

# REFLECTIONS

Grace OPC

## KEEPING OUR BEARINGS

*By Pastor Brian De Jong*

A small child sits in the shopping cart, shrieking at his mother. “But Mommy, I want CANDY!” When Mom ignores the request, and stays focused on the prices of various canned vegetables, the child increases the volume. “**MOMMY, GIVE ME CANDY!!!**” Still the mother refuses to yield, so now the child takes the nuclear option. Struggling against the child restraint belt, the spoiled brat tries to physically climb out of the cart so he can make his way down to the candy aisle to get what he wants.

What should the mother do? Should she concede, and give the child candy? It would stop the child from disrupting the peace and quiet of the store. It would lessen embarrassment. The temptation is strong, but the child cannot be allowed to win. Mom straightens up and looks at her pathetic offspring. With firm and stern tones, she says, “No! No candy!” Mom wins! Society wins! Everyone is happy – even the squalling child eventually admits the wisdom of his mother.

What is the point of my true-to-life parable? These days, there are many shrieking voices demanding things the Bible deems bad, harmful and downright evil. “Mommy, I want marijuana legalized!” “Mommy, I want homosexual marriage made a constitutional right!” “Mommy, I want all Bible believing Christians to shut up and stop believing the Bible!”

The squalling gets louder and louder, and is hard to tune out. What should we do? How should we treat a spoiled brat who screams and cries, begs and pleads until he gets what he wants? Should we

give in, hoping that the embarrassing scene will be instantly resolved?

Obviously, if we love our neighbor as ourselves we must not allow them to do any self-destructive thing they want. If our fellow human being wants to drink a glass of Sulphuric acid, should we say, “If you want to drink acid, that’s fine by me. I’ll look the other way while you consume what will destroy you.” Of course we have a positive duty to restrain them from self-destruction, if practicable.

We also have other obligations, such as protecting our liberty of conscience. The Westminster Confession has an exquisite chapter on Christian liberty. The second paragraph is one of my favorites in the entire Westminster Standards. It reads:

*God alone is Lord of the conscience, and hath left it free from the doctrines and commandments of men, which are, in anything, contrary to his Word; or beside it, if matters of faith, or worship. So that, to believe such doctrines, or to obey such commands, out of conscience, is to betray true liberty of conscience: and the requiring of an implicit faith, and an absolute and blind obedience, is to destroy liberty of conscience, and reason also.*

In order to protect our liberty of conscience, we cannot give implicit faith or absolute and blind obedience to mere men. If they require us to believe such things or obey their commands, we must resist. If we yield for the sake of temporary peace and quiet, then we actually betray the true liberty of conscience that God has given...

*Continued on Page 4*

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### Mnemonics...

- *Work Day, 2nd*
- *Session Meeting, 12th*
- *Baby Shower, 16th*

# Patience

by C. H. Spurgeon

Patience is better than wisdom: an ounce of patience is worth a pound of brains. All men praise patience, but few enough can practice it. It is a medicine which is good for all diseases: therefore, every old woman recommends it, but it is not every garden that grows the herbs to make it with. When one's flesh and bones are full of aches and pains, it is as natural for us to murmur as for a horse to shake his head when the flies tease him, or a wheel to rattle when a spoke is loose. But nature should not be the rule with Christians, or what is their religion worth? If a soldier fights no better than a plowboy, off with his red coat. We expect more fruit from an apple tree than from a thorn, and we have a right to do so. The disciples of a patient Savior should be patient themselves. Grin and bear it is the old-fashioned advice, but sing and bear it is a great deal better. After all, we get very few cuts of the whip, considering what bad cattle we are; and when we do smart a little, it is soon over. Pain past is pleasure, and experience comes by it. We ought not to be afraid of going down into Egypt when we know we shall come out of it with jewels of silver and gold.

