

# REFLECTIONS

Grace OPC

## Reformed Heroes

*By Pastor Brian De Jong*

One of my Reformed heroes is Bishop J.C. Ryle. Born in 1816 in England, John Charles benefited from the wealth and ease of his family's fortune. Ryle received a good education at Eton College, and then at Christ Church in Oxford.

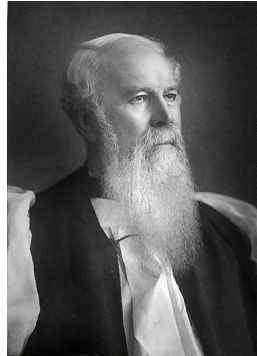
While at Oxford he excelled in his studies and won renown as a standout in the game of cricket. It was during his Oxford years that he was converted to Christ.

Upon graduation, Ryle returned home and expected to inherit the family fortune. Around this time his father was bankrupted through bad business practices, and the family fell from their privileged position. Providentially, God used those circumstances to direct JC away from a career in parliament and toward the Christian ministry.

In December, 1941 he was ordained as a minister in the Church of England (what we call the Anglican Church). He continued in fruitful ministry until shortly before his death in March 1900 – a 59 year ministry! The last twenty years of his ministry were as the first Bishop of Liverpool. During those years he cemented his legacy as a staunch evangelical who loved the Reformed faith. He also showed himself to be a true friend of the common man, preaching often to working men and women. He actively opposed and resisted the liberalizing trends in his own denomination, much as Dr. J. Gresham Machen opposed liberalism in the PCUSA.

Ryle was an evangelist at heart, preaching and speaking and writing to

the hearts of his hearers. He loved the gospel of Christ, and proclaimed it tirelessly throughout his tenure. As the times changed, and the Anglican Church moved further and further from the Scriptures, Ryle was isolated and alone. He stood for truth, though fewer of his fellow ministers were willing to stand with him. His own sons strayed from the faith of their father, two of them making no profession of faith whatsoever. His third son, Herbert, joined common cause with the liberal influences that his father so strenuously opposed.



After his death, Ryle was quickly forgotten. His theology was considered out-of-step with modern times, and the stands he took in the Anglican world were overwhelmed by his opponents. He was reckoned something of a theological dinosaur, and his books fell into disuse.

Around 1950, interest in the writings of Ryle was rekindled. By the 1970's, his books were circulating and having influence. In 2001 a biography of Ryle was published by Christian Focus Publications, and just this year another biography has been published by Iain Murray and Banner of Truth Trust. There is truly a Ryle Renaissance taking place, and I am heartily glad for it! The biographies and Ryle's books will benefit the church.

What do I like most about Ryle? Perhaps this: he speaks truth to my heart, and challenges me to be a more faithful Christian. Just recently I was listening to a recording of Ryle's book Practical Religion. His chapter on prayer hit me like a ton of bricks. Here is just a small sample, and I think you'll see what *Continued on pg 10*

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### Mnemonics...

- *Men's Breakfast, 22nd*
- *Hospitality Sunday, 16th*
- *Reformation Conference, 29-30th*

## *Good News Jail and Prison Ministry:*

### *Finding Hope in Jail*

Brandon was 11 when he first got in trouble. He went with some friends into a neighbor's house to steal another boy's toys. The trouble escalated into joining a local gang. At 16, he went to jail for pointing a BB gun at a guy, just to scare him. Soon Brandon was into alcohol and drugs with his friends. This led Brandon down the road to self-destruction. Being in jail has become a repeated event in Brandon's life. At 28, he now sits in jail, charged with attempted battery of a police officer, resisting arrest, and disorderly conduct.

This time, things are looking different for Brandon. "Why," you might ask yourself. Now there is a Good News Jail & Prison Ministry Chaplain at the jail. While Brandon was sinking in a state of depression, a chaplain came to visit with him. Here are Brandon's words as he recalls that visit.

"As I described my life to him, I knew he could see my pain (I couldn't stop crying). I saw tears in his eyes for me. I remembered thinking, 'Everyone that I loved won't even talk to me, but this stranger has so much love for me in his eyes. He cares about how I feel when no one else does. God must have sent him.'"

That day, right in jail, Brandon placed his faith in Jesus. I've personally seen so much spiritual growth in him. Now Brandon is trusting Jesus to help him overcome his struggle with alcohol. He is striving to live to please Jesus. All this was possible, because of two things. First, because of a God who loves him unconditionally. Second, because of a ministry that believes in sharing God's love with those who are incarcerated.

