

REFLECTIONS

Grace OPC

RE-FORM-ATION

By Pastor Brian De Jong

Being a “Reformed Church” we are accustomed to thinking pleasant and positive thoughts about the Reformation. A mere mention of the names of Calvin, Luther, or Knox give us warm feelings. As we enjoy our heritage, we meditate on the great doctrines of the Protestant Reformation – the sovereign grace of God, justification by grace alone through faith alone, the covenant between God and man.

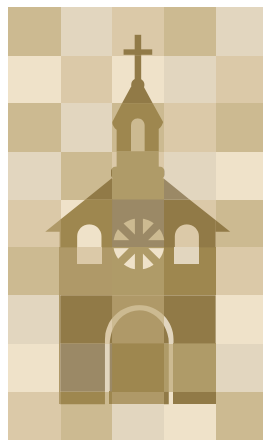
But what is the “Reformation” all about? What was its driving passion? A clue might be discovered if we break down the word itself. Re-formation.

At the center of the word is “form.” Form can be used as either a noun or a verb. As a verb, it means to shape something into a particular figure. In a short while our children will be rolling snowballs around the front yard, forming them into snowmen. They take the snow, pack it together, arrange it and decorate it to create the form and figure of a snowman.

When you add “re-” to the “form,” it means to make something a second time – to rearrange it to resume its previous shape. Suppose a malicious neighborhood bully knocks the snowman over. The child must go and “re-form” the snow man – to set him back up, and reshape his snow-body. When something has been put out of shape, it must be reformed so that it can resume its original shape.

Now add “-ation” to the ending and you have a wide and sustained move-

ment. This is no longer a solitary act of an isolated individual, but instead it is a deliberate effort by large numbers of people to put the thing back in shape.



So what exactly was going on in the 1500’s? What were a large number of European peoples trying to put back together again? What were they “re-forming?”

John Calvin answers the question best in his treatise, “The Necessity of Reforming the Church.” In 1544 Emperor Charles V called a Diet of the Holy Roman Empire in the city of Speyer. Martin Bucer, the celebrated Reformer in Strassburg, asked his friend John Calvin to draft a document stating the doctrines of and the need to Reform the church. According to Theodore Beza, Calvin’s coworker in Geneva, this book became the most powerful work of that time.

Calvin methodically argued the necessity of “instant amendment” to bring the church back to her proper form. He began by demonstrating to the Emperor the evils of the Roman Catholic Church that needed to be changed. He then spelled out specific remedies adopted by the Reformers to counteract those evils. Finally, he showed how the situation demanded quick action.

There were four topics that Calvin addressed. He considered these to be the soul and body of the church. The soul includes worship and salvation. The body is sacraments and church government. On these four fronts – worship, salvation,...

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November 2014

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Happiness

by J. C. Ryle

III. Let me now, in the last place, *point out the way to be really happy.*

There is a sure path which leads to happiness, if men will only take it. There never lived the person who travelled in that path, and missed the object that he sought to attain.

It is a path open to all. It needs neither wealth, nor rank, nor learning in order to walk in it. It is for the servant as well as for the master: it is for the poor as well as for the rich. None are excluded but those who exclude themselves.

It is the one only path. All that have ever been happy, since the days of Adam, have journeyed on it. There is no royal road to happiness. Kings must be content to go side by side with their humblest subjects, if they would be happy.

Where is this path? Where is this road? Listen, and you shall hear.

The way to be happy is *to be a real, thorough-going, true-hearted Christian.* Scripture declares it: experience proves it. The converted man, the believer in Christ, the child of God,—he, and he alone, is the happy man.

It sounds too simple to be true: it seems at first sight so plain a receipt that it is not believed. But the greatest truths are often the simplest. The secret which many of the wisest on earth have utterly failed to discover, is revealed to the humblest believer in Christ. I repeat it deliberately, and defy the world to disprove it: the true Christian is the only happy man.

