

REFLECTIONS

The Monthly Newsletter of Grace OPC

SPIRITUAL JOY

By Pastor Brian De Jong

There are many things that can bring joy to the heart of man. A successful round of golf, a beautiful sunset, an entertaining movie, or a good dinner with your spouse – all of these things can make people rejoice. But there is another variety of joy that is available only to the believer – what I would call “Spiritual Joy.”

Spiritual joy is one of the fruits of the Spirit. Galatians 5:22 informs us that “the fruit of the Spirit is love, **joy**, peace, patience, etc.” His powerful presence infuses true joy into our lives.

That was the experience of the early church, as Acts 13:52 tells us – “And the disciples were continually filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.” This was even the case when early Christians went through times of tribulation. Paul can tell the Thessalonians that “You also became imitators of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much tribulation with the joy of the Holy Spirit,” (I Thes 1:6)

Thus Paul prayed for spiritual joy to pervade the lives of the Roman Christians in Romans 15:13 “Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” As they lived by faith, Paul was asking the God of hope to fill them with all joy and peace, so they would abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

In the great Apostle’s mind, this was what the kingdom of God was all about. Earlier in Romans he states, “for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but

righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.” Kingdom living is to be marked with joy.

So why should we be joyful Christians? Why should joy characterize our community of faith? The first reason would seem to be the joy of our salvation. To know that your sins are forgiven, that

you are reconciled to God, that you are adopted into His family, and that you have a share in all the blessings and benefits of the covenant of grace– those thoughts must be catalysts for heartfelt joy!

Another reason for joy would be our relationship with God through the Holy Spirit. Because the Spirit dwells in our

hearts, we have intimate union and communion with Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Having daily access to a divine being so good, so kind, so patient, so gracious – doesn’t that inspire rejoicing? If we only had daily contact with the devil and his minions, then we would have ample reason for despair and grief. But to be united to Christ and indwelt by His Spirit produces a much better result.

And then there is the future – the glorious inheritance that is awaiting us in heaven. Psalm 16:11 gives us a glimpse of what awaits: “You will make known to me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; In Your right hand there are pleasures forever.”

Do you lack “the joy of the Lord” in your life? Do you want more joy? Ask your loving Heavenly Father, who will withhold no good thing from His beloved children!



Volume 4, Issue 10

October 2009

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Mnemonics...

- Worldview Movie Night, 9th
- Soup & Salad Potluck, 11th
- Reformation Conference, 31st

Why God Wants Us to Sing

Why God Wants Us to Sing Continued...

Why God Wants Us to Sing Continued...

Why God Wants Us to Sing Continued...

Why God Wants Us to Sing Concluded...

VBS in Haiti, Summer 2009

from the Hopps

Children's Catechism in Creole

Q#12: Eske Bondye konnen tout bagay?

R: Wi, ou pap kapab kache anyen devan Bondye.

#12: Does God know all things?

A: Yes. Nothing can be hidden from God.

Kaliko Beach, HAITI

Dear Friends at Grace,

Greetings in the precious name of Jesus, our Savior and yours! What a pleasure it is to share with you the fun we and the children of Lagonav have had this summer. Over 60 kids have attended each day of VBS we have offered. They come in all shapes and sizes. They come to hear Bible stories, learn catechism questions, sing, play games, do crafts and eat yummy snacks.

In a country where truth is not a priority, Q#12 above helps these children realize that you might be able to fool others and lie, but God knows everything and nothing can be hidden from him. These are practical biblical truths that will be of great later on in their lives. Please pray with us that these efforts would bear much fruit for His Kingdom.

Thank you all for your faithful support and prayers for us. We are grateful to the LORD for you. Rejoice with us in this good news from afar.

Bondye beni ou,

Ben & Heather

Ethan, Emma, Grace, & Elijah

To see the actual letter & a picture of those who were involved in VBS 2009 in Haiti, please go to the Missions Board in the Fellowship Hall.

October Birthdays



Happy Birthday!!!

De Masters in Maine

From the De Masters— Last installment!

