



REFLECTIONS

Grace OPC

What's Going On???

By Pastor Brian De Jong

Every now and then, it is good to be reminded what we're doing, and why we're doing it. That way, we don't lose sight of the road ahead and become disoriented. Neither do we forget the rationale for the choices we've made. Knowing why we do what we do enables us to do those good things more purposefully and effectively.

To that end, I'm going to use my front page article over the coming issues of Reflections to remind

us what we're doing, and why we're doing it. I want to begin with a reminder about worship. What are we doing in worship, and why are we doing it?

While it is true that all of life is worship for the Christian, not all of life is a worship service. On the Lord's Day, the Session of Grace Church exercises its spiritual authority to call the congregation together for worship services. This is an official meeting of the congregation for the purpose of praising our great God in heaven. The Session urges our members not to neglect the gathering of the saints, as is the habit of some.

As we enter into the worship service, the Session establishes an atmosphere of sobriety and orderliness. Knowing that our God is not a God of disorder, but of peace, we craft our worship services to be appropriate to His character and attributes. We follow the words of Hebrews 12:28 *Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable*

service with reverence and awe;

Out worship service is founded upon God's word, and revolves around the reading, hearing, singing, and preaching of the



Scriptures. The Bible very much shapes our services, from the call to worship, to the responsive reading, the call to confession and reading of the law, etc.

The reading and preaching of Scripture is the pinnacle of the service, wherein the

authoritative word of God is proclaimed, expounded and applied to God's people. This informs what we are to believe concerning God, as well as the duties God requires of men.

Sermons are not meant to be popular entertainment. Though not entirely devoid of humor, a sermon is not like a stand-up comedy act full of jokes to make the congregation chuckle. Neither should a sermon be an endless string of personal anecdotes and stories. The task of the preacher is to open the Scripture, declare what the Word says, what it means, and how that applies to the hearers.

Singing with grace in the heart is another important feature of our worship. We lift our voices and sing to the Lord of heaven. We sing the truth of the Psalms, and the sound theology of good hymns and songs.

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Volume 14, Issue 6

June 2019

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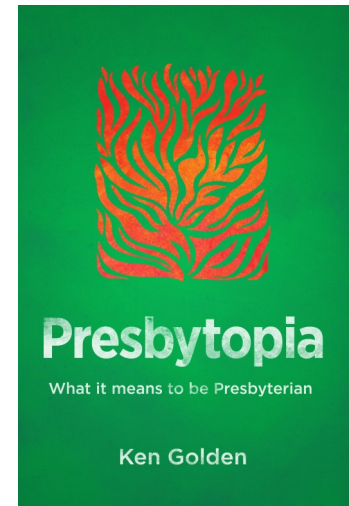
Mnemonics...

- *General Assembly, June 5th-11th*
- *Session Meeting, June 25th*

Presbytopia: What it Means to be Presbyterian

By Ken Golden

Book Review by Carla DeMaster



This concise handbook explains in understandable language, what Presbyterianism is all about. It would be a good book to give to visitors who want to know what our church teaches. It has been used in membership classes in churches and greatly appreciated. Ken has a way of explaining without many words.

Some comments made on the back cover are: “a clear and readable introduction to Reformed theology.” (Scott Oliphint) “a magnificent resource.” (David Van Drunnen) “ Accessible, engaging, and above all, faithful to Scripture.” (Michael Horton).

Ken Golden is the pastor of Sovereign Grace Orthodox Presbyterian Church in Davenport, Iowa. He was a summer intern in our church and blessed us with his teaching, preaching, and leading in VBS. He and his wife, Cressid, have four children: Joseph, Samuel, Aaron, and Maela.

Chapters in the book include:

Christian Essentials: Bible, God, Man, Sin, Christ, Spirit

Reformed Distinctives: TULIP, Government, Worship

Means of Grace: Preaching and the Sacraments, Baptism, Lord’s Supper, Prayer

The clear explanation about these topics was refreshing. Please consider having a copy of your own.

Meat, Meat & More Meat

The third annual Grace Church men's fellowship lunch is fast approaching. On Sunday, July 7, we will have a protein laden extravaganza, cooked and served by the men of our congregation. More details to follow.



