

From Pastor Tony Sanelli

Worship

There are few subjects which one can raise in the church which can lead to more tension and hostility than the topic of corporate worship. Churches and entire denominations are being divided over what has been termed 'worship wars'. So why raise the subject? I raise the subject because worship is so fundamental to what we do as the people of God. We simply can't avoid it! It is the ultimate priority of the church and the one thing we will be doing together for an eternity.

Secondly, I raise the subject because we don't tend to ask the right questions about things that are so fundamental. The criteria for our debates tend to be personal, emotional and subjective rather than Scriptural. When pragmatism and personal preference reign theology suffers. When theology suffers the church loses its moorings. Several years ago we spent several weeks together in a pulpit series entitled "New Covenant Worship." It was an attempt at presenting a biblical theology of corporate worship that took into account the profound changes brought about by the inauguration of the New Covenant in Jesus Christ. The central features of this series were later adapted in printed form as a handout entitled "How Shall We Worship God?" This handout is always available in the lobby and foyer.

Those attending our congregation are aware that we are reviewing some of the major points from that series in our current pulpit series "Essential Matters: Refocusing Our Vision." In the interest of deepening our grasp of this important topic and promoting our unity we are providing the contents of the handout in this newsletter. May God's grace enable us to put this theology into practice when we gather as the church before the living, holy God.

How Shall We Worship God?

We believe that, though some patterns of corporate worship may be found in the New Testament, it is beyond the purview of Scripture to offer detailed instructions regarding the order of worship (liturgical to spontaneous) or a style of music for praise (traditional to contemporary). The New Covenant is not bound to any particular age, culture or people group. However, the Lord has given us several principles which serve as guidelines for the forms of the corporate worship of the New Covenant people of God. These guidelines address the question of "how" we are to sing, pray or preach in manner that is acceptable to our Lord.

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May Calendar

Walk for Life

May 12

All-Church Retreat

May 18-20

Office Closed

May 28

June Calendar

Church Picnic

June 10

All-Church Camping Trip

June 7-11

Seniors Lunch

June 21

Dates To Remember

Kids Camp

July 8-14

Jr. High Camp

July 15-21

Seniors Lunch

July 19

Sr. High Camp

July 22-28

Members Meeting

July 29

VBS

August 6-10

Growing Together in the Knowledge and Grace of God

Weekly Calendar

Sundays:

Prayer: 8:15 a.m.
Worship Services: 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
Christian Education: 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
DVC Grace.: 7:30 p.m.

Mondays:

Home Fellowship Groups: 7:00 p.m.

Tuesdays:

Titus 2 (5/22): 9:15 a.m.
GSTM: 4:00 p.m.
Home Fellowship Groups: 7:00 p.m.

Wednesdays:

Home Fellowship Groups: 7:00 p.m.
Senior High Youth Group: 7:00 p.m.

Thursdays:

GSTM: 6:30 p.m.
Home Fellowship Groups: 7:00 p.m.
Junior High Youth Group: 7:00 p.m.

Fridays:

Grace Period-Berkeley: 7:00 p.m.

Celebrate Life! Pregnancy Care Clinic

Walk For Life

Pregnancy Care Clinic is sponsoring a Walkathon to support our ministry to teens, pregnant women and their unborn children. It gives everyone who cares about them an opportunity to help in a very real way.

Saturday, May 12, 2007
Fair Oaks Church

Registration begins at 9:00 a.m.
Walk begins at 10:00 a.m.
1925 Risdon Road, Concord

For more information: (925) 757-5450
www.pregnancyclinic.org
Email: events@pregnancyclinic.org

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❶ **God-centeredness:**

We place a high priority upon the vertical focus of our Lord's day worship service. God-centeredness means that God is both the subject and object of our worship. He is the one we speak about and to whom we speak. The service is not an attempt to market a message to consumers; it is a time when the people of God and their children meet to adore and praise their Creator and Redeemer through the various elements of the service. As the subject of our worship, we believe that God is a Trinity of persons (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) who possesses a vast array of attributes, such as holiness and justice as well as love and mercy. As a result, we seek to avoid a trite, superficial, or frivolous atmosphere in worship. It is our prayer and desire to set an example of reverence, passion and wonder as well as joy (1 Corinthians 10:31; Hebrews 12:28-29).

