

REFLECTIONS

Grace OPC

CHANGE

By Pastor Brian De Jong

Change is in the air – you can feel it, you can see it, you can't avoid it. As the nights give us that first crisp hint of autumn, as you see a small spot of color in the big maple tree, you know that change is coming. You can't evade it, you can't stop it, so you accept change.

But it's not just seasons that are changing. This week two significant changes have taken place which impact Grace Church. The first is the departure of Bill and Kim Onnink to Pennsylvania. The second is the death of Claude Halbach. As a result, Grace Church is different – it will never be exactly the same again.



When Bill & Kim first started attending, their enthusiasm was encouraging. Rarely did this young couple miss our Wednesday evening prayer meetings. They not only participated in the discussion, but frequently asked good questions that opened up further considerations. When they transferred their membership to Grace, their humble faith shone clearly. Since then they have been a blessing to our body, and they will be missed.

Claude Halbach was a different sort of person. Because he felt uncomfortable in large groups, I didn't get to know him when I first arrived in Sheboygan. At our first family visit, this quiet man said very little to satisfy my curiosity. Our rela-

tionship began slowly and remained in slow-motion until he was diagnosed with leukemia.

Since that diagnosis, I have come to know Claude – or “Mike” as he liked to be called. We had many talks in his room on the 12th floor of St. Luke's Hospital in Milwaukee. And as he opened up to me, I began to see a man of quiet convictions and firm beliefs. When his body decayed, his spirit grew stronger and his faith burned brighter. He loved his church, and wanted very badly to be back in worship with his spiritual

family. For a time he was able to attend again, and his firm handshake at the door after worship told me he was very glad to be back.

Having finished his second round of chemo-therapy, he was physically wearing out. His body was drained, though his spirit remained undaunted. He longed for his heavenly home, and on August 31, 2010 his wish was granted.

Mike is gone now. No more trips to St. Lukes... no more friendly chats... change has struck again.

If you're like me, you don't want things to change. How desperately we try to hold on to things as they are right now – we fight change. But still it comes – rolling in like an irresistible tide – this is a changeable world that we inhabit.

So how do we cope with the...

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September 2010

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Mnemonics...

- *Church Campout Pitch-In Meal, 10th*
- *Session Meeting, 14th*

Rev. John Ro— Chicago Evangelist

by Don Schlernitzauer

Reverend John Ro, our OPC church planter in downtown Chicago, was born in South Korea and came to the USA with his parents at the age of four. Initially the family lived in New Jersey, but as many immigrants soon moved onto California where John spent most of his childhood years. In college he became increasingly aware of God's call on his life, and therefore entered Talbot Seminary in California. Listening to a professor lecture on eschatology (the study of the end times), he found he was unable to square the teaching with the Scriptures.

In his confusion, he began to read reformed writings, particularly those of James Montgomery Boyce, one of the clearest Bible teachers of our era. In these he discovered a framework of biblical interpretation more consistent with the Scriptures. John therefore transferred to Westminster Seminary in Escondido to continue his preparation for the gospel ministry, where our former intern, Ken Golden, was his classmate.

John's wife, Wenny, grew up in Chicago and it was to her home city that Lord led them to serve. In 2008 he began his labors in evangelism part time, and then with presbytery support, full time in 2009, establishing Gospel Life Presbyterian Church.

The Sunday during General Assembly week, Ken Golden and I attended worship there. Our OPC Florida Keys evangelist, Bill Welzien, preached and as well, demonstrated his evangelistic methods during Sunday School. Our regional home missionary, Rev. Jim Bosgraf, always attentive to church plants, was also in attendance. It was a meaningful worship experience with excellent fellowship afterwards. By all means, consider joining sisters for worship when you are in the Chicago area.

Currently attendance at Gospel Life Presbyterian Church runs between 20-30, with about six Moody Bible Institute students and four additional students from other colleges. August is

their last month to meet at a local high school, Michelle Obama's alma mater. Beginning in September they have arranged a lease of a storefront facility, recently renovated for their purposes, located between Soldiers' Field and China Town. In addition to Sunday am worship and Sunday School, the church meets as well on Sunday and Wednesday evenings.

