

REFLECTIONS

Grace OPC

CONTINUITIES AND DISCONTINUITIES

By Pastor Brian De Jong

As we stand at the threshold of a new year, and look ahead to all of the promise that 2016 holds, we should borrow an idea from the realm of Covenant Theology. That useful concept is the differences between continuities and discontinuities.

In Covenant Theology, we recognize that much remains the same between different administrations of the covenant. For instance, the need for a right heart stays the same from Old Testament to New Testament. God’s plan of salvation by grace alone through faith alone is unchanged throughout time. God’s nature is the same now as it was “back then.” Much is unaltered.

There are also things which change – what the theologians call “discontinuities. For instance, the Passover feast of the Old Testament included the slaughter of a lamb. That animal was then cooked and became the main part of the meal. In the New Testament, we have the Lord’s Supper. We do not slaughter any animals, or cook any meat. When we partake of the sacrament, it is bread and wine. The essence of the two meals are one and the same, but their outward administrations are very different. There are discontinuities.

So how can we utilize this “continuity-vs-discontinuity” scheme? First, you should think about your past life and realize that much good has gone on. There are things that are “right” in your life, and should not change. You need to car-

ry them over and continue doing them faithfully. A new year doesn’t demand that you change absolutely everything! Rather, keep doing what should be done – more power to you!

We can also survey our life, our behavior, our conversation, and our commitments to discover those things that shouldn’t be continued. Indeed, those things should be discontinued ASAP. Perhaps we’ve become careless in our speech, and developed a habit of taking the Lord’s name in vain. That should become a

discontinuity. Or perchance we have neglected an important relationship in our life, and taken that person for granted. Again, count it a discontinuity that needs change. There can be any number of things that could stand improvement – these are what we should focus upon.

So as you have time to reflect, what are going to be the discontinuities from 2015 to 2016? And what are you doing well, that should be considered a definite continuity going into the new year? Where is change most important in your life? How can you live more to the glory of God in 2016?

May our God give us the grace to grow in godliness during the year ahead, and be increasingly conformed to the image of Christ!



Volume 11, Issue 1
January 2016

Inside this issue:	
<i>Pastor’s Article</i>	1
<i>The Practice of Prayer</i> by JC Ryle	2
<i>The Kawasaki Mule</i> by Don De Troye	3-4
<i>Stamps for Missions</i>	5
<i>Ask the Pastor</i>	6-8
<i>2016 Short-Term Missions</i>	8
<i>Birthdays/Anniversaries</i>	9
<i>January Calendar</i>	10
<i>Men’s Retreat</i>	11
<i>Comments on Finance</i> by Joel Moody	12-13
<i>Annual Meetings</i>	13
<i>Spurgeon Corner</i>	14
<i>Fellowship Lunch</i>	14

Mnemonics...

- *Fellowship Lunch, 17th*
- *Annual Meetings, 20th*

The Practice of Prayer

By JC Ryle

Let us never forget what a solemn thing it is to speak with God. Let us beware of rushing into His presence with carelessness and flippancy. Let us say to ourselves, "I am on holy ground. This is none other than the gate of Heaven." When Abraham spoke to God, he said, "I am nothing but dust and ashes." (Genesis 18:27). When Job spoke, he said, "I am unworthy—how can I reply to you?" (Job 40:4). Let us do likewise.

Once having begun the habit, never give it up. Your heart will sometimes say, "We have had family prayers; what great harm is it if we leave our private prayer undone?" Your body will sometimes say, "You are sick, or sleepy, or weary; you do not need to pray." Your mind will sometimes say, "You have important business to attend to today; cut short your prayers." Look on all such suggestions as coming directly from the devil. They are as good as saying, "Neglect your soul."

Never forget that you may tie together morning and evening devotions by an endless chain of short prayers throughout the day. Even in the company of others, or while you work, or going down the street, you may be silently sending up little winged messengers to God, as Nehemiah did in the very presence of Artaxerxes (Nehemiah 2:4).

We are all selfish by nature, and there is a tendency in us to think only of our own souls and to forget others. Against this tendency we have need to watch and strive, not the least in our prayers.

