

# REFLECTIONS

Grace OPC

## CHRIST IS LORD!

*By Pastor Brian De Jong*

Over the next month you will probably hear a lot of seasonal music – it is all around us. You can’t tune into the radio, or even walk through most stores, without hearing the traditional tunes in your ears.

Although it is becoming less frequent, you will probably hear at least the music to “Joy to the World” – the hymn by Isaac Watts hymn based on Psalm 98. The first line is most potent: “Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth receive her King...”

That statement reminds me of Paul’s words in Philippians 2:9-11 “*For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, <sup>10</sup> so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*”

That is a stunning picture – every knee bowing of those in heaven, on earth and under the earth – every tongue confessing that Jesus is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

To recognize and confess the Lordship of Jesus Christ is to acknowledge His true sovereignty – both His infinite power and His vast authority. Such a confession admits that Jesus is ‘King of kings and Lord of lords.’ Those who say such things submit themselves to Him who has ‘all authority in heaven and on earth.’

The Lordship of Christ suggests certain undeniable and unavoidable conclu-

sions. For instance, if Jesus is Lord, then His word is law. He has the right to tell us what to do, and we have no right to argue, protest, or disobey Him. Vassals do not rebel against their Sovereigns – at least if they wish to continue living.

The Lordship of Christ also carries implications for our affections. As loyal citizens of our King, we must love what He loves and we must hate what He hates. No more can we follow our own hearts and the desires we have long cherished. Jesus sees the hearts of His people, and He wants our inward desires to mirror and reflect His inward desires. He loves righteousness and hates sin – so must we. He loves His Father above all things – so must we. It is simply no good to insist on our own right to deter-

mine our own commitments – He has bought us and we belong to Him now. Away with proud human autonomy! We now live under our Lord!

A true recognition of Christ’s Lordship will also influence what we speak about and how we speak about it. Our tongues need to be bridled in order that we might serve our Master in our speech. In everything we say, the undertone must convey that Jesus Christ is Lord.

Of course, submission to His kingly authority would be a sham if it were not reflected in our choices and our behaviors – our actions and our reactions. What you do is equally important to how you think and what you say. If Jesus is Lord, show your devotion by loving him with heart, soul, strength and mind. As Paul...

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Volume 7, Issue 12

December 2012

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### Mnemonics...

- *Christmas Program, 23rd*
- *Bowling & Pizza Party, 28th*

# ***A Remedy for Wandering Thoughts***

## **Chapter 4**

*by Richard Steele*

*Reasons why we ought to attend on the Lord  
without distraction.*

### SECTION I

#### FROM THE NATURE OF GOD

The fourth point is to show the reasons for the doctrine and duty of attending on the Lord without distraction. And they are drawn, 1. From the nature of God. 2. From the nature of his worship. 3. From the nature of our condition. 4. From the nature of distractions.

The first reason is taken from the nature of God, each of his attributes plead for this, especially.

1. The greatness of God. The greater the personage, the greater the reverence, and the more solemn your attendance should be. Hence, Elihu cries, "Teach us what we shall say to him, for we cannot order our speech by reason of darkness." - Job 37:19. It is a bold adventure to speak to him, what is it then to trifle with him? Wilt thou speak to God, nay pray to God, and not so much as look that way when thou speakest to him? This is to put on him the robes and title of a king, and use him like a slave. A prince may converse with two or three of his servants at a time; but it is impudent for a servant to talk to two or three princes at a time. The great Jehovah can speak with thee, and a thousand more, and do all your errands at a time: but, alas, thou art too poor a worm to entertain the great Jehovah and other matters at once. We are his creatures. "Thus saith the Lord, the Holy One of Israel, and his Maker." — Isaiah 45:11. If a servant must not be frivolous before his master, when he is receiving his commands, who dares be so before his Maker, who can as easily reward or ruin us, as I can turn over a leaf in this Bible? This he himself gives for the reason of that dreadful curse upon the "deceiver, that having a male in his flock, offers to God a corrupt thing. For I am a great king saith the Lord of hosts, and my name is dreadful among the heathen." - Malachi 1:14

Which of you will be thinking of your wives, or children, or business, when you are offering a petition to a great king, or run after feathers, when he

is speaking his mind to you? Thou takest God to be such a one as thyself, or else thou wouldest never do it. Remember a great God must be worshipped with profound veneration, and the most serious affections. A man must worship God, as if he were in heaven; oh! if thou wert there among those myriads of saints and angels, with what care, and humility, and earnestness, wouldest thou pour out thy heart to him, or hear his words to thee.