What do I mean when I speak of a true Christian? Do I mean everybody who goes to church or chapel? Do I mean everybody who professes an orthodox creed, and bows his head at the belief? Do I mean everybody who professes to love the Gospel? No: indeed! I mean something very different. All are not Christians who are called Christians. The man I have in view is *the Christian in heart and life.* He who has been taught by the Spirit really to feel his sins,—he who really rests all his hopes on the Lord

Jesus Christ, and His atonement,—he who has been born again and really lives a spiritual, holy life,—he whose religion is not a mere Sunday coat, but a mighty constraining principle governing every day of his life,—he is the man I mean, when I speak of a true Christian.

What do I mean when I say the true Christian is happy? Has he no doubts and no fears? Has he no anxieties and no troubles? Has he no sorrows and no cares? Does he never feel pain, and shed no tears? Far be it from me to say anything of the kind. He has a body weak and frail like other men; he has affections and passions like every one born of woman: he lives in a changeful world. But deep down in his heart he has a mine of solid peace and substantial joy which is never exhausted. This is true happiness.

Do I say that all true Christians are equally happy? No: not for a moment! There are babes in Christ's family as well as old men; there are weak members of the mystical body as well as strong ones; there are tender lambs as well as sheep. There are not only the cedars of Lebanon but the hyssop that grows on the wall. There are degrees of grace and degrees of faith. Those who have most faith and grace will have most happiness. But all, more or less, compared to the children of the world, are happy men.

Do I say that real true Christians are equally happy at all times? No: not for a moment! All have their ebbs and flows of comfort: some, like the Mediterranean sea, almost insensibly; some, like the tide at Chepstow, fifty or sixty feet at a time. Their bodily health is not always the same; their earthly circumstances are not always the same; the souls of those they love fill them at seasons with special anxiety: they themselves are sometimes overtaken by a fault, and walk in darkness. They sometimes give way to inconsistencies and besetting sins, and lose their sense of pardon. But, as a general rule, the true Christian has a deep pool of peace within him, which even at the lowest is never entirely dry.¹

The true Christian is the only happy man, be-

Happiness Continued...

cause *his conscience is at peace*. That mysterious witness for God, which is so mercifully placed within us, is fully satisfied and at rest. It sees in the blood of Christ a complete cleansing away of all its guilt. It sees in the priesthood and mediation of Christ a complete answer to all its fears. It sees that through the sacrifice and death of Christ, God can now be just, and yet be the justifier of the ungodly. It no longer bites and stings, and makes its possessor afraid of himself. The Lord Jesus Christ has amply met all its requirements. Conscience is no longer the enemy of the true Christian, but his friend and adviser. Therefore he is happy.

The true Christian is the only happy man, because he can *sit down quietly and think about his soul*. He can look behind him and before him, he can look within him and around him, and feel, "All is well."—He can think calmly on his past life, and however many and great his sins, take comfort in the thought that they are all forgiven. The righteousness of Christ covers all, as Noah's flood overtopped the highest hills.—He can think calmly about things to come, and yet not be afraid. Sickness is painful; death is solemn; the judgment day is an awful thing: but having Christ for him, he has nothing to fear.—He can think calmly about the Holy God, whose eyes are on all his ways, and feel, "He is my Father, my reconciled Father in Christ Jesus. I am weak; I am unprofitable: yet in Christ He regards me as His dear child, and is well-pleased." Oh, what a blessed privilege it is to be able to *think*, and not be afraid! I can well understand the mournful complaint of the prisoner in solitary confinement. He had warmth, and food, and clothing, and work, but he was not happy. And why? He said, "He was obliged to think."

The true Christian is the only happy man, because *he has sources of happiness entirely independent of this world*. He has something which cannot be affected by sickness and by deaths, by private losses and by public calamities, the "peace of God, which passeth all understanding." He has a hope laid up for him in heaven; he has a treasure which moth and rust cannot corrupt; he has a house which can

never be taken down. His loving wife may die, and his heart feel rent in twain; his darling children may be taken from him, and he may be left alone in this cold world; his earthly plans may be crossed; his health may fail: but all this time he has a portion which nothing can hurt. He has one Friend who never dies; he has possessions beyond the grave, of which nothing can deprive him: his nether springs may fail, but his upper springs are never dry. This is real happiness.