We should stir ourselves up to name other names beside our own before the throne of grace. We should try to bear in our hearts the whole world—the heathen, the Body of Jesus Christ, the country in which we live, the congregation to which we belong, the family and home in which we live, and the friends and relations we are connected with. For each and all of these we should plead. It enlarges our sympathies and expands our hearts. This is for the

benefit of the Church and for extending the Gospel. This is to be like Christ.

I know well that asking God is one thing, and praising God is another. But I see so close a connection between prayer and praise in the Bible, that I dare not call that true prayer in which thankfulness has no part. It is not for nothing that Paul says, "By prayer

and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God" (Philippians 4:6). And then in Colossians 4:2, "Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful."

It is of mercy that we are not in hell. It is of mercy that we have the hope of Heaven. It is of mercy that we live in a land with spiritual light. It is of mercy that we have been called by the Spirit, and not left to reap the fruit of our own ways. It is of mercy that we still live and have opportunities of glorifying God.

Surely these thoughts should come to mind whenever we speak with God. Surely we should never open our lips in prayer without blessing God for that free grace by which we live, and for that lovingkindness which endures forever.

Oh, if we should be bright and shining lights in our day, we must cherish a spirit of praise. And let our prayers be thankful prayers.

"Let us never forget what a solemn thing it is to speak with God."



The Kawasaki Mule – A Vital Tool for Travel on the Island of La Gonave, Haiti

By Don De Troye

On November 30, I had the privilege to return to Haiti to repair a broken down four wheel mule. Ben uses the Kawasaki Mule to travel up to minister in three churches on the island over very rocky and rough terrain. I knew this was going to be a challenge to try to diagnose what the problems really were by having Ben explain the symptoms through emails. He was experiencing trouble with his steering, handling, and very rough suspension. Through many prayers of trying to find a Kawasaki Mule expert, God opened the door to a very gracious gentleman named Bart from Irving, Texas who I found on the internet.

Bart has been dealing and fixing Mules for over twenty years. He gave me his opinion on what usually fails on the Mules, and he was even gracious enough to sell us the parts for \$20.00 over his cost. He also gave me a list of special tools that I needed to do the repairs which was crucial, because there are no part stores on the island. The parts needed to do the repairs were a steering rack assembly, front drive shaft, and front struts. I was able to pack all of the parts with the exception of the steering rack assembly which was sent through MFI and flown to Port auPrince.

I also had to pack some of the specialized tools, which added to the weight of my luggage.

The trip to Haiti started at 2:30a.m. when I left for the airport and left Milwaukee at 5:15a.m. After making two connecting flights, I arrived in Haiti at 3:40p.m. in the afternoon. The drive to Kaliko with Ben was delayed as we met up with demonstrations going on with groups of Haitians blocking the roads. We waited patiently for about two hours until the riot police came and cleared the roads. It was good to see the Hopp family and have a nice home cooked dinner waiting for us when we arrived.

The next morning it was very windy and stormy out, so Ben went to the dock where we would catch the ferry to go across to the island of La Gonave. The only problem was that the ferry never left the island to come back to the mainland because the seas were too rough. There was one eighteen foot flyboat, with two outboard engines on it, that was contemplating on making the trip. After waiting a few hours, they decided to make the thirteen mile

trip across to the island with this small boat in seven foot seas, and we decided to join them with all our parts and gear. Because we boarded last, we got to sit in the front of the boat right at the bow. I could tell when we started out that we would not need showers that night because we would get soaked by the waves that we fought for over two hours. We arrived safely and were soaked along with our gear but thankfully it was around 90 degrees and dried quickly.

On the island, we stayed in the guesthouse for the next two nights, living with a small generator that gave us lights, fans, and water. During the day, we drove the mule to the WISH compound on the island. They opened up one of their buildings and tools for us to work on the mule. The WISH compound trains the Haitian people on how to plant crops through their school that they built, along with many other effective trades for the people to learn. They have a very nice facility. They work on large equipment such as tractors and diggers that they use to install water lines throughout the small town. They had a chain hoist that we could raise the front end on the mule to disassemble the steering components. It took two days to make all the repairs to the mule. At night we had time to help the WISH people at their ice making plant. We helped get their chiller system going which provides the people with cold drinking water. As we rode around the small town of Anse-a-Galets on motorcycle taxis, it was again evident of the sheer poverty and desperation of the Haitian people who need a Savior. Tears came to my eyes as I saw a country trying to survive day after day and a woman wailing because of a death of a family member the night before. It is so encouraging to see Ben and other pastors sacrificing their lives to try reach the lost in Haiti. God is blessing the work there, and the churches are growing.