Every Good News Chaplain can share countless stories like Brandon's. Thousands of Good News volunteers could share many similar stories. These stories exist because there is an empty cross looming over history. A blood stained cross, where Jesus laid down His life as a payment for the sins of mankind. Joel 2:32; Acts 2:21; Romans 10:13, "Everyone who calls on the Name of the Lord will be saved" NIV

#### **Praise Reports/Prayer Requests**

- Praise the Lord for His blessing as we ended the past fiscal year better than budget
- Please pray for inmates struggling with addictions and for their families.
- Please pray for men & women who are searching for hope

#### **Ministry Needs**

- Men and women to serve on our Chaplaincy Support Team. Our goal is at least one person from each supporting Church.
- Paper products for the Tee Box, Transitional Living Home (paper towels, toilet paper)
- Mentors for One-On-One ministry.

Thank you for the impact your prayers, time, and giving, are having on lives!





# Reformation Conference 2016

**The Undivided Heart:**

**How People of Faith Deal with Doubt**

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***Saturday, October 29th***

9:00 am - 10:15 am The Undivided Heart: Faith & Doubt

10:30 am - 11:45 am Double-Minded: What Do You Know

**Sunday, October 30th**

9:00am- Half-Hearted: I Only Have Eyes for You... & You... & You

5:00pm - Weak-Willed: The Power to Stand or the Strength to Say No

*A Bit About Our Guest Speaker ...*

Dr. Craig Troxel is the pastor of Bethel OPC in Wheaton, Illinois. He is also an author and an adjunct professor for Westminster

Theological Seminary in Philadelphia and Mid America Reformed Seminary in Dyer, Indiana. He is an active member of the Christian Education Committee of the OPC and served as the moderator of the General Assembly in 2014. He and his wife Carol have 5 children.



Grace OPC is located at 4930 Green Valley Lane, Sheboygan, Wisconsin

For more info, see our church website: [www.graceopcsheboygan.com](http://www.graceopcsheboygan.com) or call 920-565-2160

# *Fall Hospitality Sunday*

On Sunday, October 16th , we will have Hospitality Sunday. If you've never participated before, now is the time to sign up! Everyone marks down on the sign up sheet their name, how many are coming, and whether they would like to host, be hosted, or both. The week before, everyone is contacted with whether or not they will be hosting (if they volunteered) or where they will be going so the individuals, couples & families can co-ordinate what everyone is going to bring in their group for the luncheon on Sunday.

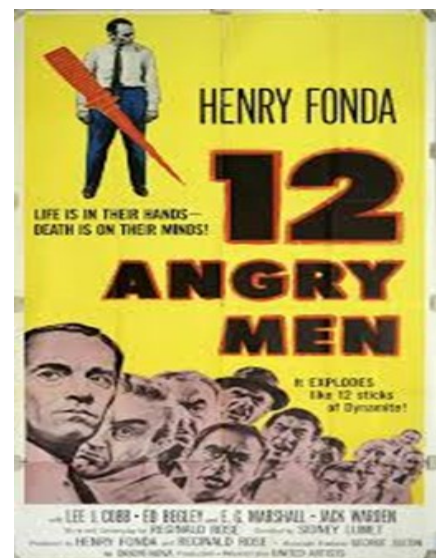


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## *Fall Worldview Movie Night*

Friday, October 7th, at 7pm is our Fall Worldview Movie Night. We will watch and discuss "Twelve Angry Men" starring Henry Fonda. This movie is a compelling look at the jury deliberations in a murder trial for which a conviction means sending a young man to death row. In the course of the deliberations, a fair-minded juror exposes enough holes in the prosecution's cut-and-dry case to create a reasonable doubt.

Bring a snack to share, popcorn and drinks will be provided.



