

# REFLECTIONS

Grace OPC

## ALL I WANT

*By Pastor Brian De Jong*

What do you want in life? What do you desire most?

Are you after money? John D. Rockefeller was once asked, “How much money do you want?” His famous answer was, “Just one more dollar.”

Maybe you’re seeking power – the ability to do whatever you please, and to control others in the process. Such a search describes countless politicians past and present.

Or perhaps you’re a pleasure-seeker. You want increasing enjoyment of the nice things in life – things that make you feel good. Are you searching after pleasure?

Paul makes a remarkable statement that reveals his priorities when he tells his young protégé Timothy, “*If we have food and covering, with these we shall be content. But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction.*” (I Timothy 6:8-9)

In that same passage, Paul reveals the positive side of the coin when he states, “*godliness actually is a means of great gain when accompanied by contentment.*”

Apparently the Apostle put a lot of thought into this question, for he writes to the Philippians, “*I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am. I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled*

*and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.*”

So here is what I want – the thing I’m striving after and praying for: God, make me like yourself and grant me contentment. I don’t need to be a great man, I don’t need to be wealthy, I don’t need to be famous or powerful or anything else – just make me content to be like You!

This dynamic combination of godliness and contentment can radically change the direction of your life. With limited time, energy and opportunity, we need to chart a course wisely and pursue it diligently.

If we give our hours to getting “just one more dollar,” we will never get enough. It is a vain pursuit that will end in grief. Our lives will be plagued by many attendant temptations, for the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. Then sooner or later our lives will be plunged into ruin and destruction.

If we run after physical pleasures, we will end up frustrated that nothing ever seems to satisfy. Even the pleasures themselves lose their luster as we overindulge.

The same could be said of every other worldly pursuit – whether it is for fame or power or possessions. The end result is always predictable – the world can’t deliver what it promises.

But God can – and He does deliver even more than we expect. So my Lord, grant me just two things – I yearn for godliness and contentment. That’s all I want.



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### Mnemonics...

- *Grace OPC Reformation Conference, 13-14*
- *Harvest Home, 13th*

# “Come Unto Me”

by J. C. Ryle

“Let any man come.” John 7:37-38

“In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto Me, and drink. He that believeth on Me, as the Scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.”--John 7:37-38.

The text which heads this paper contains one of those mighty sayings of Christ which deserve to be printed in letters of gold. All the stars in heaven are bright and beautiful; yet even a child can see that “one star differeth from another in glory” (1 Cor. 15:41). All Scripture is given by inspiration of God; but that heart must indeed be cold and dull which does not feel that some verses are peculiarly rich and full. Of such verses this text is one.

In order to see the whole force and beauty of the text, we must remember the place, the time, and occasion when it comes in.

The place, then, was Jerusalem, the metropolis of Judaism, and the stronghold of priests and scribes, of Pharisees and Sadducees.--The occasion was the feast of tabernacles, one of those great annual feasts when every Jew, if he could, went up to the temple, according to the law.--The time was “the last day of the feast,” when all the ceremonies were drawing to a close, when the water drawn from the fountain of Siloam had been solemnly poured on the altar, and nothing remained for worshippers but to return home.

At this critical moment our Lord Jesus Christ “stood” forward on a prominent place, and spoke to the assembled crowds. I doubt not He read their hearts. He saw them going away with aching consciences and unsatisfied minds, having got nothing from their blind teachers the Pharisees and Sadducees, and carrying away nothing but a barren recollection of pompous forms. He saw and pitied them, and cried aloud, like a herald, “If any man thirst, let him come unto Me, and drink.”--That this was all our Lord said on this memorable occasion I take leave to doubt. I suspect it is only the keynote of His address. But this, I believe, was the first sentence that fell from His lips: “If any man thirst, let him come unto Me.” If any one wants living, satisfying

water, let him come unto ME.

Let me remind my readers, in passing, that no prophet or Apostle ever took on himself to use such language as this. “Come with us,” said Moses to Hobab (Num. 10:29); “Come to the waters,” says Isaiah (Isa. 45:1); “Behold the Lamb,” says John the Baptist (John 1:29); “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ,” says St. Paul (Acts 16:31). But no one except Jesus of Nazareth ever said, “Come to ME.” That fact is very significant. He that said, “Come to Me,” knew and felt, when He said it, that He was the Eternal Son of God, the promised Messiah, the Saviour of the world...

But do you feel anything at this very moment? Is your conscience awake and working? Are you sensible of spiritual thirst, and longing for relief? Then hear the invitation which I bring you in my Master's name this day: If any man, “no matter who he may be,--if any man, high or low, rich or poor, learned or unlearned,---” if any man thirst, let him come to Christ, and drink.” Hear and accept that invitation without delay. Wait for nothing. Wait for nobody. Who can tell that you may not wait for “a convenient season” till it be too late! The hand of a living Redeemer is now held out from heaven; but it may be withdrawn. The Fountain is open now; but it may soon be closed for ever. “If any man thirst, let him come and drink” without delay.