The trip back to the mainland was a lot better since we were able to take the ferry back. I spent the next two days at the Hopps making home repairs and getting a materials list ready for the next trip. It was such a blessing spending time again at the Hopps and seeing their children grow in their faith. They are wonderful hosts and the fellowship with them is precious and such a blessing for me.

Thank you so much for your prayers for me

The Kawasaki Mule Concluded...

as I prepared, traveled, and was able to repair the mule for the mission work in Haiti. God was again so faithful as our travels went well, and He protected us throughout travels in Haiti. I also want to thank my wife who always encourages me to do these trips that I love. Please continue to pray for the Hopp family as they prepare to leave Haiti on March 6 for

a year-long furlough in the states. Please also pray for Jim Smies and I as we prepare for our next trip to Haiti on January 24. We are going to add two more solar collectors to Ben's existing system. We also need to do a lot of electrical/maintenance projects to get the house ready for when they leave on furlough. Thanks again.



Stamps for Missions

Grace Church is again accepting stamps throughout 2016 as we have done in years past. The proceeds from these stamps are used to help cover costs of publishing literature for our foreign missionaries. The collection containers are on the desk under the mission board. Ellen McNeese collects the stamps throughout the year from the containers and sends them to the Foreign Missions Committee. Funds received from the 2015 sale of stamps and postcards were designated for Karimojong literature and publishing in Uganda.

What to Collect:

All Foreign Stamps, on or off paper (separated; on paper preferred)

U.S. Commemoratives and large-sized stamps

All air mail stamps and special rate stamps (\$0.61; \$2.00; \$4.85; \$5.60; \$18.95, etc.)

Picture postcards, new or used

Instructions:

DO NOT remove **U.S. STAMPS** with denominations of 41 cents or higher from paper

Remove **U.S. STAMPS** (Commemoratives of 39 cents or less) from paper if possible

Do not try to remove stamps from red, green, or other dark-colored paper (the color runs)

Non-adhesive Stamps: Soak in cool water until loose --- Do not pull off

Adhesive Stamps: Soak in warm to hot water until loose --- Do not pull off

Place face down on sheet of newspaper and dry completely

Place in old phone book or catalog for several days to flatten

If leaving U.S. Stamps on paper, trim --- tearing can damage the stamp --- 3/8" border (no larger) around all sides. (Do not trim too close to edges of stamps.)

Save **FOREIGN STAMPS ON PAPER**, trimmed with 3/8" border around all sides

(They bring approximately four times more than foreign stamps off paper.)

We can use any OFF paper as well

DO NOT SAVE:

Small-sized U.S. stamps, if 50 cents or less in value

Small-size "Forever" stamps

Creased, torn, or heavily canceled stamps

Thank you for being part of this effective effort in raising money to benefit our missionaries.

The Missions Committee of Grace Church

Ask the Pastor

By Pastor Brian De Jong

Recently I made a comment in a sermon illustration that provoked several questions. I thought it would be good to explain what I meant when I said that it was my personal opinion that “the South was right.” Let me do so by way of Q&A.

“Pastor, did you mean that the South was right about slavery?” Answer: Absolutely not! Slavery as practiced in the southern states was a wicked institution that needed to end. Although Southern Presbyterian theologian R.L. Dabney tried to defend southern slavery as a Biblically justified institution, his arguments are unconvincing and wrong-headed. Not only were Africans illegally kidnapped and put into slavery, King James II of England sold Scottish Presbyterians into slavery in the colonies. There is no reasonable defense of slavery as practiced in America, either in the northern or southern states.

“But wasn’t the Civil War all about slavery?” No, not really. From the very beginning of the war, the north had other motives than ending slavery. Slavery was one among many controversial issues of that time, and did not become the primary issue until well into the war. (Even *PBS* admits this!) Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation was designed and timed to discourage European countries from giving much needed diplomatic recognition and military assistance to the Confederate States. If you do your research and read about Abraham Lincoln’s ideas on slavery, you’ll find that he was no great friend of the African Americans. He favored deporting blacks to the West African country of Liberia, which was set up for that purpose. Especially from the Southern perspective, the war was more about the rights of the states than about protecting the institution of slavery.

