

REFLECTIONS

The Monthly Newsletter of Grace OPC

BELIEVING THE LOVE

By Pastor Brian De Jong

God's word overflows with treasures old and new. While reading 1st John recently, I discovered (rediscovered?) a treasure that made me stop and think. The verse reads as follows:

1 John 4: ¹⁶ We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

The phrase which caught my eye is in the first sentence of this verse. "We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us..."

Yes, God is love – we know that. Yes, He has demonstrated His great love for us by sending His Son to die for our sins – we know that too. Indeed, all of God's dealings with us are drenched in His divine love – we would all agree.

But do we believe the love which God has for us? Are we truly convinced in our heart-of-hearts, that God really does love us?

Many people imagine that God is an angry tyrant in the sky. Within easy reach of His throne are lightning bolts to hurl down at us, if we step out of line. For countless human beings, God is a divine dictator operating on a short fuse. He should be avoided at all costs, they think. These are people who instinctively ask "Why is God doing this to me?" whenever difficulty comes along.

Others suppose that God is a senile grandfather both distant and detached. If He really does exist, He is disinterested in

our daily lives and uninvolved in earthly activities. He is a doddering old deity – generally benevolent, but not too involved.

Still others convince themselves that God's love is conditional upon their continual good behavior. If they're perpetually obedient to every jot and tittle, then He loves them. They have earned His favor, or so they think.

The message of 1st John is quite different – it portrays an active and living God who is alert and attentive to His children. Although they are not perfect, He loves them with ongoing love. This unde-

served love was fully displayed in the cross of Christ some 2000 years ago. Through the Spirit it has invaded our lives and made us alive together with Christ. And God's love continues to shape our everyday lives. This favor will last for all eternity as we abide in His love, and His love abides in us.

That brings us back to my question. Do we really believe the love which God has for us? It is not enough to just know about the love – we must also believe it. Are you thoroughly convinced of the fact that God loves you perfectly and fully? Do you accept as true that His love for you "grows fuller and deeper every day?"

This is worthy of meditation – think on God's love. Reflect on how that love was manifested through Jesus Christ. Consider how it has been operating in your life. Dwell on the promises of present and future love found on the pages of Holy Scripture. Devote sustained thought to this truth, so that you too may "come to know and believe the love which God has for us!"



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Mnemonics...

- *Harvest Home Supper, 8th*
- *Thanksgiving Day Football, 27th*

Bible-Reading

By J. C. Ryle

“Search the Scriptures.” - John 5:39

“How readest thou?” - Luke 10:26

NEXT to praying there is nothing so important in practical religion as Bible-reading. God has mercifully given us a book which is “able to make us wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.” (2 Tim. iii. 15.) By reading that book we may learn what to believe, what to be, and what to do; how to live with comfort, and how to die in peace. Happy is that man who possesses a Bible! Happier still is he who reads it! Happiest of all is he who not only reads it, but obeys it, and makes it the rule of his faith and practice!

Nevertheless it is a sorrowful fact that man has an unhappy skill in abusing God’s gifts. His privileges, and power, and faculties, are all ingeniously perverted to other ends than those for which they were bestowed. His speech, his imagination, his intellect, his strength, his time, his influence, his money,—instead of being used as instruments for glorifying his Maker,—are generally wasted, or employed for his own selfish ends. And just as man naturally makes a bad use of his other mercies, so he does of the written Word. One sweeping charge may be brought against the whole of Christendom, and that charge is neglect and abuse of the Bible.

To prove this charge we have no need to look abroad: the proof lies at our own doors. I have no doubt that there are more Bibles in Great Britain at this moment than there ever were since the world began. There is more Bible buying and Bible selling, more Bible printing and Bible distributing,—than ever was since England was a nation. We see Bibles in every bookseller’s shop,—Bibles of every size, price, and style; Bibles great, and Bibles small,—Bibles for the rich, and Bibles for the poor. There are Bibles in almost every house in the land. But all this time I fear we are in danger of forgetting, that to have the Bible is one thing, and to read it quite another.

