

From Pastor Tony Sanelli

## September Calendar

**Office Closed**

September 4

**Hospitality Homes**

September 10

**Short-Term  
Missions Night**

September 10

**DTP Open House**

September 14

**GSTM Pastors Lunch**

September 21

**Membership Class**

September 23

**Home Group Potluck  
and BBQ**

September 24

**Women's Conference**

September 29-30

## October Calendar

**GSTM Classes begin**

October 3

**First Connections Lunch**

October 8

**Hospitality Homes**

October 15

**Members Meeting**

October 22

**Women of Grace  
Game-n-Gab Night**

October 27

**Reformation Celebration**

October 29

## Dates To Remember

**Men's Breakfast**

November 4

**Women's Ornament  
Exchange**

December 3

## THREE PILLARS OF HEALTHY MEMBERSHIP PARTICIPATION

This year we have received 58 new members into our church family. What an encouragement it was to hear each of them express their commitment to love Christ's body through our membership covenant and to shake each and every one of their hands! This has been the fruit of our efforts to encourage responsible participation in our local assembly. An effort carried on largely by Scott Denny, our church administrator, and Kevin Shea, our head deacon.

My message on July 30<sup>th</sup> was a further exhortation to realize the spiritual connection and dependence that our Lord has built into the local church. Everyone belongs and everyone has a role to fill. While our union in Christ is a spiritual and invisible reality, membership is a visible and responsible expression of this reality that enables the local church to function within the context of expressed commitments and unity of mind regarding doctrine and polity. However, becoming a member is just a first step. What would constitute what we might call "healthy" participation in the family?

First of all I want to acknowledge that there are members in good standing who will not be able to be involved in the way or to the degree that I am recommending. This is not due to lack of spirituality or commitment on their part. It is simply due to age, physical condition, or other extraordinary individual or family circumstances. I want members like this to realize the crucial role they fulfill at G.B.C. I want them to feel cared for by the church. And I want them to be encouraged to use their gifts to whatever degree they are able.

Having said this, below is what I would describe as the three pillars of "healthy involvement" in the life of the church for the vast majority of members.

① Regular attendance of church services on the Lord's Day and any other special members' meetings or special services. The weekly meeting of the local church is the main source of feeding and communal worship for all members. Unity of mind is encouraged and maintained by participating in this assembly. In addition, God's Spirit indwells the local body as a whole as well as individually. Together, we are the temple of the living God (1 Cor. 3:16). The Holy Spirit manifests His power and divine effects through the gifts He has sovereignly granted the church. These gifts are operative in a unique way when the body is present together experiencing the Lord's presence through the blending of His gifts. Our media ministry makes recordings of the sermons available but the moving of the Spirit is a living and real experience that takes place at that moment and this is not captured and then conveyed on tape.

The Lord's Supper is also one of God's ongoing vehicles for encouragement, self-evaluation and strengthening. Our regular cycle of receiving communion every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month is

*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 Groups: 7:00 p.m.

**Tuesdays:**

Home Groups: 7:00 p.m.

**Wednesdays:**

Home Groups: 7:00 p.m.  
Grace Period – CAL: 7:00 p.m.

**Thursdays:**

Home Groups: 7:00 p.m.  
Junior High Youth Group: 7:00 p.m.  
Grace Period–DVC: 7:00 p.m.

**Fridays:**

Home Groups: 7:00 pm



## Book Review

**Living in the Hope of Glory**  
by Adolphe Monod

(Translation from French by Constance K. Walker)  
P & R Publishers, ISBN 0-87552-568-7

Menod's life story is a deeply touching account of a man and pastor, slowly dying of cancer, who never ceases to shepherd his flock, even to the day the Lord calls him home. Monod never lost sight of his calling to spread the Gospel of Christ. He never let himself be side-tracked by even the most difficult problems, but turned to God for help in everything. In his last days, his children would sit by his bedside, recording his sermons when he was hardly able to speak. His only concern was to do the Lord's work, rather than focus on his own frail needs.

From Monod's life story, any one of us can find solace and strength to cope more effectively with our own daily pains, be they large or small. This encouraging book belongs next to the Bible on the night table of every Christian as a source for daily meditation and thankfulness.

frequent enough to sustain a healthy conscience and confidence in the gospel and spaced enough to not encourage mindless, rote participation.


Giving sacrificially to the Lord is also an important expression of worship. Giving that is planned and systematic is encouraged in the New Testament (1 Cor. 16:2). But giving is also an expression of worship and adoration born of faith in God (2 Cor. 9:6-15). There is something to be said about thoughtfully and joyfully giving in the weekly offering in the midst of the congregation.