The true Christian is happy, because he is *in his right position*. All the powers of his being are directed to right ends. His affections are not set on things below, but on things above; his will is not bent on self-indulgence, but is submissive to the will of God; his mind is not absorbed in wretched perishable trifles. He desires useful employment: he enjoys the luxury of doing good. Who does not know the misery of disorder? Who has not tasted the discomfort of a house where everything and everybody are in their wrong places,—the last things first and the first [Pg 251] things last? The heart of an unconverted man is just such a house. Grace puts everything in that heart in its right position. The things of the soul come first, and the things of the world come second. Anarchy and confusion cease: unruly passions no longer do each one what is right in his eyes. Christ reigns over the whole man, and each part of him does his proper work. The new heart is the only really light heart, for it is the only heart that is in order.—The true Christian has found out his place. He has laid aside his pride and self-will; he sits at the feet of Jesus, and is in his right mind: he loves God and loves man, and so he is happy. In heaven all are happy because all do God's will perfectly. The nearer a man gets to this standard the happier he will be.

The plain truth is that without Christ there is no happiness in this world. He alone can give the Comforter who abideth for ever. He is the sun; without Him men never feel warm. He is the light; without Him men are always in the dark. He is the bread; without Him men are always starving. He is the living water; without Him men are always athirst. Give them what you like,—place them where you please,—surround them with all the comforts you can imagine,

Happiness Continued...

—it makes no difference. Separate from Christ, the Prince of Peace, a man cannot be happy.

Give a man a sensible interest in Christ, and he will be happy *in spite of poverty*. He will tell you that he wants nothing that is really good. He is provided for: he has riches in possession, and riches in reversion; he has meat to eat that the world knows not of; he has friends who never leave him nor forsake him. The Father and the Son come to him, and make their abode with him: the Lord Jesus Christ sups with him, and he with Christ. (Rev. iii. 20.) Give a man a sensible interest in Christ, and he will be happy *in spite of sickness*. His flesh may groan, and his body be worn out with pain, but his heart will rest and be at peace. One of the happiest people I ever saw was a young woman who had been hopelessly ill for many years with disease of the spine. She lay in a garret without a fire; the straw thatch was not two feet above her face. She had not the slightest hope of recovery. But she was always rejoicing in the Lord Jesus. The spirit triumphed mightily over the flesh. She was happy, because Christ was with her.²

Give a man a sensible interest in Christ, and he will be happy *in spite of abounding public calamities*. The government of his country may be thrown into confusion, rebellion and disorder may turn everything upside down, laws may be trampled under foot; justice and equity may be outraged; liberty may be cast down to the ground; might may prevail over right: but still his heart will not fail. He will remember that the kingdom of Christ will one day be set up. He will say, like the old Scotch minister who lived unmoved throughout the turmoil of the first French revolution: "It is all right: it shall be well with the righteous."...

I repeat my assertion in this part of my subject. I repeat it boldly, confidently, deliberately. I say that there is no happiness among men that will at all compare with that of the true Christian. All other happiness by the side of his is moonlight compared to sunshine, and brass by the side of gold. Boast, if you will, of the laughter and merriment of irreligious men; sneer, if you will, at the gravity and serious-

ness, which appear in the demeanour of many Christians. I have looked the whole subject in the face, and am not moved. I say that the true Christian alone is the truly happy man, and the way to be happy is to be a true Christian.

And now I am going to close this paper by a few words of plain application. I have endeavoured to show what is essential to true happiness. I have endeavoured to expose the fallacy of many views which prevail upon the subject. I have endeavoured to point out, in plain and unmistakable words, where true happiness alone can be found. Suffer me to wind up all by an affectionate appeal to the consciences of all into whose hands this volume may fall.