This neglected Book is the subject about which I address the readers of this paper today.

Surely it is no light matter what you are doing with the Bible. Surely, when the plague is abroad, you should search and see, whether the plague-spot is on you. Give me your attention while I supply you with a few plain reasons why every one who cares for his soul ought to value the Bible highly, to study it regularly, and to make himself thoroughly acquainted with its contents.

...In the first place, there is no book in existence written in such a manner as the Bible.

The Bible was “given by inspiration of God.” (2 Tim. 3:16.) In this respect it is utterly unlike all other writings. God taught the writers of it what to say. God put into their minds thoughts and ideas. God guided their pens in setting down those thoughts and ideas. When you read it, you are not reading the self-taught compositions of poor imperfect men like yourself, but the words of the eternal God. When you hear it, you are not listening to the erring opinions of short-lived mortals, but to the unchanging mind of the King of kings. The men who were employed to indite the Bible, spoke not of themselves. They “spoke as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.” (2 Peter 1:21.) All other books in the world, however good and useful in their way, are more or less defective. The more you look at them the more you see their defects and blemishes. The Bible alone is absolutely perfect. From beginning to end it is “the Word of God.”

I shall not waste time by attempting any long and laboured proof of this. I say boldly, that the Book itself is the best witness of its own inspiration. It is utterly inexplicable and unaccountable in any other point of view. It is the greatest standing miracle in the world. He that dares to say the Bible is not inspired, let him give a reasonable account of it, if he can. Let him explain the peculiar nature and character of the Book in a way that will satisfy any man of common sense. The burden of proof seems to my mind to lie on him.

Oh, that men who are troubled with doubts, and questionings, and sceptical thoughts about inspiration, would calmly examine the Bible for them-

Ryle Continued...

selves! Oh, that they would act on the advice which was the first step to Augustine's conversion,—“Take it up and read it!—take it up and read it!” How many Gordian knots this course of action would cut! How many difficulties and objections would vanish away at once like mist before the rising sun! How many would soon confess, “The finger of God is here! God is in this Book, and I knew it not.”

This is the Book about which I address the readers of this paper. Surely it is no light matter what you are doing with this Book. It is no light thing that God should have caused this Book to be “written for your learning,” and that you should have before you “the oracles of God.” (Rom. 3:2; 15:4.) I charge you, I summon you to give an honest answer to my question. What art thou doing with the Bible?—Dost thou read it at all?—HOW READEST THOU?

...In the second place, there is no knowledge absolutely needful to a man's salvation, except a knowledge of the things which are to be found in the Bible.

....A man may have prodigious learning, and yet never be saved. He may be master of half the languages spoken round the globe. He may be acquainted with the highest and deepest things in heaven and earth. ...And yet, if he dies ignorant of Bible truths, he dies a miserable man! ...Death will make an end of all his attainments, and after death they will do him no good at all.

A man may be a very ignorant man, and yet be saved. He may be unable to read a word, or write a letter. ... He may know nothing of science, and its discoveries,—and whether Julius Caesar won his victories with gunpowder, or the apostles had a printing press, or the sun goes round the earth, may be matters about which he has not an idea. And yet if that very man has heard Bible truth with his ears, and believed it with his heart, he knows enough to

save his soul. He will be found at last with Lazarus in Abraham's bosom, while his scientific fellow-creature, who has died unconverted, is lost for ever.

...There is much talk in these days about science and “useful knowledge.” But after all a knowledge of the Bible is the one knowledge that is needful and eternally useful. A man may get to heaven without money, learning, health, or friends,—but without Bible knowledge he will never get there at all. A man may have the mightiest of minds, and a memory stored with all that mighty mind can grasp,—and yet, if he does not know the things of the Bible, he will make shipwreck of his soul for ever. Woe! woe! woe to the man who dies in ignorance of the Bible!