Because God is the object of our worship, our ultimate aim is to magnify Him through every aspect of our service so that He is glorified in our hearts, minds and affections as well as in our actions (1 Peter 4:11; Revelation 19:10, 22:29).

❷ **In spirit and truth:**

The worship of God is no longer confined to a specific location (Jerusalem) or outward ceremonies. In a broad sense, worship embraces all of life lived out as a sacrifice to God (Romans 12:1). Worship in spirit means that only those that have been born again by the Holy Spirit can truly enter into worship because it is not an external matter alone. It is a genuine heartfelt spiritual event which not only involves the intellect but also the emotions of the worshipper. Thus, worship comes from the heart and is an expression of our love for God and full satisfaction with all that He is for us. Worship in truth means that our worship must be a response to true views of God that are shaped, guided and fueled by the Word of God. Therefore, the content of our praying, singing and preaching must always conform to the truth of scripture. All expression must reflect true biblical content and intent. The content of God's Word should be woven through all that we do in worship. True worship, therefore, must engage both the intellect and the emotions. It is both light and heat, doctrine and doxology. Truth without emotion produces dead orthodoxy and emotion without truth produces an aimless emotionalism (John 4:23-24; Colossians 3:16).

❸ **Active and engaging:**

Worship, by definition is something believers do, not watch others do for them. Congregational worship is a corporate event involving the entire assembly. We desire to foster a

mind set that anticipates participation versus a performance expectation. The worshiper should be more concerned with how he is prepared and deepening in his worship than with how the service is making him "feel." Though some of the elements in the worship service are offered by individuals (i.e. preaching) all the members of the congregation are involved when they meditate and concentrate upon the truth's being sung, prayed or preached (1 Corinthians 14:26).

❹ **Spirit empowered:**

True worship is not a human exercise alone. New covenant worship is carried on in the power of the Holy Spirit. This means that the divine Spirit of God grants to us all that we need for our worship to be true and acceptable. He grants us understanding that we might persevere in genuine heartfelt worship. He grants us the spiritual gifts (divine enablements such as preaching) that are necessary for truly effective worship that builds up the saints.

Without the power of the Holy Spirit all of our worship would be an empty shell (1 Corinthians 12:11). Therefore, we want to foster an attitude of dependence upon the Spirit's ministry. We desire the Spirit's powerful presence and seek His wisdom, power and grace by praying for His workings in our worship services, by resisting the temptation to use worship services for anything but magnifying God, and by laying aside those things that grieve Him (Ephesians 2:18; Philippians 3:3; 1 Corinthians 12-14).

❺ **Edifying to the Saints:**

Though worship entails primarily a vertical focus, there is a horizontal element as well. The spiritual gifts imparted and energized by the Holy Spirit are given for the immediate purpose of building up believers to maturity and the ultimate purpose of glorifying God (1 Corinthians 12:7, 14:26; 1 Peter 4:11).

This means that we must worship the true God in such a way that nurtures the development of true Christian character in the people of God. We must be conscious and considerate of those around us. To this end, our worship must be intelligible and orderly (1 Corinthians 14). It must utilize the language of the people and forms that are comprehensible to our culture, yet always be true to the Word of God. It must address the issues of the day. Matters of style are not to be left to our personal preference nor is it simply a question of traditional versus contemporary. What "I" personally like is not the issue. Out of love we must consider all those present in the congregation that we might worship God with one unified intelligible voice. At Grace Bible Church this involves a mingling of the best historic and contemporary forms of music as measured by each of the principles in this pamphlet. ✎

