

**Mailing Address:**

140 Gregory Lane, Suite 180  
Pleasant Hill  
California 94523

TEL [925] 676-1584

FAX [925] 677-2192

[gbc@gracebiblechurch.info](mailto:gbc@gracebiblechurch.info)

**Deacon of the Day:**

**May**

May 1: Kevin Shea  
May 8: Erne Hall  
May 15: Jeff Lancaster  
May 22: Rafe Shellooe  
May 29: Scott Denny

**June**

June 5: Kevin Shea  
June 12: Ernie Hall  
June 19: Jeff Lancaster  
June 26: Rafe Shellooe

*Growing Together in the Knowledge and Grace of God*

**Weekly Calendar**

**Sundays:**

Prayer: 8:15 am  
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:**

Home Fellowship Groups:  
7:00 pm  
Senior High Youth Group:  
7:00 pm

**Thursdays:**

Junior High Youth Group:  
7:00 pm  
DVC Grace.: 7:00 pm

**Fridays:**

S.F. Men's Prayer Meeting  
12:00 pm  
Grace. Berkeley: 7:00 pm

May/June 8



*Women*  
**of Grace**  
MINISTRY NEWS

**Summer Garden/Poolside Parties**

Once a month this summer we will get together at Kim Smith's home in Walnut Creek for a time of chatter and a dip in the pool.

It will be from 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. on the dates *soon to be announced*.

Remember to bring a salad to share.

Call Kim at 946-9439 if you have questions.

**Fall Conference**  
**September 23 and 24**

Friday night and all day Saturday, September 23 and 24, at the church. Our speaker will be Donna Shannon, an experienced retreat speaker and wife of

Bill Shannon, on the faculty at The Master's College.

Cost will be approximately \$30-\$35.

Watch for details in future bulletins and newsletters.

From Pastor Tony Sanelli

All That *Glitters* is Not Gold

In my most recent message from Romans twelve, I mentioned that the recent death of Pope John Paul II and the selection of Pope Benedict XVI have brought Roman Catholic worship into the living rooms of millions of people across the globe. This includes the living rooms of many American evangelicals. Unfortunately, the worship that is being telecast to millions is worship based upon sacred traditions, sacred vestments, sacred buildings, and sacred titles whether or not these are consistent with the teaching of the truly sacred Scriptures. The images are powerful, majestic and seductive. They make for great television.

The sight of these mystical proceedings set to grand music in some of the most beautiful architecture and attended by so many dignitaries from all over the world can engender a desire to be associated with something so "worldwide," powerful and historic. It has sparked renewed desire among many to emphasize all the things evangelical Protestants and Catholics hold in common. Most often these points run along the lines of social issues in American politics (abortion, euthanasia, etc.). However, as provocative as these images may be, we must remember that Rome continues to reject the gospel as recovered and articulated by the Protestant Reformation of the 16th century-

all that glitters is not gold!

The most critical question facing any human being is "How can I be made right with God?" The answer to this question is what continues to separate Rome and evangelicals (at least those who continue to confess the 5 Solas of the Reformation). This is the central issue dividing evangelicals from Rome and it must not be swept under the carpet. Though it is becoming increasingly unpopular to question or criticize Roman Catholic doctrine we must continue to oppose any and all error that diminishes the glory of the finished work of Christ. This does not imply that we are free to insult or mock the new Pope or Catholics in general. Nor must we avoid all dialogue that is offered and carried on with humility. But we must continue to provide a reasoned argument against what remains official Roman Catholic dogma.