(1) In the first place, *let me entreat every reader of this paper to apply to his own heart the solemn inquiry, Are you happy?*

High or low, rich or poor, master or servant, farmer or labourer, young or old, here is a question that deserves an answer,—*Are you really happy?*

Man of the world, who art caring for nothing but the things of time, neglecting the Bible, making a god of business or money, providing for everything but the day of judgment, scheming and planning about everything but eternity: are you happy? *You know you are not.*

Foolish woman, who art trifling life away in levity and frivolity, spending hours after hours on that poor frail body which must soon feed the worms, making an idol of dress and fashion, and excitement, and human praise, as if this world was all: are you happy? *You know you are not.*

Young man, who art bent on pleasure and self-indulgence, fluttering from one idle pastime to another, like the moth about the candle,—fancying yourself clever and knowing, and too wise to be led by parsons, and ignorant that the devil is leading you captive, like the ox that is led to the slaughter: are you happy? *You know you are not.*

Yes: each and all of you, you are not happy! and in your own consciences you know it well. You may not allow it, but it is sadly true. There is a great empty place in each of your hearts, and nothing will fill it. Pour into it money, learning, rank, and pleasure,

Happiness Continued...

and it will be empty still. There is a sore place in each of your consciences, and nothing will heal it. Infidelity cannot; free-thinking cannot; Romanism cannot: they are all quack medicines. Nothing can heal it, but that which at present you have not used,—the simple Gospel of Christ. Yes: you are indeed a miserable people!

Take warning this day, that you never will be happy till you are converted. You might as well expect to feel the sun shine on your face when you turn your back to it, as to feel happy when you turn your back on God and on Christ....

(3) In the next place, *let me entreat all readers of this book, who are not yet happy, to seek happiness where alone it can be found.*

The keys of the way to happiness are in the hands of the Lord Jesus Christ. He is sealed and appointed by God the Father, to give the bread of life to them that hunger, and to give the water of life to them that thirst. The door which riches and rank and learning have so often tried to open, and tried in vain, is now ready to open to every humble, praying believer. Oh, if you want to be happy, come to Christ!

Come to Him, confessing that you are weary of your own ways, and want rest,—that you find you have no power and might to make yourself holy or happy or fit for heaven, and have no hope but in Him. Tell Him this unreservedly. This is coming to Christ.

Come to Him, imploring Him to show you His mercy, and grant you His salvation,—to wash you in His own blood, and take your sins away,—to speak peace to your conscience, and heal your troubled soul. Tell Him all this unreservedly. This is coming to Christ.

You have everything to encourage you. The Lord Jesus Himself invites you. He proclaims to you as well as to others, "Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." (Matt. xi. 28—30.) Wait for nothing. You

may feel unworthy. You may feel as if you did not repent enough. But wait no longer. Come to Christ.

You have everything to encourage you. Thousands have walked in the way you are invited to enter, and have found it good. Once, like yourself, they served the world, and plunged deeply into folly and sin. Once, like yourself, they became weary of their wickedness, and longed for deliverance and rest. They heard of Christ, and His willingness to help and save: they came to Him by faith and prayer, after many a doubt and hesitation; they found Him a thousand times more gracious than they had expected. They rested on Him and were happy: they carried His cross and tasted peace. Oh, walk in their steps!

I beseech you, by the mercies of God, to come to Christ. As ever you would be happy, I entreat you to come to Christ. Cast off delays. Awake from your past slumber: arise, and be free! This day come to Christ.

(4) In the last place, *let me offer a few hints to all true Christians for the increase and promotion of their happiness.*

I offer these hints with diffidence. I desire to apply them to my own conscience as well as to your's. You have found Christ's service happy. I have no doubt that you feel such sweetness in Christ's peace that you would fain know more of it. I am sure that these hints deserve attention.

Believers, if you would have an increase of happiness in Christ's service, *labour every year to grow in grace.* Beware of standing still. The holiest men are always the happiest. Let your aim be every year to be more holy,—to know more, to feel more, to see more of the fulness of Christ. Rest not upon old grace: do not be content with the degree of religion whereunto you have attained. Search the Scriptures more earnestly; pray more fervently; hate sin more; mortify self-will more; become more humble the nearer you draw to your end; seek more direct personal communion with the Lord Jesus; strive to be more like Enoch,—daily walking with God; keep your conscience clear of little sins; grieve not the Spirit; avoid wranglings and disputes about the lesser matters of religion: lay more firm hold upon those great truths,

Happiness Concluded...

without which no man can be saved. Remember and practise these things, and you will be more happy.