2. The holiness of God is another reason, who is so sacred, that an unholy thought is abomination to him ; most especially in his holy service. Who can by an eye of faith behold the "Lord sitting on a throne high and lifted up, and his train filling the temple, and the seraphim crying one to another, and saying. Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of Hosts," Isaiah 6:1,2, and suffer his heart to be ravished away with transitory toys in such a sacred presence? Are the seraphim amazed at his holiness, and we untransported? Their thoughts are continually terminated upon him, and should ours be always flinching from him? The holy Lord of Hosts will not allow it. If you will not sanctify him, he will sanctify himself. If you that worship him will not bear witness, by your serious attendance to his holiness, he must bear witness to it by his judgments on you; which, indeed, are not always visible, but ever certain; not a man in the congregation but the holy God is sanctified by him, or upon him. Little do we know what invisible dreadful effects there are of this daily in our congregations. And, if our dear Redeemer did not stand as a screen between us and his wrath, the best of us would quickly feel the effects of his displeasure.

3. The omniscience of God is a valid reason against distractions. "All things are naked and opened to him with whom we have to do," Hebrews 4:13; not only naked on the outside of us, but cut up and anatomized in the inside. That sharp and piercing eye looks through and through us, and neither doth nor can look beside us. Whither can I go from thy spirit? and whither can I flee from thy presence? Shall the husband fix his eye on his wife,

## Wandering Continued...

and she, meanwhile, dart her glances on her paramour? Is this reasonable, or tolerable? Get out of his sight, and trifle on. Steal into some corner where he sees you not, and be truants, and spare not. Be but an eye-servant to God, and we will ask no more. Be serious while he sees you; dally not while he holds you the candle. A curious eye requires a careful servant.

Object. But this is spoken with great freedom. I see no one but the minister and the people; seeing is believing: I know no one that seeth me.

Answer. 1. No more dost thou see that faculty by which thou seest. Is there, therefore, no such faculty? Are there no spirits, because thou never sawest them? When did you see the wind? and yet you doubt not of it. Nay, hath not he declared to thee, what is thy thought, Amos 4:13, in many a sermon?

2. There is another eye by which God's presence in his ordinances is seen, which thou hast not. That is an eye of faith which, if fixed in thy heart, would quickly make thee cry, "How dreadful is this place! This is no other than the house of God, and the gate of heaven!" If an hundred credible persons affirmed they saw a great man in the congregation, you would believe them, though not seen by you, and would conclude it your own inadvertency. Hundreds there daily are that do avouch they saw, felt, heard, embraced, the gracious presence of God, and therefore conclude it was your blindness, not on account of his distance, that you saw him not.

### SECT. II

#### FROM THE NATURE OF HIS WORSHIP

The second reason is taken from the nature of his worship.

1. It is reasonable worship; not only consonant to the rules of reason, and backed by the most rational principles, but must be managed as a rational act. Now it is a most irrational thing to converse with God without a heart; this is a silly thing, as "Ephraim is called a silly dove, without heart." Hosea 7:11. A dove without spirit, and a silly dove

without reason or judgment. God had rather hear the roaring of a lion, than a heartless prayer; he delights more in the chirping of birds, than in singing of psalms without understanding; for these do what they can, and so are accepted; but brutish service from a reasonable creature is intolerable. Is it\* reasonable that you should cry out for the Spirit, and think on the flesh? be hearing about another world, and ruminating on this? your eyes directed to heaven, and your heart in the ends of the earth? the tongue busy, and the soul idle? the knee devout, and the thoughts loose? there is no coherence, no reason

in this. When ye work, work; and when ye pray, pray; and do it with understanding. "What is it then! I will pray with the spirit, and will pray with the understanding also; I will sing with the spirit, and will sing with the understanding also." 1 Corinthians 14:15.

*"When ye  
work, work;  
and when ye  
pray, pray;  
and do it  
with under-  
standing."*

Consider, that else thou art as a madman before God, and God hath no need of madmen; if one should come to thee about business of life and death, and after a word or two therein should run from one impertinent thing to another, would you not think him mad? If thy thoughts were put into words and mingled with thy prayers, what strange mad prayers would they be?