“I’ve never heard this before. How can that be?” The victors always have the prerogative of writing the history of a conflict. The perspective that is commonly taught and promoted in our country is a pro-northern perspective that ignores the southern perspective almost entirely. Among other things, the American public school system has promoted a purely northern interpretation of the war. Digging deeper into serious historians of the era will reveal a much more complex conflict involving many significant political and social issues.

“What are ‘States’ Rights?” This is the idea

that the individual states comprising the union have integrity and a measure of sovereignty about how their state is governed. While some powers are given to the federal government, others are reserved to the states. This issue has been recognized recently when the Obamacare legislation tried to coerce the states to open “health-care exchanges” on the internet. A number of the states, including Wisconsin, chose to not open its own health-care exchange. They did not want to be financially responsible for creating and maintaining a system that seemed suspect at best. In choosing to not open an exchange, they were exercising their state’s rights. Similar discussions have also recently taken place about various states accepting or refusing Syrian refugees. The question is simple: does the individual state have the right to say “No” to the federal government? The southerners argued that they had that right, and could exercise it.

“How did ‘States’ Rights’ influence the Civil War?” As the southern states became more uneasy with the direction of Abraham Lincoln’s administration, they began debating the wisdom of seceding from the Union. They had voluntarily entered the union, and they had a recognized constitutional right to secede from the Union. Not everyone within the South was in favor of secession, including some prominent military leaders. Yet when the majority voted in favor of leaving the Union, those individual states were simply exercising their constitutional rights. After Lincoln raised an army and actually invaded the South, the southerners believed that their rights were being violated and that they were being coerced by the federal government to remain in the Union against their will. That is why they referred to it as our Second American War of Independence. This is where I believe the South was profoundly correct – that in a voluntary Union, those parties that willingly choose to join the Union may also willingly choose to leave. If they decide to leave, they are exercising their own sovereign rights. For the remaining majority to seek to coerce them to remain against their will is wrong and evil. That verges on tyranny and is against the basic American understanding of freedom. Though the circumstances were quite different, the basic impulse was the same in 1776 when we made our declaration of inde-

Ask the Pastor Continued...

pendence from Great Britain. As the British sent troops to coerce the colonies to stay a part of the empire, the Americans resisted and fought for liberty. Southerners felt they were doing essentially the same thing by fighting for their liberty to leave the Union. This freedom of conscience and association is rooted in the Scriptures. When Jesus was on earth, some people voluntarily chose to become his disciples. When they later found his teaching “too hard,” many of them departed. (John 6:66ff) Jesus did not run after them and try to force them to remain his disciples. He allowed them to leave, knowing that they did not truly believe in him. We do the same with church membership today. If someone wants to voluntarily join our church, we welcome them. If they decide to leave and go to some other church, we do not coerce them to remain part of our congregation. We are to graciously let them go, since they have the right to leave. This is even true in marriage. For as Paul counsels the Corinthians in I Corinthians 7, if an unbelieving spouse decides to leave the marriage, the believer is to let them go and not try to force them to stay in the marriage. Voluntary unions are just that – voluntary, not coercive.

“Why is this a big deal?” Although a big and centralized federal government did not begin with Abraham Lincoln’s administration, it was certainly helped along by the Lincoln years. The struggle over control during the Civil War boiled down to a centralized and coercive federal government (the North under Lincoln) versus a decentralized confederation of voluntary states (the South during the CSA). What came out of the War years was the consolidation of power in the hands of the federal government in Washington DC, and the trampling of individual states and their rights. Those changes put us on a trajectory that only increased during the Depression and the Second World War under the FDR administrations. Now we live in a country defined almost exclusively by the Federal Government in Washington, and the Federal Court System. We still have states, but they are a very distant second to the power of the Federal Government.