Believers, if you would have an increase of happiness in Christ's service, *labour every year to be more thankful*. Pray that you may know more and more what it is to "rejoice in the Lord." (Phil. iii. 1.) Learn to have a deeper sense of your own wretched sinfulness and corruption, and to be more deeply grateful, that by the grace of God you are what you are. Alas, there is too much complaining and too little thanksgiving among the people of God! There is too much murmuring and poring over the things that we have not. There is too little praising and blessing for the many undeserved mercies that we have. Oh, that God would pour out upon us a great spirit of thankfulness and praise!

Believers, if you would have an increase of happiness in Christ's service, *labour every year to do more good*. Look round the circle in which your lot is cast, and lay yourself out to be useful. Strive to be of the same character with God: He is not only good, but "doeth good." (Ps. cxix. 68.) Alas, there is far too much selfishness among believers in the present day! There is far too much lazy sitting by the fire nursing our own spiritual diseases, and croaking over the state of our own hearts. Up; and be useful in your day and generation! Is there no one in all the world that you can read to? Is there no one that you can speak to? Is there no one that you can write to? Is there literally nothing that you can do for the

glory of God, and the benefit of your fellow-men? Oh I cannot think it! I cannot think it. There is much that you might do, if you had only the will. For your own happiness' sake, arise and do it, without delay. The bold, outspoken, working Christians are always the happiest. The more you do for God, the more God will do for you.

The compromising lingering Christian must never expect to taste perfect peace. **THE MOST DECIDED CHRISTIAN WILL ALWAYS BE THE HAPPIEST MAN.**

¹ I use the words, "as a general rule," advisedly. When a believer falls into such a horrible sin as that of David, it would be monstrous to talk of his feeling inward peace. If a man professing to be a true Christian talked to me of being happy in such a case, - before giving any evidence of the deepest, most heart-abasing repentance, - I should feel great doubts whether he ever had any grace at all.

² John Howard, the famous Christian philanthropist, in his last journey said, "I hope I have sources of enjoyment that depend not on the particular spot I inhabit. A rightly cultivated mind, under the power of religion and the exercises of beneficent dispositions, affords a ground of satisfaction little affected by *heres and theres*."

For the rest of the article, check out, *Practical Religion*, "Happiness" by J.C. Ryle.

Men's Leadership Breakfast

All the men & boys of the church are invited to the men's leadership training breakfast, which will be held on Saturday, November 22nd starting at 7:00 p.m. Come for a delicious breakfast and a study.



Harvest Home Supper

Our Annual Harvest Home Supper will be held on Saturday, November 15, with dinner starting at 5:30 p.m. Sign up on the bulletin board at church to indicate how many will be coming and what you would like to bring— options include salad, dessert, veggie, or potato. A missions presentation by Rev. Frank & Deborah Marsh on their time in China will follow the supper.

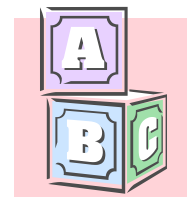


Session Digest

by Pastor Brian De Jong

On Tuesday evening, October 14, your Session met for its monthly meeting. In addition to our regular business, we began discussing budgetary matters for 2015. Elder, deacon and trustee nominees were discussed, and the details for the Reformation Conference were reviewed. After fruitful work by Elder Jim Onnink, we adopted a new nursery policy and appointed Heidi Mamazza as the new nursery coordinator. A copy of the policy has now been distributed in the mailboxes of all members of the church. The reasons for the policy arise from two considerations. First are the occasional complaints we have received that our present nursery system has been somewhat disorganized and haphazard.

The second reason is the potential legal difficulty the church could face in the instance of any significant problems with a child in the care of our nursery. For the better serving of our members and visitors, and the prudent protection of the church from legal action, this policy seemed wise. Copies of this policy will be available upon request, and will be given to those new to our nursery.



November Birthdays

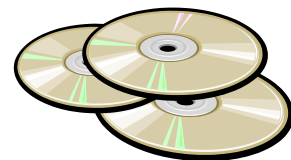


Wedding Anniversaries



Reformation Conference CD's

Cd's from the Reformation Conference
will be available on request from Pastor
De Jong!