Sunday School, members' meetings and baptismal services among other special gatherings are also times for our unity to be enriched, our fellowship to be deepened and our hearts to be encouraged.

© Vital involvement in a small group where intimate relationships with believers can be developed and maintained. The larger meetings cannot begin to provide all the personal attention every member both needs to receive and to express for others. Smaller groups allow for focused interaction to promote the necessary care, help and love needed for growth and perseverance in the faith (Eph. 4:11-16). These groups require a level of transparency and willingness to interact with others under the grace of God.

Home Fellowship Groups are our primary vehicle for this context of ministry. However, not all small groups are Home Fellowship groups or bible studies. Men and women's prayer groups, youth and college ministries, and other gatherings provide this type of close-knit fellowship. If you cannot find a group that coincides with your schedule or geographic area consider beginning one with a few other people. We would gladly provide you with several suggestions. This form of involvement is becoming more and more essential as our reach extends to four different bay area counties.

© Participation in one on-going ministry task directed toward building up the church or one on-going ministry directed toward unbelievers. Of course, a member could be involved in a ministry that touches upon both or can be involved in more ministries if not damaging to one's spiritual life or family life. Every one can contribute to the overall ministry of GBC (1 Cor. 12). There is a lot going on all the time around our facility and on nearby School campuses. The work is both inward (directed to the flock) and outward (directed to the community). As you arrive on a typical Sunday and drop off children or utilize the fellowship hall or purchase a book or tape or rejoice in the praise music or simply enjoy a cup of coffee – remember that many members of GBC gave joyfully of their time for your benefit and the Lord's glory. How are you contributing or sharing the load?

The body of Christ is not a spectator sport or form of entertainment. It is the living spiritual expression of Christ's life on earth. It is the glorious product of His sufferings and resurrection and the outpouring of His Spirit. We are the Temple of God—living stones being built up into a holy building. In this Temple every stone matters. How many of the pillars of healthy membership participation are in place in your life? 

## MEN'S MINISTRY NEWS

The first men's breakfast was held on Saturday, July 29th, and was attended by about 70 men. Tony Sanelli brought a word of encouragement and exhortation to the men as he challenged them to get involved in the lives of other men.

The men were asked to fill out a survey that questioned them (1) about their relationships with their wives and children (where applicable); (2) about their relationships with other men and (3) about their own walk with Christ. The Men's Ministry hopes to use this information to better understand how the men of GBC can be ministered to. The ministry is in the process of completing the compilation of the surveys and hopes to share the results with the men who participated in the survey.

Our next breakfast is scheduled for Saturday, November 4, at 8:00 a.m. Should there be any events before then, we will keep you posted through the bulletin.

Lastly, the Men's Ministry would like to extend a special thank you to Ethan Mantle and Tim Hammack for catering the event.

# Missions

## Getting Acquainted with Kilwa Anderson and Nicole Shaw

Kilwa preached his first sermon at school chapel when he was in eighth grade. A sixth generation South African, he heard the gospel from his parents when he was about 10 years old. Shortly thereafter, he began witnessing to friends at school. Kilwa's desire to preach and serve God grew throughout his school years. In 11th grade, he participated in a short-term missions trip to Madagascar. Kilwa spent the year following high school with Operation Mobilization in missions work around Southern Africa, feeding his long-term desire to be in full time ministry. During that year, he met John MacArthur which led to an opportunity to attend The Master's Seminary after getting a Bachelor's degree from the University of Cape Town.

Kilwa currently works with Mark Christopher pastoring the Living Hope Bible Church (LHBC) in Cape Town and coordinating Shepherd's School of Theology and Expository Preaching (SSTEP). Kilwa's responsibilities include overseeing outreach and discipleship, running the men's ministry, teaching Fundamentals of the Faith classes for people new to the church, leading a Growth Group, teaching classes for SSTEP, and overseeing a number of miscellaneous ministries in the church.

Living Hope Bible Church has about 50 adults attending on Sunday's. They have just moved into a different facility, having outgrown the capacity of their previous location. There is a leadership team in place. Mark and Kilwa will be investing themselves in the lives of these men to develop and train them to become the elders and deacons. This is a critical ministry for the future health and expansion of LHBC. Outreach continues through the Radio Tygerberg Friday evening programs that broadcast Mark and Kilwa's sermons. Those are also broadcast on the internet, so if you are interested in listening to Mark and Kilwa, tune in to **104fm.org.za** on Friday's 9:00-9:30 a.m. Pacific Time (7:00-7:30 p.m. South African time, 10 hrs ahead of us).