Rev. Bosgraf told me John is wonderfully gifted in mind and heart as an evangelist. As evidence of this, John has worked to position himself on the board of the high rise apartment where he and Wenny live so that he has opportunity to meet people whom he may influence for Christ through social events and activities. One such program he has established is the Gourmet Supper Club, where the appreciation of good food may be an avenue to share the gospel.

John, with whom I spoke recently, knows the work called God has called him and others to is occasionally on our weekly prayer sheet, and he is very appreciative of our intercession. He wanted us to know that their church has a website called "gospellifechurch.org", an excellent one I might add worthy of being checked out. There you can sign up for a monthly newsletter in order to keep abreast of God's favor on the church, and as well, know how to pray. Praise God for this young man, Rev. John Ro, and those standing with him who so want to reach Chicago for Christ.



New Numbers to Note

Pine Haven Fall Festival

Come to the Pine Haven Christian Home Autumn Festival, which will be held Saturday, September 11th from 1:30 p.m.– 6:00 p.m. at Pine Haven Christian Home in Sheboygan Falls. Indoors there will be Brats, Hamburgers & Chicken Patties, Potato Salad, Baked Beans & Ice Cream. For sale will be baked goods, canned items, homemade pies, produce & crafts. In the courtyard there will be family entertainment from 2:00 p.m.-3:15 p.m. with Root Beer Floats starting at 1:00 p.m.

There is still time to donate items (pies, a cake, canned items, produce & crafts) to this event, for more information speak with Debbie Boss or Kate Nagle.



September Birthdays



White Horse Inn Conference

Covenant OPC is delighted to announce that it will be hosting a conference, “The Sufficiency of Scripture” in collaboration with White Horse Inn on September 24 and 25. The conference will include a live recording of the widely acclaimed radio program on Friday night with each of the “cast of characters” presenting a lecture the following day. As space is limited,

we recommend signing up early to avoid disappointment. The conference will be held at Chicago Christian High School. Come meet Michael Horton, Kim Riddlebarger, Ken Jones and Rod Rosenblatt. For more information go to the website: www.covenantop.org/ or call (708) 403-3404.



Grace OPC

September 2010

Showing forth the excellencies of Jesus Christ



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Prayer Meeting, 7:00 p.m.	2	3	4
5	6	7	8 Prayer Meeting, 7:00 p.m.	9	10 Church Camp Pitch-in Supper, 6:30 p.m.	11 1:30-6:00 p.m. Pine Haven Fall Festival
12 Missions Sunday	13 Women's Bible Study, 6:30 a.m. <i>Pine Haven Study,</i> <i>1:30 p.m.</i> Theology Class, 1:30 p.m.	14 Session Meeting, 6:30 p.m.	15 Prayer Meeting, 7:00 p.m.	16	17 Presbyter of the Midwest in Wheaton, IL	18 Presbyter of the Midwest in Wheaton, IL
19 Meadowview Manor, 2 p.m.	20 Women's Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.	21	22 Prayer Meeting, 7:00 p.m.	23	24 White Horse Inn Radio Conference	25 White Horse Inn Radio Conference
26 Lord's Supper, (a.m.)	27 Women's Bible Study, 6:30 a.m. <i>Pine Haven Study,</i> <i>1:30 p.m.</i> Theology Class, 1:30 p.m.	28	29 Prayer Meeting, 7:00 p.m.	30		

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Book Review of Ashamed of the Gospel by John MacArthur

written by Dan TenPas

In this book John MacArthur addresses the disturbing practices and unbiblical convictions that the evangelical church of the West has embraced over the last 100 years. MacArthur extensively quotes C.H. Spurgeon and repeatedly references the Down Grade controversy that Spurgeon struggled against in the late 1800's. Using this as a background and the fact that history proved Spurgeon correct, MacArthur outlines the errors and dangers of today's church growth movement, the emergent church, and modern evangelistic practices. After a significant study of the early church in the book of Acts and Paul's teachings to the church in Corinth, MacArthur details the characteristics of the early church. Sound instruction, a consistent call for repentance, and turning from sin were the marks of the church Christ was building. Example after example is given of how the attacks against the church over the last 100 years have come subtly from within rather than from blatant heresy. The modern church has avoided the model laid out in

Scripture and latched onto the entertainment and marketing efforts of the world. As many in the church have focused on making the unbeliever comfortable, uncomfortable topics such as sin, hell, holiness, and the cross are moved far off to the side. Today's church is ashamed of the gospel. Love and acceptance is preached, while biblical truth and doctrine is avoided. MacArthur examines the subtle teachings that brought about the Down Grade controversy and how they played out over several decades in England. The result was the complete downward slide of mainline denominations into liberal theology and worldly compromise. America today is the England of the late 1800's, only on a much larger scale. MacArthur is careful to spend several sections on the biblical remedy to the current situation. Lengthy instruction is given on the promises in Scripture in regards to the true church. The reader is assured that Christ will certainly build His church. The most recent printing also includes an extensive explanation of the Down Grade controversy in its appendix.

