

REFLECTIONS

Grace OPC

Religious Congruence: Fallacy or Fact?

By Pastor Brian De Jong

According to the President of the Society of the Scientific Study of Religion, Religious Congruence is almost always a fallacy, and rarely qualifies as a fact. In an article for the Journal for this society, President Mark Chaves provides the following summary of his thesis:

“Religious congruence refers to consistency among an individual’s religious beliefs and attitudes, consistency between religious ideas and behavior, and religious ideas, identities, or



schemas that are chronically salient and accessible to individuals across contexts and situations. Decades of anthropological, sociological, and psychological research establish that religious congruence is rare, but much thinking about religion presumes that it is common. The religious congruence fallacy occurs when interpretations or explanations unjustifiably presume religious congruence.”

Before we dismiss this idea as merely the opinion of a secular sociologist, we should remember that our Savior was very concerned about the problem of ‘religious congruence.’ To use a more familiar word found in Scripture, He spoke against ‘hypocrisy.’ Indeed, He warned his followers against such sin.

One clear example is found in Matthew 23, where he says, “The scribes and the Pharisees have seated themselves in the chair of Moses; ³ therefore all that they tell you, do and observe, but do not do according to their

deeds; for they say *things* and do not do *them*.”

Not only did Jesus chastise the scribes and Pharisees for their hypocrisy, but He counseled his disciples to live by the truth that the Jewish leaders taught. Although they themselves didn’t practice what they preached, the

follower of Christ must live faithfully in spite of the hypocritical spokesmen.

What is more, our Savior demonstrated perfect religious congruence throughout his own earthly life and ministry.

He alone was perfectly consistent in living out the principles that He taught. There was no fallacy about his obedience to the word of God. For Him Religious Congruence was a fact of the highest order.

This disconnect between words and actions is exceedingly damaging to the soul, and is a terrible witness to a skeptical world. How often do unbelievers condemn the church because “it is full of hypocrites.” If we “talk the talk,” it is incumbent that we also “walk the walk.” Consistency is crucial, and integrity is not optional for the believer in Christ.

Albert Mohler commented on this during his podcast “The Briefing” on November 14, saying, “Now that’s an important concept, the religious congruence fallacy, but here we have to note that’s why as Christians we must be taught the scriptures, we must be students of the Scriptures, and we must seek to operate out of a worldview that is completely consistent with the

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The Meaning of Classic Christmas Carols



O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

The precise origins of this carol are unclear, and like 'The Holly and the Ivy', it is of unknown authorship. Undoubtedly however, this is one of the oldest of all carols, and is believed to have been derived from a set of Latin verses called the 'O antiphons' which were performed in monasteries around the 8th century AD. Each of these verses related the prophesy of the coming of the Messiah, and each referred to one of the titles of the Messiah. One referred to the Messiah as 'Emmanuel' as described in 'Isaiah 7:14', and it is believed that around the 12th century AD this text was adapted into a rhythmic poem, 'Veni veni Emmanuel'. The music which today accompanies the lyrics is thought to have been separately written for a 15th century Franciscan funeral hymn with influences from Gregorian chant. How and exactly when the words of 'Veni veni Emmanuel' became united with the funeral hymn is unknown, but certainly it had happened by 1851, when John Mason Neale translated the words from Latin into English (Neale was a prolific translator of hymns and carols from many other languages into English.) When Neale wrote the English language version of the carol, he titled it 'Draw nigh, draw nigh, Emmanuel', but later modifications of the text gave us the title and verses we know today.

Away In A Manger

If any carol is particularly associated with children, then it is most probably 'Away in a Manger'. Certainly this is one of the first carols which I can remember as a child, and it is a song which remains popular because of its gentle melody and words. 'Away in a Manger' was first published as two verses by James R Murray in Philadelphia in the Lutheran song book 'Little Children's Book for Schools and Families' in 1885. The verses were subtitled 'Luther's Cradle Hymn', which has led to a common belief that they were actually written by Martin Luther himself, but it seems there is absolutely no evidence of this. A third verse ('Be near me, Lord Jesus') was added by John T. McFarland in 1904, having been originally written for another song by Charles H Gabriel in 1892. As with 'O Little Town of Bethlehem' there is a difference in choice of melody between America and the Old World. The music to which the lyrics are usually performed in America was composed and published by Murray in 1887 under the title 'Mueller'. But by far the best known version in England is a tune composed in 1895 by William J Kirkpatrick and known as 'The Cradle Song'.