# October Birthdays

Roger Arndt	3rd
Lloyd TenPas	10th
Jason Will	19th
Carla De Master	31st



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## *Wedding Anniversaries*

Randy & Lynn Jensema  
October 8th ~ 28 years

Chris & Sandy Kaeiser  
October 25th ~ 13 years

Mark & Virginia Berenschot  
October 23rd ~ 45 years





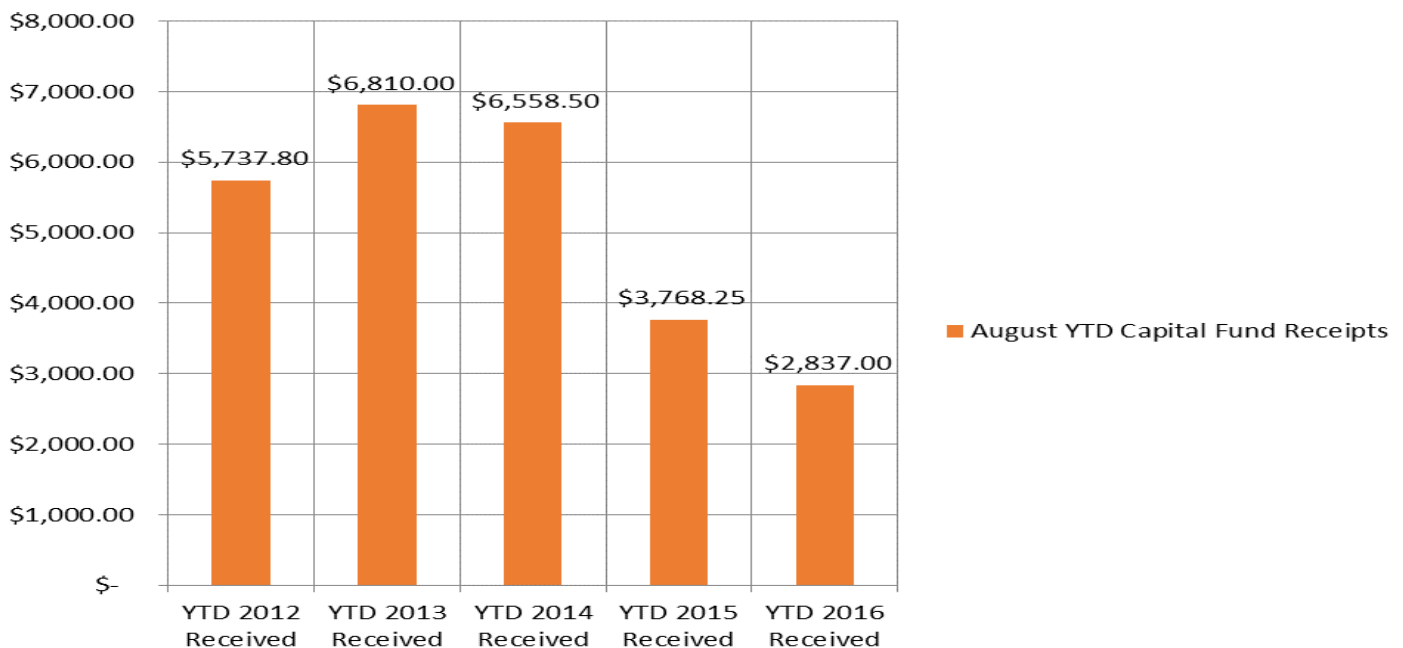
# Comments on Finance

by Joel Moody

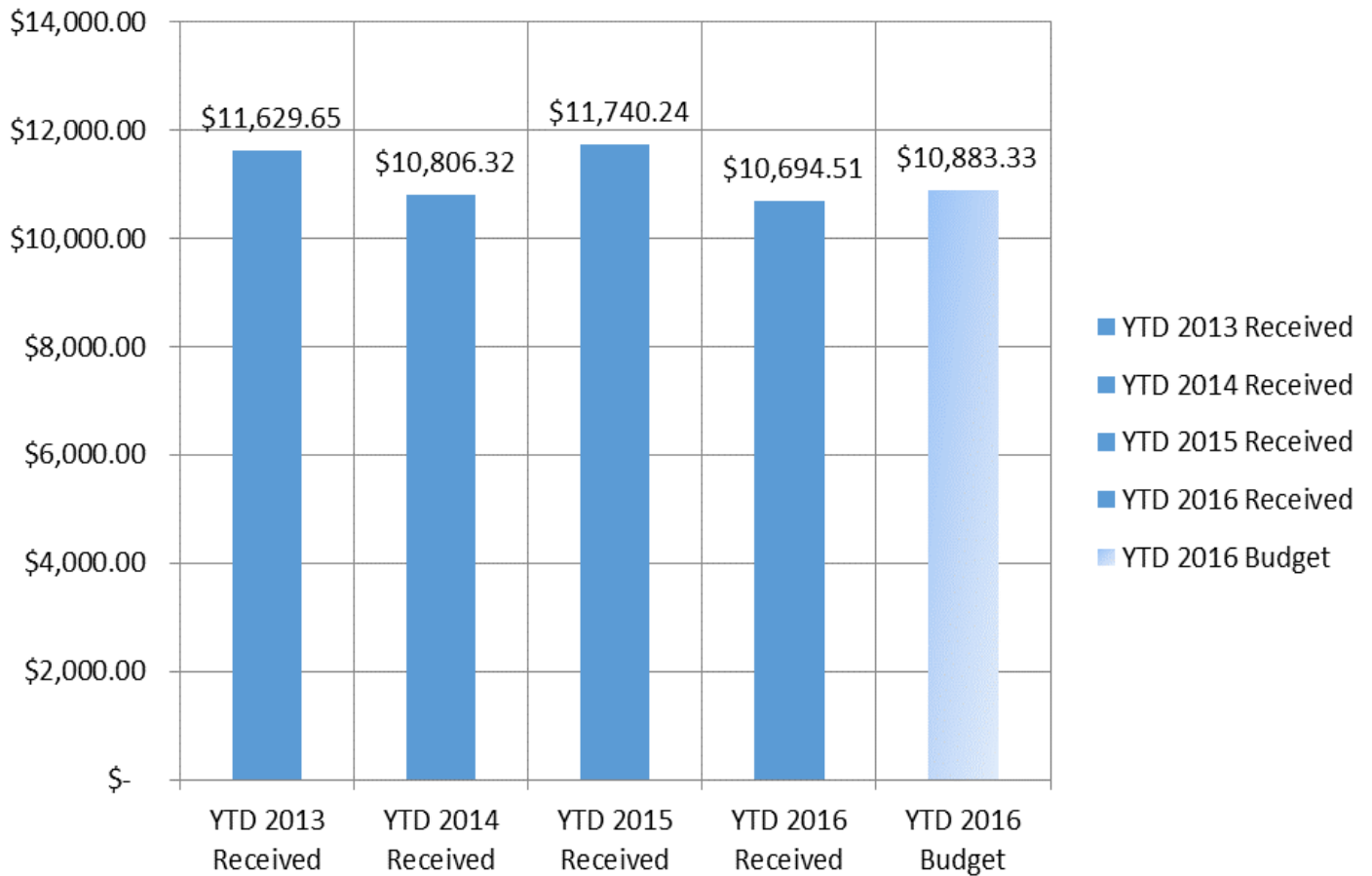
**General Fund** receipts for August totaled \$12,463.39 as compared to the budget of \$12,893.70, while General Fund disbursements for August totaled \$10,941.14. August year to date General Fund receipts totaled \$112,955.14 as compared to the budget of \$112,819.80 (an excess of \$135.34), while August year to date disbursements of \$104,382.04 were \$8,437.76 below budget. Through the end of August, the General Fund has increased by \$8,639.87. Year to date General Fund receipts for August were 9.8% above last year's total on an average Sunday while disbursements were 1.0% below the prior year. **Benevolence Fund** Receipts for August totaled \$1,293.00 as compared to the budget of \$1,360.42 (a shortfall of \$67.42). Year to date Benevolence Fund Receipts through August totaled \$10,694.51 and fell short of budget by \$188.82. Please refer to the graph for a historical trend of benevolence receipts as well as the current benevolence budget. During August, \$500.00 was sent to Worldwide Outreach (WVO) for the General Missions outreach of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church and \$200.00 was sent to the Midwest Presbytery's Church Extension Committee (CHEX). August Year to

Date giving for the **Capital Fund** was \$2,837.00. Please refer to the Capital Fund Graph that shows the historical giving for the years indicated in the graph. You may contribute to the Capital Fund by marking your gift as "Capital Fund" and placing it in the offering plate. Please note that the Capital Fund is used to pay for current and future needs that may exist to purchase additional equipment (such as computers, the sound system, tables and chairs, etc.) or building-type items (such as a parking lot, driveway, furnace boiler, etc.). Since some capital needs are quite substantial in nature, resources to finance and pay for these projects can take years to pay for them. Even though capital needs may not be large in the current year, we should wisely allocate our giving not only to current needs, but also to these future needs as well.

### August YTD Capital Fund Receipts



## August YTD Benevolence Receipts Actual vs. Current Budget



## *New Secretary*

Liz TenPas will be filling in for Susan from September 1st to December 22nd. If you have bulletin announcements or other items for the secretary during this time, please give them to Liz.