...But have you come to Christ already and found relief? Then come nearer, nearer still. The closer your communion with Christ, the more comfort you will find. The more you daily live by the side of the Fountain, the more you shall feel in yourself “a well of water springing up into everlasting life” (John 4:14). You shall not only be blessed yourself, but be a source of blessing to others.

In this evil world you may not perhaps feel all the sensible comfort you could desire. But remember you cannot have two heavens. Perfect happiness is yet to come... There is “a good time coming” for all who feel their sins and come to Christ, and commit their thirsting souls to His keeping. When He comes again, they will be completely satisfied.

From *Upper Room*, Chapter 7, by J.C. Ryle

# Grace OPC Reformation Conference

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Grace OPC Reformation Conference will be held on November 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Tony Curto will be our speaker. The schedule will be as follows:

*Saturday morning:*

- Session 1: Christ as Covenant Leader  
(9:00-10:15)  
Session 2: The Church as Covenant Agent  
(10:30-11:45)

*Morning Worship Service:*

- Session 3: The Instrument of Evangelism  
(preaching ) & the Goal of Evangelism  
(holiness)

*Saturday night:*

Harvest Home Supper – Report on Ethiopia

*Evening Worship Service:*

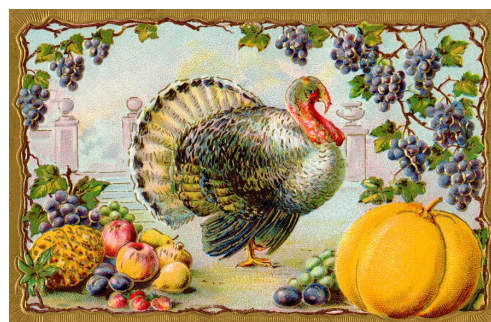
- Session 4: The Glory of God as the Motive  
of Mission



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## Harvest Home Supper

The Annual Harvest Home Supper will be held Saturday, November 13th with dinner starting at 5:30 p.m. Dr. Tony Curto will be this year's speaker and will give a report on missions in Ethiopia. There is a sign-up sheet in the hallway at church.



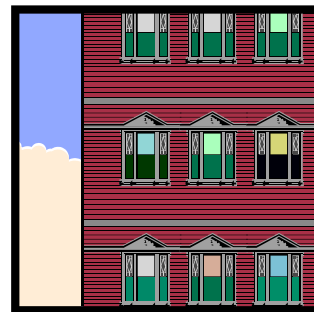


# November Birthdays



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## *Directory Correction*





Grace OPC

# November 2010

*Showing forth the excellencies of Jesus Christ*



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

Church Office:  
4930 Green Valley Ln  
Sheboygan, WI 53083

Phone: 920-565-2160  
Website:  
graceopcsheboygan.com  
Email:  
graceopc@tds.net  
briandjong@earthlink.net

# Together in Christian Mission

*A 60 year Heritage— Committed to Christ-Centered Care Connected in Christian Vision Centered on Christ Taught Values*

September 30, 2010

Dear Members of Grace Presbyterian Church,

Pine Haven Christian Communities and its inspired vision for Christ-centered care for elderly members from our 18 supporting churches, celebrates its 60th year. We certainly praise God for His leading and faithfulness to generations of your covenant community. Leaders along our six-decade journey have understood that *“Unless God builds, you labor in vain.” Ps 127* This Psalm teaches us that unless our Lord builds it, it is not going to work. If God is not at the center of our homes or work, all that we want to “build” will lead to frustration. The key to our leading is to know and acknowledge that there is only one perfect “builder” within our Communities and He is our Lord. God, through His Spirit has led us in the past and today we continue to understand that He is at the head of Pine Haven Christian Communities. We try daily to communicate these values and to represent a purposeful Mission that centers itself for providing Christ-centered care to nearly 250 Residents at our different campuses.

Pine Haven has a need and we want to carefully communicate with you, so that you fully understand why there is a financial campaign for Resident’s assistance. In response to our mission and commitment to Residents, both today and in the future, we are driven to offer Christ-centered, quality, affordable care. This is a challenge in the economic times in which we live. Many of our Residents are or will be dependent on assistance from State and Federal government funding sources. These funding sources have been reduced as government bodies set their complex priorities. The impact on Pine Haven is that State or Federal dollars do not pay the actual costs of providing daily care to many of our Residents. For example, in Pine Haven’s Skilled Care Center, the State/Federal

revenue shortfall is over \$1 million annually. Our challenge is to find ways to best balance our budgets while preserving the quality care which we are known to provide.

