

Deacon of the Day:
November

November 2: Keith Davis
November 9: Scott Denny
November 16: Steve Scott
November 23: Rafe Shellooe
[performing the duties]
November 30: Ernie Hall

December
December 7: Scott Denny
December 14: Keith Davis
December 21: Steve Scott
December 28: Rafe Shellooe
[performing the duties]

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:

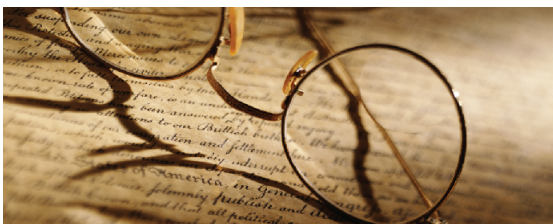
Precepts Bible Study: 9:30 am
Home Fellowship Groups:
7:00 pm

Wednesdays:

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

Fridays:

SF Men's Prayer Meeting:
12:00 pm
Grace, Berkeley: 7:00 pm



The Book Table at GBC

The Book Table continues to evolve as time goes on and it is going to grow legs and move soon! As a part of the continuing evolution of The Book Table it will be moving soon as it senses that if it continues to stay in its current location it will be doomed (along with the Fellowship Hall)! At this point in time I am not certain where it will find its new home, but am assuming that it will probably be in one of the portables.

I would like to encourage everyone to consider books as the traditional time of giving gifts will be arriving soon with our celebration of the birth of Jesus. My completely unbiased opinion is that books are one of the best gifts you can get,

or give! They also make great stocking stuffers, although you may need a bigger stocking... Seriously, I do hope you all keep in mind some of the rich helps that are available through books. They can be a great source of encouragement, comfort, exhortation, and knowledge.

Stop by the Book Table and notice the variety of music available. There will be an ongoing assortment of music available, increasing in volume with time, in more than one literal sense! I am hoping to be able to make some of the newer, unfamiliar music available to listen to soon.

As always, please feel free to place an order for any book you are interested in into the cash box. If you have any questions or would like to order a book via email, please feel free to contact me at books@gracebiblechurch.info

As always, and will be forevermore, in the service of Jesus by his grace,
Dale Sigmundson

From Pastor Tim Wat

Instrumental MUSIC IN WORSHIP

NEXT TO THE WORD OF GOD, THE NOBLE ART OF MUSIC IS THE GREATEST TREASURE IN THE WORLD. It controls our thoughts, minds, hearts and spirits. Our dear fathers and prophets did not desire without reason that music be always used in the churches. Hence, we have so many songs and psalms.

This precious gift has been given to man alone that he might thereby remind himself that God has created man for the express purpose of praising and extolling God. However, when man's natural musical ability is whetted and polished to the extent that it becomes an art, then do we note with great surprise the great and perfect wisdom of God in music, which is, after all, His product and His gift.

We marvel when we hear music in which one voice sings a simple melody, while three, four or more voices play and trip lustily around the voice that sings its simple melody and adorn it wonderfully with artistic musical effects, thus reminding us of a heavenly dance, where all meet in a spirit of friendliness, caress and embrace.

A person who gives this some thought and yet does not regard music as a marvelous creation of God, must be a clodhopper indeed and does not deserve to be called a human being; he should be permitted to hear nothing but the braying of asses and the grunting of hogs. (Martin Luther, 1538, in his Forward to a collection of chorale motets)

The origin of music dates back to Genesis 4, and throughout the history of the human race God's gift of music has accompanied the activities of man. It has been used as entertainment, mood setter, to stir up the emotions of men to war, to relax hearts to celebrate and make merry, and to draw our hearts to God in worship.

The priority and pride of place of sung worship music is plain: it allows us, as the people of God, to contemplate and declare in song the rich, objective truths of our saving God. **But what about the use of instrumental music in worship?** You may have noted that we are beginning to include more varied instrumental music in our worship services, which is intentional. In doing so, we also want to provide some explanation to you regarding the use of instrumental music as we see it, for the purpose of giving you some conceptual and practical instruction on how to listen to instrumental music in worship.

At face value this may seem a bit of a presumption - to tell you how to listen to music. But we beg your indulgence- while these comments are neither comprehensive nor authoritative, they may prove helpful to you in some small measure.