Impatient people water their miseries and plow up their comforts; sorrows are visitors that come without invitation, but complaining minds send a wagon to bring their troubles home in. Many people are born crying, live complaining, and die disappointed; they chew the bitter pill which they would not even know to be bitter if they had the sense to swallow it whole in a cup of patience and water. They think every other man's burden to be light and their own feathers to be heavy as lead. They are hardly done by in their own opinion: no one's toes are so often trodden on by the black ox as theirs, the snow falls thickest round their door, and the hail rattles hardest on their windows. Yet, if the truth were known, it is their fancy rather than their fate which makes things go so hard with them. litany would be well off if they could but think

so. A little sprig of the herb called content, if put into the poorest soup will make it taste as rich as the Lord Mayor's turtle. John Ploughman grows the plant in his garden, but the late hard winter nipped it terribly, so that he cannot afford to give his neighbors a slip of it; they had better follow Matthew 25:9, and go to those who sell and buy for themselves. Grace is a good soil to grow it in, but it wants watering from the fountain of mercy. To be poor is not always pleasant, but worse

*“Grace is a good soil to grow it in, but it wants watering from the fountain of mercy.”*

things than that happen at sea. Small shoes are apt to pinch, but not if you have a small foot; if we have little means it will be well to have little desires. Poverty is no shame, but being discontented with it is. In some things, the poor are better off than the rich; for if a poor man has to seek meat for his stomach, he is more likely to get what he is after than the rich man who seeks a stomach for his meat. A poor man's table is soon spread, and his labor spares his buying sauce. The best doctors are Dr. Diet, Dr. Quiet, and Dr. Merryman, and many a godly plowman has all these gentlemen to wait upon him. Plenty makes dainty, but hunger finds no fault with the cook. Hard work brings health, and an ounce of health is worth a sack of diamonds. It is not how much we have, but how much we enjoy, that makes happiness. There is more sweet in a spoonful of sugar than in a cask of vine-

gar. It is not the quantity of our goods, but the blessing of God on what we have that makes us truly rich. The parings of a pippin are better than a whole crab; a dinner of herbs with peace is better than a stalled ox and contention therewith. better is little with the fear of the Lord than great treasure and trouble therewith A little wood will heat my little oven; why, then, should I murmur because all the woods are not mine?

When troubles come, it is of no use to fly in the face of God by hard thoughts of providence; that is kicking against the pricks and hurting your feet. The trees bow in the wind, and so must we. Every time the sheep bleats it loses a mouthful, and every time we complain we miss a blessing. Grumbling is a bad

## Patience Concluded...

trade, and yields no profit, but patience has a golden hand. our evils will soon be over. After rain comes clear shining; black crows have wings; every winter turns to spring; every night breaks into morning.

Blow the wind never so fast,  
It will lower at last.

If one door should be shut, God will open another; if the peas do not yield well, the beans may; if one hen leaves her eggs, another will bring out all her brood. There's a bright side to all things, and a good God everywhere. Some where or other in the worst flood of trouble there always is a dry spot for contentment to get its foot on; if there were not, it would learn to swim.

Friends, let us take to patience and water gruel, as the old folks used to tell us, rather than catch the miserables and give others the disease by wickedly finding fault with God. The best remedy for affliction is submitting to providence. What can't be cured must be endured. If we cannot get bacon, let us bless

God that there are still some cabbages in the garden. "Must" is a hard nut to crack, but it has a sweet kernel. "All things work together for good to them that love God." Whatever falls from the skies is, sooner or later, good for the land: whatever comes to us from God is worth having, even though it be a rod. We cannot by nature like trouble any more than a mouse can fall in love with a cat, and yet Paul by grace came to glory in tribulations also. Losses and crosses are heavy to bear, but when our hearts are right with God, it is wonderful how easy the yoke becomes. We must go to glory by the way of Weeping Cross; and as we were never promised that we should ride to heaven in a feather bed, we must not be disappointed when we see the road to be rough, as our fathers found it before us. All's well that ends well; and, therefore, let us plow the heaviest soil with our eye on the sheaves of harvest, and learn to sing at our labor while others murmur.