We have connected this economic challenge to our Statement of Mission established by Pine Haven’s founders long ago. We believe the Residents from the supporting faith communities of Pine Haven *“are His, from generation to generation.”* Galatians 6 tells us, *“Therefore as we have opportunities, let us do good to all, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.”* Because of this covenantal belief, we are asking for direct help for our most needy Residents. We know that through God all things are possible and ask prayerfully for your consideration to support the needs of both our current and future Residents.

We know that the needs are great for many different mission causes and you have many opportunities. We are asking that in your plans for sharing God’s blessings in your lives, you consider the local mission of Pine Haven and its Residents. There may be Residents from your church or family living with us today or they may be living with us at a future time. There is a critical need for your response.

The math defining a response to the need is quite simple. Each day we have a number of Residents whose ability to pay has been exhausted and the government assistance is \$99 per day short of support needed to maintain this Resident’s care. Perhaps you can contribute 1/4 day of this shortfall (\$24.75); 1/2 day (\$49.50), a full day (\$99.00), 1 week (\$693), 1 month or even greater. Our Board of Directors, our Residents, and their families thank you for your prayer support and any consideration you can provide to meet the challenges of 2010 and beyond.

In His Service,

Roger A. Leys  
Chief Executive Officer  
Pine Haven Christian Communities

# Comments on Finance

by Joel Moody

General Fund receipts for September totaled \$10,628.54 as compared to the budget of \$12,408.20, while General Fund disbursements for September totaled \$12,420.25. September year to date General Fund receipts totaled \$110,402.36 as compared to the budget of \$120,979.50 (a shortfall of \$10,577.14), while September year to date disbursements of \$106,358.38 were \$14,621.12 below budget. Through the end of September, the General Fund has increased by \$4,461.27. The increase in the General Fund was due to lower than budgeted disbursements. General Fund receipts through September were 2.0% above last year's total, while disbursements were 0.2% above the prior year.

Benevolence Fund Receipts for September totaled \$1,459.85 as compared to the budget of \$1,479.17. Year to date benevolence receipts through September totaled \$13,021.42, while the budget amount was \$13,312.50 (a shortfall of 291.08). Each month, \$475.00 is sent to Worldwide Outreach for the General Missions outreach of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church. In addition, \$200.00 is sent each month to the Midwest Presbytery's Church Extension Committee. During September \$1,600.00 was

directed to assisting parents with Christian education or home schooling costs of which \$750.00 was disbursed.

Giving for the Capital Expansion Project through September has reached 78.9% of the projected amount for the current year. The outstanding Mortgage and Promissory Notes balance was \$156,624.46 as of the end of September 2010.

In June of this year, the Church's Mortgage Note was converted into a 6.00% 5 year loan balance with a balloon payment due at maturity. The Note that was converted was a 3 year loan with a 5.75% rate with a balloon at maturity. The Finance Committee for the Expansion Project felt it prudent to lock in a known interest rate for a slightly higher interest rate and a longer term rather than be at risk for a higher rate in fall of 2011 when the loan would otherwise have been due. The monthly payment stayed the same at \$2,076.00 per month. Assuming payments are made as scheduled, the amount due at maturity would be approximately \$1,200.

In addition to the Mortgage, there are promissory notes owed by the Church and held by individuals totaling \$53,000. These notes have staggered maturity dates on them and pay 4.3% interest for the current year.

## Alzheimer's Conference

The Alzheimer's Association is planning the Sheboygan County Caregiver Conference for those who provide care family or professional to anyone suffering from some form of dementia. It will be held, Thursday, November 11 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Acuity Insurance. Registration fee is \$5.00 for two keynote speakers and several breakout sessions. Lunch is included and in-home respite care is available. For more detail please contact Ginny Nyhuis.





# De Masters in Stillwater, MN

*from the De Masters*

We were blessed by recently seeing so many of you while we were in Sheboygan for parts of 2 weeks. God has certainly given much to be joyful over at Grace Church and we pray for you every day. Before we left Stillwater on October 6, we got in on one of the first work days at the church in Hammond. Many people accomplished a lot on the first Saturday of October. Ivan's Sunday for Eau Claire is the first so we put on an additional 100 miles and had a blessing on that Sunday afternoon with the people there.

The Kuhfuss house (which is where we live) had siding and a roof replaced from the day we left to the day we got back. We missed the whole thing!! Also the men of the church replaced the roof at church one weekend and we missed that too. The wind storm yesterday was a good test as to the durability of both. Even had snow!!