2. It is spiritual worship, and therefore you may not be distracted in it. "The true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth, for the Father seeketh such to worship him." Job 4:23, 24. Others may seek to worship the Father, but the Father seeketh such to worship him who worship in spirit and in truth; in spirit, and so not like the formal Jews; in truth, and so not like the ignorant gentiles. And then, verse 24, "God is a spirit, and must be worshipped." Here is must and shall, and reason for it. As a spirit can do nothing at eating, so a carcass can do nothing at praying. The most elegant tongues on earth cannot make one effort at prayer; no, the soul must be in it, and the soul must be busy too. If we had only an idol to serve, the body were enough; but God is a spirit, and cannot be conversed with without the spirit, yea, and the whole spirit also. Fond man, that thinks with

## Wandering Continued...

his narrow soul to deal with God and somewhat else, who alone is immense, and beyond our greatest capacity! He must be taken up, and go out of the world in a sense, that will get into heaven. The soul on the lip, and the soul in the ear, do perform work in the service of God.

3. It is sweet work. "Yea, they shall sing in the ways of the Lord, for great is the glory of the Lord." Psalm 138:5. Mark, shall sing: — their spirits shall neither droop nor step aside. He that attends on the Lord hath a most sweet employment; now the mind useth not to object to delightful music, or to dislike an enchanting song. the gracious presence of God! his sweet smiles! and blessed love-tokens, that can transport angels, sure they may engage the heart of man, and sufficiently fill it.

Read the Canticles, and say then, Is not converse with God a heaven upon earth? and how far is heaven from distracted thoughts? Sad and severe things afflict the mind; it would flit from such subjects, but sweet employment engages all the heart; next to dwelling in heaven, is the soul flying to heaven in an ordinance; our driest duties yield us least comfort; the nearer the sun the warmer. More close to God more sweet you will find him, and never more "joyful than in the house of prayer."

### SECT. III

#### FROM THE NATURE OF OUR CONDITION

The third reason is taken from the nature of our condition, and that is this:

1. We cannot live without God. In him we live as to our natural life; every breath is fetched from him; so in our spiritual life, the life of the soul is He who made it. A world without a sun is dark; a body without a soul is dead; but a soul without God is dark, is dead, is damned. It is true, men feed, and sing, and exist without God in the world, but he that lives truly, lives by faith; the other life beasts live; they eat, and drink, and work, but know not God; but if you will

define the life of a soul, God must be in the beginning, in the midst, and in the end of it.

2. Our only way of communion with God is in an ordinance. This is the river, the streams whereof make glad the heart. Were a city besieged by mortal enemies round about, and no relief to be conveyed but by the river that waters it, how fatal to the inhabitants would the stopping of that river be; that city must starve or yield; the ordinary supplies that a Christian cannot be without, come swimming down from heaven through the ordinances of God;

*"I am  
weary with  
this tinkling  
cymbal;  
either pray in  
earnest, or  
pray not  
at all..."*

distractions stop the river, hinder prayer from ascending to God, prevent instruction from descending into the heart, intercept commerce and starve the soul. The zeal of the Jews was eminent this way, of whom Josephus relates, that when Pompey's soldiers shot at the thickest of them in the siege of Jerusalem, yet amidst those arrows did they go and perform their rites, as though there had been peace. Why, thy prayer is thy ambassador; distractions cut off the feet, and "he that sendeth a message by the hand of a fool, cutteth off the feet, and drinketh damage." Prov. 26:6. A wandering prayer is a message by the hand of a fool, and that man is like to drink damage that useth it. A man is a poor thing without God, and God is not ordinarily met with but in an ordinance.

3. In our strength and heart is too little for this business. All our understanding too little to apprehend his rare perfections; all our affections too weak and shallow to love, embrace, and delight in him; hence we are obliged to love and so to serve the Lord our God with all our heart, and with all our soul, and with all our strength. Mark 12:33. That is with every faculty of the soul, and with the utmost strength of every faculty. Now if it be hard enough to climb the hill unto God with wings, how shall we ascend with these weights about us, or think to please with half a heart, when the whole is too little? for "he is a great King, and his name is dreadful among the heathen;" when all the water in the pool will but turn the mill, that miller is very

## Wandering Concluded...

foolish who by twenty channels lets out the water otherways. The intense and earnest heart is little enough to converse with God, all the water in our pool will but turn the mill. What then can the negligent heart bring to pass, and how unlikely are we to obtain with the great God with the neglected approaches of a trivial spirit, with only a part of a little heart?