Grayslake Conference

Hope OPC in Grayslake, Illinois will be hosting a Chicago Area Reformed Study Society conference entitled, "**The Challenge of Individualism in the Church**" October 1-2. The speaker is Dr. Nelson Kloosterman, Professor of Ethics and New Testament Studies at Mid-America Reformed Seminary. It is a free conference but registration is required. For more information visit hopeopc.com or pick up a brochure, which is available in the hallway at Grace.



Front Page Concluded...

...constantly shifting situation all around us? Is there an anchor to hold us fast?

God reminds us in Malachi 3 a key fact: “*For I, the LORD, do not change; therefore you, O sons of Jacob, are not consumed.*” Though everything else changes, God never changes. He is our Constant – our Security – our Rock and our Fortress. And because He never changes, we are not consumed and destroyed! Praise God for His immutability – what a comfort it is!



Trust

by C. H. Spurgeon

“*Trust in him at all times.*” Psalm 62:8

Faith is as much the rule of temporal as of spiritual life; we ought to have faith in God for our earthly affairs as well as for our heavenly business. It is only as we learn to trust in God for the supply of all our daily need that we shall live above the world. We are not to be idle, *that* would show we did *not* trust in God, who worketh hitherto, but in the devil, who is the father of idleness. We are not to be imprudent or rash; that were to trust chance, and not the living God, who is a God of economy and order. Acting in all prudence and uprightness, we are to rely simply and entirely upon the Lord at all times. Let me commend to you a life of trust in God in temporal things. Trusting in God, you will not be compelled to mourn because you have used sinful means to grow rich. Serve God with integrity, and if you achieve no success, at least no sin will lie upon your conscience. Trusting God, you will not be

guilty of self-contradiction. He who trusts in craft, sails this way today, and that way the next, like a vessel tossed about by the fickle wind; but he that trusteth in the Lord is like a vessel propelled by steam, she cuts through the waves, defies the wind, and makes one bright silvery straightforward track to her destined haven. Be you a man with living principles within; never bow to the varying customs of worldly wisdom. Walk in your path of integrity with steadfast steps, and show that you are invincibly strong in the strength which confidence in God alone can confer. Thus you will be delivered from anxious care, you will not be troubled with evil tidings, your heart will be fixed, trusting in the Lord. How pleasant to float along the stream of providence! There is no more blessed way of living than a life of dependence upon a covenant-keeping God. We have no care, for he careth for us; we have no troubles, because we cast our burdens upon the Lord.

From Morning & Evening, Evening September 1st

De Masters in Stillwater, MN

from the De Masters

When we arrived in Stillwater, Bekah Kuhfuss was at the door to greet us and Dan was installing a new dryer with a deacon from the church. Bekah, a realtor, showed us around her parents' house, and then took us on a tour of the neighborhood. We were surprised at how close everything is: Curves, Walmart, Lowes, Good Will, Library, downtown Stillwater with all the tourists, and Every Restaurant you could ever want.

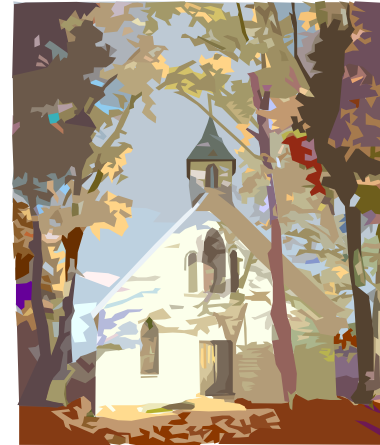
Our first Sunday service we arrived at 9:59 and the service starts at 10. Ivan read the bulletin from the last week, which time said 10:30. That was an exception, not the norm. Jim and Judy Bosgraf were in the congregation so a substitute was there if they needed it. The church has godly elders who love the reformed faith and are eager for the church to grow and serve the community. It also has many families with small children. There is a balance between those who go to Christian school, to public school and are homeschooled.