“Mobilizing for missions is just as important as field mission work, and is always a larger activity. The fields will suffer if for every missionary on the field there are not at least four people at home who are equally dedicated and hard at work keeping mission vision alive”

Ralph & Roberta Winters, founders U S Center for World Missions,
taken from www.uscwm.org (welcome page)

Missionaries do all kinds of good things, but the truly unique task of missions is not “winning more souls.” (We will always have the job of evangelism.) Neither is it social involvement. (Life and culture will always be under attack.) The unique task of missions is to establish a viable growing church movement among every tribe, tongue, people and nation on the earth. Could “staying home” do more to accomplish that than going to the field?

Grace Bible Church has eight missionary families that we currently support with finances, care, and prayer. We have several missionaries and candidate missionaries on a waiting list who need more churches to commit to sending them to the mission field. Every mission organization we know of has people similarly waiting to be sent. Perhaps one day God will send out teams of home grown missionaries from within GBC. But now our biggest task is to build a foundation as a sending church. That means helping each of us in the congregation grow as senders.

Tribal Burmese Christians for some years have maintained a discipline of setting aside a handful of rice at each meal. This is collected and sold to support their missionaries. The discipline of a regular activity is good way to keep ourselves growing. Here is a list of six spiritual disciplines that we can develop to grow ourselves and our families as senders within Grace Bible Church.

1. **Discipline of Awareness:** Be aware of God's activity in the world. Habbakkuk 1:5 “Look among the nations!...Because I am doing something in your days – You would not believe if you were told.”
2. **Discipline of Prayer:** Pray for missionaries, unreached people groups, and current events. Eph. 6:19 “Pray on my behalf, that utterance may be given.”
3. **Discipline of Choice:** Ask yourself, “Do the choices I make with my time, money, & energy reflect God's heart to bless the nations?”
4. **Discipline of Worship:** Does my public and private adoration of God reflect the Biblical view of the God of all nations? Ps. 86:9 “All nations whom You have made shall come and worship.”
5. **Discipline of Bible Study:** Watch for underlying themes of God pursuing His own glory and drawing nations to himself.
6. **Discipline of Evangelism and Discipleship:** Witness to people that God puts in your life. Challenge new believers with God's heart for the nations.

Prayer Updates:

Kelly and Marietta Liebengood, Studying in Scotland (University of St. Andrews).

- Praise for completion of Kelly's GRO (25-50 page document that becomes the foundation for his doctoral thesis) on April 19.
- Pray that God would use these studies for His glory in Latin America.
- Pray for the family's adjustment to Scotland and for new friends for the children.

The Missions Ministry Team

“...our biggest task is to build a foundation as a sending church. That means helping each of us in the congregation grow as senders.”



SENIORS MINISTRY

The Seniors of Grace Bible Church have a loving desire to serve in the various ministries of the church.

When the first survey went out to the Seniors Ministry, a large number of Seniors came forth wanting to serve in the following Grace Bible Ministries:

1. Join the church choir.
2. Assist with the church clerical needs.
3. Offer an unused bedroom in their homes, for a few days of occupancy, during certain church needs to house someone.
4. Preparing meals for the sick and needy of Grace Bible Church.
5. Serving in the church nursery.
6. Taking people who are unable to drive to places such as doctor visits and shopping.
7. Serving in the church Sunday school.
8. Helping people with their home and yard care, when they become unable to do it themselves.
9. Visiting people in need.
10. Joining a mid-day home fellowship group.
11. Having a senior prayer partner.

In fact there were sixty five sign ups to participate in the above Ministries, and more to come!

Women of Grace

MINISTRY NEWS

Summer Garden/Poolside Luncheons:

Will be scheduled on a weekday during the months of July and August. More information to follow later.

Game & Gab Night:

Our next Gaame & Gab Night will be at Keli Judd's home in Clayton on Friday, July 27.
Mark your calendars now. The next Game & Gab Night after that is scheduled for October 19.