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Perhaps the most interesting aspect of this carol is that neither lyric writer Charles Wesley nor melody writer Felix Mendelssohn, would have ever wanted their words and music to be married together in the way that they are! Charles was the prolific hymn writer brother of the founder of Methodism, John Wesley, and he wrote the lyrics in the year 1739. He originally called it 'Hark! How All the Welkin Rings, Glory to the King of Kings' ('welkin' is a word for the vault of heaven, the place where stars and angels dwell). In 1753, Wesley's colleague George Whitefield changed the title, cut some of the verses, and altered a few of the lines to produce the familiar modern lyrics which he published in a collection called 'Hymns and Sacred Poems'. Then, nearly 100 years later in 1840, the great composer Felix Mendelssohn wrote a tune for a cantata to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the invention of the Gutenberg printing press, and in 1855 after Mendelssohn's death, organist Dr William Cummings chose to use this melody to accompany the old lyrics of Wesley and

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Whitefield. Neither Wesley nor Mendelssohn would probably have welcomed this because Wesley had preferred a slow and solemn tempo to his religious music, whilst Mendelssohn had intended his upbeat tune to be secular. And yet this fusion of two very different visions has become one of the most popular of all carols.

Go Tell It On The Mountain

A very different carol is 'Go Tell it on the Mountain', one of a number of spirituals which were included by John Wesley Work Jr in 'Folk Songs of the Amer-i-can Negro', a book published in 1907. Work was a professor at Fisk University in Nashville, and he compiled his collection to preserve the music of African Americans from the slave days. Some believe the song was actually composed by Work's father, Frederick Jerome Work, but the concensus view is that 'Go Tell it on the Mountain' was first written by a slave and had been sung by slaves or ex-slaves at least since 1865. The song did take on a different life in the 1960s when the great folk group Peter Paul and Mary rewrote some lyrics to turn it into a civil rights anthem, and it has become a popular song with children too. These diverse themes mean the song has been sung in a wider range of settings than almost any other 'carol' including concert halls and schools, on protest marches, and of course in churches.

Joy To The World

Isaac Watts, one of the most prolific of all English hymn composers, published the words of 'Joy to the World' in 1719, but without intending it to become a carol. 'Joy to the World' was Watt's adaptation of Psalm 98 to turn it into a popular, singable hymn. Initially he chose to title it 'The Messiah's Coming and Kingdom', and it was published in 'Psalms of David Imitated in the Language of the New Testament'. The tune 'Antioch' to which the words are usually sung, was added to the lyrics of Watts in a collection of hymns put together by the American church musician Dr Lowell Mason more than a hundred years later in 1839. 'Antioch' contained a brief notation 'from Handel' leading to the belief that the the tune was at least partially based on a theme by the great composer Handel, though it seems most likely that the primary composer was Lowell Mason himself. And his combination of this tune and Isaac Watts's words has made 'Joy to the World' one of the most familiar of all carols.

Bowling and Pizza Party

The annual Bowling and Pizza Party will be held on Thursday, December 28th, at Odyssey Fun Center in Sheboygan Falls. We will bowl from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm, then head over to church for Faves Pizza and game time at 5:30. Cost for bowling is \$6 per person, shoes included. Cost for pizza is \$4 per eater. See Pastor Brian for more details.



The Hopps in Haiti



Greetings in the Name of Christ from Haiti! Our family returned to Haiti after spending a month in Florida. Here's a quick update for all of you who have been praying for us.

We wanted to let you know that on October 16th we interviewed with the US Immigration office as the final step in the process of

becoming US citizens. We were approved, and had hoped to have our Oath (Swearing-In) Ceremony before we returned home to Haiti. Unfortunately, this did not happen. But, in God's providence and timing, we received notification that the date for our Oath Ceremony is in the mail. We are currently making plans to return again to officially become US citizens. (US Civics lesson: Immigrants do not officially become US citizens until after they have declared their oath of allegiance before a judge in an scheduled ceremony.)