*Spurgeon, C.H., John Ploughman's Talk,  
Chapter 5, Patience.*

# Book Review

*by Carla De Master*

*Book Review on The Lamplighter, by Maria S. Cummins*

The Lamplighter was published in 1854 and sold many thousand copies that year. This book, found in our church library, inspires and encourages growth in Christian living. There are good qualities throughout the plot. The characters grow and change.

Gerty, a wild, hot tempered orphan, is raised by an evil widow, who throws her out with no place to go. The Lamplighter has become a friend to her and he raises her with the help of blind Emily Graham. Both have righteous and virtuous qualities which transform Gerty into a sharing, helpful person to the underprivileged.

It is refreshing to read a book like this. There are CDs I listened to also which are part of the Lamplighter series: The White Gypsy, The

Unexpected Return, and Titus. The characters, as in The Lamplighter, change and grow. The plots are exciting. However, I had difficulty with Titus, which is based on the Bible. Fiction that is based on the Bible always bothersome me with the extended plots that are not in Scripture. To be believable is the challenge. Check out these books/CDs and see what you think.



# Update

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## Front Page Concluded...

...us. We essentially allow men to dictate our beliefs and our behaviors, as if they had greater authority than God himself.

Furthermore, to give implicit faith, absolute and blind obedience to mere men is to destroy human reason also. Questions should be asked, and answers must be demanded. "Why must we permit the legalization of marijuana? Why must we accept homosexuality as a virtuous alternative lifestyle? On what basis are moderns redefining marriage to include two men, or two women?"

There is one other response which is worth considering. Laughter! Laughing at that spoiled brat squalling for what it wants. I suggest this because of the opening words of Psalm 2.

*Psalm 2:1 Why are the nations in an uproar And the peoples devising a vain thing? <sup>2</sup> The kings of the earth take their stand And the rulers take counsel together Against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying, <sup>3</sup> "Let us tear their fetters apart And cast away their cords from us!" <sup>4</sup> He who sits in the heavens laughs, The Lord scoffs at them. <sup>5</sup> Then He will speak to them in His anger And terrify them in His fury, saying, <sup>6</sup> "But as for Me, I have installed My King Upon Zion, My holy mountain."*

What is happening right now is nothing particu-

larly new. The wicked have been in an uproar, and have devised vain things for a long while. Human history is one long effort to tear off God's fetters, and cast away His cords from restraining human evil. What does the Lord do? He scoffs at them. He sits in the heavens and he laughs at their puny efforts. In His anger He will terrify them with this fact – Jesus Christ is the King upon Zion. This King will defend His beleaguered people from the attacks of the evil men of earth!

How vain, and how futile are the schemes of the wicked! They may have superficial success in this present moment, but they are doomed to failure. God will not be overthrown! His kingdom shall prevail!

Finally, we must keep our minds on things that matter. Nobody was demanding that the mother buy vegetables for the family's dinner. Yet vegetables were necessary for a good diet. So she kept her mind on her true priorities, even while her child raised a ruckus. Sometimes we do need to tune out the noise of the culture and keep our bearings on those things that matter for eternity. Focus! It is vital for ourselves, and those around us! Whether they want it or not, they need their vegetables!



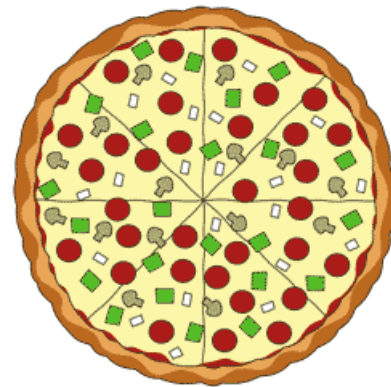
# May Birthdays



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## Pizza Ranch Fundraiser

Pizza Ranch Fundraiser - May 18th from 4:30 - 8 p.m., 944 Center Avenue in Oostburg. Pine Haven Women's Auxiliary will hold their Pizza Ranch Fundraiser at the Pizza Ranch in Oostburg. From 4:30 - 8 p.m., a percentage of all sales for both eat in and carry out orders will be donated to benefit the residents of Pine Haven Christian Communities. Pine Haven Women's Auxiliary and all the staff at Pine Haven Christian Communities encourage everyone to come by to support a local restaurant, as well as your community.