Grace OPC

November 2014

Showing forth the excellencies of Jesus Christ



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

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Pine Haven Thank You

October 23, 2014

Congregation
Grace Orthodox Presbyterian Church
4930 Green Valley Lane
Sheboygan, WI 53083-1837

Dear Congregation,

We wish to thank Grace Orthodox Presbyterian Church for its continued support and generosity. Your recent gift in the amount of \$600 is gratefully acknowledged and will be placed in our Resident Assistance Fund.

Your gift helps support Pine Haven's commitment to provide quality, compassionate care for the residents of Pine Haven's assisted living and nursing home. Your contribution is used to provide a purposeful and active life for Pine Haven residents and to care for long-time residents who may be coming to the end of their financial resources. Our Christian heritage is the basis for the caring environment that we strive to provide for residents of all faiths.

Through the years with God's blessings, Pine Haven Christian Communities has grown. We now provide Christ-centered care in our Nursing Home, Residential Center, Prairie Crossing facility, Oostburg Assisted Living, and Covenant Home. We look forward to the completion of our new facility in 2015.

Please remember us in your prayers as we strive to continue to provide quality, compassionate, Christ-centered care for our residents.

Sincerely,

Roger A. Leys
Chief Executive Officer
Pine Haven Christian Communities



Thanksgiving Day Football Game

The Annual Thanksgiving Day Football game will be held in the field next to the church parking lot on Thanksgiving Day morning. Come to play or to cheer on your favorite team. Participants are asked to bring some orange clothing to help differentiate the teams. Donuts will be available for everyone at half-time.



Comments on Finance

by Joel Moody

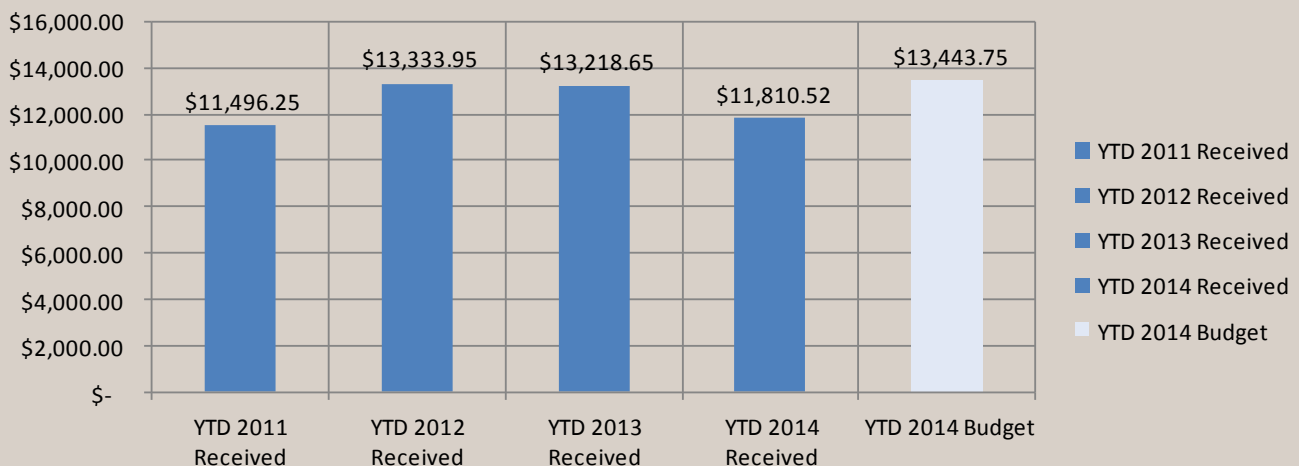
General Fund receipts for September totaled \$11,626.35 as compared to the budget of \$13,005.37, while General Fund disbursements for September totaled \$12,044.37. September year to date General Fund receipts totaled \$116,832.38 as compared to the budget of \$126,802.50 (a shortfall of \$9,970.12), while September year to date disbursements of \$114,181.30 were \$12,621.20 below budget. Through the end of September, the General Fund has increased by \$2,727.48. Year to date General Fund receipts for September were 6.7% below last year's total on an average Sunday while disbursements were 1.7% below the prior year.