### SECT. IV

#### FROM THE NATURE OF DISTRACTIONS

The fourth reason is taken from the nature of distractions.

1. They divide the heart and disable it wholly. Now a divided heart can do nothing at all; "their heart is divided, now shall they be found faulty." Hosea 10:2. If one heart divided from another make a fault, much more faulty is one heart divided within itself. Hence it comes to pass that Satan offers, as the false mother did about the living child: "Let it be neither mine nor thine, but divide it." 1 Kings 3:26. If he cannot block your way to the presence of God, and make good his claim to the living child, as she would have done, then, with might and main, he promotes all imaginable diversions to part the soul, and cries. Lord, let it be neither thine nor mine, but divide it; well knowing, that as the child, so the heart while entire is a living and lively heart, but divide it and destroy it; as he that runs at once after two hares, catches neither, so the pursuit of two objects at once spoils both. He that thinks to treat the Creator and the creature at the same time, enjoys neither of them; and thus the vain heart of man by overdoing, undoes itself, and reaching at two matters, spoils them both.

2. These distractions frustrate the ordinance, and cause the great name of God to be taken in vain. Instead of forcing the heavens, these do but beat the air, and cannot reach the heart of God, because they never reach your own. And this is one of the follies of a roving heart, that it consumes as much time in a senseless as in a serious duty, and yet doth nothing in it, brings nothing to pass. And so the holy God stands over the heedless sinner with Job's words, "When shall vain words have an end?" Job 16:3. I am weary with this tinkling cymbal; either pray in earnest, or pray not at all; hear in earnest, or hear not at all; as

good not at all as never the better. The service of God requires a man, not a shadow; yea, all a man, and more than a man, our spirits and God's spirit also. Those that tremble at the profane man's taking God's name in vain, should make a conscience, lest they do it themselves, lest they be damned for their oaths, and you for your prayers; because you wrong God's majesty under the pretence of serving him, and so affront him with more solemnity.

3. They contract more sin upon the soul. We read "that Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took either of them his censer, and put fire therein, and put incense thereon, and offered strange fire before the Lord." Levit. 10:1. And the Lord took it in high displeasure," and with strange fire consumed them." Sins of ordinances are often extraordinary sins; as sacrilege is a greater sin than plain theft, because it is a purloining of what is consecrated; so a sin in worship hath this aggravation, and that it is in a place, and presence, and business, that is set apart for communion with God. Hence it comes to pass, that many of God's children have had grievous pangs and terror of conscience on their death-bed for ordinance sins. He that should be cleansing himself from his sins, and instead of that increases them, makes his sin exceeding sinful. Oh, what need then have we to pray, "Turn away mine eyes from beholding vanity, and quicken thou me in thy way." Psalm 119: 39.

And these are some of the reasons that confirm and enforce this practical doctrine, that we should "attend upon the Lord without distractions," and so you have the fourth general head.

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*\* The Egyptians chose among all fruits the peach to offer to their gods, because the fruit is like a man's heart, the leaf like his tongue; the heart and tongue should go together.*



# *December Birthdays*



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## **Perkins Fundraiser**

The Pine Haven Auxiliary has a new fundraising opportunity with Perkins Restaurant. From November 15 to January 15, if you bring in a voucher, Perkins will donate 10 % of your total purchase to the Pine Haven Auxiliary. The program is not valid on Sundays between 6:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Vouchers also may not be distributed on Perkin's premises. The vouchers can be found on the shelf in the foyer at church.