Grace OPC

# May 2015

*Showing forth the excellencies of Jesus Christ*



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Work Day, 8 a.m.
3	4 Women's Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.	5	6 Prayer Meeting, 7 p.m.	7	8	9
10 Missions Sunday	11 Women's Bible Study, 6:30 a.m. <i>Pine Haven Study, 1:30 p.m.</i>	12 Session Meeting, 6:30 p.m.	13 Prayer Meeting, 7 p.m.	14	15	16 Baby Shower for Megan Boss, 9 a.m.
17	18 Women's Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.	19	20 Prayer Meeting, 7 p.m.	21	22	23
24	25	26	27 Prayer Meeting, 7 p.m.	28	29	30
31 Lord's Supper, a.m.						

# Rejoice **LORD!** IN THE

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# Comments on Finance

by Joel Moody

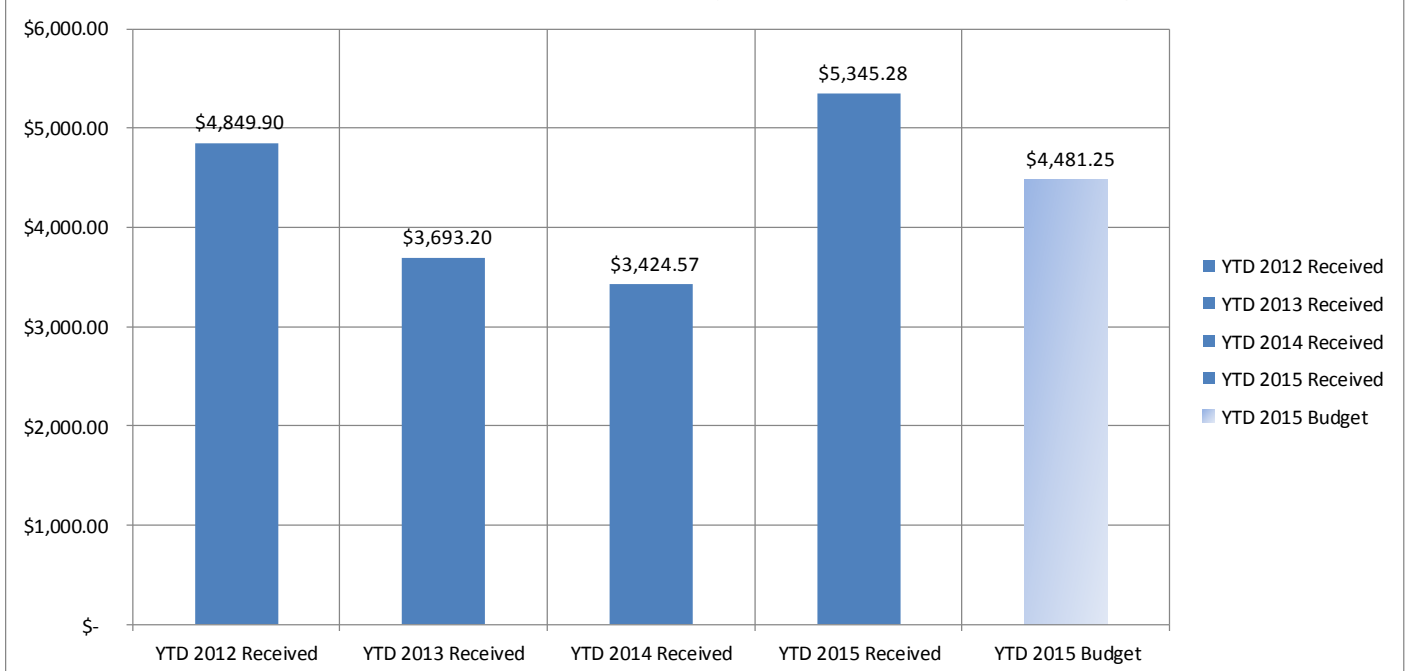
**General Fund** receipts for March totaled \$16,950.81 as compared to the budget of \$16,159.24, while General Fund disbursements for March totaled \$14,606.28. March year to date General Fund receipts totaled \$36,549.94 as compared to the budget of \$39,873.80 (a shortfall of \$5,464.06), while March year to date disbursements of \$39,873.80 were \$2,140.20 below budget. Through the end of March, the General Fund has decreased by \$3,299.27. Year to date General Fund receipts for March were 5.5% below last year's total on an average Sunday while disbursements were 9.1% below the prior year.