Our time in Florida was restful. We had a delightful time reuniting with brothers and sisters in various churches. We spent the Reformation 500th anniversary weekend in Orlando. While Ben attended Presbytery meetings, Heather and the kids reconnected with friends. We enjoyed a lovely walk in God's creation with good friends (pictured above), and attended a joint service of Reformed churches from across Orlando area on Sunday evening. Other vacation highlights were visits to the zoo, the aquarium, and some museums.



The boys' need for speed was satisfied with go-karting at an indoor track in Orlando, and biking around the neighborhood in Ellenton. Hanging out with friends over a burger, swimming in the neighbors' pool, going on a treasure hunt with the youth group, made for a refreshing time. Of course, we had check ups with the doctor.



We praise the Lord that Emma's back X-ray showed no damage to her vertebrae - she slammed her back on the side of the ferry during rough seas several months ago on a return trip from Lagonav. Finally, we shopped. Nothing like buying everything you think you'll need over the next year for growing kids in a matter of days!

Since returning to Haiti the kids have been back at school. They are encouraged in their work and are very diligent. Ethan and Emma are currently in their Junior (11th grade) year. We had many opportunities to talk with folks about different colleges and other opportunities while we were back, and even attended college information sessions. This is exciting as we look toward the future and what God might have for them once they graduate high school. Elijah is in 7th grade and Esther in 2nd grade.

The entire OPC Haiti Mission has been traveling of late. The Delfils' have been



Our Family

For more than 10 years now, our family has been serving the church of Christ in Haiti as missionaries of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church. The focus of our work is the training of pastors and leaders in the hope that God will raise up an indigenous Haitian church that is Reformed in its doctrine and Presbyterian in its government.

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Hopps in Haiti Continued...

visiting churches in Canada for the past couple of weeks. They have had a lovely time experiencing our homeland - cold weather, snow, and warm hospitality! With our partners-in-ministry away, we have been busy at the Port-au-Prince church. It continues to be a delight to see many desiring to grow in grace. Leading our Friday afternoon Bible study is a particular encouragement to Ben along with the opportunity to preach twice on Sundays. It makes for a long Lord's Day, though, as we leave home at 8AM and return around 5PM. Pray for us as we continue to build deeper relationships with those who attend services at the *Eglise Presbytérienne Réformée de Delmas*.

Prayers Requests for Haiti

- For the youth in the churches to grow and read their Bibles faithfully
- The Delfils' family as they conclude their time away by stopping in Florida to visit their son, Carlens, who is studying at college.
- Preparation for an upcoming teaching seminar on La Gonâve with a visiting pastor teaching on the subject of prayer.
- God's blessing on an important meeting with other Reformed missions in Haiti and their Haitian pastors and elders on December 15th. We are seeking God's timing as we move toward the formation of a regional church encompassing all the Reformed church ministries working here in Haiti.
- Security situation in Haiti with demonstrations continuing particularly against the Haitian army being reinstated by the government.

Christopher's Story: A Milwaukee Rescue Mission Testimony



Christmas doesn't mean much when you grow up in a messed-up family. My mom was an alcoholic, and my dad was a drug addict and drug dealer. Our home was filled with violence and weapons, and Christmas was no exception. Most of my memories growing up involve getting beaten or tied to a chair. I learned early on that I wasn't worth much. So I determined to make life all about me and whatever I could get. And that involved a lot of drugs and alcohol. Why not? Nothing mattered. I didn't care about anything. So I was going to do whatever I wanted, whenever I wanted. Somehow I knew there had to be more to life than this. But I sure didn't know what it was. I spent years in and out of jail or prison. I lived an endless cycle of spiraling to the bottom, but never hitting it. I could always pull myself together just before I hit the jagged edge. I got married once and had a son, but even they couldn't get me to change. My wife and I divorced, and I just kept drinking more and more. Last year, I drank so much my liver failed. Doctors gave me a 33% chance of living. But then one of the nurses prayed for me. One week later, I left the hospital completely healed. I knew it was God — and I knew what I had to do. I came to the Milwaukee Rescue Mission. I spent my life believing there are no good people in the world. No one cares. But now I know it's not true. The people here led me to God and walked with me every step of the way. They embraced my broken life and showed me they cared. And through the power of Jesus Christ, I'm learning I'm worth a lot more than I thought. Unlike my childhood, this Christmas means a lot. Thanks to people like you. I'm learning who I truly am and who I could still be because of Christ. There's no better Christmas gift than that.

