i>A Tribute to Art Lensink</i>	3
<i>February Birthdays</i>	4
<i>Meadowview Manor Ministry</i>	4
<i>February Calendar</i>	5
<i>De Masters in Stillwater</i>	6
<i>Recipe Corner</i>	7
<i>Crafts Needed!</i>	7
<i>Did You Know</i>	8
<i>Front Page... Concluded</i>	8

Mnemonics...

- *Joint Worship Service, 13th*
- *Meadowview Manor Nursing Home Ministry, 13th*

C. S. Lewis on Sanctification

submitted by Shary De Troye

“When a man turns to Christ and seems to be getting on pretty well (in the sense that some of his bad habits are now corrected), he often feels that it would be natural if things went fairly smoothly. When troubles come along... he is disappointed. These things, he feels, might have been necessary to rouse him and make him repent in his bad old days; but why now? Because God is forcing him on, or up, to a higher level: putting him into situations where he will have to be very much braver, or more patient, or more loving, than he ever dreamed of being before. It seems to us all unnecessary: but that is because we have not yet had the slightest notion of the tremendous thing He means to make of us.”

“I find I must borrow [a] parable from George MacDonald. Image yourself as a living house. God comes in to rebuild that house. At first, perhaps, you can understand what he is doing. He is getting the drains right and stopping the leaks in the roof and so on: you knew that those jobs needed doing and so you are not surprised. But presently he

starts knocking the house about in a way that hurts abominably and does not seem to make sense. What on earth is He up to? The explanation is that He is building quite a different house from the one you thought of—throwing out a new wing here, putting on an extra floor there, running up towers, making courtyards. You thought you were going to be made into a decent little cottage: but He is building a palace. He intends to come and live in it Himself.”

(Taken from Lewis, C.S. Mere Christianity. New York: Macmillan Publishing Co., Inc.: pg. 174)



Joint Worship Service

On Sunday, February 13th, there will be a Joint Worship Service with the congregations from Grace OPC, Calvary OPC in Cedar Grove, & Bethel OPC and it will be held at Bethel in Oostburg at 6:00 p.m.

There will be no service at Grace.



A Tribute to Art Lensink

By Henk Ottens (Art's Son-in-law)

“Now we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands.”

After more than 94 years, Arthur Lensink's tent on earth has been struck, and exchanged for a house in heaven.

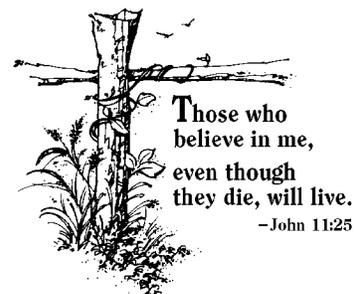
During its long occupancy, Dad's tent on earth served him well. He pushed it to its full potential and did not concern himself all that much about getting it soiled or damaged. He gladly subjected it to the cold winters on the trap line, to the cold drafts of an abandoned coal warehouse, the cold reception in occupied Japan, the cold steel doors of a jailhouse (where he ministered to inmates), to the cold shoulders of the purveyors of smut and evolutionists, the cold stares of the pro-choice folks, the cold winds of Communism. And throughout all that cold exposure, Dad's tent kept him warm, and a glow from its innards seldom left his animated eyes.

He took delight in honing a sharp edge on his kitchen knives, just as he derived satisfaction from putting a sharp point on the occasional complaint he lettered to government officials and college deans. The warmth of his tent showed itself, too, in the way his paint-laden brushes reflected on hundreds of canvases the well-lighted landscapes of the back-roads of Wisconsin, roads which his cars always obediently chose over asphalted highways. And it was along those back roads that he foraged for elderberries, hickory nuts and water cress. He harvested choke cherries, grapes, dandelions and God knows what else, and, just as his Lord once did at a wedding feast in Cana, he changed their juices into wine. But, unlike the wine at Cana, his brews did not receive rave reviews. (They

were, however, quite drinkable.) [Editor's note: the other more substantial differences between Jesus' miracle at Cana and Art's wine making enterprise are understood]

In the last few years of his life, Dad's tent was the sole occupant of his apartment on the Terrace Estates campground, where he patiently awaited a more substantial dwelling, that eternal house in heaven, already occupied by his dear wife. But Dad was not one to confuse anticipation with sitting around. With diligence and care, he maintained his tent, the wear and tear of which sometimes lead to complications. A dish of gratin might break on a forgotten burner; a bottle of wine might tip onto a table cloth; a spark from pipe tobacco might burn yet another little hole in a shirt. And when successive falls jerked loose the stakes of his tent, he had them replaced and in short time went about the business of living joyfully and purposefully.