The church faces numerous challenges. Among them are a large number of discipline cases for such a small church. Even in the midst of these challenges is a bright spot as one lady under discipline for an adulterous relationship has repented and is being restored back into fellowship. Another challenge, but one Kilwa is looking forward to, is leading LHBC on his own while Mark is on furlough for six months. In addition, Cape Town is a high crime, urban area, which always adds to life's challenges.

An exciting personal note, Kilwa is very recently engaged to Nicole Shaw. Their wedding is planned for September 30th. Three years ago, she was saved out of a life of drugs when attending a service at LHBC. She went on a short-term missions trip to Durban where she ministered to the Zulu people and ever since then has had a passion to serve the Lord. Nicole graduated this year (2006) with a B.A. degree in marketing and plans to do her teaching credential next year. She currently teaches Sunday school and serves as the mission's liaison for LHBC.

### Prayer Requests:

- Pray for the new Growth Group started recently in the northern suburbs of Cape Town. The members are excited and keen to reach out as much as possible.
- Pray for the Spirit to work through the preaching from the book of Galatians that Kilwa will be doing while Mark is on furlough in the states.
- Pray for the growth of the men on the leadership team.
- Pray for the salvation of souls through the ministries of the church.
- Praise God for Kilwa's fiancée, Nicole

*"Mark and Kilwa will be investing themselves in the lives of these men to develop and train them to become the elders and deacons."*



# Who Is My Neighbor?

## THE ROAD THAT LEADS TO MERCY

Times, they are changing! So says Timothy Keller in his book "Ministers of Mercy, The Call of the Jericho Road." Specifically Keller provides facts and details regarding the current monetary status of all government agencies providing help to the needy and disadvantaged in our country. Less tax revenue and more government expense is leading to a rapid decrease in funding of the specific programs providing food, shelter and assistance to those genuinely in need. This decrease in funding includes support to Federal, State, County and Local agencies. Statistics enumerated in his book give credible validation to his observation. Keller suggests the burden of meeting such needs will fall into the lap of the Church. Certainly the Church cannot supplant the funding of such agencies, nor do we want to be social workers, but Churches will have an increased opportunity to provide mercy to needy people and thereby be presented with increased opportunities to act out and proclaim the Gospel.

Keller very well could be right. The amount and type of benevolent requests the Diaconate has processed over the last year have increased and the types of assistance represent varying categories of needs. Keller presses the reader of his book to consider one key question, "Who is my neighbor?" He offers the evangelical Church has forgotten the answer to this question. He expounds on the story of the "Good Samaritan" as one of the key passages of Scripture giving us the right insight and answer. Bottom line, every living human being is our neighbor. However, reality dictates we come to the aid of those God places in our path and we provide relieving mercy within the context of the resources we have at our disposal. We do this because we are compelled by love of Christ and the need to live out and proclaim His Gospel.

Our duty to love our neighbor takes on the form of reaching both inwardly and outwardly. Inwardly we address the mercy needs of those who love Christ and live in community with us. Helping our own receives priority focus. Outwardly we address the needs of those outside the Church providing mercy as God directs. The act of giving mercy provides a platform for sharing the Gospel.

So what does Keller's very believable prediction mean to you and me? Certainly we are not responsible for solving the issues of all in need throughout the entire world. However, figuratively speaking, there still is a Jericho Road. We walk on it every day. Do you lift your eyes up off the pavement to see who is walking with you? Do you see those needing encouragement and assistance? Do you see Gospel opportunities? Is your heart moved like the Good Samaritan? Do you move past your prejudices to help? These are tough but important questions we all need to ask ourselves.

We all are called to be "Ministers of Mercy." Every Christian is an ambassador! Being called to active "mercy duty" may happen at any moment and within varied contexts. Some on the Jericho Road are fellow pilgrims on their way to the celestial city. Others are on the road heading in the direction that leads to eternal destruction. God will give you opportunities to give the lost directions to the way that leads to life eternal. Providing a measure of mercy will help secure a listening audience.

Keller's book is in the Church bookstore. It is a great read and will challenge your thinking about Christian charity!

