

**Deacon of the Day:
September**

September 4: Rafe Shellooe
September 11: Scott Denny
September 18: Kevin Shea
September 25: Ernie Hall

October

October 2: Jeff Lancaster
October 9: Vince Vega
October 16: Rafe Shellooe
October 23: Scott Denny
October 30: Kevin Shea

Growing Together in the Knowledge and Grace of God

Weekly Calendar

Sundays:

Prayer: 8:15 am
Worship Services:
9:00 am & 11:00 am
Children's Education:
9:00 am & 11:00 am

Tuesdays:

Precepts: (beginning 9/27)
9:30 am

Wednesdays:

Home Groups: 7:00 pm

Thursdays:

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

Fridays:

Grace. Berkeley: 7:00 pm

Grace School of Theology & Ministry
LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

September 16 -17, 2005

**“The Place of the Old Testament
in the Church of Christ”**

Speaker: Dr. William Barrick

Professor of Old Testament and
Director of Th.D. Studies at The Master's Seminary

PRECONFERENCE:

September 16, 2005

11:00 am - 2:30 pm. Lunch Provided
Grace Bible Church of Pleasant Hill
(for Pastors/Elders only)

CONFERENCE:

September 16, 2005: 7:00 pm - 9:30 pm

September 17, 2005: 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church

Please call for or pick up a conference brochure from the GSTM office, (925) 676-1639.

Or go to www.gstm.org for a conference brochure.

From Pastor Tony Sanelli

GRACE BIBLE CHURCH BUILDING PROGRESS

Dear Friends of GBC,

It was four years ago that we began in earnest to investigate the potential of adding a new worship center to our campus. By God's grace we possessed a generous pledge of \$1 million seed money in answer to our earlier prayers that the Lord would bless our families in such an unexpected way as to allow us to give sacrificially towards the removal of our debt on the education building. Though there is more than one biblical manner of raising support, we chose this method with the hope of demonstrating God's faithfulness. To His praise we paid off the old loan and with a few thousand dollars and the pledge in hand began to seek the Lord's will.

After nearly five years we are pleased to inform you that we are now on the cusp of entering our new Worship Center very near to our 10 year anniversary! The seed has born fruit! Our contractor has informed us that we can estimate receiving occupancy of the building in early November. What praise to the faithfulness of our Lord and Savior. I cannot explain how humbled and elated I feel!

Thus far we have received \$2.2 million in gifts towards the new facility in answer to prayer alone! As of August 26th, we are approximately \$483,000 short of having sufficient funds to pay for the completed contract and other costs associated with occupying the building. This amount also includes enough new chairs to fill the new worship center when combined with our existing chairs. In other words, we can immediately utilize our new facility!

Though this amount does not include a new P.A. system, platform lighting, new hymnals or the addition of storage space to the north of our existing chapel and several other necessary improvements to the chapel, it does allow us

to begin preaching the gospel and edifying the saints in one room right away. This is what we prayed for and the building committee labored so hard for! We are so close! What honor and glory it would bring the Lord's name to enter this new facility without debt in time for our 10 year anniversary celebration! It is not beyond our reach nor our Heavenly Father's power and graciousness! Let us remember the Lord's invitation to His people, "open your mouth wide and I will fill it!" (Psalm 81:10)

In light of this news allow me tell you what we as elders are asking the GBC family to do.

In regards to our financial needs we propose:

- That prayers and petitions for the provision of said funds be publicly offered to the Lord every Lord's day until we enter the new facility.
- That every household consider adopting a specific and consistent time for prayer and fasting for the same.
- That every household prayerfully consider what further sacrifices they might make to bring this to fruition to the praise of God.
- That an offering dedicated towards the building fund be brought to the Lord on the final Lord's Day of October.

In regards to the honor and praise God deserves for all he has done and will do we propose:

- That a joint inauguration and 10 year anniversary service be held the first Lord's Day we can occupy and utilize the building.
- That four consecutive weeks be set aside as a month of thanksgiving and jubilee for God's unflinching goodness towards us— beginning with

**September
Calendar**

Office Closed
September 5

**GSTM Leadership
Conference**
September 16-17

Hospitality Homes
September 18

GSTM Registration
September 20

Women's Conference
September 23-24

**October
Calendar**

Missions Night
October 2

Hospitality Homes
October 16

**Women of Grace
Game Night**
October 28

**Reformation
Celebration**
October 30

**FUTURE DATES
TO REMEMBER**

**GSTM Leadership
Conference**
September 16-17

**Reformation
Celebration**
October 30

Growing Together in the Knowledge and Grace of God

(continued from page 1) the first Lord's Day.