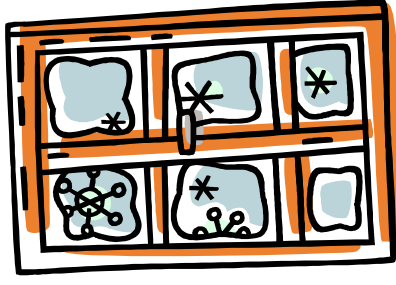
Grace OPC

# December 2012

*Showing forth the  
excellencies of  
Jesus Christ*



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Pine Haven Craft & Bake Sale
2	3 Women's Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.	4	5 Prayer Meeting, 7:00 p.m.	6	7	8
9 Missions Sunday	10 Women's Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.	11 Session Meeting, 6:30 p.m.	12 Prayer Meeting, 7:00 p.m.	13	14	15
16	17 Women's Bible Study, 6:30 a.m. <i>Pine Haven Study, 1:30 p.m.</i>	18	19 No Prayer Meeting	20	21	22
23 Christmas Program (p.m.)	24 Women's Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.	25	26 No Prayer Meeting	27	28 Bowling & Pizza Party	29
30 Lord's Supper, (p.m.)	31					



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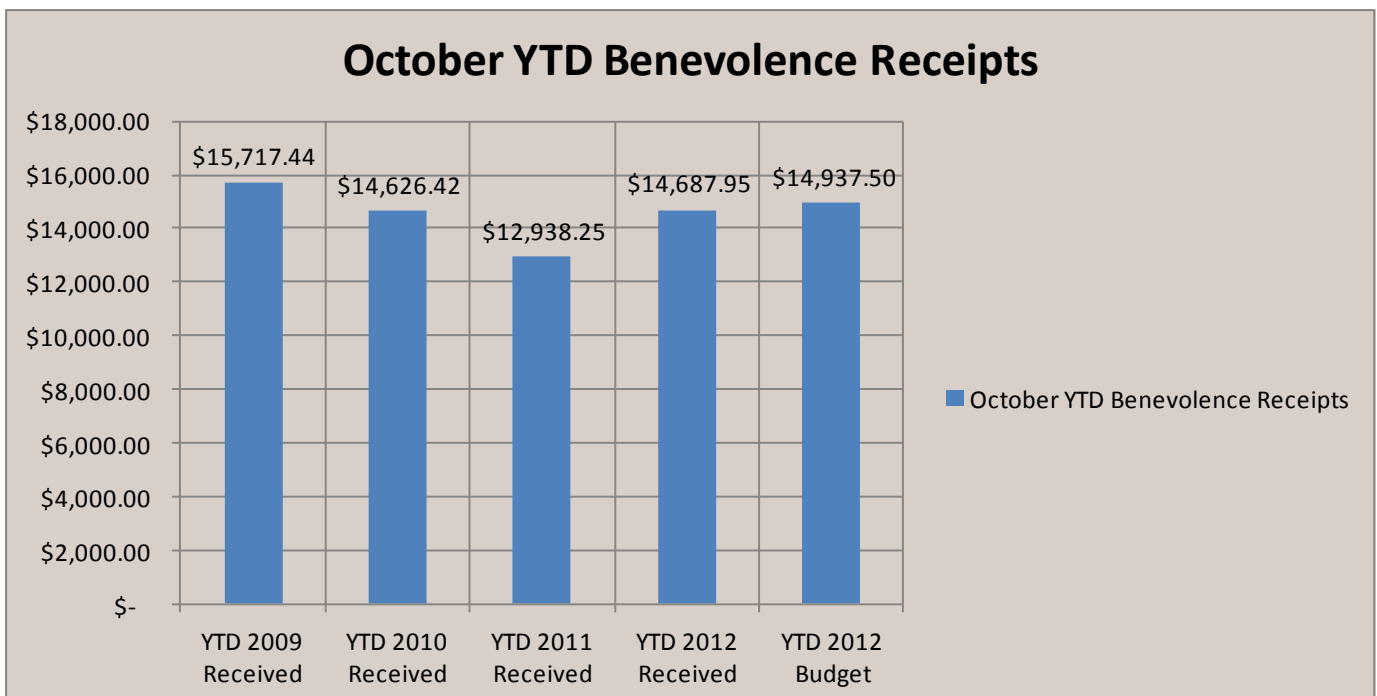
# Comments on Finances