Excellent Wife:

Next fall, Barbara Telle will resume teaching this life-changing class on a weekday evening.
Watch future publications for details.

Women's Fall Conference: Friday night and Saturday, September 28-29, at the church.

Our speaker is Marlean Felix who spoke at this year's Ladies Tea and the 2006 Women's Retreat.
Sign-ups will begin the first week in September. Plan to come and invite a friend!

The Grace Bible Church Cookbook:

Available for distribution by Mother's Day!
You may pre-order your copy by contacting the church office or signing up at the Women of Grace table.
The suggested \$25 donation will go toward the building of our new church kitchen.
Order one for you and one to give as a gift!

Student Ministries Takes A Few Turns

As was announced at the last Members' meeting in April, Vince will be now overseeing both the Biblical Counseling ministry as well as the Adult Education ministry here at the church. And as he moves out of the College ministry, I will be moving into it. I'm very excited about this opportunity to serve in this capacity and as the Lord has brought about some things providentially, we will be making a major change to this ministry.

As some of you know, the college ministry began mainly as a campus-based ministry at UC Berkeley. There has since been ministry on the DVC campus here in Pleasant Hill as well. But as it seems to be the right time to make a change, we are going to do so by morphing the college ministry into a church-based ministry rather than one that is campus-based. So the ministry will meet on Wednesday nights from 7:00 to 9:00 or there about and will meet at the church.

In addition to that, it will also become more of a college/career ministry. By that we hope to see the scope of the ministry expanded beyond those on the campuses that we have been a part of, out to those on other campuses, as well as simply to those in that age group that are not attending college.

In order for me to lead this ministry, however, it will also require a change for me as I simply will not be able to continue to lead both the Junior High and Senior High ministries. So Ben Nissen will, at this point, be taking over running the mid-week Junior High meetings. This should be a smooth change as the majority of Junior Highers already know Ben from Sunday School as well as youth events. To accommodate some of the needs and desires within the context of this change, it will also mean that the Senior High and Junior High meeting nights will be switched. Senior High will move to Thursday nights and Junior High will move to Wednesday nights. This will not happen until after graduation though, meaning the new nights will start the week of June 20th and 21st.

Please be praying that this time of transition will go smoothly and that students will both understand and embrace these changes as seeing them as from the Lord's providential hand. Please pray for me as we seek a few new staff members and adjust some things, that the Lord will give me much wisdom through this process. And lastly, please pray that our student ministries here at Grace will be ministries that please the Lord and exalt Christ. I know that changes like this can produce many questions so please don't hesitate to ask.

Grace & Peace,
Chris Kiiskinen

THE Youth GroUP

GRACE.

News and Events

Baptisms

On Sunday evening, March 11, we held a baptism service where we celebrated with eight saints who entered the waters of baptism. Please rejoice with us in recognizing these saints. They are: Brad Barry, Chris Mori, Cindy Joseph, Rachel Castro, Megan Fetterly, Reid Wilson, Jared Senft, and Alexandra Stevenson.



Alexandra Stevenson



Chris Mori

Welcome New Members

Please welcome our newest members to Grace Bible Church! Keith Chesterman, Dave and Jane Shieh, Chris Mori, Robert and Helen Fukumoto, David and Catherine McCargar, Brad Barry, Cindy Joseph, Reid Wilson, Mary O'Brien, Paul Strader, Sean and Elena Fetterly, Vance and Julie Hardisty, Ben and Michele Hernandez

All-Church Retreat

Registration continues for the All-Church Retreat. Our speaker will be Dr. David Hegg, Pastor-Teacher with Corona Evangelical Free Church. He will be speaking on a series from Ephesians titled, "Your Life, God's Workmanship".

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 13th.