Rome has clearly spelled out her differences with the Protestant Reformation in the Council of Trent. Trent rejected the Protestant formulation of the doctrine of "justification by faith alone" (i.e., the gospel according to Romans!). She declared that any that hold to this doctrine are "anathema" (cursed). Every subsequent Church Council has reaffirmed the Canons and Decrees of the Council of Trent. *(continued on p.2)*

**May Calendar**

**Men's DTP:**

May 5 & 19

**Walk for Life:**

May 7

**All-Church Retreat:**

May 13-15

**Hospitality Homes:**

May 22

**Office Closed for Memorial Day:**

May 30

**June Calendar**

**Men's DTP:**

June 2

**Worship Night**

June 5

**Church Picnic:**

June 12

**San Quintin Mission Trip Begins:**

June 17

**Hospitality Homes:**

June 26

**FUTURE DATES TO REMEMBER**

**Kids Camp:**

July 10-16

**Jr. High Camp:**

July 17-23

**Sr. High Camp:**

July 24-30

**VBS:**

August 1-5

*Growing Together in the Knowledge and Grace of God*

“Beloved,  
we are a church  
that remains  
unabashedly  
committed  
to the 5 Solas of  
the Reformation  
because this is  
the heart of  
the gospel.”



*Sola Fide*  
*Sola Scriptura*  
*Solo Christo*  
*Soli Deo Gloria*  
*Sola Gratia*


These pronouncements stand as the official position of the Church. The essence of Rome’s position makes justification dependent on a mixture of faith and works. The effect, as Dr. Bruce Bickel states, is “to make justification a process grounded in the believer’s own flawed righteousness rather than a declarative act of God grounded in Christ’s perfect righteousness... Faith is thus diluted with works. Sola Fide (faith alone) is abandoned.”

Some may think that we are splitting hairs. But again, Bickel warns, “While some within the community of faith will say that we are merely dealing with semantics, we say that we are dealing with differing eternities. If one is justified by a declaration of God, received through faith alone, then one is declared righteous in Christ the very moment one believes that the person and work of Christ-His righteousness, His perfect life of obedience-is credited to ones account. Conversely, if one is justified by a process of sanctification that is never completed in one’s lifetime, one does not have sufficient basis for acceptance with God.”

Beloved, we are a church that remains unabashedly committed to the 5 Solas of the Reformation because this is the heart of the gospel. We continue to ascribe to the essentials of historic Christianity and leave room for unity in the non-essentials. What we consider the “essentials” is found in our doctrinal statement and in our handout “The Essentials of the Faith” which is always available in the various locations throughout the church facilities. If you are new to this formulation of doctrine please pick one up and read it. You might also consider attending our “Getting Acquainted with Grace” class.

Biblical love and the contemporary expression of “tolerance” are different things. Love includes tenderly pointing out error in order to seek the good of those we love. To recognize fatal error and point it out is not unloving or judgmental. We would not decry this quality in medical doctors. Tolerance, as defined by our Postmodern pundits (every one is just as right as anyone else), may be the easier journey socially. But, it will leave people in the clutches of damning beliefs.

Truth is definable and fixed. God has revealed it in His Sacred word. May God bind our hearts in humble allegiance to His unchanging cross and give us all the grace to respond in love to those who place all their hopes in what glitters but is not gold.

For more information on the critical differences between the Protestant Reformation and Catholic Doctrine, please visit these websites: [www.gracebiblechurch.info](http://www.gracebiblechurch.info) or Alpha & Omega Ministries ([www.aomin.org](http://www.aomin.org)) or Alliance of Confessing Evangelicals ([www.alliancenet.org](http://www.alliancenet.org)). 

# News *and Events*

## Reminder!

Let’s try to be as thoughtful to our visitors as possible. Here are some ways we can be helpful. Park off-site either on Gregory Lane or Cleaveland Road. Use the overflow/crying room during either service to make as much room as possible for newer folks in the Worship Center. Also, you can keep clear all unsaved seats of coats, bibles, bulletins, etc. Find an unfamiliar face and introduce yourself.

## Welcome New Members

Please welcome our newest members to Grace Bible Church! They are Morton and Sara Thomas and Bob and Kathy Runge.

## All-Church Retreat

Registration continues for the All-Church Retreat. Our speaker will be Brian Shealy, Academic Dean for Cornerstone Seminary, who will teach on a series titled “Delighting the Lord Through Expressions of Prayer”.