...In the third place, no book in existence contains such important matter as the Bible.

The time would fail me if I were to enter fully into all the great things which are to be found in the Bible, and only in the Bible. It is not by any sketch or outline that the treasures of the Bible can be displayed. It would be easy to fill this volume with a list of the peculiar truths it reveals, and yet the half of its riches would be left untold.

How glorious and soul-satisfying is the description it gives us of God's plan of salvation, and the way by which our sins can be forgiven! The coming into the world of Jesus Christ, the God-man, to save sinners,—the atonement He has made by suffering in our stead, the just for the unjust,—the complete payment He has made for our sins by His own blood,—the justification of every sinner who simply believes on Jesus, the readiness of Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, to receive, pardon, and save to the uttermost,—how unspeakably grand and cheering are all these truths! We should know nothing of them without the Bible.

How comforting is the account it gives us of

*“It is no
light matter
in what way
you are
using this
treasure...”*

Ryle Concluded...

the great Mediator of the New Testament,—the man Christ Jesus! Four times over His picture is graciously drawn before our eyes. Four separate witnesses tell us of His miracles and His ministry,—His sayings and His doings,—His life and His death,—His power and His love,—His kindness and His patience,—His ways, His words, His works, His thoughts, His heart. Blessed be God, there is one thing in the Bible which the most prejudiced reader can hardly fail to understand, and that is the character of Jesus Christ!

How encouraging are the examples the Bible gives us of good people! It tells us of many who were of like passions with ourselves,—men and women who had cares, crosses, families, temptations, afflictions, diseases, like ourselves, and yet “by faith and patience inherited the promises,” and got safe home. (Heb. 6:12.) It keeps back nothing in the history of these people. Their mistakes, their infirmities, their conflicts, their experience, their prayers, their praises, their useful lives, their happy deaths,—all are fully recorded. And it tells us the God and Saviour of these men and women still waits to be gracious, and is altogether unchanged.

How instructive are the examples the Bible gives us of bad people! It tells us of men and women who had light, and knowledge, and opportunities, like ourselves, and yet hardened their hearts, loved the world, clung to their sins, would have their own way, despised reproof, and ruined their own souls for ever. And it warns us that the God who punished Pharaoh, and Saul, and Ahab, and Jezebel, and Judas, and Ananias and Sapphira, is a God who never alters, and that there is a hell.

How precious are the promises which the Bible contains for the use of those who love God! There is hardly any possible emergency or condition for which it has not some “word in season.” And it tells men that God loves to be put in remembrance of these promises, and that if He has said He will do a thing, His promise shall certainly be performed.

How blessed are the hopes which the Bible holds out to the believer in Christ Jesus! Peace in the

hour of death,—rest and happiness on the other side of the grave,—a glorious body in the morning of the resurrection,—a full and triumphant acquittal in the day of judgment,—an everlasting reward in the kingdom of Christ,—a joyful meeting with the Lord’s people in the day of gathering together; these, these are the future prospects of every true Christian. They are all written in the book,—in the book which is all true.

How striking is the light which the Bible throws on the character of man! It teaches us what men may be expected to be and do in every position and station of life. It gives us the deepest insight into the secret springs and motives of human actions, and the ordinary course of events under the control of human agents. It is the true “discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” (Heb. 4:12.) How deep is the wisdom contained in the books of Proverbs and Ecclesiastes! I can well understand an old divine saying, “Give me a candle and a Bible, and shut me up in a dark dungeon, and I will tell you all that the whole world is doing.”

All these are things which men could find nowhere except in the Bible. We have probably not the least idea how little we should know about these things if we had not the Bible. We hardly know the value of the air we breathe, and the sun which shines on us, because we have never known what it is to be without them. We do not value the truths on which I have been just now dwelling, because we do not realize the darkness of men to whom these truths have not been revealed. Surely no tongue can fully tell the value of the treasures this one volume contains....