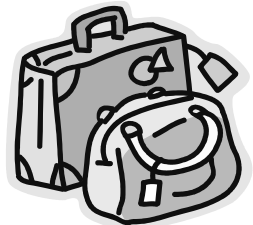
This is the week of transition for us. The last long trip up the coast; the last goodbyes to all the neighbors we got to know; the last opportunity for hospitality; the last prayer meeting; the last worship service; the last (second) overnight guests; the last funeral (3 weeks ago); the last counseling session; the last opportunity to help the homeless; the last joint service and Lord's Supper with the Sudanese members: and hardest of all, the last goodbyes to the many friends at church. Thank you for your prayers!! God has been gracious and uses weak vessels to accomplish his will. Praise God for his presence!

Danny and Skye Patterson are doing the same in Battle Mountain, NV. Having been there seven years, this is even harder for that group of (around 50) united, caring believers. Many came to know Jesus through Danny's preaching. His training in biblical counseling has been used way beyond the congregation, especially with the police department with those who have faced trauma and disasters in the line of duty. We praise God for the quick results of a search for a pastor. Second Parish will be welcoming them in 2-3 weeks. Pray for their arrival. Danny and his brother will be driving two vehicles from Battle Mountain, with the two oldest boys, 8

and 7. Skye will fly with the 3 youngest, 5 to 22 months.

We look forward to Ivan's brother, John and Ruth Ann, to arrive on Thursday night. We will be able to see the major sights around Portland one last time and have lobster (I am a pro at cooking that) one last time. I finished 7 paintings, mostly of things we saw in Maine. They will be reminders of the site and the people we were with, there.

It will be good to be home. We should visit Mom every day for a while to make up for when we were not there. It will be good to see Ruth often and I hope, help her at school. We hope to initiate again hospitality to the people at the church. We have done a lot of that here. One sad event. Ruth called last night to tell me that Cheryl (Rahn), our neighbor, died. I was looking forward to walking over there for chats. So sad! So sad! Ivan is looking forward to his ministry to the prisoners. There have been a few here who have come to the church. It will be good to see what God is doing in the presbytery, especially Marquette, Brainerd, and Neenah. See you Soon!! Thanks for praying!!

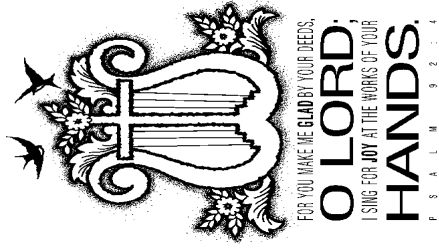




Grace OPC

October 2009

Showing forth the excellencies of Jesus Christ



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
4	5 Women's Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.	6 Pine Haven Study, 1:30 p.m. <i>Session Meeting, 6:30 p.m.</i>	7 Prayer Meeting, 7:00 p.m.	8 B&G & Trustee Mtg, 6:30 p.m.,	9 Worldview Movie Night, 7:00 p.m.	10 Men's Study, 7:30 a.m.
11 Missions Sunday <i>Soup & Salad</i>	12 Women's Bible Study, 6:30 a.m. <i>Theology, 3 p.m.</i>	13	14 Prayer Meeting, 7:00 p.m.	15	16	17
18	19 Women's Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.	20 Pine Haven Study, 1:30 p.m.	21 Prayer Meeting, 7:00 p.m.	22	23	24
25 Lord's Supper, (p.m.)	26 Women's Bible Study, 6:30 a.m. <i>Theology, 3 p.m.</i>	27	28 Prayer Meeting, 7:00 p.m.	29	30	31 Reformation Conference 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

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Worldview Movie Night

Who: Everyone! (bring your friends & family)

What: the movie “Chariots of Fire”

When: November 9th, 7:00 p.m.

Where: Grace Church

Why: To watch the movie and afterwards discuss the worldviews that the movie portrays!

Bring: A snack to pass



Comments on Finances

by Joel Moody

General Fund receipts for August totaled \$14,269.31 as compared to the budget of \$13,695.80, while General Fund disbursements for August totaled \$12,377.60. August year to date General Fund receipts totaled \$96,762.38 as compared to the budget of \$95,870.40 (an excess of \$891.98), while August year to date disbursements of \$94,339.75 were \$1,530.65 below budget. Through the end of August, the General Fund has increased by \$2,608.55.