by Joel Moody

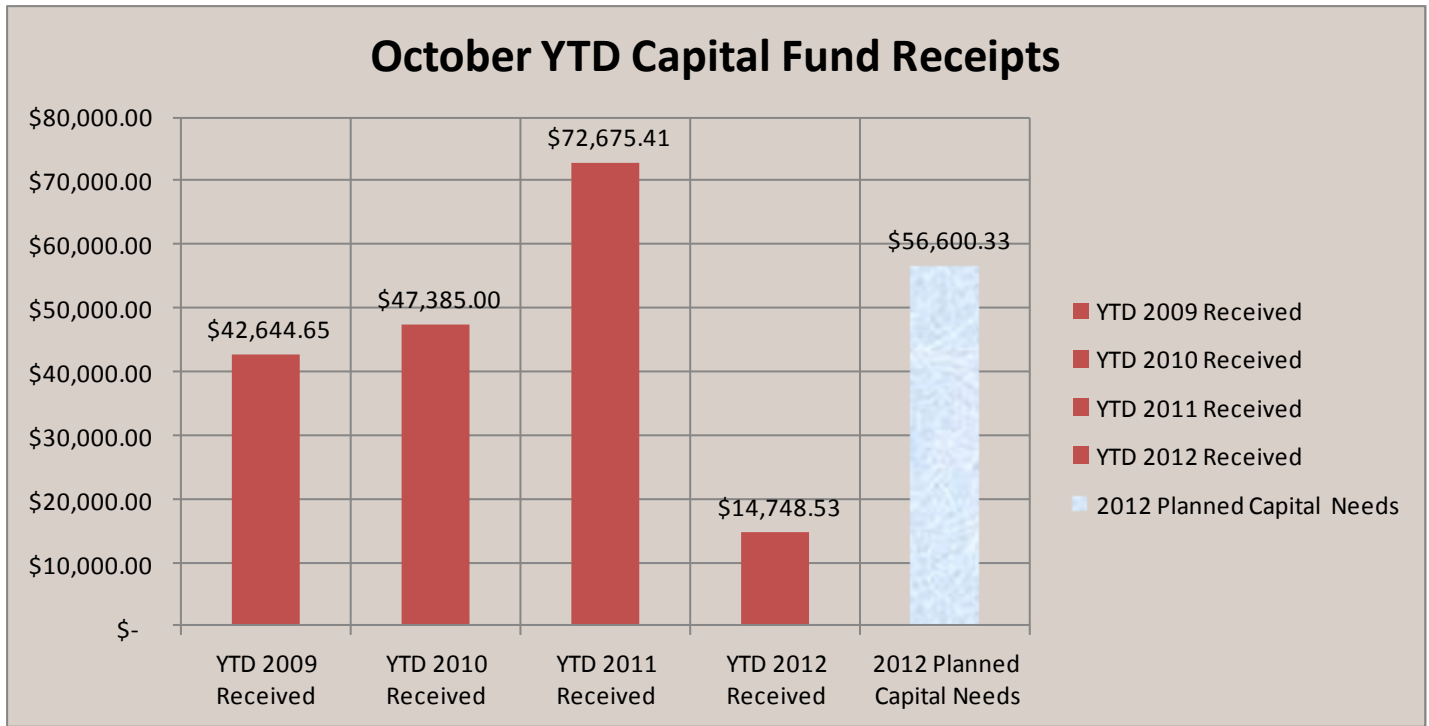
**General Fund** receipts for October totaled \$12,078.81 as compared to the budget of \$12,301.80, while General Fund disbursements for October totaled \$14,862.97. October year to date General Fund receipts totaled \$134,969.02 as compared to the budget of \$135,319.92 (a shortfall of \$350.90), while October year to date disbursements of \$124,926.88 were \$10,393.04 below budget. Through the end of October, the General Fund has increased by \$10,239.49. The increase in the General Fund was due to a shortfall in disbursements as compared to the budget. Year to date General Fund receipts for October were 4.9% above last year's total on an average Sunday while disbursements were 5.7% above the prior year.

**Benevolence Fund** Receipts for October totaled \$1,354.00 as compared to the budget of \$1,493.75 (a shortfall of \$139.75). Year to date Benevolence Fund Receipts through October totaled \$14,687.95 and were below budget by \$249.55. Please refer to the graph for a historical trend of benevolence receipts.

October Year to Date giving for the **Capital Fund** was \$14,748.53. The outstanding Promissory Notes balance was \$48,000.00 as of the end of October 2012. During the remainder of the year, \$43,000.00 is yet scheduled to mature on these notes. Please refer to the Capital Fund Graph that shows the historical giving through October for the years indicated in the graph as well as the 2012 Planned Capital Fund needs for the year in the last column. You may contribute to the Capital Fund by marking your gift as "Capital Fund" and placing it in the offering plate. Please note that the Capital Fund is used to pay for past indebtedness on the building and equipment of the local church as well as current and future needs that may exist to purchase additional equipment (such as the sound system, tables and chairs, etc.) or building-type items (such as a parking lot, driveway, furnace boiler, etc.)