This is the Book about which I address the reader of this paper this day. Surely it is no light matter what you are doing with the Bible. It is no light matter in what way you are using this treasure. I charge you, I summon you to give an honest answer to my question,—What art thou doing with the Bible?—Dost thou read it?—HOW READEST THOU?

Taken from “Practical Religion,” by J.C. Ryle (a.d. 1816-1900), Bible Reading, Chapter V.

Harvest Home Supper

The Annual Harvest Home Supper will be held on Saturday, November 8th starting at 5:30 p.m. The event will be held at the Quarry building. Everyone is invited to sign up on the bulletin board by Sunday, November 2nd. The speakers this year will be Greg De Jong and Amy DeWitt who will both share about their recent mission trips to Uganda.



FREEDOM ON THE INSIDE JAIL MINISTRY

by Rev. Ivan De Master

It continues to be a blessing to me to visit the inmates at the Sheboygan Detention Center. These men are ones who have asked for a Bible and are interested in speaking with someone about their spiritual life. Usually I try to visit with two men. When one of them is released or transferred to prison after being sentenced for a period longer than 2 years I find another man. There are always men waiting for someone to visit with them.

November Birthdays



Happy Birthday!!!

Comments on Finance

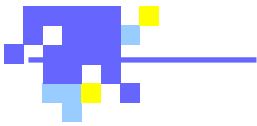
by Joel Moody

General Fund receipts for September totaled \$15,712.14 as compared to the budget of \$10,793.04. General Fund disbursements for September totaled \$9,069.62 as compared to the budget of \$10,793.04. September year to date General Fund receipts totaled \$111,919.53 as compared to the budget of \$105,232.50 (an excess of \$6,687.03), while September year to date disbursements of \$99,170.58 were \$6,061.92 below budget. Through the end of September, the General Fund has increased by \$14,768.31.

Benevolence Fund Receipts for September totaled \$3,150.00 as compared to the budget of \$1,429.17. Year to date benevolence receipts through September totaled \$14,250.94, while the

budget amount was \$12,862.50. Each month, \$450.00 is sent to Worldwide Outreach for the General Missions outreach of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church. In addition, approximately \$192.00 is sent each month to the Midwest Presbytery's Church Extension Committee. Please remember to pray for the ministries that our church helps to support.

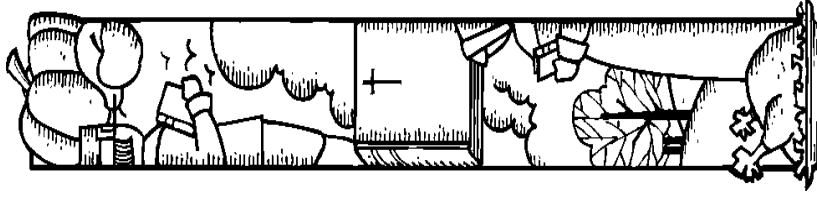
Gifts directed towards the Capital Fund/ Church Expansion Project totaled \$31,208.45 through the end of September. Included in that total are gifts of \$3,598.45 received for the Kings Men Gifts from several churches within the Midwest Presbytery. The Capital Fund balance as of the end of September stands at \$65,455.01.



Grace OPC

November 2008

Showing forth the excellencies of Jesus Christ



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Men's Breakfast & Study, 7:30
2	3 Women's Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.	4 Pine Haven Study, 1:30 p.m.	5 Prayer Meeting 7 p.m.	6	7	8 Harvest Home Supper, 5:30 p.m.
9 Missions Sunday	10 Women's Bible Study, 6:30 a.m. Theology, 3:00 p.m.	11	12 Prayer Meeting 7 p.m.	13	14	15
16	17 Women's Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.	18 Pine Haven Study, 1:30 p.m.	19 Prayer Meeting 7 p.m.	20	21	22
23	24 Women's Bible Study, 6:30 a.m. Theology, 3:00 p.m.	25	26 Thanksgiving Service 7:00 p.m.	27 Thanksgiving Day Football Game	28	29
30 Lord's Supper (a.m.)						