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The mission committee is again putting donation boxes in the entrance of the church. Please feel free to donate any of the items listed:

Ministry Needs

****They currently are in great need for men's blue jeans and boxer shorts of all sizes.**

- Baby care Items - diaper rash cream, Oracle, etc.
- Personal care items - shampoo, conditioner, and soap
- Home cleaning products
- Kitchen tools and supplies
- Lunch snacks - fruit, cereal bars, etc.
- Home electronics - microwaves, vacuums, etc.
- Clocks and watches
- Coats (winter and spring) for all ages
- Cold and cough medicine/cough drops
- Pain relievers such as Tylenol and ibuprofen
- Clothing (especially for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers)
- Socks, especially for toddlers
- Underwear - men's, women's, and children's (all sizes)
- Plastic spoons, forks, and knives

Good News Jail and Prison Ministry December Newsletter



Greetings in the Majestic Name of Jesus! As I write this newsletter, Kim and I have just come through a week of praying for many of our family members to make it through the “firestorms” in California. We both have family and friends who live in Santa Rosa, California. Several have left due to mandatory evacuations, while others evacuated voluntarily. This “Firestorm” is being labeled as the worst one in California history. All of this reminds me of the Apostle Paul. He experienced a few huge storms himself. During one of those times of being tossed about, they looked for a port to slip into so they would get some protection from the storm. During the storms Paul went through, God used him as an encourager to others going through the storm. You may be thinking, “Where are you going with this, Rick?” That’s a good thought, so I’ll tell you. First, I want to thank you for the incredible support you show for this ministry. You are truly an encouragement to me, the inmates, staff, and their family members. Without your support, many of the men and women going through devastating storms in their lives would have nobody to bring them encouragement. We’re not there to encourage their destructive life styles, but rather to bring hope the midst of the storm they are going through. Their current situations don’t have to be the final chapter in their lives. God can use this time in their life to change the course they’ve been heading on. Over the past few months, I’ve been ministering to an inmate and his family. His family is living in a different State than he is. God has given me the opportunity to be an encourager to them as they go through a huge storm in their life. I’ve learned to trust more and more in Jesus to give me the right words to share; to guide me to just be a

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listening ear; and use me to lead them to the Cross of Jesus as our “anchor of hope” in the midst of the storm. I have seen first-hand, the work Jesus is doing in the heart of this man. I’ve seen him go from being absolutely broken, to a brother in Christ that God is using to minister to other inmates. He spends his days reading the Bible, praying and sharing Jesus with all the inmates who end up in the same cell block as him. I have seen a broken soul come to know the peace that surpasses all understanding. You might be one of the many volunteers giving of your time to minister to some of the men and women who are behind bars. If you are, then I trust you’ve experienced the incredible joy that comes from being God’s encouragement to others. Thank you for being on the front line of this powerful, life-changing ministry to those going through some massive storms of life. You might be one of the many people who support this ministry through prayer, financial giving, one on one ministry, group ministry, or maybe this is the first time you’re hearing of this ministry. Whichever one of these you may be, please accept my heartfelt “Thank you”! Without you, truly this ministry would not exist. You have been, and continue to be a partner in touching lives with the love of our Savior and soon returning King! May the Lord Himself, bless you and keep you! As we enter the final months of this year we have much to be thankful for and much to accomplish for His Kingdom.