“So why do you seem to love Stonewall Jackson and Robert E. Lee so much?” Both Lee and Jackson were deeply Christian men whose excellent

characters are worthy of admiration and respect. Jackson is my favorite for a number of reasons. When he became a Christian, he began researching different Christian denominations. He even had conversations with a Roman Catholic bishop in an attempt to understand Catholicism. After much research, he came to the conviction that Presbyterianism was the closest church to what is taught in the Bible. He became involved and remained firmly Presbyterian until his death in 1863. He was elected and served as a deacon in the Presbyterian Church in Lexington, Virginia. Despite heavy resistance from the community, he established a Sunday School program for African American slaves in Lexington. He delighted in teaching the slaves to read the Bible, and in explaining the meaning of the Bible. Although there were laws against this activity, Jackson chose to obey God rather than man. He financially supported this work even when he was away from Lexington during the war. One of his passions during the war years was the promotion of Christianity throughout the Southern Army. He personally recruited chaplains to work among the troops, and he used his influence to arrange for prominent preachers to conduct worship services for his men. He was instrumental in a sizeable spiritual revival that swept through the Southern Army, especially in the winter/spring of 1863. Jackson believed that the Christian ministry was a most noble calling. Although he was not personally gifted to preach to groups of people, he said would have enjoyed being a missionary in a foreign country.

“What about the Confederate Flag?” This symbol means different things to different people. For many today, it is a symbol of racial bigotry, slavery and hatred. For people in the South, it has historically been a symbol of their long-lost Christian heritage. I think it is always a bit disingenuous to suggest that because a symbol means one thing to one person, that it must mean the same thing to everyone. For those who see it as a symbol of racial hatred want to project that same attitude onto Southerners. That is inaccurate and unfair.

“Last question – was the South right in every respect?” Answer: No! The South had its share of

Continued on page 8

2016 Short-Term Missions

It's not too early to start thinking about your short-term missions plans for the summer of 2016!

In 2016, the OPC's Boardwalk Chapel will embark on its 72nd consecutive summer of ministry in Wildwood, New Jersey. Early in the new year, the Chapel will start accepting applications for those who wish to serve as Volunteer Staff members for the 12-week summer season.

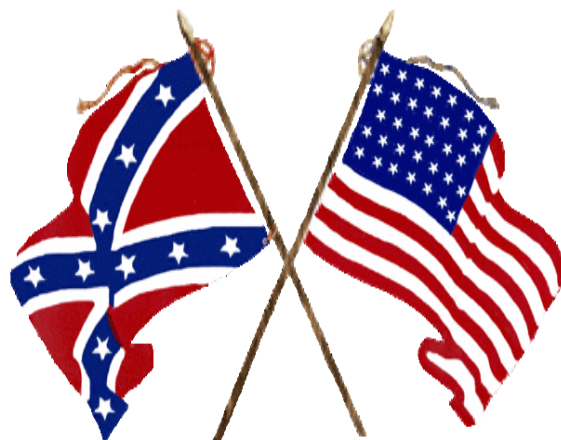
And, church groups can apply to serve as Ministry Teams for one-week periods.

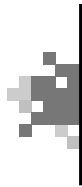
"Those who have participated in the Chapel's ministry in the past will most likely acknowledge that sharing their faith "on the boards" with total strangers proved to be a particularly frightening, yet incredibly rewarding, experience. As the chapel's website indicates, being a volunteer on the staff of the Boardwalk Chapel may be one of the most difficult jobs you'll ever have. But most staff testify that their summer spent at the Chapel was one of their best ever!"

-David Nakhla, OPC Short-Term Missions Coordinator

Ask the Pastor Concluded...

sinners and its host of shortcomings. Appreciating the good qualities of persons, movements or periods of history does not mean that we approve of absolutely everything that went on. The war itself was a vicious and deadly period that led to the slaughter of tens of thousands of men. There is simply no way to white-wash the war and say that it was "all good." Would that it had never happened – so much death and destruction visited upon our country by countrymen on both sides of the conflict!





January Birthdays



Wedding Anniversaries





Grace OPC

January 2016

Showing forth the excellencies of Jesus Christ



Church Office:
4930 Green Valley Ln
Sheboygan, WI 53083

Phone: 920-565-2160
Website:
graceopcsheboygan.com
Email:
graceopc@tds.net
revbriandjong@gmail.com

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13 Prayer Meeting, 7:00 PM	14	15	16
17 Fellowship Lunch	18	19	20 Prayer Meeting 7:00 PM	21	22	23
24	25	26	27 Prayer Meeting 7:00 PM	28	29	30
31						



Presbytery of the Midwest Men's Retreat

The fourth annual Presbytery of the Midwest Men's Retreat will be held on February 19-2016 at the Green Lake Conference Center in Green Lake, WI.