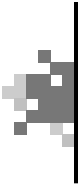




# Apple Valley Men's Retreat

Apple Valley Church and New Hope Presbyterian Church in Green Bay are jointly sponsoring a **Men's Retreat** on Feb 8-9, 2013 at Green Lake Conference Center in Green Lake, WI. We would like to extend an invitation the men of the church who would be interested in attending. The speaker will be Rev. Bruce Hollister, pastor of New Covenant Community Church in New Lenox, IL on the subject of "Prayer, Communion with Christ, our Highest Privilege" and the cost is \$70. If you are interested or would like more information, let Pastor Brian know & he can give you a copy of the retreat brochure with more information on it. Thank you for considering this opportunity and we hope you will be able to join us in February.





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## *SCCHS Visitation Day*

Sheboygan County Christian High School invites all 8<sup>th</sup> grade students to the annual Visitation Day on Thursday, December 6, 2012. Students will meet in the MPR at 10:00 a.m. and be dismissed by 1:00 p.m. All visiting students will see the school, visit



classrooms, experience chapel, and enjoy lunch. Any high school student interested in transferring to SCCHS is also invited. For more information or to RSVP by December 4, please call the school at 458-9981.

# Sermon Audio Update

by Pastor Brian De Jong

Most Monday mornings I perform a ritual in my office. Taking my digital recorder, I download the sermons from the previous Lord's Day onto my computer. I then do any necessary editing with software on my computer, and save them as MP3 files. Next I go onto our Sermonaudio website and post the information about the two sermons. The last step is to upload the audio files so that Sermonaudio can connect the audio to the posted information. Within about 30 minutes, it is all finished and the sermons are ready to be heard around the world.

A fair question is this: Is anyone listening? Are those sermons helping people? From the monthly reports from Sermonaudio, it would seem so. Over the last twelve months, there have been 4664 of our sermons downloaded to listeners. That averages to 389 per month, or about 13 per day. That means roughly every 2 hours another sermon is downloaded to someone somewhere on our planet.

Where are these listeners? They are in almost every state – here is a list:

Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Nevada, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Utah, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming. I'm still waiting for someone in North Dakota to discover us, as well as a listener from Rhode Island. Each month, the SA reports tell us we average downloads to over 32 states. That means that over half of our states are hearing Grace OPC sermons each month!

We also have a significant international outreach. By my count we've had listeners from 58

countries from every continent or region of the world, except Antarctica. On average, we have listeners from 17 different countries tuning in each month. Here is a listing by continents/areas:

Europe: United Kingdom, France, Netherlands, Germany, Poland, Czech Republic, Sweden, Spain, Ireland, Macedonia, Denmark, Russia, Italy, Romania, Portugal, Norway,

North/Central America & the Caribbean: Canada, Mexico, Costa Rica, Trinidad & Tobago, Jamaica, Virgin Islands, Dominican Republic, Honduras, Barbados, Antigua & Barbuda.

South America: Brazil, Chile, Argentina, Guyana

Australia/Asia: Singapore, Australia, India, South Korea, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, New Zealand, Japan, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, American Samoa, Mongolia, Taiwan

Middle East: Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Cypress

Africa: Botswana, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Ethiopia, Uganda, Mozambique, Kenya, Zambia, Nigeria

So, apart from North Dakota, Rhode Island and Antarctica, things are going well – this is a global ministry emanating from 4930 Green Valley Lane! Let's make it a matter of prayer, that God would bless His word through our pulpit and its worldwide impact. Let us pray that God would convert many and confirm others in their faith in the Savior!



# Bowling & Pizza Party

This year's Bowling & Pizza party will be held on Friday, December 28<sup>th</sup> starting with bowling at Odyssey Fun Center in Falls. We will bowl from 3 p.m. – 5 p.m. Then we'll have pizza and games at the church from 5:30 onward.

The cost for bowling will be \$6 per person. Price for pizza will be \$4 per person. Please see Pastor Brian for more details.



