

Deacon of the Day:

January

January 4: Ernie Hall
January 11: Steve Scott
January 18: Keith Davis
January 25: Scott Denny

February

February 1: Rafe Shellooe
[performing the duties]
February 8: Ernie Hall
February 15: Keith Davis
February 22: Scott Denny
February 29: Rafe Shellooe
[performing the duties]

Growing Together in the Knowledge and Grace of God

Weekly Calendar

Sundays:

Worship Services:
9:00 am & 11:00 am
Christian Education:
9:00 am & 11:00 am

Mondays:

Home Fellowship Groups:
7:00 pm

Tuesdays:

GSTM: 4:00 - 10:00 pm
Home Fellowship Groups:
7:00 pm

Wednesdays:

Walnut Creek Men's
Prayer Group 7:00 am
Home Fellowship Groups:
7:00 pm
Youth Group: 7:00 pm

Thursdays:

Youth Group: 7:00 pm

Fridays:

SF Men's Prayer Meeting:
12:00 pm
Cal Grace.: 7:00 pm

Grace School of Theology & Ministry

Winter Quarter of 2003/04

BE 121 Exposition of Genesis 4:00-6:45 pm/Tuesday 4 units
Instructor: Dr. George Fox

An exposition of the book of beginnings. Particular emphasis is given to the developing themes in the flow of biblical revelation, as well as problem areas such as creation and the theories of evolution, the nature of man and the significance of sex and marriage. These are studied in relationship to later Old and New Testament revelation.

ST 204 Pneumatology/Ecclesiology 7:15-10:00 pm/Tuesday 4 units
Instructor: Pastor Frank Griffith

The first part of this course is a detailed study of the person and work of the Holy Spirit in the Old and New Testament. Special emphasis will be given to His work in creation, in empowerment of individuals for service, in the life of the Messiah, and especially in His ministries to the Christian. The second half of the course is a study of the origin, nature, organization and destiny of the church. Special emphasis is given to its officers and ordinances.

CM 302 Problems & Procedures of Biblical Counseling 6:30-9:45 pm/Thursday 4 units
Instructor: Pastor John Carson

Class is held at our satellite campus: Rockville Bible Church, 720 Link Road, Fairfield. (707) 864-6602
This course lays the theological foundation for Biblical counseling by establishing the fact that only the Bible is sufficient to analyze the real nature of psychological problems and to provide real and lasting solutions to those problems. You will learn how true biblical counseling flows out of the great theological teachings of the Word of God. In the course that follows these truths will be applied to a wide range of real-life situations.

NT 102 Elemental Greek II 9:00 am-12:00 pm/Tuesday 4 units
Instructor: John Carson

Class is held at our satellite campus: Rockville Bible Church, 720 Link Road, Fairfield. (707) 864-6602
The second quarter of an introductory course designed to provide a foundation in N.T. Greek. The student will also sharpen his/her skills in the use of the many tools and language aids available. Prerequisite required.

From Pastor Tony Sanelli

JANUARY
EVENTS

Hospitality Homes:

January 4

GSTM Spring Semester Begins:

January 6

Men's DTP:

January 8 & 22

Annual Meeting:

January 11 at 5:00 pm

Women's DTP:

January 15 & 29

Women's Retreat

January 30 - 31

FEBRUARY
EVENTS

Hospitality Homes:

February 1

Men's DTP:

February 5 & 19

Men's Retreat

February 6 - 8

Women's DTP:

February 12 & 26

Office Closed for President's Day:

February 16

Membership

in a Day Class:

February 28

FUTURE DATES TO REMEMBER
All-Church Retreat at Koinonia:
May 14-16

In a recent letter mailed to the members of GBC the elders reported that the estimated cost of the new worship center is approximately 600-700 thousand dollars more than we presently have in hand. As I write this article we are prayerfully considering how to proceed in light of this shortfall. We trust that God will lead us with the wisdom of His Word in answer to all your prayers.

Earlier this month, my devotions providentially brought me to 1 Chronicles 29 where David gives thanks for the offerings collected for the construction of the new temple. I found the chapter instructive and illuminating as I pondered the challenges that lay ahead. I hope you will also find them to be insightful and encouraging.

What stands out in my mind is not so much the amount collected but the heart attitude of the people and the theology of David's prayer. I invite you to read the chapter and consider both of these principles. Whatever is decided, it is clear that the completion of this project will take tremendous energy, deep faith and church-wide involvement.

The Heart Attitude of the People

"Then the people rejoiced because they had offered so willingly, for they made their offering to the LORD with a whole heart..." (29:9). The success of what we accomplish in ministry and in this project should not be measured in monetary value, but by the heart attitude with which our gifts are given and the project is carried out. Their offerings were given with a "whole heart." This pregnant expression deserves a brief explanation.