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GOD'S WAY OF ONWARD AND UPWARD

by Don Schlernitzauer

“Behold I send an angel before you to guard you on the way and to bring you to the place that I have prepared. Pay careful attention to him and obey his voice; do not rebel against him, for he will not pardon your transgression, for my name is in him....I will not drive them out {the Canaanites} before you in one year, lest the land become desolate and the wild beasts multiply against you. Little by little I will drive them out them out from before you, until you have increased and possessed the land.”

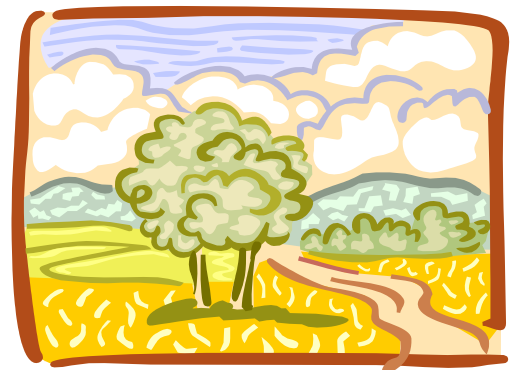
~ Exodus 23: 20-21, 29-30 (ESV)

After the Lord gave Israel the 10 commandments at Sinai in Exodus 20, He went on to give many other laws whereby His people were to live in covenant with Him. Exodus 23 then concludes with His promises to them regarding the conquest of Canaan, the promised land. Though it is not wrong to think of Moses as the one who was to lead in this conquest, the words of God in vv. 20-21 allow us to “see behind the veil” that it is God Himself in the person of an angel who will do the leading, for He say “my name is in him” and He also indicates the angel has the power to forgive transgression. It is no stretch to surmise that this angel was the pre-incarnate Second Person of the Godhead whom Paul in 1 Cor. 10:4 identified stating, “the spiritual Rock that followed them {the Israelites in the exodus}...was Christ.”

One would think, with such a leader and guide as Christ Himself, that the exodus and conquest of Canaan would have been done with ease in a timely fashion. But recall the rebellion of the Israelites and their subsequent wandering in the wilderness for 40 years, as well as Moses’ faithlessness at Meribah. Then there was the sin of Achan at Jericho and the subsequent defeat of Israel at Ai. God’s ways surely are not our ways (Is. 55:8). Why could not the exodus and the conquest of Canaan have been done expeditiously, especially

when Christ the Rock was with them? Why is Grace Church not bursting at the seams with new converts? Why isn’t the kingdom of Christ throughout this world appearing to go forth with banners waving and trumpets blaring? Any serious reflection points to man’s fallen nature, not only of those who don’t know Christ, but especially those of us who do, and yet struggle with this enemy within. We should not think the ancient Israelites somehow had a monopoly on hardness of the heart (Heb. 3:12) or that the disciples on the road to Emmaus alone suffered from slowness of heart to believe (Luke 24:25).

In the last verses cited above from Exodus 23, we find another reason besides man’s fallen nature why the path of the individual Christian and Christ’s church is not simply a straight line onward and upward. And that reason is God’s wisdom, the wisdom of the One who alone is wise and who sees the end from the beginning (Is. 46:10), and is, therefore, best able to determine the progress of His church. As God in Christ builds the church which not even the gates of hell can thwart, He always has His eye on two things, His glory and the good of His people. While we labor in the kingdom, may you and I find great comfort in these truths, even as God Himself leads us onward and upward.



Hispanic Bible Ministry Need

To: Churches of the Presbytery of the Midwest (OPC)

From: The Session of Covenant OPC (Orland Park IL)

Date: September 24, 2008

Re: Hispanic Bible Ministry (Cicero, IL)

Dear Brethren,

In the last few months the Lord has greatly blessed the Hispanic Bible Ministry, and we are happy to report that as of September 21 we began having morning and evening services at Pastor Chris Sandoval's home in Cicero with several families in attendance. Additionally, we have begun membership and children's catechism classes, and we continue with our weekly Bible studies and monthly youth group events. We are grateful to our Lord and praise Him for bringing these families to sit under the preaching and teaching of His word.