The speaker this year is Rev. Jim Hoekstra. Jim is a graduate of Westminster Seminary and has pastored OPC churches in Ocala, FL; Oostburg, WI; Pflugerville, TX; Menomonee Falls, WI; and St. Paul, MN. He has been directly involved in the planting of three churches and is currently organizing pastor of Immanuel Church (OPC) in Andover, MN.

The theme this year is The Fear of the Lord: A Foundation of Christian Living. There will be small group discussion times involving questions derived from the messages. Open time in the afternoon will allow for quiet reflection, fellowship, and recreational activities.

The retreat is open to all men 16 years and older. Registration and payment can be done online at applevalleypres.org. The cost

is \$75 for a double room and \$120 for a single room.

If you are unable to pay online, send a check payable to:

Apple Valley Presbyterian Church
Presbytery of the Midwest Men's Retreat
1750 Olde Buggy Drive
Neenah, WI 54956

Include your name, email address, name and location of the church attend, and desired roommate.

The deadline to sign up for the retreat is January 26, 2016, or until all space at the retreat is filled.



Comments on Finance

by Joel Moody

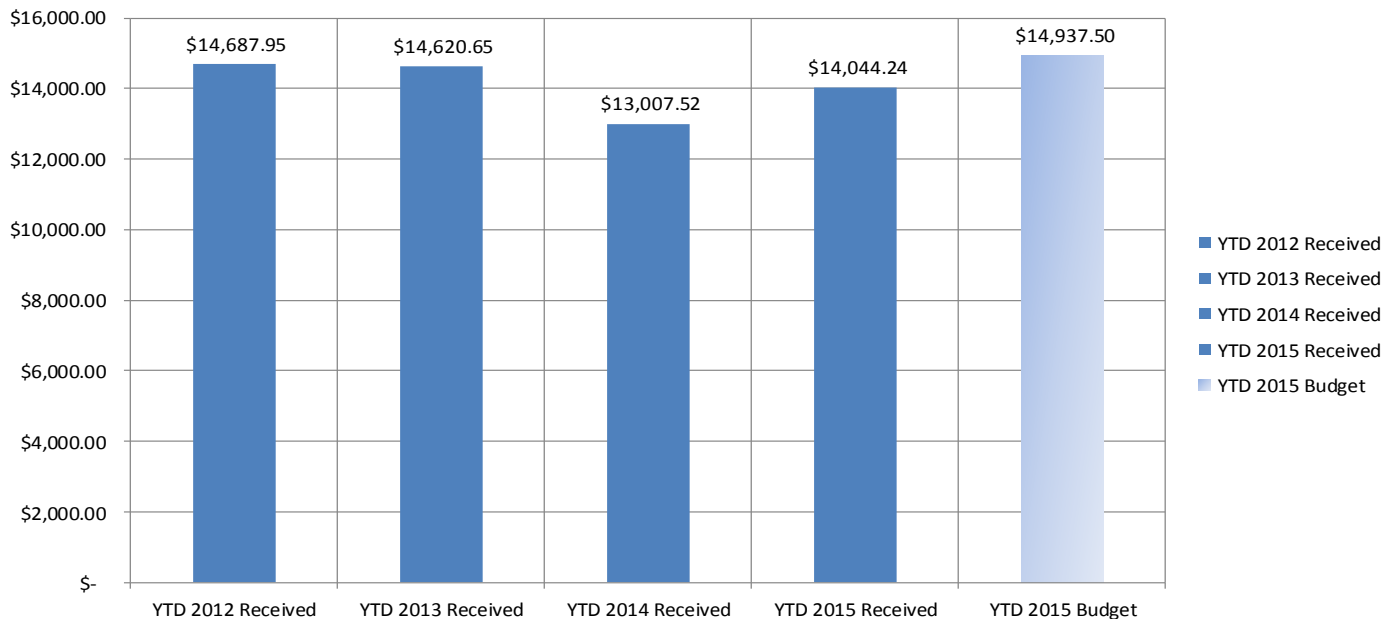
General Fund receipts for October totaled \$10,497.28 as compared to the budget of \$12,927.38, while General Fund disbursements for October totaled \$13,920.83. October year to date General Fund receipts totaled \$125,172.31 as compared to the budget of \$138,969.38 (a shortfall of \$13,797.07), while October year to date disbursements of \$131,328.68 were \$7,640.70 below budget. Through the end of October, the General Fund has decreased by \$6,073.28. Year to date General Fund receipts for October were 2.9% below last year's total on an average Sunday while disbursements were 0.4% above the prior year.