- That this praise and adoration be acknowledged by maintaining "an hour of prayer" every day in our new facility throughout this month.
- That this praise and adoration be expressed by special evening meetings that acknowledge God's grace in song, praise and reflection each of the four Lord's Days.
- That this praise and adoration be expressed through a 10th anniversary banquet to be held within these four weeks.
- That this praise and adoration be expressed through multiplied expressions of hospitality and fellowship in private homes on each Lord's Day throughout this month.

If you receive this newsletter as a former member or a friend of the GBC family, allow me to ask you to also prayerfully consider how you might partner with us as well. The Lord's statement "where your treasure is, there your heart will also be" teaches us that we support the things we highly value or treasure. If you value a Christian education you are most likely paying for tuition. If you value comfort when traveling you will pay for first-class tickets. The desires of our hearts and the chief commitments of our lives are revealed by the patterns and direction of our spending and giving.

How is supporting the new facility valuing something eternal? We are building this worship center because we value:

- 1. Our ability to extend the gospel of the kingdom to more people than we could otherwise reach in our present facilities.**
- 2. The testimony it will be to the faithfulness of God in blessing His Word as the key means to extending the kingdom.**
- 3. Our ability to better build up the saints together in the knowledge and grace of God.**
- 4. Our ability to maintain a high-view of God and Scripture in worship services that embrace more of His people.**
- 5. The greater outreach to the nations and worship of Jesus that will result from building up a stronger and larger home congregation in Pleasant Hill.**

These are just five ways we believe our new facility will further advance the kingdom of God. It is my sincere prayer that you will believe in these five values with all of your heart because I believe you will be a cheerful, sacrificial giver and supporter of what you value the most. It is inevitable—Jesus taught as much. ✨

Women of Grace

MINISTRY NEWS

Ephesians 1 Memorization Class

Monday nights from 7:30 to 8:30 at Bonnie Copeland's home in Concord. Put into practice what our pastors have exhorted us to do—memorize Scripture. Sign up at the WOG table in the courtyard for class beginning on September 12. Please call Bonnie Copeland at 689-1629 for more information.

Fall Conference

Friday night and Saturday, September 23 and 24, in the church sanctuary. The topic this year is "Repentance and Forgiveness," brought by Donna Shannon from Grace Community Church in Sun Valley, CA. The cost is \$35. Saturday lunch will be catered by Ethan and Tisa Mantle. Sign-ups are now being taken at the Women of Grace table in the courtyard. Registration will close on Sunday, Sept. 18.

Precept Bible Study

This 8-week class studying the book of Deuteronomy begins in late September and will meet at the church on Tuesday mornings at 9:30. Call Lynne Pursel at 648-9806 with any questions.

Excellent Wife Class

The start date for the next class taught by Barbara Telle will be sometime in January. Watch future publications for more details.

Game and Gab Night

Come to Keli Judd's house in Clayton Friday, October 28, at 7:00 p.m. Bring your favorite board game and a snack to share. R.S.V.P. to Keli at 673-9137.

Ornament Exchange

Sunday, December 4, 6:00 p.m. at Stacy Hampton's home in Martinez. Bring a wrapped ornament to trade and a snack to share. Please call Stacy at 370-7577 to let her know you're coming.

Winter Retreat

March 17-19, 2007 at Camp Koinonia in Watsonville. Cost is \$135. Mark your calendars now!

Missions

"The things you heard from me ... entrust to faithful men, who will ... teach others also."

II Timothy 2:2

Getting acquainted with Kelly and Marietta Liebengood

Missionaries in Costa Rica

Kelly grew up in the Bay Area. While attending San Jose State to play football, an Athletes In Action staff member befriended Kelly and presented the gospel, showing its foundation in God's grace, not man's merit. Kelly rejected that religion as inadequate, but two years later, that message was still working in Kelly's heart. It finally made sense to him and he randomly opened a Bible to Romans to read more. As he read about his own sin and about Jesus, his faith was born. Within a couple of years, Kelly was involved in a college ministry of evangelism and discipleship in Concepción, Chile. There, he first met Marietta.