Benevolence Fund Receipts for August totaled \$1,286.00 as compared to the budget of \$1,462.50. Year to date benevolence receipts through August totaled \$12,372.18, while the budget amount was \$11,700.00. Each month, \$475.00 is sent to Worldwide Outreach for the General Mis-

sions outreach of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church. In addition, \$200.00 is sent each month to the Midwest Presbytery's Church Extension Committee. During August, \$600.00 was sent towards the support of Middle East Reformed Fellowship (MERF). Please remember to pray for the ministries that our church helps to support.

Current year gifts directed towards the Capital Fund/Church Expansion Project totaled \$40,004.65 through the end of August (84.2% of what was expected for the entire current year). Approximately 96% of 2008/9 expected gifts for the Capital Fund have been received through the end of August. The bank mortgage payment that Grace Church is required to pay is \$2,076.00 per month.

Reformation Conference

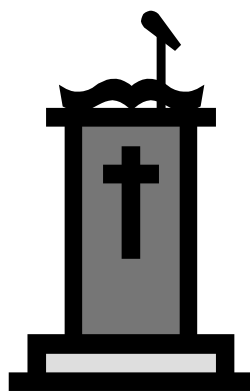
by Pastor Brian De Jong

On the weekend of October 31st, we will celebrate the Reformation by hosting a Reformation Conference with Dr. John Carrick.

Dr. Carrick is English and received his education at Oxford University before attending the London Theological Seminary. He received a Doctor of Ministry degree from Westminster Seminary in California. He has served as a both a pastor and a seminary professor. He currently teaches preaching at Greenville Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Greenville, South Carolina.

Dr. Carrick is an OPC minister and has recently filled the pulpit at Geneva OPC in the North Atlanta area (you can listen to some of his sermons at www.genevaopc.org on the sermons subpage). It is no surprise that Dr. Carrick teaches young men how to preach, since he himself is one of the finest preachers in our denomination.

In addition to his work as a minister and a professor, Dr. Carrick has written several helpful books. In 2002 the Banner of Truth published his book The Imperative of Preaching: A Theology of



Sacred Rhetoric. Last year they brought out a new work by Dr. Carrick entitled The Preaching of Jonathan Edwards.

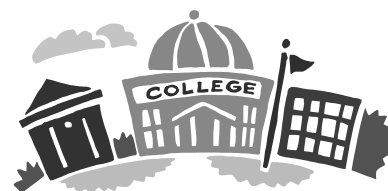
The schedule for our conference will be simple. On Saturday morning Dr. Carrick will be delivering two lectures. The first will be from 9:00 – 10:15 on Martin Luther and the Reformation. We will take a break for refreshments, and then from 10:30 – noon he will be speaking on Jonathan Edwards: Preaching and Revival.

Dr. Carrick will also be with us for the Lord's Day and will preach both morning and evening. In the morning he will preach on a doctrine that John Calvin considered to be the lynchpin of our faith – the doctrine of justification by grace alone through faith alone.

This promises to be a significant encouragement for our congregation. It is also an excellent opportunity to invite family, friends, neighbors, acquaintances, coworkers and even complete strangers to Grace Church. While our focus is mainly “in-house,” we also want to make this conference widely known to any who might have interest.

College Preview

If any high school student is interested in a visit to Covenant College this fall, please call Roy Ingelse at 564-3468.



Note- 'tis the season for ripe garden vegetables! This month's Recipe Corner is expanded so you can use them!

Green Tomato Pie

- ★ 5 large green tomatoes (they must be green; once they begin to turn red, the flavor is unsuitable for this pie. About 5 cups sliced)
- ★ 1 cup white sugar
- ★ 1/2 tsp. salt
- ★ 1 1/2 tsp. cinnamon
- ★ Dash of nutmeg
- ★ 2 Tbsp. flour
- ★ 2 Tbsp. butter

Peel tomatoes, cut into thin slices. Spread over bottom crust in pie pan. Mix dry ingredients well; sprinkle over tomatoes. Dot with butter, put on top crust. Crimp edges and cut vents as for an apple pie.

Bake 425° about 15 minutes, til brown. Reduce heat to 350° and bake about 1/2 hour until bubbly. Tastes exactly like Apple Pie!