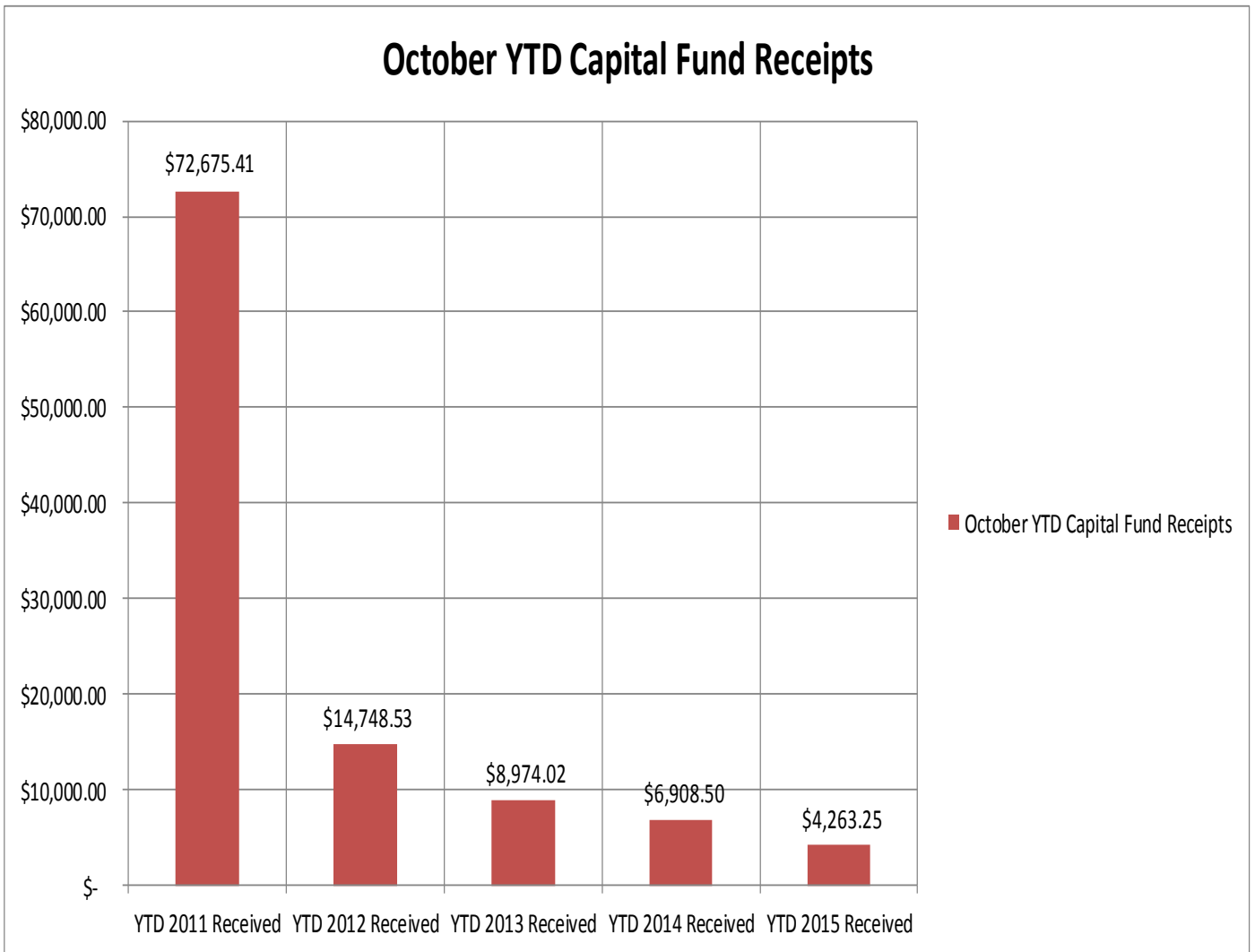
Benevolence Fund receipts for October totaled \$1,055.00 as compared to the budget of \$1,493.75 (a shortfall of \$438.75). Year to date Benevolence Fund receipts through October totaled \$14,044.24 and were below budget by \$893.26. Please refer to the graph for a historical trend of benevolence receipts 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).