But there came the day when the tent pole broke, and the ragged canvas collapsed on him and smothered the breath out of him. The time had come at last for Dad to be transferred to the next level of care. No, not to a nursing home or a hospital bed. But to that eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands. Praise be to God!



February Birthdays



Meadowview Manor Ministry

Everyone is invited to come encourage the residents at Meadowview Manor Nursing Home on Sunday, February 13th at the new time of 3:00 p.m. This is a wonderful opportunity to share the love of Christ with those living at the Manor through a joint time of song and a service.





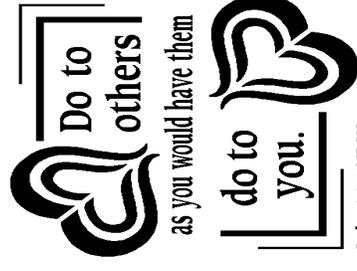
Grace OPC

February 2011

Showing forth the excellencies of Jesus Christ



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Prayer Meeting, 7:00 p.m.	3	4	5
6	7 Women's Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.	8 Session Meeting, 6:30 p.m.	9 Prayer Meeting, 7:00 p.m.	10	11	12
13 Missions Sunday <i>Meadowview Manor, 3 p.m.</i> Joint Worship Service, 6 p.m.	14 Women's Bible Study, 6:30 a.m. <i>Pine Haven Study, 1:30 p.m.</i> Theology, 3:30 p.m.	15	16 Prayer Meeting, 7:00 p.m.	17	18	19
20	21 Women's Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.	22	23 Prayer Meeting, 7:00 p.m.	24	25	26
27 Lord's Supper, (p.m.)	28 Women's Bible Study, 6:30 a.m. <i>Pine Haven Study, 1:30 p.m.</i> Theology, 3:30 p.m.	29	30 Prayer Meeting, 7:00 p.m.			



Luke 6:31 NRSV

Church Office:
4930 Green Valley Ln
Sheboygan, WI 53083

Phone: 920-565-2160
Website:
graceopcshelbygan.com
Email:
graceopc@tds.net
briandejong@earthlink.net

De Masters in Stillwater

from the De Masters

Now that we are gone from Stillwater we can conclude our articles in the Reflections. Somehow having holidays, and celebrations at the end of the 2 previous months caused a problem with the updates. We have certainly enjoyed being in Hammond in Covenant OPC, serving the Lord together with capable elders, leaders, eager learners, numerous children, and a church body that has unity and love. By February 1, the Kuhfusses should be home and enjoying the return to the ministry. They took a route home through Thailand, where their first granddaughter was born, then to Moscow, and to London, Scotland and then flying out of Ireland to the US. Their son, David, will stay and teach another semester at the University in Yangi.

Over the five months, there have been 4 new members in COPC: a couple transferred from North Carolina, a covenant daughter received, and one profession of faith. The newly bought old church (built in 1873) has been cleaned, sorted, and used well. Three Sunday School classes meet in various spots in the dining area, and one in the kitchen, one in a room off the kitchen and the adults in the worship area. Several potluck lunches after church encouraged fellowship, provided a good time to practice music for the 2 choirs, and made it possible for those responsible to get to Eau Claire to preach (50 miles east) or to lead the service at the nursing home in Hammond without going the distance home.

The session and the congregation are discussing how to meet the needs of the community and to reach out to them with the gospel. Two families live near the village but no one is from the village. Perhaps with the warmer weather and the coming of spring there will be the possibility of going out calling in the neighborhood for different events (VBS, special speakers, etc.) Ivan made a list of suggestions that were helpful in focusing on this effort.

The snow came with a vengeance on

December 11 with 14 inches in 14 hours. Church worship service was canceled for the morning of December 12 but amazingly many came out for the evening service after shoveling all day. More inches have fallen but none has disappeared because of the cold weather that followed. This opened up doors with the neighbor who graciously blew out our driveway several times that week. We had been talking with them before but now we were talking and sharing more.