While Marietta was in junior high, her mom, who had struggled with alcohol and smoking, had a radical conversion to Christ that enabled her to quit smoking and drinking. Seeing this tangible evidence of God in her mom's life, Marietta became interested in Jesus. Attending church with her mom, Marietta got plugged into a youth program and began to grow in her faith. As her faith grew over the years, God led her to be part of that same college ministry team in Chile that Kelly had joined. They were married in 1996. They now have 3 children: Chloe (7), Caleb (4), and Caedmon (3).

God slowly showed them that their Spanish language skills and ministry experiences in South America had equipped them for a specific ministry. Latin America is becoming a sender of missions to Muslims. Latins are a better cultural fit in Muslim countries than Americans are, and they don't have the same political hang-ups. However, only 3-5% of Latin American pastors have any formal theological training. God burdened Kelly and Marietta for this ministry of preparing Latin pastors and missionaries with sound theological training integrated into everyday living. In May of 2000, Seminario ESEPA asked Kelly to join their faculty as Professor of New Testament. Kelly teaches (in Spanish) New Testament Survey, Theology, Biblical Backgrounds, Greek, Biblical Interpretation, and basic Bible study skills. ESEPA has name recognition throughout Latin America as an excellent theological school. The seminary is governed by a solid, evangelical Costa Rican denomination, and has over 400 students, representing some 40 evangelical denominations from about 16 Spanish speaking countries. Future leaders, missionaries, writers, scholars, and influential pastors will attend ESEPA and be rigorously equipped to handle God's Word, integrate it into their lives and make disciples of all nations.

Do pray for Kelly and his family. Their three-year old has had serious health issues with Asthma in the humid Costa Rican climate. Pray for the training materials Kelly is writing on the Biblical Basis for Missions. Pray for the prolonged transition as the seminary searches for a new president. Pray for Sergio, an ESEPA graduate, raising funds in his native Mexico to work among the Kurds in northern Iraq. Pray for Kelly and five of his students as they create a new training program for all 300 of the leadership in the 5000 member church they attend. Pray for financial support.

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Children's ministries

Let's See What's Happening With CE!

CE Ends Successful Summer, Heads Into Fall!

As we close out another summer filled with activity, I'm thankful to the Lord for seeing us through our first summer with a full CE program. I'm so grateful for all of the teachers and substitutes that worked through the summer months to provide our regular Sunday school program for our students. Even with people being gone here and there, we had only a few last minute holes to fill in and we didn't miss a beat! So be sure and thank those you may have worked in your child's class and more importantly, give thanks to our Father for His provision for our needs in this ministry.

Speaking of needs in the ministry...as we move into the fall quarter, starting September 11th, as of the typing of this article, we still have a couple of slots to fill in, 2 teachers and we may have as many as 6 spots open for substitutes. If you are interested in assisting if these positions remain unfilled, please call the office and let me know! I'd be happy to answer any questions you may have before committing to the work. As the Lord has provided in the past, I'm sure He will again, but I would ask that you pray for His provision to come soon.

Also, after testing out the new "Generations of Grace" curriculum made available this last Spring through Grace Community Church, we have opted to continue on with that material during our second hour program. First hour will continue to use the "Desiring God" material and 2nd hour Tiny Tots will use Great Commissions Publications material (as it's more age appropriate), but the rest of 2nd hour will use the new material. Teachers have found it to be a very good tool for teaching our children the truths of Scripture in a very good way that keeps the thread of God's grace flowing through the program.

Lastly, as we all know, with the new sanctuary nearing completion, we will possibly be facing changes in our program. As plans get made and revised and adjusted, please pray that the Lord will be leading us as we make any necessary changes. All of us will need to be flexible during this time of transition, but praise God for what He has done! We are blessed!