We have to be a church that is, in some ways, repulsive to the world because of our authentic holiness and yet very attractive to the world because of our love and care.

-Erwin Lutzer

Anchor of Hope Pregnancy Center Update



Anchor of Hope continues to serve Sheboygan County and the surrounding community with a number of much-needed services. During the first quarter of 2019, over 80 clients walked through our doors seeking one or more of the services provided by the Center. Here is a listing of some of services requested:

Pregnancy Tests	34
Ultrasounds	29
Clients Seeking STD Testing	30
EWYL Classes	84
Boutique Items Given	60

IMPACT

We are about people – NOT numbers. Furthermore, we are constantly reminded that **THE BATTLE WE FIGHT IS A SPIRITUAL BATTLE - WON ONLY THROUGH PRAYER**. It is God, through prayer, who truly has the power to save and change lives. This is the story of Sara (not her real name).

On Thursday, May 9, a request was sent out to our **Prayer Team** requesting prayer for a client who recently had an ultrasound at Anchor of Hope. The request stated:

"Please continue to pray for a client who is still planning to go to a Milwaukee clinic on Monday, even after seeing her 10-week baby. She has a loving friend who is speaking truth and hope to her and she finds strength and hope during her appointments at Anchor of Hope. She also feels raising two kids under 2 is impossible for her as a single mom."

God heard the prayers of His people and He met Sara in her time of need. On Monday, when a nurse called to check in on Sara, she told the nurse that she did NOT go to the abortion clinic in Milwaukee. Sara said,

"I know babies are a blessing. It will be hard but I can do it with help."

In the phone call, Sara was cheerful and expectant. She plans to start parenting classes and she has requested to have her medical records forwarded to an OBGYN in Sheboygan. **GOD ANSWERED!** As you think about clients at Anchor of Hope, we encourage you consider being a part of our prayer team. To sign up, email hope@anchorofhopewi.org and put PRAYER in the subject line

Continued on next page...

Abortion Pill Rescue/Reversal

Did you know that for over 10 years, **pro-love** doctors across the nation have been successfully reversing hundreds of medical abortions? Anchor of Hope is excited to be in the final stages of preparation to begin offering the life-saving services called, [Abortion Pill Reversal/Rescue \(APR\)](#), at their Sheboygan facility. In a medical abortion, a woman is usually given two different medications. The first set of pills in a chemical abortion is called mifepristone, and it is usually taken in the abortion clinic. This medication interferes with the progesterone receptors needed to sustain a pregnancy and causes the baby to die. The woman is sent home with a second set of pills called misopristol to be taken 24-48 hours later to induce labor and expel the pregnancy.

Dr George Delgado has studied and documented the effects of giving high doses of progesterone to women who have taken the first set of pills. As a result, the lives of many babies (over 500) have been saved from abortion.

Women who have regrets after the first dose of pills can seek medical attention at Anchor of Hope, where we will be able to provide the necessary ultrasound and progesterone to attempt to reverse or override the effects of mifepristone. Please pray for the medical team as we implement this life-saving effort and trust God for more medical providers to receive these vulnerable women into OB care.



Men's Mentoring



Did you know that for several months Anchor of Hope has utilized male advocates to mentor men and help with parenting classes? Watching the power and connection of male advocates connecting with male clients and their partners has been amazing. Our goal is to increase the presence and involvement of men at the Center in an effort to help restore men as leaders in their families and influence a father's voice in pregnancy and parenting decisions.



Anchor of Hope receives

Alliant Energy Foundation Grant

Anchor of Hope has been awarded the 2019 Alliant Energy Foundation Community Grant. This grant was written to support the Center's parenting classes, called *Earn While You Learn*. Specifically, grant funds will help provide resources and materials for **NEW online parenting classes**.

Anchor of Hope is excited to offer online parenting classes, allowing clients flexibility and access to more up-to-date curriculum. These expanded services will help bridge transportation and time-barrier gaps, allowing clients easy access to classes.

Thank you Alliant Energy Foundation for giving back to our community and THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING ANCHOR OF HOPE HEALTH CENTER!