A careful study of 1 & 2 Chronicles will reveal a special emphasis on the concept of a properly disposed heart. While the Hebrew term heart occurs 850 times in the Old Testament it is found 63 times in 1 & 2 Chronicles. The phrase "with a perfect heart" or "with a whole heart" occurs 21 times. This prompts commentator Roddy Braun to rightly see "the disposition of the heart" as one of the main themes in 1 & 2 Chronicles. We should also point out that a note of joy is frequently struck in connection with this attitude of a whole heart. The expression, therefore, depicts the undivided enthusiasm in which the project was taken up by David's generation. It underscores that what matters is that our obedience be done with a willing, generous, undivided and joyful heart.

I thank the Lord that He has given His New Covenant people a new heart from which the obedience of faith springs. Our efforts should outshine the world's examples of "teamwork", a "human spirit" and "dedication" that are typically published at this time of year as examples of the "true spirit of Christmas." We ARE the family of God! Christ is our brother! We realize that true and lasting joy is not found in what we KEEP but in what we GIVE! He has taught us to "lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Matt. 6:20-21). *[continued on page 2]*

Growing Together in the Knowledge and Grace of God

[continued from page 1] It will take nothing less than our whole hearts joyfully submitted to God to complete this project. As it stands, we will be providing some of the labor and sweat to the project, even at the present cost. Doubtless, it will also require the repeated giving of ourselves and the giving of our wealth. May God profoundly unite our hearts in this effort.


The Theology of David's Prayer

Read David's prayer (29:10-19 and note the following: (1) We human beings don't truly "own" anything. Wealth comes from God and He is the ruler of all things (29:10-12). Hence, David will say, "For all things come from you, and from your hand we have given to you" (29:14). What we will bring to this project "for the Lord's sake" belongs to the Lord as it is. We are stewards of our "possessions" not owners. This prompts D. A. Carson to note, "Such a stance utterly destroys any notion of us 'giving' something to God in any absolute terms. It becomes a pleasure to give to God, not only because we love Him, but because we happily recognize that all we 'own' is His anyway!"

(2) Our human experience is transient while God Himself is eternal (29:10, 15). Here is the king of a powerful and enduring dynasty settled 'in the land' God had given him and still he recognizes that they are just "tenants." This theology is grounded in the truth that only what is rooted in the eternal work of God will have lasting value. The temple to be built was significant only because it was to be built to His "holy name" (29:16).

(3) Though the responsibility to persevere in this heart attitude belongs to man it is made possible only by the intervening grace of God (29:18). This was a tremendous day! The people had given so liberally and wholeheartedly. But this was just the beginning! The work to be accomplished was "great" and would require sustained commitment. Hence David prays, "preserve this forever" and "direct their heart to you."

As I sit here today I humbly recognize the need of God's powerful, gracious and sovereign hand. This project looms over the horizon like Mt. Diablo. It will require much from each and every one of us. It will require sustained, whole-hearted enthusiasm for the glory of God. Yet, I have hope because I know that David's God is our God. He still owns all things. What we seek to build we build for the sake of His holy name. He can still direct all our hearts and the hearts of those with whom we will partner. May He make our hearts and hands strong for the work ahead that all praise might be given to Him.

In closing, this is of such importance that the elders are urging each household to pray for wisdom and provision during one of their mealtimes on every Sunday during January and February. 

Women of Grace

MINISTRY NEWS

After 3 1/2 years of loving ministry as the leader of the women's ministry, Hyeran Albert has stepped down to pursue her gifts in other areas. We are grateful for the many improvements her leadership brought over the years and know that the Lord will use her fruitfully in her new endeavors. We are also confident that our new ministry head, C.G. Senft will continue the faithful leadership of her predecessor.

C.G. previously served as the Fellowship Coordinator for the Women of Grace and currently serves in the Worship Ministry as well.

BIBLE STUDY

Precept Upon Precept A seven week study

The next Precept study will be the book of Joshua, a study on how to be strong and courageous in the Lord. Class begins Tuesday, February 17, and runs through the end of March, a short seven weeks. The cost is only \$15.00. The deadline to get money to Lynne Pursel is January 25. Minimum class size is 15 people. Please call Lynne at 648-9806 to sign up or if you have any questions.