We are also thankful for the ongoing spiritual encouragement and financial support of the Presbytery of the Midwest and its individual churches. In the past, many of you have asked Pastor Chris if the Hispanic ministry has any needs or causes that your congregation may support financially. One specific need that Pastor Chris recently brought to the attention of the overseeing Session at Covenant is for Spanish/English parallel Bibles. Since the Hispanic Bible Ministry seeks to be a fully bilingual ministry, these Bibles could be used for its worship services and Bible studies and also given to individuals and families who hunger after God's Word.

With this need before us, the Session at Covenant thought it best to approach the churches of the Presbytery with a request to support the purchase

of one hundred Spanish/English parallel Bibles. Pastor Chris believes that the best Spanish/English parallel Bible is the one published by Crossway Bibles, which uses the English Standard Version (ESV) and the Reina-Valera 1960 version (the most widely used Spanish translation throughout the world). After some research, we found a national distributor that is willing to sell these hardcover Bibles at \$17.50 each (half the normal retail price of \$34.99). Please carefully and prayerfully consider your congregation's ability and availability to respond to this request and support this need.

Once again, we praise God for his faithfulness to the Hispanic Bible Ministry as families gather for worship, Bible Study, and fellowship, as persons are ministered to and counseled, and as more and more inroads are being made into the greater Hispanic community in Chicago.

Thank you, in advance, for your consideration of this request.

Yours in Christ,

Iain Wright
Moderator of Session

PS. Donations for the purchase of the Spanish/English parallel Bibles can be made to Covenant OPC-Hispanic Fund (attn: Spanish Bible Fund).

Covenant Church
9340 West 147th Street
Orland Park, Illinois 60462
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Counseling Conference Report

by Pastor Brian De Jong

As part of my ongoing training, I attended the annual conference of the National Association of Nouthetic Counselors (NANC) in St. Louis from October 6-8. I thought it might be interesting for the congregation to know a little more about this conference, and its value for my ministry at Grace Church.

First, a little information about NANC might be helpful. This association is comprised of Christian counselors who are deliberately Biblical in their approach to counseling. This movement was stimulated largely through the efforts of author, pastor, theologian and counselor Jay Adams. His book Competent to Counsel proposed a Christian alternative to secular psychology. Dr. Adams' approach attempts to do justice to Biblical doctrines such as the effects of sin, the need for God's saving grace, and the power of the Holy Spirit to enable Christians to put off sinful conduct and to put on righteousness. In short, Adams applies Reformed theology to the question of counseling.

Over the past decades, the 'Nouthetic' movement has gained many adherents among evangelical Christians. That was in evidence at this year's conference both in the number of attendees (about 1500 people), and in the quality of the speakers and seminar leaders. Dr. John MacArthur was the keynote speaker, and gave a stirring talk on Tuesday night about our commitment to the truth.

The theme of this year's conference was "Balancing Grace and Truth in Counseling." Dr. MacArthur reminded us that Jesus Christ, the 'Wonderful Counselor,' came from His Father 'full of grace and truth.' Jesus' ministry is the perfect balance and blend of grace and truth.

Furthermore, in the context of our strong commitment to truth, we must demonstrate grace in dealing with the problems of struggling people. That grace includes pointing them clearly to Jesus Christ, the only Savior of sinners. It also requires that we be gentle, kind and compassionate to the

needs and cares of those around us. To be harsh, demanding and unforgiving does much damage, and will undermine our ministry to the needy.