Gayle’s Corner

Gayle Janzen is a “Chaplain In Training” with Good News Jail & Prison Ministry

I have been blessed to keep in contact with some of the ladies who’ve been released. Two ladies who have been released have sent letters thanking us for their Celebrate Recovery Bibles. They have also said that this ministry is in their prayers. Another lady mentioned that she is continuing in reading her Bible and praying. There are 4 ladies who are continuing a Bible study they started while in jail. Another one told me of some of the Christian books she has been reading. Some others have told of the benefits of the treatment programs they have been participating. They have also shared some of their struggles asking for our prayers. Changing lifestyles is not easy, especially for those who have lived in disobedience to God for a long time. Some changes happen quickly, and others take a while. I encourage you to pray for those being released who want to change their lives. “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!” 2 Corinthians 5:17. “I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.” Philippians 1:3-6. Sometimes it takes time to see those changes. Thank you for encouraging and praying for these women to experience the changes Jesus brings about in their lives. Also, when they are released, I believe that Satan works extra hard to act like the thorns (Mark 4) in order to keep them from growing in Christ. Please join me in praying for those wanting to change as well as for those on the inside the jail who are searching for Christ.

May Christ’s grace be with you,
Gayle

Praise/Prayer Requests

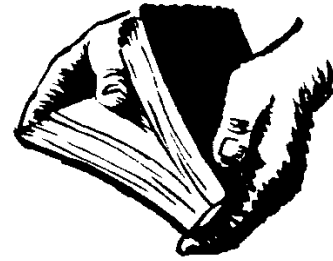
- Pray for the men and women who have trusted Christ for their salvation.
- Pray for the Sheriff Deputies and Correctional Officers who are the front lines serving our community. Pray for the churches, businesses and individuals who financially support this ministry.
- Pray that we add at least three churches as new monthly supporters of this ministry.

Ministry Needs

- Volunteers to conduct with one Church Service a month
- Postage stamps
- Men’s and Women’s coats
- Gloves and knit hats
- *****socks*****socks!!!!

Young People's Bible Study

The Thursday night Young People's Bible study will be held at 6:30pm on December 7th at the Froh home. See Jeff or Wendy for more details.



Men and Boys' Leadership Breakfast



The Men and Boys' Leadership Breakfast will be held on Saturday, December 9th, at 7am at the church. Join us for this encouraging time of food and fellowship!

Bible Reading Plans

Looking for a Bible reading plan for 2018? Visit the Ligonier Ministries webpage at <http://www.ligonier.org/blog/bible-reading-plans/>



December Birthdays

| | |
|--------------------|------|
| Heidi Mamazza | 3rd |
| Sue Lorenz | 3rd |
| Matt De Troye | 7th |
| John TenPas | 7th |
| Robert Boss | 13th |
| Conner Froh | 14th |
| Darryl Harmelink | 14th |
| Marshall Ver Velde | 22nd |
| Dorothy Wingard | 27th |
| Darlene Cooper | 30th |



Wedding Anniversaries

Brian & Dorothy Wingard
~December 11th~

Ivan & Carla De Master
~December 28th, 57 years~

Don & Shary De Troye
~December 29th, 36 years~





Showing forth the excellencies of Jesus Christ

December 2017

Grace OPC



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| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|----------------------------|-----|-------------------------------|--|---|-----|--|
| 3 Meadowview Manor, 3pm | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 Young People's Bible Study, 6:30pm | 8 | 9 Men and Boys' Leadership Breakfast, 7am |
| 10 | 11 | 12 Session Meeting, 6:30pm | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 Prayer meeting takes holiday break | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 Prayer meeting takes holiday break | 28 Bowling and Pizza Party | 29 | 30 |
| 31 | | | | | | |

COOKIE DOUGH OREOS



*“For He
has satisfied
the thirsty soul,
and the
hungry soul
He has filled
with what
is good.”*

Soft Oreo Cookies:

1 box Devil's Food Cake Mix

2 eggs

1/3 C. oil

2 tsp, vanilla extract

1/2 C. mini chocolate chips

Cookie Dough Filling:

3/4 C. butter, softened

2 Tbsp. brown sugar

1/4 C. flour

3 tsp. vanilla extract

1 pinch salt

3-4 Tbsp. milk

1-2 C. powdered sugar

Extra mini chocolate chips for decoration

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees and line cookie sheets with parchment paper.