**Please do not let cost be a factor in whether or not you can attend.** This is the one event the elders believe is important enough for the church to partially fund. While there is a suggested amount per person, please pay what you can. As we have done in the past an offering will be taken at the retreat to help pay for our time at Koinonia. Sign-ups will continue until May 8th.

## Office Closed

The Church office will be closed on Monday, May 30th , for Memorial Day Weekend.

## The GRACEList

The Deacons would like to let you know that when you find yourself with usable household items, that you no longer need, you can easily bless someone in the assembly by passing them along. If you find yourself in need of an item, let us know and perhaps there is someone waiting to bless you with just that item. Whether you are looking to give or receive, contact Valerie Hard for more information at 925.485.4457 or email at [valeriehard@earthlink.net](mailto:valeriehard@earthlink.net).

The **GRACEList** is located at the Book Table and has several items available and requested already listed. Please check it out and start trading!



## Regular Prayer Times

**Sunday Morning:**  
8:15 - 8:45 am; Room 101

**Fridays:**  
7:00 am; Men’s Prayer at GBC, Room 101  
Lunch Time; Men’s Prayer in SF

# Birthdays to Celebrate

## MAY

- Mamselle Fox ~ 1
- Chris O’Rourke ~ 1
- Bonnie Copland ~ 6
- Amber Kamp ~ 7
- Diane Schachterle ~ 9
- Kristine Kiiskinen ~ 11
- Sarah Doering ~ 17
- Ken Heinz ~ 18
- Pam Foglia ~ 19
- Mike Jones ~ 19
- Marilyn Dedenhoff ~ 19
- Taylor Axe ~ 20
- Matt Kearns ~ 21
- Tony Sanelli ~ 22
- Mark Redmond ~ 23
- Kricket Nissen ~ 25
- Mike Becker ~ 26
- Jeff Lancaster ~ 28
- Laura Schachterle ~ 30
- Denise Schachterle ~ 30

## JUNE

- Rebekah Dodenhoff ~ 5
- Marylee Oliver ~ 8
- Janece Shellooe ~ 10
- Caleb Smith ~ 12
- C.G. Senft ~ 15
- Jared Senft ~ 15
- Marni Haugen ~ 16
- Usha Menon ~ 17
- Nathanael Shea ~ 17
- Dale Sigmundson ~ 24
- Ines Johnson ~ 26
- Jennifer Kearns ~ 26
- Ken Zentner ~ 27
- Margaret Genendis ~ 28
- Sarah Moussa ~ 29

*"Pablo, you are the pastor, there is no one else."*



# Missions

**"... I will build My church; and the gates of Hades shall not overpower it."**

**Matt 16:18**

## **Getting acquainted with Pablo Ramirez,**

Pastor of Fountain of Living Waters Church, San Quintin, Mexico.

Before 1997, Pablo was a drunk in Tijuana. He had a job, but spent all of his money on drinking. He didn't even pay for the one-room place he stayed. This was a hard time for Pablo. At times, he felt like killing himself. He was angry with everything.

In February of 1997, David, the brother of his landlord, came to visit Pablo. Pablo wanted to get out of the house and wander around that day, but David came in and talked to Pablo, telling him that Christ loved him. Pablo mocked David by responding, "If Christ loved me, why doesn't he give me some beer." David persisted in visiting and explaining the gospel. He spoke to Pablo about God's goodness and the need for repentance. Pablo's response was, "If Christ is truly alive, why is my life so hard and why doesn't he give me a Christian wife?" David answered Pablo that God was good enough to give him a Christian wife. Several days later, Pablo met Esperanza. After a few conversations, they started attending church together. On August 13, 1997 Pablo truly experienced the presence of God and an eternal change in his life. He also realized Esperanza was meant to be his wife.

They got involved in Tony Varella's church and Pablo was placed in charge of the vehicle and transportation used to bring people to church. Later he was made an elder in the church. Things were going well for Pablo and Esperanza. They had belongings, two cars and even two houses. Pablo was praying for a business of his own.