Regular Prayer Times

Sunday Morning: 8:15 - 8:45 am
Room 106

3rd Sunday of the Month: 1:00 - 2:00 pm
In the church sanctuary

Fridays: Lunch Time
Men's Prayer in SF

Second Saturday of the Month: 8:00 am
Women's Prayer at the Beckers' Home

News and Events

Christian Education

January 4 will mark the beginning of a new quarter for Adult Sunday School. During the first service, **Fundamentals of the Faith I** is offered as the first part of the FOF series and will touch on some of the fundamental doctrines of the Christian faith. During the second service, we will be offering two adult classes: **Getting Acquainted with Grace** will meet in the GSTM Library, and **"Building Effective Communication"** will use the War of Words video series by Paul David Tripp and will meet in Room 202.

GSTM

The Grace School of Theology will be starting its next quarter on Tuesday, January 6. We are privileged to have the school meeting right here at GBC. All of their classes are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The classes offered this quarter at GBC are: Exposition of Genesis and Pneumatology/Ecclesiology. For more information you may call GSTM at 676-1639 or visit them at www.gstm.org.

Men's Retreat

Looking for a few good men— Our fourth annual Men's Retreat is just around the corner! We have set aside February 6-8 for our weekend away. We'll head to Wolf Mountain (around Auburn) Friday night and return Sunday afternoon. Our special guest speaker will be Doug McMasters, Pastor-Teacher from Calvary Bible Church in Grass Valley. Doug is a recent graduate of Masters Seminary and formerly worked for the "Grace To You" radio broadcast biblical counseling and pastoral correspondence ministry. Registration for the retreat will begin January 4.

Diaconate Report

"Now at this time while the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint arose on the part of the Hellenistic Jews against the native Hebrews, because their widows were being overlooked in the daily serving of food. So the twelve summoned the congregation of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable for us to neglect the word of God in order to serve tables. Therefore, brethren, select from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may put in charge of this task." Acts 6:1-3

Like the seven chosen in the Book of Acts, the Deacons serve this local body of Christ as ministers of mercy. Though our main charge is to care for those within our own church body, we also try to minister to those within our community as well.

We meet on the first Thursday each month to pray and discuss ways in which we may be of service to our local church body.

We also oversee the Benevolent Fund that we use to minister to those within and from without our local church body. The fund is used to help people within our church pay bills, buy groceries, and pay rent among other things. Though primarily the fund is used for the needs of saints within Grace Bible Church, we also help folks outside our church with similar requests (Lev. 19: 9-10).

A benevolent offering is taken on the third Sunday of each month. However, you may give a benevolent offering on any Sunday by just labeling your gift "Benevolent Fund".

As we enter into a new year, we would appreciate your prayers for the brothers serving in the Diaconate. Pray that we would serve with humble hearts and that we may have the eyes to see and the ears to hear the needs of God's people.

January

Samuel Albert ~ 1
George Fox ~ 4
Sheri Sanelli ~ 4
Don Ribergaard ~ 6
Ken Davey ~ 12
Barbara Telle ~ 13
Evert Oliver ~ 14
Antonio Sanelli ~ 19
Tim Albert ~ 20
Anna Upton ~ 23
John Kamp ~ 27
Jeffrey Lancaster ~ 27
Greg Dresdow ~ 30
Phyllis Carstensen ~ 30
Debra Lynch ~ 31

February

Brandon Ribergaard ~ 3
Bob Hamilton ~ 5
Jerusha Becker ~ 10
Bill Lynch ~ 10
Jordan Sanelli ~ 11
Mary Lancaster ~ 12
Marj Smith ~ 14
Madeline Sandberg ~ 14
Morgan Ribergaard ~ 18
Joan Spier ~ 23
Glenda Becker ~ 24
Janet Balsiger ~ 24
Jeanne Morgan ~ 24
Emily Stephens ~ 24
Keith Telle ~ 27

What's News from THE Youth Group?

As we close out another calendar year, it's been a time of welcomed break for our students, including those graduates from last year that have begun their college educations. But breaks only last a short time and then it will be back to the grind until June! For Kristine and I this past Christmas "break" time was filled with more than just the normal hecticness of the holidays as we also completed the process of purchasing a home and moving in a week before Christmas. Certainly not the time of year anyone would chose as the best time to move, but we are so grateful to the Lord for providing a wonderful home for us that we will be able to use to serve Him.

Most recently in the Youth Ministry, we've continued our study in 1 Corinthians on Sunday mornings and have been constantly reminded of the unity we are to strive to maintain as the Body of Christ, as well as how we are to be committed to Him in every area of our lives. Sometimes that even means suffering wrong being done to you for the sake of giving glory to Christ and exalting His name. During our weeknights, we've nearly concluded our series on developing godly relationships. In our lives, we have relationships with all kinds of people, from parents and peers to friends and authorities. And with each one of them, God calls us to be Christ-like. Seeing how Christ related to people and how the Word helps us understand what it is God wants to teach us about relating to others gives us a target that can not be set any higher. If all of us set our minds to have relationships with others that reflect Christ's attitudes and intentions, imagine what an impact our lives as individuals would have on those around us, both inside and outside of the church!