2. Sift cake mix into a large bowl to remove lumps and add eggs, oil and vanilla extract. Stir until well combined then stir in chocolate chips, dough will be thick.

3. Make dough balls just smaller than a golf balls and place on cookie sheets 3 inches apart from each other and pat down slightly on each dough ball so that it doesn't bake up too tall. Bake for 7-9 minutes.

4. Let cool.

5. Cookie Dough Filling: Beat butter and brown sugar for 2 minutes. Add flour, vanilla extract salt and 2 Tbsp. milk and beat until smooth. Continue to add in powdered sugar until you reach your desired consistency. Add more milk if it becomes too thick. Feel free to taste as you go and add more flour if you want a filling that's not so sweet!

6. To assemble: Frost the bottoms of half the cookies and then place an unfrosted cookie on top of each. Roll the exposed edge in a bowl of mini chocolate chips to decorate! Store in a tupperware until ready to serve, I'll usually keep mine in the fridge because I prefer the taste of homemade Oreos cold

COMMENTS ON FINANCES

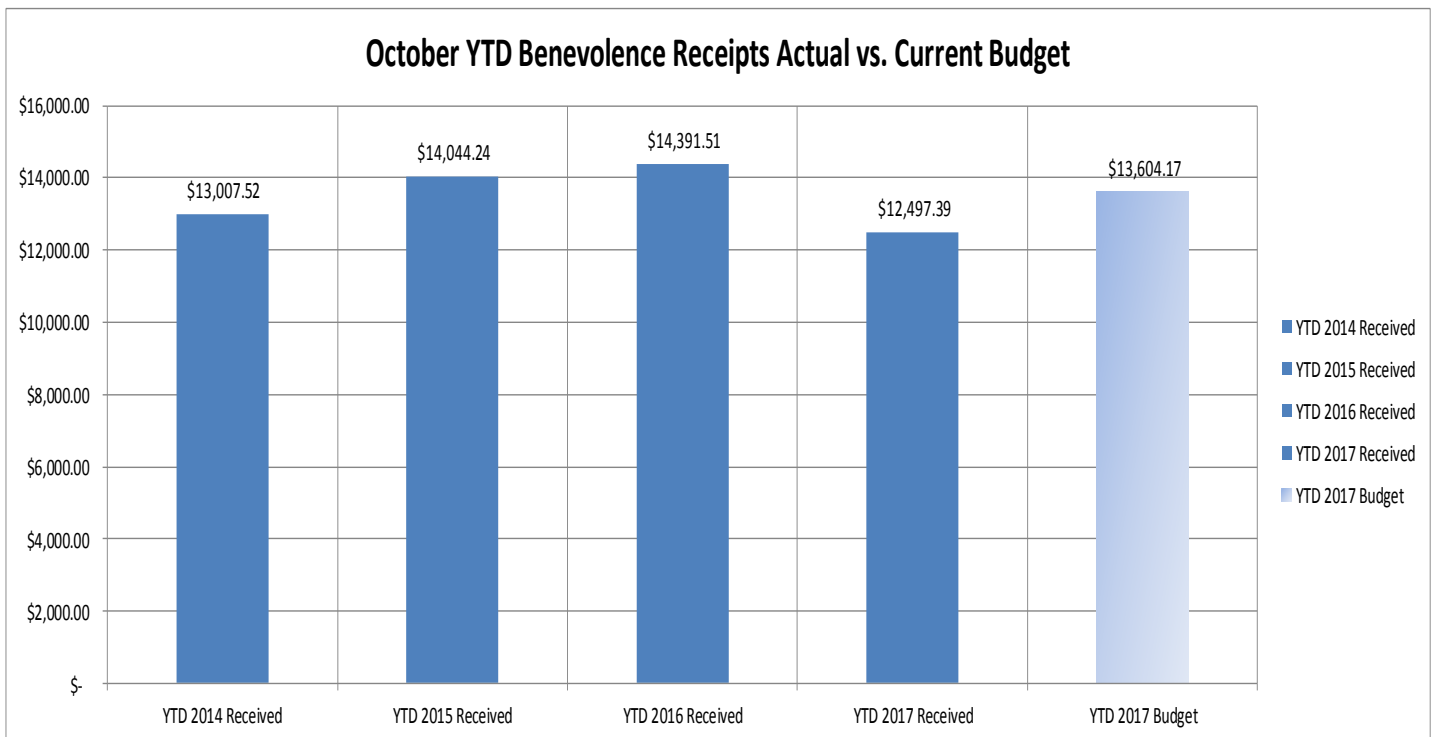
By Joel Moody