## Prison Ministry

### MERCY OPPORTUNITY



*Remember the prisoners, as though in prison with them, and those who are ill-treated, since you yourselves also are in the body.*

Hebrews 13:3

Grace Bible Church needs your help in administering mercy with Prison Fellowship Ministries! We have several individuals that currently go to Marsh Creek Detention Facility twice a month to open God's word to prisoners who are hungry to hear the gospel message. There is currently a need for people in two areas of the ministry: (1) those willing to lead in worship songs and music and (2) those willing to open up God's word in a teaching and/or Bible Study format. If you have been looking for a place to serve, please prayerfully consider if this might be a place God has prepared for you to serve. If you have questions, please call Chris Dellebake at 925.287.9233

*Women of Grace*

NEW MINISTRY NEWS

*Moms with Young Children*

We'd like to introduce to you a brand-new ministry that hopes to encourage the mothers of Grace, who have a child or children from newborn to pre-school age, by providing a venue for moms to (1) pursue Christ together, (2) pray together and (3) have their children play together.

Under the umbrella of the Women of Grace, this ministry is in its infant stages (pun intended), and Tisa Mantle has agreed to help get it off and running. If you desire to meet with other moms once or twice a month for prayer and lunch followed with an activity for the children to enjoy, please contact Tisa Mantle at 925-324-3897 or sign-up at the Women of Grace table.

# News and Events

## Baptisms

On Sunday evening, September 20th, we celebrated our first baptism service in the new worship center. What a joy it was to have 16 saints enter the waters of baptism. Please rejoice with us in recognizing these saints. They are: Keith and Kelly Flashberger, Terry and Ginger South, Kathy Boren, Brian Momaney, Liz Lui, Carol Sage, Sarah Adams, Luke and Jesessa Goodman, Kelly and Jenny Arnett, Dennis Schrag, Anthony Crocket and Chuck Judd. Congratulations brothers and sisters!



Terry South



Jenny Arnett



Sarah Adams

## Christian Education

On September 10th, our Fall Adult Education Schedule begins. The schedule will consist of three classes during the first worship service and one during the second. During the first service, **Growing in Grace** will be offered. This class will dig into the fundamental doctrines of the Christian faith. We will also offer

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**Getting Acquainted with Grace and A Biblical Understanding of Marriage.** During the second service, we will offer a **Sermon Discussion Class**- this class is a new concept for us which will allow small groups to discuss and apply Sunday morning's message.

## Grace School of Theology and 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. Classes begin October 3rd. 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 "Solae". Last year we looked at "Sola Gratia" or "Through Grace 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 29**. The evening will be filled with singing, preaching, refreshments and games for the kids. It really is a time for the entire church family.

## Regular Prayer Times

**Sunday Morning:**  
8:15 - 8:45 am; Room 203

# Birthdays!

## SEPTEMBER

JOHN CASTRO ~ 1  
RION SHELLOOE ~ 4  
SAMUEL KAMP ~ 5  
SARAH ADAMS ~ 7  
DUSTIN MENEZ ~ 7  
SUZANNE CARRIGAN ~ 7  
LOUISA SHARP ~ 7  
TISA MANTLE ~ 8  
CALEB MEIER ~ 8  
NYLA MEIER ~ 8  
ELDON HAWKSWORTH ~ 8  
ANDY SENFT ~ 9  
NIKOLAS MARCHOL ~ 10  
LOIS MARGENAU ~ 11  
LISA SCOTT ~ 12  
JAMES ALBERT ~ 14  
JOANN HEDGES ~ 14  
LAUREN BOTELHO ~ 14  
COLIN COPLAND ~ 14  
HERB MOUSSA ~ 15  
FAY JOHNSON ~ 16  
WANDA VOUGHT ~ 19  
SUZANNE SIMMONS ~ 20  
JENNIFER ARNOLD ~ 21  
JIM CASTEL ~ 21  
KEITH DAVIS ~ 21  
TIMOTHY KNIGHT ~ 21  
DINNIS UPTON ~ 21  
MORGAN COOPER ~ 23  
THOMAS NICHOLS ~ 27  
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  
KELSEY NICHOLS ~ 11  
DUSTIN STEPHENS ~ 11  
JESSICA JONES ~ 12  
BRIAN MOMANEY ~ 12  
BLAKE DRESLOW ~ 13  
TIMOTHY DUFAULT ~ 14  
ZOE BECKER ~ 15  
KATIE DRESLOW ~ 15  
RICH MATHERS ~ 17  
TIM WAT ~ 17  
DAVIS MENEZ ~ 19  
BARRET KRUGGEL ~ 19  
C.J. CARRIGAN ~ 20  
SCOTT MENEZ ~ 21  
JEFF JONES ~ 24  
RICK AXE ~ 25  
SUSAN ARNETT ~ 28  
BRANDON MENEZ ~ 28  
CHRISTINE NICHOLS ~ 28  
DELBERT WYATT ~ 28  
DEBBIE WAT ~ 29