This strong emphasis was brought out in another of the main speakers – Pastor Steve Viars. Pastor Viars spoke on the parable of the Good Samaritan, showing how both the Priest and the Levite avoided their responsibility to help the beaten man, and how the Good Samaritan took the risk, and paid the price to help that poor sufferer. Rev. Viars then challenged us to think about our community, and those around us who are broken by sin, and in need of care. Will we bypass them, or will we take risks to reach out to those in need? (This was very convicting!)

Though the main speakers were excellent, I found the seminars to be even better. On Monday night I attended a seminar on how to encourage Christian men to love their wives. Tuesday's seminars included one on counseling those who worry. Without a doubt, this was the "best of the best" and gave many practical insights into the problems of anxiety and worry. Another seminar I attended on Tuesday covered pre-marital counseling, which gave me some new ideas for counseling young couples. The final workshop on Wednesday was presented by Martha Peace, who is an RN as well as an author of books for women. Mrs. Peace spoke about Biblical perspectives on Psychiatric medications. This was the most "technical" of the seminars for me, but provided a wealth of interesting information about these commonly used drugs.

Because we were limited to attending 5 seminars, I added to my library by purchasing CD's from some of the seminars I missed. We were also given a CD with all of the notes and handouts from all of the seminars – a treasury of helpful information to have on hand.

In addition to the content of the conference, there were other benefits. It was very encouraging to see so many brothers and sisters in Christ gathered to

Report Concluded...

study how to use the Scriptures to help others. Though I knew only a handful of these folk, their commitment to Christ was obvious and encouraging. In a very clear way, this conference demonstrated to me some very good things taking place in other evangelical churches. I see the rise of nouthetic counseling as an encouraging sign of God's work in His believing body on earth.

The time of the conference also gave me the opportunity to draw back from the normal press of pastoral activity. Not only was I able to get a more rest than usual, I was able to ponder important things. I firmly believe that meditation is an important duty for Christians (remember our Sunday School study of Spiritual Disciplines?) Yet it is hard to find time and opportunity for such reflection in the normal pace of activity. In many ways, the conference also served as a "retreat" for me.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention the benefit of spending some extra time with my wife and children – this also was beneficial. DeLou and the children enjoyed the hotel, and played in the pool while I was busy with conference activities. After the conference was over, we enjoyed time with her family in Southern Illinois. We all came home

feeling refreshed and invigorated.

One last aspect was sobering. During the week that our conference was being held, the hotel also was hosting another group – the "Miss Gay USA contest." From Tuesday onward, there were many male homosexuals in the hotel. The contrast between our group and theirs was unmistakable. It reminded me that there is a war going on in our culture, and that the good news of salvation is absolutely needful in the face of such brazen sin and unrepentant iniquity.

How, then, does the conference help me to be a better pastor? I would say that first of all, it equips me to be a wiser counselor for those in need at Grace Church. Pastoral counseling is an important part of my shepherding of the flock, and this conference sharpened me. It was useful in a second sense as it helped my own spiritual life – enabling me to draw near to Christ and refresh my walk with my Savior. That helps me to be able to serve others with renewed vigor. Finally, the convicting aspects of the conference were a spiritual "kick in the pants" that even pastors sometimes need. It was good to be challenged from God's word, and will undoubtedly yield fruit for God's kingdom.

Thanksgiving Football

Don't forget to mark your calendars for the Annual Thanksgiving Day Football game held at the church early on Thanksgiving Day morning (27th)! Plan to come and participate, or even just watch and cheer on your favorite team.



Yummy Squash Pie

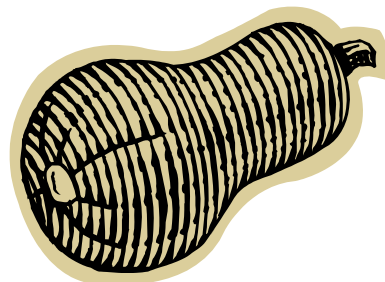
- ★ 2 cups cooked butternut squash
- ★ 12 oz. can evaporated milk
- ★ 1/4 cup brown sugar
- ★ 1/2 cup white sugar
- ★ 1/2 teaspoon salt
- ★ 1 Tablespoon cinnamon
- ★ 1/2 teaspoon ginger
- ★ 1/4 teaspoon nutmeg
- ★ 1/8 teaspoon cloves
- ★ 2 slightly beaten eggs

Pour into deep-dish pie shell. Bake 15 minutes at 425° then reduce heat to 350° and bake 45 minutes or until a knife comes out clean.