Benevolence Fund Receipts for September totaled \$1,004.20 as compared to the budget of \$1,493.75 (a shortfall of \$489.55). Year to date Benevolence Fund Receipts through September totaled \$11,810.52 and were below budget by \$1,633.23. Please refer to the graph for a historical trend of benevolence receipts as well as the current benevolence budget. ...

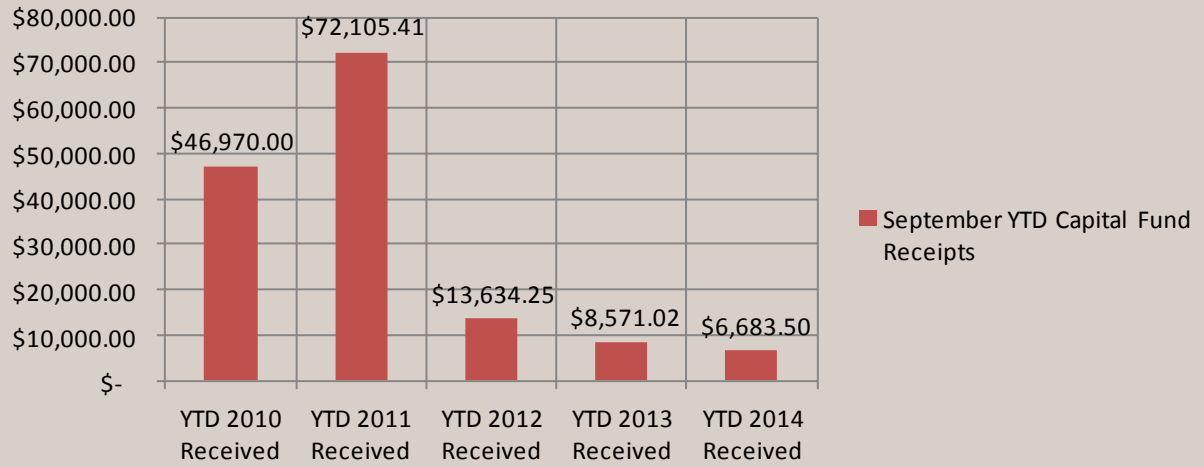
September Year to Date giving for the **Capital Fund** was \$6,683.50. Please refer to the Capital Fund Graph that shows the historical giving for the years

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 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. During November, an offering is scheduled to be taken for the Capital Fund.

September YTD Benevolence Receipts Actual vs. Current Budget



September YTD Capital Fund Receipts





Getting to know...

Pine Haven Thank You

Pine Haven Auxiliary Update: The Pine Haven Auxiliary raised \$24,050.00 for the Pine Haven Communities this year. \$12,000.00 of it came from the Corner Store. The money will be used by Pine Haven to buy the following items:

- *Infection Control carts - Nursing Home
2 @ \$225 \$450
- *AED Trainer - All Areas \$350
- *Stereo with CD player - Prairie Crossing \$250
- *Money for Art Room Supplies - Residential Center \$500
- *iPod Shuffles - Covenant Home \$200
- *Chair Scale - Rehab Center \$1,000
- *Bariatric Lift - Rehab Center \$5,000
- *Reclining Shower Chair - Nursing Home \$2,500

- *Low Air Loss Mattress - Nursing Home \$1,800
- *Musical Group - All Facilities \$1,000
- *Lifts for the New Facility NH and Rehab Sit to Stand Device \$3,150 Sling Lift \$2,500
- *Beauty Shop Equipment for New Facility \$300
- *New Store-Shelving and other items for New Facility \$2,000
- *Activities Department \$3,050

We want to say thank you to everyone who has helped us raise this money. We appreciate your time and your donations of crafts and bake goods. Thank you also to everyone who came to our events and supported our mission to improve the lives of the Pine Have Residents.

SCCHS Fall Play

We would like to invite you to our fall play, "Searching for David's Heart" by Cherie Bennett. The play will be held in the Sheboygan County Christian High gym at 929 Greenfield Ave. on Nov. 6, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., Friday, Nov. 7, from 7:00 p.m.- 9:00 p.m., and Saturday, Nov. 8 from 7:00 p.m.- 9:00 p.m. The play is about Darcy Deeton, a twelve-year-old girl who loves her older brother, David. Darcy becomes jealous when he falls in love with Crystal Evans. David is then killed in an accident, and Darcy blames herself. The Deetons decide to donate David's most important organ... his heart. Darcy is so guilt-ridden about his death that she is determined to find the person who has his heart so she can find some

closure. Darcy's best friend, Sam, joins her on the many adventures that they experience.