The Swansons invited us to their home along with 2 other families. Some of us went to the nursing home service in Hammond, which is held weekly. Kurt Swanson (elder) led the service. There were around 14 attending besides the family of 7 that led the singing and us. After the service we went to visit the UCC church which the OPC will be buying. It is an old congregation that felt the need to sell and hoped to sell it to another church. When the elders approached them they were delighted.

On Wednesday, the board from the UCC and the OPC elders met together to finalize the sale. The price was made at \$5,000 which included pews, pulpit, piano, organ, kitchen supplies, stoves, etc, dishes, tables, chairs, and snowblower and lawnmower. God has blessed mightily. The church seats around 140 and the fellowship hall less but it is a start.

We thank you for your prayers and your e mails. God has blessed. We are totally dependent

on Him. You are missed and encouraged to come to visit. It is closer than Maine, so no excuses!!



Cucumber Gyro Sauce



- ★ 1 cup seeded, chopped cucumbers

Squeeze & let rest on paper towels so the sauce is not watery.

- ★ 8 oz. plain yogurt
- ★ 1/2 tsp. salt
- ★ 2 Tbsp. dill
- ★ 1 garlic clove, crushed
- ★ 1 tsp. sugar

Combine with cucumbers and serve with gyros.

Emily Boss

Boss Tomato Bread

- ★ 3-4 medium tomatoes, sliced
- ★ mozzarella cheese, sliced or shredded
- ★ dried oregano
- ★ garlic salt
- ★ 2 Tbsp. melted butter
- ★ Several slices of bread (preferably whole wheat!)

Assemble sandwiches as follows: lay slices of bread on cookie sheet. Pour melted butter over the bread & brush to coat. Arrange tomato slices in a single layer on the bread and shake garlic salt & dried oregano over to taste. Top with sliced or shredded mozzarella cheese. Broil in oven until cheese is lightly browned. Enjoy!

“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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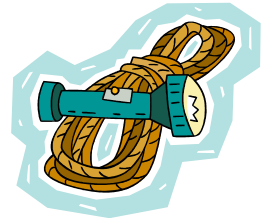
Spurgeon Corner

"I'll go down if father will hold the rope," was the offer of a Highland lad, when a traveler wanted him to reach the eggs of a wild bird which had built on a rocky ledge. The boy felt that there would be no danger if the rope was in his father's hand, for he had a powerful arm, and a loving heart, and would not leave his own child to perish.

Timid believers are afraid to begin to work for Jesus. To teach in the Sunday-school, to commence a Tract District, to visit the cottagers, to preach on the green, any of these seem to them to be too arduous and difficult. Suppose they were to look up to their Heavenly Father, and rely upon his promised aid, might they not venture? It cannot need much courage to rely upon Almighty strength. Go, dear friend, to thy work, and *thy Father will hold the rope.*

Unbelief is apt to foresee terrible trials as awaiting us upon our road to heaven. Your position will be, so fear tells you, like that of one hanging over the raging sea, by the side of a precipitous cliff; but there remember the eternal love which will be your unfailing support. You may hang there without the slightest fear, for *Father will hold the rope.*

The awakened sinner dreads the wrath of Heaven, and fears that his eternal ruin is inevitable; but if he has learned to depend alone upon the Lord Jesus, there is no room for further alarm. The Lord Jehovah has become the salvation of every soul that has laid hold upon the hope set before him in the Lord Jesus. The great matter no longer rests with the sinner after he has believed, the weight of his soul's eternal interests hangs upon Jesus the Saviour. The eternal arm which never wearies, will put forth all its power to uphold the trusting ones; and every believing sinner may sing in joyful security, though Satan should set all hell boiling beneath him, for *the great Father holds the rope.*



No. 18.—*Sword and Trowel Tracts*, by C. H. SPURGEON

Church Campout Pitch-in Supper

Everyone is invited to the Church Campout Pitch-in Supper that will be held at Kohler-Andrea State Park on Friday, September 10th starting at 6:30 p.m. (even if you are not camping) at site 215 in the new section of the campground. Contact Pastor Brian for more details.