**Benevolence Fund** Receipts for March totaled \$1,853.50 as compared to the budget of \$1,493.75 (an excess of \$359.75). Year to date Benevolence Fund Receipts through March totaled \$5,345.28 and were above budget by \$864.03. Please refer to the graph for a historical trend of benevolence receipts as well as the current benevolence budget. During March, \$500.00 was sent to Worldwide Outreach (WWO) for the General Missions outreach

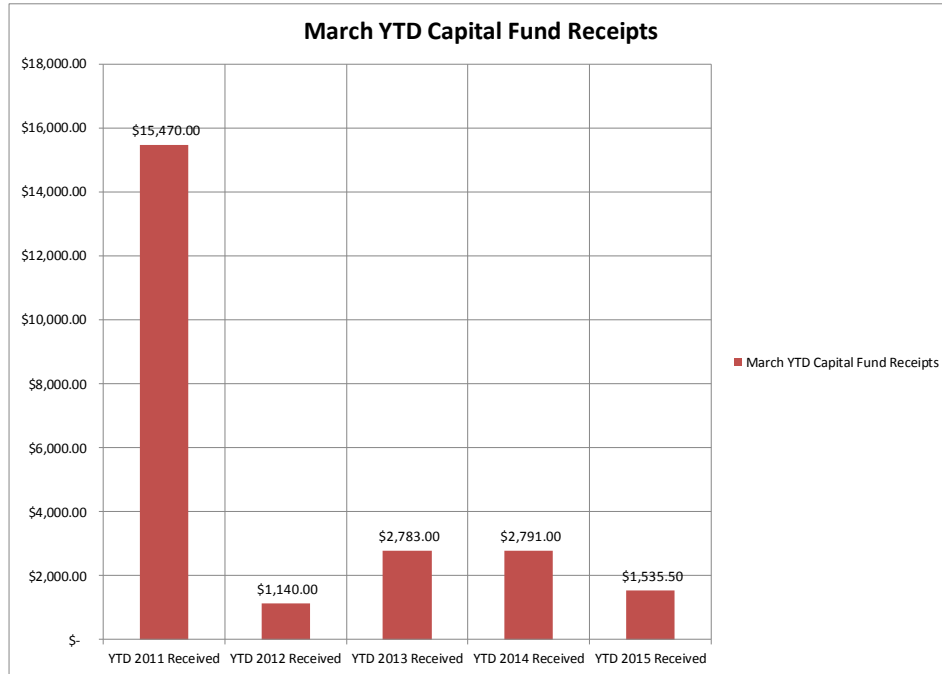
of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church and \$200.00 was sent to the Midwest Presbytery's Church Extension Committee (CHEX).

March Year to Date giving for the **Capital Fund** was \$1,535.50. 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.