Introducing “Tithely”



A number of months ago, your Session began discussing the topic of electronic giving. We are aware that our society functions more and more on credit and debit cards, and less and less on cash and checks. These changes in financial practices are happening all around us, and tend to impact younger people more so than older folks.

The specific methods for how people carry out financial transactions is not a matter of righteousness in our eyes. You do not sin if you use a debit card to pay for your groceries or your gasoline. Neither are you more holy if you choose to pay for your purchases with cash or checks. Methods of financial transactions are “adiaphora” – something spiritually neutral, which is neither explicitly condemned nor approved by God in Scripture.

As your Session investigated this matter, we found that a significant number of our younger members expressed a preference for giving electronically. That can be done through electronic transfers offered through local banks, or though an internet based service.

From talking with other OPC pastors, we came across a service called Tithely. They offer an app which is available on either Apple or Android phones. Through this app, electronic giving can be directed to the church of your choosing. The user sets up an account through the app, which draws funds from your bank or credit card. Those funds are then sent to the church of your choice.

After significant discussion, the Session determined to establish an account with Tithely for Grace Church. We are listed under Grace Orthodox Presbyterian Church in Sheboygan, WI. If you go to Tithely, you can search for us from the home screen in order to give funds.

The “cost” of using Tithely is paid by the donor, rather than by the church. There is roughly a 3% charge, plus 30 cents per transaction. That fee helps Tithely provide the service to its users.

So if someone wished to give \$100 to Grace Church, and decided to use the Tithely app, then they would enter \$100 into the app, and about \$96.70 would be routed to the Grace Church account. If they member wished Grace Church to receive the full \$100, they would need to enter \$103.30 into the app. Then Grace Church would get \$100. (An obvious way to avoid paying the 3% fee is to use cash, check or an EFT from your bank.)

As your Session discussed this matter, we wanted to remind the congregation that giving is a part of worship. The offering of your tithes to the Lord is an act of reverence and obedience to Him. That is why we take an offering during our worship services, and we pray before we pass the collection plates.

One possible danger of using a mobile device for your giving is that it divorces the giving from the act of worship. For that reason, we would think it is appropriate for you to make your electronic donation on your phone while the collection plate is being passed, in order to retain that connection to worship.

Deacon Jonny Arndt has been helping the Session on the details of this matter. Speak to him if you have specific questions about the logistics of digital giving.

Presbyterial: October 5, in Bethel Church, Oostburg!

Explanation of S.H.A.R.E.S.

Ladies new to attending Women's Presbyterial may not know that we take up an offering. Also, there are ladies at each of our churches who want to be involved but cannot attend for one reason or another. Since we want to be sure we come prepared and are generous in our offerings, we are going back to an idea that was used many years ago. The ladies used to make collection banks from any covered household item and save their loose change throughout the year. That way, the money would already be saved up to bring to Women's Presbyterial the next year. They called the banks their S.H.A.R.E.S. meaning Sharing Harvest as Responsible Entrusted Servants. You can make a S.H.A.R.E.S. bank from many different household items. See the picture for ideas of what others have done. Agree with the other ladies of your church on somewhere to put it at church that is convenient for all your ladies. Then, bring it back next year filled with your offerings. Westminster OPC in Indian Head Park made ours personalized by adding pictures of two of our mothers in the faith—Ruth Lakey and Betty Mikes. They were always the stalwart ladies of our church—teaching, welcoming, leading—and now they are both gone. Their service to our church inspires all of us to give and serve like they did.



Please look for the SHARES jar in the kitchen. Deposit your gifts here or make your own jar for the October 5 meeting with your gift for missions.