Ticket prices are as follows: Adults-\$8.00, Senior Adult-\$6.00, Students-\$4.00



Book Reviews

by Carla De Master

The No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency
by Alexander McCall Smith
African Friends and Money Matters
by David Maranz

Before we went to Malawi, Ivan's brother (who has been to Africa several times) recommended that we read a set of fiction books: The No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency. The women who run this agency solve personal, family, and business problems for people in Botswana. The owner of Tlokweng Road Speedy Motors has his business adjacent to the office of the detective agency and is engaged to the director there. He conducts his repairs with integrity and is generous to an orphanage in many ways.

The reason for reading these books is to get a sense of interpersonal relationships, scenery, and life of the people of Botswana. In a sense, this could be applied to other African nations as well. Fiction often tells effectively the heart and purpose of the people of

a certain period of time or place of living.

African Friends and Money Matters by David Maranz was probably a bigger help in understanding the economics and culture of Africa. This book would help those working in missions, doctoring, or other reasons for being in Africa. African people do not hesitate to ask for financial help from friends, family and other people with resources, nor are people surprised or hesitant to do that helping. One thing for certain: a 10 day visit is more about listening and learning, rather than applying anything read in books. The resources, however, give depth to the reality that is seen.



Fire House Pizza Fundraiser

Pine Haven Women's Auxiliary invites you to attend their Fire House Pizza Fund Raiser on Wednesday, November 5, 2014 from 4:00 - 8:00 p.m. It will be held at Fire House Pizza, 109 Maple Street in Sheboygan Falls.

A percentage of all sales during this time - both dine in and take out - will be donated to benefit the residents of Pine Haven Christian Communities.





“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.”



Showing forth the excellencies of Jesus Christ

Grace OPC

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CHECK OUT THE AUDIO:

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Spurgeon

Corner

*“My strength is made perfect in weakness.”
(2 Cor. 12:9)*

A primary qualification for serving God with any amount of success, and for doing God’s work well and triumphantly, is a sense of our own weakness. When God’s warrior marches forth to battle, strong in his own might, when he boasts, “I know that I shall conquer, my own right arm and my conquering sword shall get unto me the victory,” defeat is not far distant. God will not go forth with that man who marches in his own strength. He who reckoneth on victory thus has reckoned wrongly, for “it is not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts.” They who go forth to fight, boasting of their prowess, shall return with their gay banners trailed in the dust, and their armour stained with disgrace. Those who serve God must serve him in his own way, and in his strength, or he will never accept their service. That which man doth, unaided by divine strength, God can never own. The mere fruits of the earth he casteth away; he will only reap that corn, the seed of which was sown from heaven, watered by grace, and ripened by the sun of divine love. God will empty out all that thou hast before he will put his own into thee; he will first clean out thy granaries before he will fill them with the finest of the wheat. The river of God is full of water; but not one drop of it flows from earthly springs. God will have no strength used in his battles but the strength which he himself imparts. Are you mourning over your own weakness? Take courage, for there must be a consciousness of weakness before the Lord will give thee victory. Your emptiness is but the preparation for your being filled, and your casting down is but the making ready for your lifting up.



“When I am weak then am I strong,
Grace is my shield and Christ my song.”

Morning, November 4th, by C. H. Spurgeon

Front Page Concluded...

...sacraments, and church government – re-formation was badly needed. The church had ceased to be a gospel preaching institution, and she needed to be put back into shape again.

No matter how much things change, the important issues always remain the same. The church of our day has lost its form, and needs to be put back into shape again. Luther, Melanchthon, Calvin, Bucer, Knox, and many others worked to re-form the church, but they’re all gone to glory. It remains

for us today to put our hand to the work and to put the church back into shape again in our time. May God grant us diligence and success in this necessary task.