In addition, \$900.00 was directed to the support of Sheboygan County Christian High School, \$600.00 to Pine Haven, and \$450.00 to Grace OPC families with Christian education schooling expenses.

October Year to Date giving for the **Capital Fund** was \$4,263.25. 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.). During October, \$965.50 was disbursed for the purchase of hearing assist devices for use within Grace Church. 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.

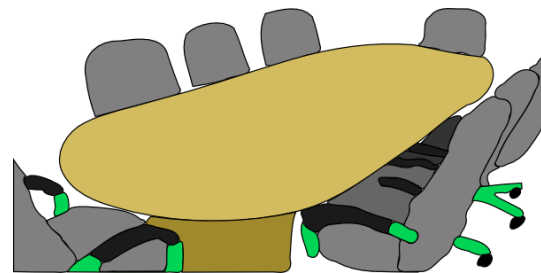
October YTD Benevolence Receipts Actual vs. Current Budget





Annual Meetings

The annual congregational and corporation meetings are scheduled for Wednesday, January 20th at 7:00 pm. The “weather date” is the 27th. The Session has certified the following men for election: Elder– Jim Onnink; Deacon– Steve Boss; Trustees– Josh Arndt, Jonny Arndt, James Bingham, Joe Mamazza, Carl Nyhof, Jared Oliver, Jason Will.





Showing forth the
excellencies of Jesus
Christ

Grace OPC

Church Office:
4930 Green Valley Ln
Sheboygan, WI 53083

Phone: 920-565-2160
Website: graceopcsheboygan.com
Email:
graceopc@tds.net
revbriandejong@gmail.com

CHECK OUT THE AUDIO:

**SERMONAUDIO.COM/
GRACESHEBOYGAN**

CHECK OUT THE WEBSITE:

GRACEOPCSHEBOYGAN.COM



Spurgeon

Corner

*“I will give thee for a covenant
of the people.”
(Isaiah 49:8)*

Jesus Christ is himself the sum and substance of the covenant, and as one of its gifts. He is the property of every believer. Believer, canst thou estimate what thou hast gotten in Christ? “In him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.” Consider that word “God” and its infinity, and then meditate upon “perfect man” and all his beauty; for all that Christ, as God and man, ever had, or can have, is thine—out of pure free favour, passed over to thee to be thine entailed property forever. Our blessed Jesus, as God, is omniscient, omnipresent, omnipotent. Will it not console you to know that all these great and glorious attributes are altogether yours? Has he power? That power is yours to support and strengthen you, to overcome your enemies, and to preserve you even to the end. Has he love? Well, there is not a drop of love in his heart which is not yours; you may dive into the immense ocean of his love, and you may say of it all, “It is mine.” Hath he justice? It may seem a stern attribute, but even that is yours, for he will by his justice see to it that all which is promised to you in the covenant of grace shall be most certainly secured to you. And all that he has as *perfect man* is yours. As a perfect man the Father’s delight was upon him. He stood accepted by the Most High. O believer, God’s acceptance of Christ is thine acceptance; for knowest thou not that the love which the Father set on a perfect Christ, he sets on thee *now*? For all that Christ did is thine. That perfect righteousness which Jesus wrought out, when through his stainless life he kept the law and made it honourable, is thine, and is imputed to thee. Christ is in the covenant.

“My God, I am thine—what a comfort divine!

What a blessing to know that the Saviour is mine!

In the heavenly Lamb thrice happy I am,

And my heart it doth dance at the sound of his name.”

Morning, January 3rd, by C. H. Spurgeon

Fellowship Lunch

We will have a soup and salad fellowship lunch on Sunday, January 17th. A sign up sheet is on the bulletin board. Please sign up for either salad or dessert. All are welcome!