General Fund receipts for October totaled \$17,407.09 as compared to the budget of \$16,740.49, while General Fund disbursements for October totaled \$13,099.91. October year to date General Fund receipts totaled \$130,791.24 as compared to the budget of \$147,316.24 (a shortfall of \$16,525.00), while October year to date disbursements of \$135,370.29 were \$11,945.95 below budget. Through the end of October, the General Fund has decreased by \$4,495.67 due to lower receipts which were partially offset by lower disbursements. Year to date General Fund receipts for October were 7.4% below last year's total on an average Sunday while disbursements were 2.5% above the prior year.

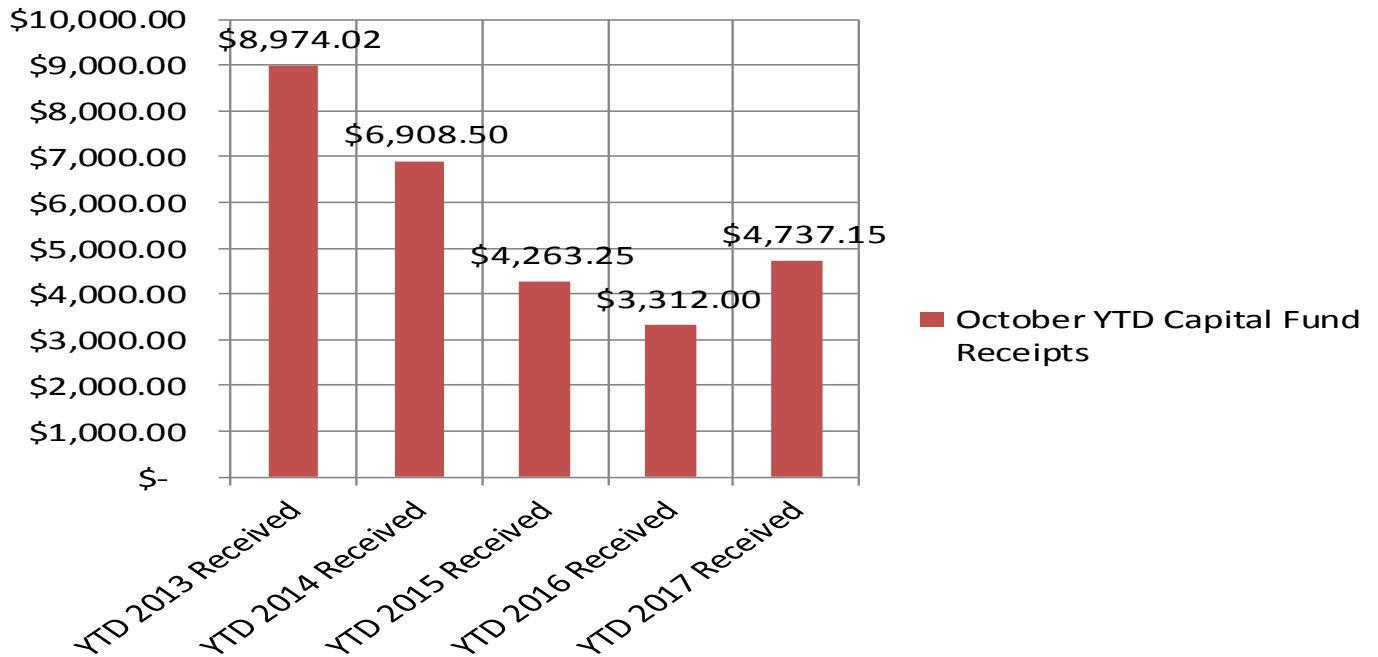
Benevolence Fund Receipts for October totaled \$1,182.00 as compared to the budget of \$1,360.42 (a shortfall of \$178.42). Year to date Benevolence Fund Receipts through October totaled \$12,497.39 and fell short of budget by \$1,106.78. Please refer to the graph for a historical trend of benevolence receipts as well as the current benevolence budget. During October, \$500.00 was sent to Worldwide