Note: recipe is from my father's sister.

Darlene Cooper



“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.”

Green Tomato Jam

- ★ 2 1/2 c. pureed green tomatoes
- ★ 2 c. sugar
- ★ 1 3 oz. package raspberry jello

In a large saucepan, bring tomatoes and sugar to a boil. Reduce heat; simmer uncovered for 20 minutes. Remove from heat; stir in jello until dissolved. Skim off foam if desired.

Pour into jars or freezer containers. Leave 1/2-in. head space. Cool before covering with lids. Freeze or refrigerate. Yields about 3 cups.

Note: Easy & fast. Tiny tomato seeds in green fruit much like raspberry seeds—only not hard. From 2000 Taste of Home.

Darlene Cooper

“Healthified” Zucchini Bread

- ★ 2 1/2 c. shredded zucchini (about 2 med.)
- ★ 1 c. unsweetened applesauce
- ★ 1/2 c. oil
- ★ 3 eggs or 3/4 c. fat-free egg product
- ★ 2 tsp. vanilla
- ★ 1 1/2 c. sugar
- ★ 1 1/2 c. all-purpose flour
- ★ 1 1/2 c. whole wheat flour
- ★ 1 tsp. ground cinnamon
- ★ 1 tsp. nutmeg
- ★ 1/4 tsp. ground cloves
- ★ 1 tsp. baking soda
- ★ 1 tsp. salt
- ★ 1/4 tsp. baking power

1. Heat oven to 350° F. Spray bottoms only of 2 (8x4-inch) loaf pans with cooking spray.
2. In a large bowl, mix zucchini, applesauce, oil, eggs, vanilla, & sugar until well blended. Stir in all remaining ingredients. Spoon into pans.
3. Bake 50-60 minutes or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Cook 10 minutes. Loosen sides of loaves from pan; remove from pans to cooling racks. Cool completely, about 1 hour.

Jenna & Shary De Troye

Red Tomato Jam

- ★ 4 cups: peeled, de-seeded, coarsely cut ripe tomatoes– juice included
- ★ 1 lemon (not peeled) thinly sliced
- ★ 5 1/2 cups sugar
- ★ 1 box Surjel

Simmer tomatoes & lemon 10 minutes. Add Surjel. Bring to a boil while stirring. Pour in sugar and stir while bringing to a FULL rolling boil.

Continue to stir and boil 1 minute. Remove from heat and ladle into hot jars. Seal with lids; invert for 5 minutes. Stand up-right. Cover with towel til cool.

Note: the slices of real lemon (plus tomato) make this GREAT!

Darlene Cooper



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

The Monthly Newsletter
of Grace OPC

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- ★ Did you know that the Reformation influenced Scotland as well?
- ★ Did you know that it took a longer time for the Reformation to impact Scotland as it took a while for news to spread to it as it was further away from the areas in which Luther & Calvin were working?
- ★ Did you know that Luther's ideas and Tyndale's translations were brought back to Scotland by those visiting the Wittenburg university in Germany?
- ★ That after this Calvin's ideas made their way into Scotland through the ministry of George Wishart and John Knox?
- ★ Did you know that Knox visited Geneva and then in 1555 took the ideas he became convinced of there back to Scotland?
- ★ That he even sent a note regarding these matters to the regent of Scotland who, after he left the country, pronounced the death sentence on him?
- ★ That Knox returned to Geneva and sent encouraging letters back to his struggling group in Scotland until they persuaded him to return in 1559?
- ★ That the Lord worked mightily through his preaching and the Reformation was covering the whole land of Scotland during this time?
- ★ Did you know that in 1560 the church was becoming more organized as the pastor & elders of each church were called a "session," small groups of church leaders presbyteries, and when all appointed ministers and elders met together it was called a "general assembly"?
- ★ Did you know that the church weathered the persecution of Mary, queen of Scots, and by "1570 the Presbyterian Church was firmly established in Scotland?"

Taken from B.K. Kuiper, The Church in History (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1951), 270-274.

Soup & Salad Potluck

Don't forget to sign up for the Soup & Salad Potluck to be held October 11th after the morning service! Everyone is encouraged to bring along a dish to pass.