Thanks to the new Grand-Prayerents that have signed up over this last month or so! We are shooting to compile the new prayer lists and get them out very soon. Thank you all for your patience. We are looking forward to reaping the benefits of your prayers for our students and hope that the Lord will richly bless all of you as you seek His grace on their behalf.

Youth Ministry Mom's and Dad's...remember that Wednesday January 7th is our Open House Parents Night! Everyone will meet on that Wednesday night (Jr and Sr High) along with all the parents that can make it! Snack Mom's are all on for that night so please try and be there a few minutes early so we can get the goodies all ready for consumption. I hope many of you will be able to make this night as we continue to share in ministry together.

Coming up in the next couple of months will be two of our annual events. Winter Camp will be held over the weekend of January 16th through the 19th up at Camp Alta. Our theme this year is "Welcome...to the Real World" and will have a focus on our spiritual warfare. Steve Wadleigh from Christian Family Fellowship in Santa Rosa will be doing our teaching and our own Youth Ministry Worship Team will be leading our times of singing.

Then in February, we will once again be participating in World Vision's 30 Hour Famine where we will go without food for 30 hours and collect sponsors to help us support the ministry of World Vision around the world. Although we are one of the smaller groups that regularly participate in this event, over that last couple of years, we have been one of the top fundraising groups! Many of you are part of the reason for that and it's exciting to us to know that we have friends and family that are willing to support us as we seek to help so many impoverished people around the world.

That's about all for now...please be praying for us and may the Lord bless us all in the new year!
In His Grace,
Chris

Body Builders

Ephesians 4:12



YOU
WILL
KNOW
THE
TRUTH
AND THE
TRUTH
WILL SET
YOU
FREE

Citizens' Corner

*"For you created my inmost being; You knit me together in my mother's womb.
I praise You because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, Your eyes saw my unformed body.
All the days ordained for me were written in Your book before one of them came to be.."*

Psalm 139:13,15-16

On January 22, 1973, the United States Supreme Court ruled that "State criminal abortion laws, like those involved (in Roe v. Wade), that except from criminality only a life-saving procedure on the mother's behalf without regard to the stage of her pregnancy and other interests involved violate the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment, which protects against state action the right to privacy, including a woman's qualified right to terminate her pregnancy." This 7-2 decision by the Supreme Court legalized abortion nationally. Soon, thereafter Sanctity of Life Day (now known as Sanctity of Human Life Week) would mark the anniversary of this decision. The following article is from Pastor John Piper.

Fifteen Pro-Life Truths to Speak

"You will know the truth and the truth will set you free." - Jesus Christ

1. Existing fetal homicide laws make a man guilty of manslaughter if he kills the baby in a mother's womb (except in the case of abortion).
2. Fetal surgery is performed on babies in the womb to save them while another child the same age is being legally destroyed.
3. Babies can sometimes survive on their own at 23 or 24 weeks, but abortion is legal beyond this limit.
4. Living on its own is not the criterion of human personhood, as we know from the use of respirators and dialysis.
5. Size is irrelevant to human personhood, as we know from the difference between a one-week-old and a six-year-old.
6. Developed reasoning powers are not the criterion of personhood, as we know from the capacities of three-month-old babies.
7. Infants in the womb are human beings scientifically by virtue of their genetic make up.
8. Ultrasound has given a stunning window on the womb that shows the unborn at eight weeks sucking his thumb, recoiling from pricking, responding to sound. All the organs are present, the brain is functioning, the heart is pumping, the liver is making blood cells, the kidneys are cleaning fluids, and there is a fingerprint. Virtually all abortions happen later than this date.
9. Justice dictates that when two legitimate rights conflict, the limitation of rights that does the least harm is the most just. Bearing a child for adoption does less harm than killing him.
10. Justice dictates that when either of two people must be inconvenienced or hurt to alleviate their united predicament, the one who bore the greater responsibility for the predicament should bear more of the inconvenience or hurt to alleviate it.
11. Justice dictates that a person may not coerce harm on another person by threatening voluntary harm on themselves.
12. The outcast and the disadvantaged and exploited are to be cared for in a special way, especially those with no voice of their own.
13. What is happening in the womb is the unique person-nurturing work of God, who alone has the right to give and take life.
14. There are countless clinics that offer life and hope to both mother and child (and father and parents), with care of every kind lovingly provided by people who will meet every need they can.
15. Jesus Christ can forgive all sins, and will give all who trusts him the help they need to do everything that life requires.