June Birthdays

Anna TenPas 1st
Olivia Boss 3th
Charlotte Arndt 4th
Cameron De Jong 8th
Jonah Mamazza 8th
Lynn Jensema 14th
Harlan Harmelink 15th
Sandy Kaeiser 19th



Josephine Will 21st-
Griffin Froh 22nd
Leila Ver Velde 22nd

June Anniversaries

Bob & Debbie Boss
~June 12th, 43 years~

Dan & Sara TenPas
~June 18th, 25 years~

Mark & Stephanie Friberg
~June 14th~

Howard & Audrey Voskuil
~June 22nd, 57 years~





Showing forth the excellencies of Jesus Christ

Grace OPC

June 2019



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5 General Assembly	6 General Assembly	7 General Assembly	8 General Assembly
9 General Assembly	10 General Assembly	11 General Assembly	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25 Session Meeting	26	27	28	29
30						

Church Office:
4930 Green Valley Ln
Sheboygan, WI 53083

Phone: 920-565-2160
Website:
graceopc/sheboygan.com
Email:
graceopc@ids.net
revbriandejong@gmail.com

Pineapple-Chicken Stir-Fry



Ingredients:

- 1 medium red onion, halved lengthwise and sliced
- 2 teaspoons vegetable oil
- 3/4 cup thin, bite-size strips zucchini
- 3/4 cup trimmed fresh pea pods, tips and strings removed
- 2 teaspoons vegetable oil
- 2 skinless, boneless chicken breast halves (12 ounces total), cut into thin bite-size strips
- 1 cup fresh pineapple cubes
- 3 tablespoons bottled stir-fry sauce
- Brown rice (optional)
- Fresh pineapple wedges (optional)

Instructions:

- In a wok or large skillet, heat 2 teaspoons of the oil over medium-high heat. Stir-fry red onion in hot oil for 2 minutes. Add zucchini and pea pods. Stir-fry for 2 minutes more. Remove mixture from wok.
- Add the remaining 2 teaspoons oil to hot wok. Add chicken. Stir-fry for 2 to 3 minutes or until chicken is tender and no longer pink. Return onion mixture to wok. Add pineapple and stir-fry sauce. Cook and stir about 1 minute or until heated through. If desired, serve over brown rice with fresh pineapple wedge

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



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

Spurgeon

Corner

“Good Master.”

Matthew 19:16

If the young man in the gospel used this title in speaking to our Lord, how much more fitly may I thus address him! He is indeed my Master in both senses, a ruling Master and a teaching Master. I delight to run upon his errands, and to sit at his feet. I am both his servant and his disciple, and count it my highest honour to own the double character. If he should ask me why I call him “good,” I should have a ready answer. It is true that “there is none good but one, that is, God,” but then he is God, and all the goodness of Deity shines forth in him. In my experience, I have found him good, so good, indeed, that all the good I have has come to me through him. He was good to me when I was dead in sin, for he raised me by his Spirit’s power; he has been good to me in all my needs, trials, struggles, and sorrows. Never could there be a better Master, for his service is freedom, his rule is love: I wish I were one thousandth part as good a servant. When he teaches me as my Rabbi, he is unspeakably good, his doctrine is divine, his manner is condescending, his spirit is gentleness itself. No error mingles with his instruction—pure is the golden truth which he brings forth, and all his teachings lead to goodness, sanctifying as well as edifying the disciple. Angels find him a good Master and delight to pay their homage at his footstool. The ancient saints proved him to be a good Master, and each of them rejoiced to sing, “I am thy servant, O Lord!” My own humble testimony must certainly be to the same effect. I will bear this witness before my friends and neighbours, for possibly they may be led by my testimony to seek my Lord Jesus as their Master. O that they would do so! They would never repent so wise a deed. If they would but take his easy yoke, they would find themselves in so royal a service that they would enlist in it forever.

Evening, June 2nd, C.H. Spurgeon

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GRACESHEBOYGAN

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Front Page Concluded...

Yet another important element of true worship is prayer – joint, corporate prayer from the congregation to the throne of grace.

Other elements include the giving of tithes and offerings, and the periodic celebration of the sacraments of Baptism and the Lord’s Supper.

In carrying out worship in this fashion, we desire to meet with God and to draw near to Him. We want to sit at Jesus’ feet and learn from our Master. And chiefly, we want to glorify and enjoy our Triune God. If the chief end of man is to glorify and enjoy God forever, then that must be our chief end in worship – the glory and honor of the great God of heaven.

That’s what we’re doing, and why we’re doing it. Stay tuned for next month’s installment...