First of all, we would affirm that with certain exceptions, art, and especially music, are morally relative and inherently incapable of articulating, for want of a better term, truth speech. They are essentially neutral in their ability to express belief, creed, moral and ethical specifics, or even worldview. We would also affirm that Christians are biblically justified in fully celebrating artistic activity of the most diverse sort, including that which may have been created in unbelief. *[continued on page 2]*

NOVEMBER
EVENTS

Work Day:
November 1

Hospitality Homes:
November 2

Men's DTP:
November 6
November 20

Women's DTP:
November 13
November 25

DECEMBER
EVENTS

Christmas Celebration:
December 3

Men's DTP:
December 4

Women of Grace
Ornament Exchange:
December 8

Women's DTP:
December 11

Women of Grace
Wreath Decorating:
December 12

How Great Our Joy:
December 13 & 14

Future Dates to
Remember:

Women's Retreat:
Jan 30 - Feb 1

Men's Retreat
at Wolf Mountain:
February 6-8

All-Church Retreat
at Koinonia:
May 14-16

Growing Together in the Knowledge and Grace of God

[continued from page 1] These affirmations are the stuff of another newsletter article (or perhaps, a Sunday School series). But we make these affirmations at the outset to precipitate our denial that there would be forms of instrumental music which are inherently sacred or secular (an artificial distinction foisted upon our thinking in part by centuries-old Roman Catholic decree).

Rather, music is a gift of God to the human race. The people of God have historically used music as a tool that can prepare hearts to receive the Word of God; one example is found in 1 Samuel 10:5: *Afterward you will come to the hill of God where the Philistine garrison is; and it shall be as soon as you have come there to the city, that you will meet a group of prophets coming down from the high place with harp, tambourine, flute, and a lyre before them, and they will be prophesying.* And as such, we joyously affirm that there is a place for instrumental music in worship here at Grace Bible Church. Practically speaking, there are several approaches that could potentially be taken to introduce more instrumental music in worship here at GBC.

- We could introduce all sorts of classical music indiscriminately.
- We could introduce a smattering of new jazz improvisations.
- We could introduce new versions of old Broadway show tunes

Every practical approach has inherent weaknesses (and some have no discernable strengths!); but given all the options and possibilities, we will use the following philosophy to introduce instrumental music in worship. Instrumental music in worship at Grace Bible Church will, Lord willing, embrace two general areas:

- 1) Arrangements of hymns and spiritual songs already familiar to you, already used for the purpose of corporate worship
- 2) Music which may be unknown to you, but originally composed for worship by the church of God

How then might we suggest you use these pieces for the purpose of expressing worship to our Father and Lord?

How to listen to all instrumental worship music:

- Cultivate the heart attitude that embraces creativity and diversity, a heart that appreciates new ways to sing and express the Gospel.
 - Appreciate the truth the musician is conscious of, that in worship, all music is played for an audience of One— the act of playing is an offering of worship to God.
 - God is not against skill in music. Neither is He categorically against unskilled, but sincere offerings of worship. He is against pride, self-worship, and self-sufficiency.
 - All music fails to accomplish God's purposes for worship unless it is accompanied by faith in the hearts of those who participate - the musician, and the congregation.
 - Music is an expression of God's love for us, as well as a means for us to demonstrate His love to each other and those around us
 - Music in this age is an imperfect representation of the music to come— this should remind us of the Blessed Hope— the hope of glory.
- No matter how beautiful, no matter how excellent in the here and now, the best is yet to come!

How to listen to hymns and songs already familiar to you:

- Contemplate the lyrics, themes and Biblical truths you know the song brings out.
- Appreciate the unique interpretation and approach the musician may bring to a familiar piece - as a demonstration of God's gift of creativity to the church.
- For those of you with some degree of musical training in your background, appreciate the development or alteration of counterpoint, rhythm, harmony and even melody by the musician or musicians.

How to listen to music unknown to you , but originally composed for worship:

- Appreciate the fact that music used by other generations of believers deepens our sense of unity with our forbearers— it reminds us that we exist as a link in the long chain of the history of the church
- Be humbled, as we remember that we are not the only (or the most important!) believers the church has known, and we can learn much from expressions of worship from other generations of believers.
- When possible, we will try to provide the necessary background and history of pieces you do not know, to help you understand this link with our forbearers.
- Appreciate the fact that stylistic variety practically expresses God's heart for all nations and cultures. It is fruitless to insist that one single musical style (or even a blend of a finite number of styles) can assist all Christians in every place in worship. The followers of Jesus are far too diverse a group of people, which is exactly as it should be.