Outreach (WVO) for the General Missions outreach of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church and \$200.00 was sent to the Midwest Presbytery's Church Extension Committee (CHEX). We also disbursed \$600.00 to Pine Haven. In addition, \$100.00 was sent to Elijah DeJong and that amount will continue for the balance of this year.

October Year to Date giving for the **Capital Fund** was \$4,737.15. Please refer to the Capital Fund Graph that shows the historical giving for the years indicated in the graph. 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 current and future needs that may exist to purchase additional **equipment** (such as computers, the sound system, tables and chairs, etc.) **or building-type items** (such as a parking lot, driveway, furnace boiler, etc.). Since some capital needs are quite substantial in nature, resources to finance and pay for these projects can take years to pay for them. Even though capital needs may not be large in the current year, we should wisely allocate our giving not only to current needs, but also to these future needs as well.



October YTD Capital Fund Receipts



Missions Report

Are you interested in Missions? Here is your opportunity to use your skills and serve the Lord. Every 2nd Sunday we have a missions report on various missionaries of the OPC. We are looking for volunteers to do a Missions report on the 2nd Sunday of every month. If you are interested please see Ellen Mc Neese. Thank you.





Showing forth the excellencies of Jesus Christ

Grace OPC

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Spurgeon Corner

*“There is no spot in thee.”
Song of Solomon 4:7*

Having pronounced his Church positively full of beauty, our Lord confirms his praise by a precious negative, “There is no spot in thee.” As if the thought occurred to the Bridegroom that the carping world would insinuate that he had only mentioned her comely parts, and had purposely omitted those features which were deformed or defiled, he sums up all by declaring her universally and entirely fair, and utterly devoid of stain. A spot may soon be removed, and is the very least thing that can disfigure beauty, but even from this little blemish the believer is delivered in his Lord’s sight. If he

had said there is no hideous scar, no horrible deformity, no deadly ulcer, we might even then have marvelled; but when he testifies that she is free from the slightest spot, all these other forms of defilement are included, and the depth of wonder is increased. If he had but promised to remove all spots by-and-by, we should have had eternal reason for joy; but when he speaks of it as already done, who can restrain the most intense emotions of satisfaction and delight? O my soul, here is marrow and fatness for thee; eat thy full, and be satisfied with royal dainties.

Christ Jesus has no quarrel with his spouse. She often wanders from him, and grieves his Holy Spirit, but he does not allow her faults to affect his love. He sometimes chides, but it is always in the tenderest manner, with the kindest intentions: it is “my love” even then. There is no remembrance of our follies, he does not cherish ill thoughts of us, but he pardons and loves as well after the offence as before it. It is well for us it is so, for if Jesus were as mindful of injuries as we are, how could he commune with us? Many a time a believer will put himself out of humour with the Lord for some slight turn in providence, but our precious Husband knows our silly hearts too well to take any offence at our ill manners.

CHECK OUT THE AUDIO:

**SERMONAUDIO.COM/
GRACESHEBOYGAN**

CHECK OUT THE WEBSITE:

GRACEOPCSHEBOYGAN.COM



Evening, December 3rd, C.H. Spurgeon

Front Page Concluded...

Scriptures. That's how we define Christian maturity. That's what we hope happens in terms of the lives of believers as they are part of the life of the local church. As a matter of fact, we could define one of the central purposes of preaching as to prevent the so-called religious congruence fallacy.”

So as we draw near to the end of another year, how is your religious congruence doing? Is it fact or is it fallacy? Have you become more consistent in applying the Scriptures, or have you slipped in that area?