In His Service,
Chris Kiiskinen

Regular Prayer Times

Sunday Morning:

8:15 - 8:45 am; Room 101

Fridays:

7:00 am; Men's Prayer at GBC, Room 101

Birthdays to Celebrate

SEPTEMBER

Gail Chamberlain ~ 3
Rion Shellooe ~ 4
Samuel Kamp ~ 5
Dustin Menez ~ 7
Suzanne Carrigan ~ 7
Louisa Sharp ~ 7
Tisa Mantle ~ 8
Eldon Hawksworth ~ 8
Andy Senft ~ 9
Nikolas Marchol ~ 10
Lisa Scott ~ 12
James Albert ~ 14
JoAnn Hedges ~ 14
Colin Copland ~ 14
Lauren Botelho ~ 14
Herb Moussa ~ 15
Wanda Vought ~ 19
Suzanne Simmons ~ 20
Keith Davis ~ 21
Dinnis Upton ~ 21
Timothy Knight ~ 21
Morgan Cooper ~ 23
Andie Menez ~ 28
Matt Stephens ~ 28
Linda Dodt ~ 29
Kathleen Runge ~ 29
Evan Sharp ~ 30

OCTOBER

Bonnie Allen ~ 1
Brittany Morgan ~ 4
Samuel Scott ~ 5
Caleb Becker ~ 6
Andrew Perri ~ 6
Megan Kamp ~ 9
Janet Redmond ~ 9
Dustin Stephens ~ 11
Jessica Jones ~ 12
Blake Dresdow ~ 13
Katie Dresdow ~ 15
Zoe Becker ~ 15
Tim Wat ~ 17
Rich Mathers ~ 17
Davis Menez ~ 19
Barret Kruggel ~ 19
C.J. Carrigan ~ 20
Scott Menez ~ 21
Paul Ghadiani ~ 24
Jeff Jones ~ 24
Brandon Menez ~ 28
Christine Nichols ~ 28
Debbie Wat ~ 29



News *and Events*

Did You Know?

Did you know that the church has a resource library? It is located in the church office at 140 Gregory Lane. It is open Monday thru Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 7:00 to 10 p.m. when Grace School is in session. You can check out commentaries; books on Christian living; biographies and even some Christian fiction.

Should you not find what you're looking for in the Resource Library, please stop by the Grace School of Theology and Ministry Library, which has a full compliment of resources available to you for you own personal edification. The GSTM Library is also located in the church office.

Christian Education

On September 18th, our Fall Adult Education Schedule begins. The schedule will consist of one class during the first worship service and two during the second. During the first service, Fundamentals of the Faith I (FOF I) will be offered. This is the first part of the FOF series, and it will dig into the fundamental doctrines of the Christian faith. During the second worship hour, we will be offering two adult classes: Getting Acquainted with Grace and an elective, Shepherding a Child's Heart,

Grace School of Theology & Ministry

With the fall comes the opening of another academic year for the Grace School of Theology and Ministry. The school provides a great opportunity for all who want to study biblical doctrine in a classroom setting. Registration begins on September 20th at 140 Gregory Lane, Suite 180

in Pleasant Hill. Classes begin October 4th. For a list of classes being offered this quarter call the G.S.T.M. office at (925) 676-1639.

Reformation Celebration

The year was 1517. The place, Wittenberg. The man, Martin Luther. October 31st is not just for ghost and goblins anymore. The last day of October marks the anniversary of Martin Luther's nailing of his 95 theses to the Castle Church door in Wittenberg, and the beginning of the Protestant Reformation. During this time of year we have traditionally focused our time on one of the five "Solos". Last year we looked at "Sola Scriptura" or "Scripture Alone". This year we hope to focus on "Sola Fide" or "By Faith Alone". We will meet on what is known in Church history as Reformation Sunday, the last Sunday in October. It is simply a time to recall some of the fundamental doctrines for which our Christian brothers and sisters in centuries past have fought. This year that day falls on October 30. The evening will be filled with singing, preaching, refreshments and games for the kids. It really is a time for the entire church family.

10th Anniversary

We are fast approaching our 10th Anniversary, and our brother, Kevin Smith, is working on a video presentation detailing the life and history of the ministry of Grace Bible Church. Kevin needs any and all pictures that you might have that can help him detail our short history. Please contact Scott Denny at the church office if you can help. Thank you.