Reunions were the main purpose for our two week vacation. Carla's 50th class reunion from Central College, Pella IA provided some good memories; reuniting with friends in IA enroute to that celebration provided more blessings. We got to see the OP mission work in Pella in action in morning worship and Sunday school. The second Sunday Ivan was asked to preach at the 60th reunion of Westminster OPC in Indianhead Park IL, where he was a pastor for 19 years. We were delighted to see many people from that era there for the celebration, including our daughter Pam, with Ted

and 3 kids along. As we were returning to Stillwater, we stopped at a wedding of one of the students Carla taught in CCA grade school, at the installation of Pastor Hartley in Neenah, and at her sister's home. We arrived on Saturday afternoon.

God has given additional blessings to us besides the fellowship of this congregation of young families. Seven or more of the former UCC members have visited the church, some quite regularly. Carla still goes to Katie's English class to Japanese women on Mondays and to her class in quilting to oriental students on Fridays (at Mission OPC). In addition she is tutoring Kazue (pronounced Kaz-e-yea) on Wednesdays in the book of Ruth and in English grammar.

We got to see some of the memorabilia of Laura Ingalls Wilder in WI on a day trip and happened on the National Eagle Center in Wabasha MN, which was worth the trip. Another day we visited the Mabel Tainter Theater in Menomine, and the Paul Bunyan Museum and the Baseball Hall of Fame in Eau Claire on the way to a Bible study in the Hills' home in Eau Claire.

Two books recently given to us to read which are eye openers: *Life at the Bottom*, by Dalrymple (about England's underclass culture from a doctor's perspective) and *Coming Back Crazy* by Bill Holm (about teaching in China (culture shock) and then returning to America (big culture shock)).





## Carrot Soup



“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.”

- ★ 1 medium onion, chopped
- ★ 2 tablespoons butter
- ★ 2-1/2 cups chicken broth
- ★ 1 pound carrots, sliced
- ★ 2 large potatoes, peeled and cubed
- ★ 1-1/2 cups milk
- ★ 1/4 teaspoon salt
- ★ 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- ★ Shredded Swiss cheese & minced fresh parsley, optional

### *Directions:*

In a large saucepan, saute onion in butter until tender. Add the broth, carrots and potatoes; bring to a boil. Reduce heat; cover and simmer for 15-20 minutes or until vegetables are tender. Remove from the heat; cool slightly.

Transfer to a blender; cover and process until blended. Return to pan. Stir in the milk, salt and pepper; heat through (do not boil). Garnish with cheese and parsley if desired. **Yield:** 6 servings.

## RECIPE HUNT

If you brought something to the last Church Potluck (October 17th) and have a recipe you would like to share, just e-mail it to the church secretary or lay it on her desk by Wednesday, November 17th!



Showing forth the  
excellencies of Jesus  
Christ

Grace OPC

Church Office:  
4930 Green Valley Ln

Phone: 920-565-2160  
Website: [graceopcsheboygan.com](http://graceopcsheboygan.com)  
Email:  
[graceopc@tds.net](mailto:graceopc@tds.net)  
[briandejong@earthlink.net](mailto:briandejong@earthlink.net)

CHECK OUT THE AUDIO:

**SERMONAUDIO.COM/  
GRACESHEBOYGAN**

CHECK OUT THE WEBSITE:

**GRACEOPCSHEBOYGAN.COM**



## Spurgeon Corner

### The Unfailing Watch

*Behold, he that keepeth Israel  
shall neither slumber nor sleep.  
(Psalm 121:4)*

Jehovah is “the Keeper of Israel.” No form of unconsciousness ever steals over Him, neither the deeper slumber nor the slighter sleep. He never fails to watch the house and the heart of His people. This is a sufficient reason for our resting in perfect peace. Alexander said that he slept because his friend Parmenio watched; much more may we sleep because our God is our guard.

“Behold” is here set up to call our attention to the cheering truth. Israel, when he had a stone for his pillow, fell asleep; but His God was awake and came in vision to His servant. When we lie defenseless, Jehovah Himself will cover our head.

The Lord keeps His people as a rich man keeps his treasure, as a captain keeps a city with a garrison, as a sentry keeps watch over his sovereign. None can harm those who are in such keeping. Let me put my soul into His dear hands. He never forgets us, never ceases actively to care for us, never finds Himself unable to preserve us.

O my Lord, keep me, lest I wander and fall and perish. Keep me, that I may keep Thy commandments. By Thine unslumbering care prevent my sleeping like the sluggard and perishing like those who sleep the sleep of death.

*November 13 Faith's Checkbook, by C. H. SPURGEON*



## Annual Thanksgiving Day Football Game

Come out for the Annual Thanksgiving Day Football Game held on November 25th starting at 8:00 a.m. at the field outside of church. Come just to watch or to play a game of real tackle football— either way you can still enjoy the doughnuts at half-time! Those participating are asked to bring some orange clothing to help differentiate the teams.