Grace OPC

# October 2016

*Showing forth the excellencies of Jesus Christ*



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Meadowview Manor 3:00 p.m.	3	4	5	6	7 Worldview Movie Night 7 p.m.	10
19	10	11 Session Meeting 6:30 p.m.	12	13	14	15
16 Hospitality Sunday	17	18	19	20	21	22 Men's Leadership Breakfast 7:00 a.m.
23	24	25	26	27	28	29 Reformation Conference 9:00am-12pm
30 Reformation Conference	31					

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## SAUSAGE SKILLET

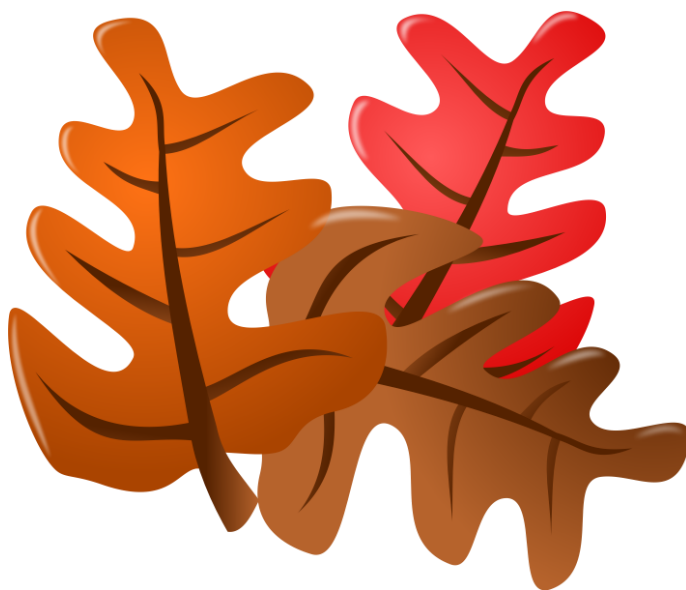
- ★ 1lbs Italian sausage ( about 4 links)
- ★ 1 jar Prego
- ★ 1/2 jar white sauce
- ★ Rotelle pasta

### *Directions*

*Brown meat, and combine all in skillet and heat through.*



“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

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# Spurgeon Corner

*Now on whom dost thou trust?"*  
Isaiah 36:5

Reader, this is an important question. Listen to the Christian's answer, and see if it is yours. "On whom dost thou trust?" "I trust," says the Christian, "in a triune God. I trust *the Father*, believing that he has chosen me from before the foundations of the world; I trust him to provide for me in providence, to teach me, to guide me, to correct me if need be, and to bring me home to his own house where the many mansions are. I trust *the Son*. Very God of very God is he—the man Christ Jesus. I trust in him to take away all my sins by his own sacrifice, and to adorn me with his perfect righteousness. I trust him to be my Intercessor, to present my prayers and desires before his Father's throne, and I trust him to be my Advocate at the last great day, to plead my cause, and to justify me. I trust him for what he is, for what he has done, and for what he has promised yet to do. And I trust *the Holy Spirit*—he has begun to save me from my inbred sins; I trust him to drive them all out; I trust him to curb my temper, to subdue my will, to enlighten my understanding, to check my passions, to comfort my despondency, to help my weakness, to illuminate my darkness; I trust him to dwell in me as my life, to reign in me as my King, to sanctify me wholly, spirit, soul, and body, and then to take me up to dwell with the saints in light forever."

Oh, blessed trust! To trust him whose power will never be exhausted, whose love will never wane, whose kindness will never change, whose faithfulness will never fail, whose wisdom will never be nonplussed, and whose perfect goodness can never know a diminution! Happy art thou, reader, if this trust is thine! So trusting, thou shalt enjoy sweet peace now, and glory hereafter, and the foundation of thy trust shall never be removed.

*Evening, October 7th, by C.H. Spurgeon*

CHECK OUT THE AUDIO:

**SERMONAUDIO.COM/  
GRACESHEBOYGAN**

CHECK OUT THE WEBSITE:

**GRACEOPCSHEBOYGAN.COM**



## Reformed Heroes Continued...

I mean...

*"Just as it is with the mind and body, so it is with the soul. There are certain things absolutely needful to the soul's health and well-being. Each must attend to these things for themselves. Each must repent for them self. Each must apply to Christ for them self. And for them self each must speak to God and pray. You must do it for yourself, for by nobody else it can be done. To be prayerless is to be without God, without Christ, without grace, without hope, and without heaven. It is to be in the road to hell. Now can you wonder that I ask the question, DO YOU PRAY?"*