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## Mark Your Calendars

**Advance Notice:** Camp Calvin will be held June 17-22, 2013. Please mark your calendars now to reserve these important dates.





# Thank You

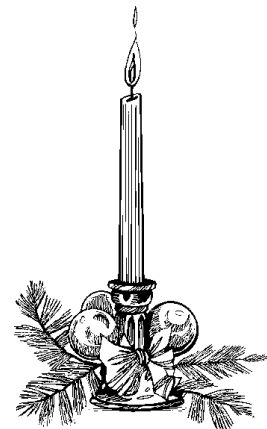
I would like to thank everyone for their prayers & cards while I was in the hospital and recovering at home. God is so good and faithful and I thank him for a giving me a wonderful Church family who are so kind and giving. Thanks again. ~ *Ellen*



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## What Child Is This?

A celebration of the Incarnation with scripture & song will be held December 23rd at 5:00 p.m. at the church.



# Beef Vegetable Soup

- ★ 1 Tbsp. oil
- ★ 1 1/2 –2 lbs. beef stew meat
- ★ 3 cans (14.5 oz. each) diced tomatoes
- ★ 6 carrots, sliced
- ★ 2 medium potatoes, peeled & cut into pieces
- ★ 3 stalks celery, sliced
- ★ 1 medium sweet onion, coarsely chopped
- ★ 2 cups apple juice or apple cider
- ★ 1 can (14.5) oz. beef broth
- ★ 2 cups water
- ★ 2 Tbsp. dried parsley
- ★ 1 Tbsp. dried basil
- ★ 2 cloves garlic, minced
- ★ 1 tsp. salt
- ★ 1/2 tsp. black pepper
- ★ 2-3 bay leaves

Heat oil in a large skillet over medium-low heat. Brown stew meat on all sides. Drain excess fat. You may need to cut meat into smaller pieces.

Place all ingredients into 5-6 quart slow cooker. Mix well. Cover and cook on high 6-7 hours.

\* If you like thicker slices of celery, you may want to microwave the celery slices on high for 2-3 minutes before placing in slow cooker.

\* I added 1 small package frozen peas, warmed (but not completely cooked) in microwave before adding to slow cooker.

\* Slow Cooker will be full.

\* I used apple cider.

\* I used no-salt– added tomatoes and reduced sodium beef broth.



“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.”

*Lynn Baatz*



Showing forth the excellencies of Jesus Christ

Grace OPC

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## Spurgeon Corner

*“The Lord mighty in battle.”  
(Psalm 24:8)*

Well may our God be glorious in the eyes of his people, seeing that he has wrought such wonders for them, in them, and by them. *For them*, the Lord Jesus upon Calvary routed every foe, breaking all the weapons of the enemy in pieces by his finished work of satisfactory obedience; by his triumphant resurrection and ascension he completely overturned the hopes of hell, leading captivity captive, making a show of our enemies openly, triumphing over them by his cross. Every arrow of guilt which Satan might have shot at us is broken, for who can lay anything to the charge of God’s elect? Vain are the sharp swords of infernal malice, and the perpetual battles of the serpent’s seed, for in the midst of the church the lame take the prey, and the feeblest warriors are crowned.

The saved may well adore their Lord for his conquests *in them*, since the arrows of their natural hatred are snapped, and the weapons of their rebellion broken. What victories has grace won in our evil hearts! How glorious is Jesus when the will is subdued, and sin dethroned! As for our remaining corruptions, they shall sustain an equally sure defeat, and every temptation, and doubt, and fear, shall be utterly destroyed. In the Salem of our peaceful hearts, the name of Jesus is great beyond compare: he has won our love, and he shall wear it. Even thus securely may we look for victories *by us*. We are more than conquerors through him that loved us. We shall cast down the powers of darkness which are in the world, by our faith, and zeal, and holiness; we shall win sinners to Jesus, we shall overturn false systems, we shall convert nations, for God is with us, and none shall stand before us. This evening let the Christian warrior chant the war song, and prepare for to-morrow’s fight. Greater is he that is in us than he that is in the world.

*Evening, December 3, Morning & Evening, by C. H. Spurgeon*



# Front Page Concluded

...exhorted and encouraged the Thessalonians, so we too must “walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.”

By joyfully living under the Lordship of Jesus, we can bring much glory and honor to God the Father. What better way to redeem the times in this evil day!