Then some disagreements between the elders at Tony Varella's church brought difficulties that led Pablo back to a worldly life. Friends showed him a place in San Quintin where he could start his own business. In San Quintin, Pablo and Esperanza started attending a Pentecostal church. However, they noticed the difference in what that church taught. Pablo began talking about what he believed with his customers, many of whom were also attending the same church. The people were interested, asking Pablo why he taught differently than their church. Pablo says, "That is when I realized God didn't want me in a secular business. God wanted me in God's business."

The people's questions showed Pablo he needed more study and preparation to be their pastor. He asked Tony Varella to send someone to be a pastor. Tony's response was "Pablo, you are the pastor, there is no one else." Pablo returned to Tijuana for six months of training with Tony Varella, traveling each weekend to San Quintin to preach. Then he returned to San Quintin, but has continued traveling to Tijuana each week for additional training. On October 29, 2001 Fountain of Living Waters Church was established in San Quintin with five to ten people. Now, in 2005, there are 40+ adults and their families attending. The permanent church building constructed in 2003 by GBC is getting put to good use.

- PRAISE For:**
- A wedding in the church April 17
  - 6 recent baptisms
- PRAY For:**
- A home visitation program started
  - Transportation to help people come to church
  - Men for leadership in the church
  - Someone to be in charge of musical worship
  - More converts
  - A children's breakfast outreach
  - Esperanza's health

**EMAIL: [hnoPabloR@hotmail.com](mailto:hnoPabloR@hotmail.com)**

***Pablo speaks some English so you can write him a simple email.***

***Encourage him by telling him you are praying for him.***

Missions Ministry  
May 2005

# The Origins and Purpose of the Deacon Ministry

You may be asking, "What are the responsibilities of the Deacons at Grace Bible Church?" What is their particular ministry? Where and when do they intersect with the congregation? These are legitimate questions and are well worth answering. In 1 Tim 3:8 Paul uses the very word for the office of Deacon to describe the particular ministry of a Deacon.

A Deacon is one who serves, one who attends to the practical needs of the saints. Acts 6:1-7 gives us a good example of their function. The Apostles were in great need to appointed men to seek a peaceful and amicable arrangement between the Hebrew and Hellenistic Jews. The issues involved the daily serving of meals and waiting on tables. The problem was the Hellenistic (Greek speaking) Jews were doing more than their fair share. The Hebrew Jews (local to Jerusalem) were not "pulling their load" and were being particularly insensitive to the resentment that was arising between the two groups of Christians. This charged atmosphere needed to be addressed by men of wisdom and full of the Holy Spirit. Seven men were appointed to the task! The passage says the Apostles solution "pleased the whole multitude (v5)." Obviously there was a pressing need to have men of spiritual maturity to play this key role in the life of the early Church.

Today the role is the same. Deacons are charged with the responsibility to oversee the application of practical mercy first to the saints in the Church and to those who are lost. The focus of the Diaconate (plural of Deacon) is to provide loving assistance to those who are genuinely in great need. The office is designed to impart the things that will bring relief to their physical, material and financial difficulties. The Diaconate at Grace Bible Church does not desire to do this alone. It is our longing to involve every member of the Church in an effort to use their gifts for the benefit of those who, because of extenuating circumstance, are in need of personal assistance. We are on a pilgrim's journey and there are difficulties on our road to the Celestial City. We are thankful for opportunities to come alongside and bear one another's burdens. We have been privileged by God to this very thing.

**"Deacons are charged with the responsibility to oversee the application of practical mercy first to the saints in the Church and to those who are lost."**

## What's News from THE Youth GroUP?

The rumor going around TYG ("THE Youth GroUP") is that Tony will finish Romans before we finish our series on the Doctrines of Grace (Calvinism). Well that's just not going to happen. I mean, sure we've spent more weeks dealing with the nearly 30 questions that were submitted than actually teaching the series, but the time we have spent has been a rich, rich blessing for most as we've studied carefully the grace of God and just how much He has done for us. Students have been challenged to be sure, but many have also been refreshed. Some have had old questions answered that had not been before, some have become less confused about some things and I think everyone has been reminded how much bigger God is than us! All in all, this has been a wonderful series for us and we've really been praising God for His abundant and amazing grace!