(We think this pie is much better than pumpkin pie 😊)

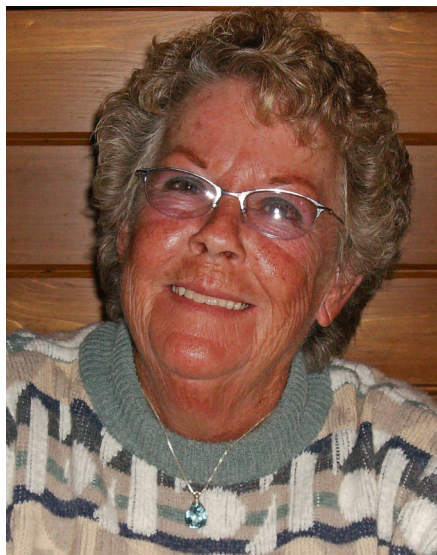
This recipe was give to us by Joel's sister, Jeanne Nock.

Gail Moody



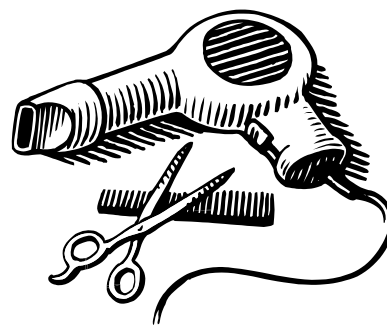
“There is nothing better for a man than to eat and drink and tell himself that his labor is good. This also I have seen, that it is from the hand of God. For who can have enjoyment without Him?”

Getting to Know... Darlene Cooper



Volunteers Needed!!!

Volunteers are needed at Pine Haven Christian Home for transporting residents to and from the beauty shop. Flexible days & hours– ability to walk a reasonable distance. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Full days or half days. For more information call Edith Beernink, Pine Haven Women's Auxiliary President at 668-6964.





**Proclaiming the
Excellencies of our
Lord Jesus Christ.**

The Monthly Newsletter
of Grace OPC

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★ Did you know that on October 31st, 1517 Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses on a church door in Wittenburg starting the Reformation and today is celebrated as Reformation Day by many?

★ Did you know that before this action this day was already celebrated by the Celts & Roman Catholic Church for other reasons?

★ That the Celts had celebrations on Oct. 31st to honor their false god of death which included big bonfires and sacrifices as well as putting on “ghoulish costumes” and going around to try to “frighten off spirits”?

★ That the Roman Catholic Church wished to replace the pagan festival with a more acceptable one so they set aside the day after (Nov. 1st) in 835 as “All Saint’s Day” to honor different “saints” in the church so October 31st became “All Hallows’ Eve”?

★ On Nov. 2nd, the Catholic Church created “All Soul’s Day” on which people would go house-to-house offering to pray for dead relatives (believed by the Catholic Church to be in Purgatory) of the inhabitants if they would give them cakes, called “soul cakes”?

★ Did you know that many of Luther’s 95 theses speak against the sale of indulgences, which were erroneously put forth by the Catholic Church as having the power bring poor souls out of purgatory and into heaven?

★ “All Hallows’ Eve” was not celebrated widely in our early nation’s history until many Irish Catholics immigrated in the 1800s?

*Information found at <http://www.loc.gov/folklife/halloween.html>
http://willglaser.blogspot.com/2002/10/October-31st-reformation-vs-halloween_23.html*

“Getting to know... Darlene Cooper” concluded...