We enjoyed having several people over for a meal, including our neighbors. We had our fake children (Kuhfuss kids) who call us their fake parents, two new members with an additional couple to get to know, and the Shaws and another couple from Mission OPC. We met Ivan's brother and wife at restaurants and spent Thanksgiving with them and their family at their cottage in Wisconsin.

December was music time with us being able to see some of the members in orchestra, chorale, Christian school and COPC children's concerts. Twins from Mission OPC, who came from Bosnia 7 years ago, had a guitar duet recital for their doctoral degree in guitar. Beautiful!

Thank you for your prayers for us. God has blessed and cared for us as a couple. We were not sick nor hurt in the time we were in MN/W WI. God also blessed us with lasting friendships. Carla especially appreciated her Bible studies with Kazuye (a Japanese member) on the fruit of the spirit, going to Mission OPC quilt group, helping Emily (7) take sermon notes and be friends, and learning new crafts from the wife of a member. Ivan and the church officers had much sharing and prayer over the goals and worship services. God is our delight and joy in all these things.



Buster Bar Dessert



Mix the following and boil 8 minutes, stirring constantly:

- ★ 2 cups powdered sugar
- ★ 1 1/2 cups evaporated milk
- ★ 2/3 cups chocolate chips
- ★ 1/2 cup butter

Add 1 tsp. vanilla and cool.

Soften:

- ★ 1/2 gallon of ice cream , any flavor

While this is softening, **crush:**

- ★ 1 lb. oreo cookies

And **mix** with:

- ★ 1/2 cup melted butter.

Press into a 9x13 pan and refrigerate until cool.

Sprinkle:

- ★ 1 1/2 cup Spanish peanuts.

Over the cooled oreo crust. Spread ice cream over peanuts and freeze until ice cream is hardened. Then cover with chocolate mixture and store in freezer.

Emily Boss

“The eyes
of all look
to You,
And You give
them their food
in due time.
You open Your
hand
And satisfy
the desire of
every living
thing.”

Crafts needed!!

The Pine Haven Auxiliary is looking for items for the May Craft Sale. They are in need of Spring items. They have a lot of Christmas items but not very many items for Spring. If anyone is



willing to make any spring craft items they would appreciate it. Please see Ellen Mc Neese or Kate Nagle if you have questions. The May craft sale is May 6th at Oostburg Bank.



Showing forth the
excellencies of Jesus
Christ

Grace OPC

Church Office:
4930 Green Valley Ln

Phone: 920-565-2160
Website: graceopcsheboygan.com
Email:
graceopc@tds.net
briandejong@earthlink.net

CHECK OUT THE AUDIO:

**SERMONAUDIO.COM/
GRACESHEBOYGAN**

CHECK OUT THE WEBSITE:

GRACEOPCSHEBOYGAN.COM



- ★ Did you know that Bruce Hunt was an OPC Missionary to Korea?
- ★ Did you know that he was born in 1903 & grew up in Korea where his parents were missionaries?
- ★ Did you know that Bruce's great-grandfather served as a missionary to the people in the Hawaiian Islands and also to many in San Fran-

cisco during the Gold Rush time?

★ Did you know that Bruce Hunt's education included Wheaton College in IL, Rutgers University in New Jersey, and Princeton Theological Seminary in New Jersey (he graduated there in 1928) and he left for the mission field after graduating?

★ Did you know that Bruce married the daughter of another missionary couple there in Korea, named Katherine in 1932 & together they had 6 children?

★ Did you know that he stood with likeminded men such as Machen against the modernism that crept in to the PCUSA and left that body?

★ Did you know that he joined the Independent Mission Board lead by J. Greshem Machen and was a missionary to Manchuria, following the change to the OPC Foreign Mission Board?

★ Did you know that this topic will be continued next month?

*Information found on: <http://www.opc.org/nh.html?article-id=651>,
<http://www.wts.edu/resources/sarang/brucehunt.html>*

Front Page Concluded

...that if we've been "good," then we can worship. But if we've been "bad," then we should probably stay away from church. Your "good" or "bad" behavior do not determine whether you are acceptable. Your acceptance rests upon Christ and His perfect obedience – His full righteousness.

So enter into His courts, clothed in His righteousness, and covered by His blood. Offer your worship in holy array with a grateful heart. Such worship is pleasing to God and joyful to man.