As we learn about God's grace given to us, it prompts many of us to be involved in giving to others. Another "Missions Summer" is about to hit and many of our students will be involved in going to San Quintin, serving at our VBS here at church, ministering for a week or two as a camp counselor down at Koinonia, doing a VBS at Paskenta again or simply doing chores around the house...right guys? It is always exciting to see our students being excited for doing God's work in these different ways. Please pray that the Lord will use them to accomplish His purposes wherever they will be serving!

In addition to serving, students will have an opportunity to attend either Jr High or Sr High camp this year once again. As usual, we will be doing a couple of fundraisers to help with scholarships for those who need them. The first will start very soon on a Sunday and will continue indefinitely. What is this one all about? Well, most of us need to buy cards for people every so often, right? Well we are now going to start selling gift cards. But not just any gift cards. These are cards with photographs (scenic/nature shots) taken by people in our own church. Need a card or two? Check out the table when you see it, stop by and pick up a few! Then our big fundraiser will be our Parking Lot Sale! This will take place on Saturday June 11th (along with a few other things that day) and will basically be a huge garage sale. We not only invite you to come and buy a few price-less finds, but we also need your help with donations! If you've got things laying around that you no longer have need or use for, please plan on bringing them to the church the Sunday or during the week prior to June 11th. In the past we've sold enough stuff to cover more than 4 full scholarships for students. Please be thinking about what you might be able to contribute to this event...then come and buy other people's junk, I mean treasures!

Please pray for Ben and I as we teach and for our students as they hear, that the Lord will accomplish His will and purpose through us all!

In His Grace,  
Chris

Parking  
Lot  
Sale  
June 11

Jr. High  
Camp  
July 17-23

Sr. High  
Camp  
July 24-30



## Children's ministries

### Checking Up On Children's Education

As Summer fast approaches, much is going on in the CE department. Thank you to those who have volunteered your time and service in various ways to points of need within our ministry to our children. As most of you may already know, this Summer will be the first time we have maintained a full blown Sunday School program. Many of our regular teachers will be taking some time off, and many others will be stepping in to fill their shoes. For all, it is a blessing to know that we are being used of the Lord to scatter His seed into the little clumps of soil that He puts in our classes.

We still do have three spots to fill in our ministry. By the time you read this, we will probably have a Curriculum Manager in place handling the administration of teaching materials. But we still have a need for a Playground Manager, one Summer teacher and one Summer substitute teacher. Now I know the Playground Manager position doesn't sound like a glamorous one, but if you love kids and wouldn't mind filling a sandbox, cleaning a slide and keeping the play area safe, then this may be the job for you. If you would like to fill that spot or take on either the last teaching or sub slots, please contact me as soon as possible.

Lastly, let me inform parents about one immediate change that does not affect all of you, but we want to let you know in case it does. Starting now, children will no longer be moving up from class to class during the normal school year. If a student starts in a class in September, they will remain in that class through the duration of that year. There may be exceptions made on a case by case basis when it seems appropriate to do so, but the idea is to make the year easier for the children, parents, teachers and yes, even the administrators. If you have questions about this, don't hesitate to ask.

As always we appreciate your love and prayers. Please pray that the Lord will save and sanctify our children for His glory!

In His Service,  
Chris

### Mark Your Calendars:

#### Attention all teachers and substitutes

(regular and Summer)

We will be having a teacher training day on Saturday May 21st from 9:00 to 12:00.

Please plan to attend.

#### Attention all parents

There have been brochures placed in each classroom regarding the Summer camp programs at Koinonia. There are two weeks of Kid's Camp, one being July 10th through 16th for grades 3-6 and the second being July 24th through 30th for grades 2-5. If you are interested in sending your child(ren) please pick up one of the brochures. You can also go to Koinonia's website at [www.gotocamp.org](http://www.gotocamp.org) for info and online registration. If you have any questions about camps, please feel free to see me!