**March YTD Benevolence Receipts Actual vs. Current Budget**

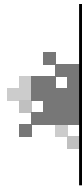






*Thank You*





# Stamps

*by Ellen McNeese*

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## *Secretary Needed!*

Are you a member of Grace Church and willing to serve as a temporary office secretary while Megan is on maternity leave? The starting date would be Thursday, May 28th and should run until the beginning of August. Office hours are usually Thursday mornings for about 4-6 hours depending on the work. Duties include producing the weekly bulletin, the monthly newsletter, and other secretarial duties. This is a paid position, and training is included. If interested, please speak with one of the members of the session.



# Notes

*submitted by Carla De Master*

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## SCCHS Drama

The Sheboygan County Christian High Drama Department Presents “The Butler did it!” by Todd Wallinger at the Christian High Gymnasium.

*Showtimes:*

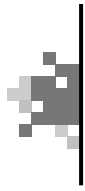
May 7: 9 a.m.  
May 8: 7 p.m.  
May 9: 7 p.m.

*Tickets Prices:*

\$8 for adults  
\$6 for seniors  
\$4 for children 4-14

Come out and support our students and enjoy seeing them portray their God-given talents! Call [\(920\) 458-9981](tel:9204589981) for more information.





## Baked Parmesan Chicken

- ★ 4 boneless chicken breasts halves
- ★ 1 cup mayonnaise
- ★ 1/2 cup parmesan cheese
- ★ 1 1/2 tsp. seasoning salt
- ★ 1/2 tsp. ground black pepper
- ★ 1 tsp. garlic powder

Preheat the oven to 375°. Mix up the mayo, cheese, salt, pepper & garlic powder. Spread evenly over the 4 pieces of chicken and place in a baking dish. Bake for 45 minutes.

“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.”

## Camp Westminster

August 3-7 is around the corner– Camp Westminster here we come! It’s not just for the kids; individuals of all ages enjoy the lovely Green Lake Conference Center. This year’s topic, Songs of Love and Praise, will be presented by the Rev. Matthew Cotta. Reserve your spot with Joe & Judy Lewandowski at ... Lodging that has been released may still be available, so contact them soon.





Showing forth the excellencies of Jesus Christ

Grace OPC

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CHECK OUT THE AUDIO:

**SERMONAUDIO.COM/  
GRACESHEBOYGAN**

CHECK OUT THE WEBSITE:

**GRACEOPCSHEBOYGAN.COM**



*Spurgeon*

*Corner*

*“Weeping may endure for a night but joy cometh in the morning.”  
(Psalm 30:5)*

Christian! If thou art in a night of trial, think of the morrow; cheer up thy heart with the thought of the coming of thy Lord. Be patient, for

*“Lo! He comes with clouds descending.”*

Be patient! The Husbandman waits until he reaps his harvest. Be patient; for you know who has said, “Behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give to every man according as his work shall be.” If you are never so wretched now, remember

*“A few more rolling suns, at most,  
Will land thee on fair Canaan’s coast.”*

Thy head may be crowned with thorny troubles now, but it shall wear a starry crown ere long; thy hand may be filled with cares—it shall sweep the strings of the harp of heaven soon. Thy garments may be soiled with dust now; they shall be white by-and-by. Wait a little longer. Ah! how despicable our troubles and trials will seem when we look back upon them! Looking at them here in the prospect, they seem immense; but when we get to heaven we shall then

*“With transporting joys recount,  
The labours of our feet.”*

Our trials will then seem light and momentary afflictions. Let us go on boldly; if the night be never so dark, the morning cometh, which is more than they can say who are shut up in the darkness of hell. Do you know what it is thus to live on the future—to live on expectation—to antedate heaven? Happy believer, to have so sure, so comforting a hope. It may be all dark now, but it will soon be light; it may be all trial now, but it will soon be all happiness. What matters it though “weeping may endure for a night,” when “joy cometh in the morning?”

*Morning, May 13th, by C. H. Spurgeon*

# Baby Shower

A Baby Shower for Megan Boss will be held on Saturday, May 16th starting at 9:00 a.m. at the church. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the hallway. Megan is registered at Target & Walmart.