All-Church Camping Trip

June 7-11 we are planning a camping trip to the Polluck Pines area for those who are interested. This is on a first-come first-serve basis. The cost is \$35 per family for the week; \$25 per family and \$20 per couple. The cost does not include food, however. Sign-ups for the camping trip are underway. If you have questions, please contact Barbara Sanabria at 284-3476.



Cindy Joseph

Office Closed

The Church office will be closed on Monday, May 28th, for Memorial Day Weekend.



Brad Barry



Reid Wilson



Jared Senft



Rachel Castro



Megan Fetterly



Children's

Education

Summer CE Sign Heats Up

As Spring nears its end and we begin to move into our Summer quarter of Children's Education, it's again time to give some of our teachers a break and give some other people an opportunity to serve. Starting in mid-June, we will need a total of 48 people to fill all of the ministry slots through mid-September. We will need teachers, substitute teachers and a few emergency subs who will be on call as needed. As of this writing, there are 23 people signed up to serve, so we have another 25 spots still open. If you would like to sign up to serve or would like more information about questions you may have, please contact me in the office anytime. Please don't let your own vacation plans hinder you as we will be working around those for everyone.

As an update, we are very near having classes fully set up, furnished and stocked. A bit more material to order and a few more things here and there and hopefully before the end of the year, we will move into maintenance mode.

In addition to our normal CE quarter, Summer will also bring back another week of Vacation Bible School. This year VBS will take place the week of August 6-10, concluding with a Friday night program for kids and parents. This year the theme is "Sacred Agent 2007" and will focus on the life and ministry of Paul. Once again we will have many ministry needs for this week so please be thinking and praying about your involvement in this program. Sign ups have begun and will be taking place on Sundays or you may also contact Keli Judd or Gayle Moussa directly for information and volunteering.

It is such a tremendous blessing to be a part of teaching our children about Christ. I hope that many of you will be able to serve in either one of these ministries this Summer. Please be praying that the Lord will be blessed in all that we do.

In His Grace,
Chris

Regular Prayer Times

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

Friday Morning:
Men's Prayer
6:30 am; Room 203

Birthdays!

MAY

- Mamselle Fox ~ 1
- Chris O'Rourke ~ 1
- Sasha Lazzereschi ~ 2
- Dave Hunt ~ 5
- Bonnie Copland ~ 6
- Amber Kamp ~ 7
- Diane Schachterle ~ 9
- Kristine Kiiskinen ~ 11
- Ethan Knight ~ 13
- Ryan Smith ~ 14
- Taisia Lazzereschi ~ 16
- Emily Smith ~ 17
- Ken Heinz ~ 18
- Connie Langan ~ 18
- Marilyn Dodenhoff ~ 19
- Pam Foglia ~ 19
- Mike Jones ~ 19
- Taylor Smith ~ 19
- Taylor Axe ~ 20
- Matt Kearns ~ 21
- Andrew Lazzereschi ~ 21
- Jim Carroll ~ 22
- Tony Sanelli ~ 22
- Mark Redmond ~ 23
- Kricket Nissen ~ 25
- Mike Becker ~ 26
- Jeff Lancaster ~ 28
- Laura Schachterle ~ 30
- Denise Schachterle ~ 30
- Dorothy Castel ~ 31

JUNE

- Kathi Wihlon ~ 2
- Rebekah Dodenhoff ~ 5
- Ginger South ~ 5
- Louisa Sharp ~ 7
- Marylee Oliver ~ 8
- Michael Vick ~ 8
- Janece Shellooe ~ 10
- Caleb Smith ~ 12
- C.G. Senft ~ 15
- Jared Senft ~ 15
- Usha Menon ~ 17
- Nathanael Shea ~ 17
- Dale Sigmundson ~ 24
- Jennifer Kearns ~ 26
- Ines Johnson ~ 26
- Bob Lytle ~ 27
- Ken Zentner ~ 27
- Margaret Genendlis ~ 28
- Robert Contino ~ 29
- Sarah Moussa ~ 29
- Keith Flashberger ~ 30
- John Goodson ~ 30