We covet your prayers that as God would give us wisdom as we prayerfully seek to integrate more diverse elements of music into our normal practice of corporate worship, to the glory of God. Finally, in requesting your prayers, we would remind you that music of any kind cannot produce worship in your hearts that is not already there. Music cannot drive out rebellion, unbelief or pride. Music can only encourage you to more freely present to God the worship that is already present in the heart of the child of God. As such, we rejoice that God has given this gift of music to His people, and continue to seek every means we can to use every gift of God to extol His sovereignty, mercy and grace in Jesus Christ. **Soli Deo Gloria!**

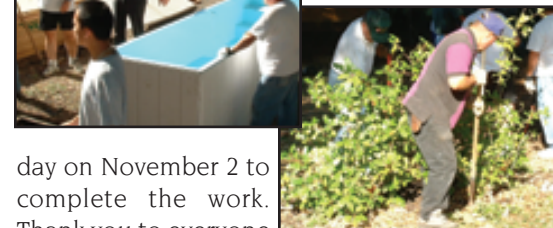
News and Events

Work Day

On Saturday, October 25, twenty people showed up to help prepare the site for our new modular units. A new fence line was installed as well as a ramp and walkway around the interior



perimeter of the new units. Lord willing we will have another work



day on November 2 to complete the work. Thank you to everyone who gave of their time and talents in service to this church body.

Welcome New Members!

On Sunday, September 28, a few of our brothers and sisters openly proclaimed their faith in Christ through baptism. They were Nick Marchol, Ingrid Hempell, Renee Lam and Megan Kamp. If you are interested in being baptized, please see an elder or call the church office.

Welcome New Members!

During the third quarter Members' Meeting, we received six new members into our church family. If you know Renee Lam, Nick Marchol, Dave Bonnie, or Carolyn and Collin Copland, please extend your own personal welcome to them. If you are interested in becoming a member, please see an elder or call the church office.

Office Closed

Please note that the church office will be closed on Thanksgiving Day and the following day; November 27 and 28. The office will also be closed on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, December 24 and 25.

Annual Christmas Program

December 3, 2003
7:00-9:30 pm
Centre Concord

Though it's hard to believe, it has been almost an entire year since we gathered at Centre Concord to enjoy a festive evening together. This evening is a great time for the church family to get together in a slightly more formal setting, but also it is an excellent time for us to invite others who do not attend GBC. It is our desire to set aside part of our time during this year's program to give a clear presentation of the gospel. Think of that family member, that co-worker or friend and consider inviting them to attend. As usual, there will be formal invitations for you to hand out to neighbors, friends and others who you would like to bring along to hear the gospel message.

Our evening's food will be prepared by one of our resident chefs, Ethan Mantle; sign-ups will begin Nov. 9 in the Fellowship Hall.

It is crucial that we get an accurate count for the program for two reasons: 1) Ethan will need to know how much food to prepare for the evening and 2) we need an accurate count for seating.

An offering box will be available for those who would like to contribute towards the cost of the program. We will keep you informed as more details are settled.

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

Wednesdays: 7:00 am
Men's Prayer Meeting at GBC

Fridays: Lunch Time
Men's Prayer in SF

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

November

- Matthew Redmond ~ 3
- Kevin Smith ~ 3
- Pauline Sanelli ~ 3
- Carol Wilson ~ 5
- Matt Telle ~ 5
- Emily Jones ~ 10
- Tim Dodenhoff ~ 12
- Darlene Shea ~ 14
- Heyran Albert ~ 18
- Madeline Smith ~ 20
- Kim Bradshaw ~ 20
- Jacob Smith ~ 20
- Joe Borden ~ 25
- Kellen Dresdow ~ 28
- Cindy Ribergaard ~ 28
- Susan Hammack ~ 29
- Parker Dresdow ~ 29

December

- Nicole Sanelli ~ 2
- Victoria Kruggel ~ 5
- Rafe Shellooe ~ 6
- Ed Hill ~ 8
- Lydia Shelnutt ~ 11
- Geoffrey Morgan ~ 12
- Gayle Moussa ~ 12
- Annie Kruggel ~ 12
- Shelly Werner ~ 13
- Mariah Moussa ~ 14
- Michelle Gersten ~ 15
- Bill Moore ~ 19
- Flora hammack ~ 20
- Kevin Shea ~ 22
- Nancy LaDieu ~ 22
- Carmel Hammack ~ 23
- Penny Miles ~ 28
- Tim Menez ~ 29
- Diane Dresdow ~ 29

Women of Grace

UPCOMING EVENTS

ORNAMENT EXCHANGE

Monday, December 8, 7:00 pm

At Kim Smith's home in Walnut Creek.

Bring a wrapped Christmas ornament to exchange and a dessert to share.

If you have any questions, contact Kim at 946-9439.

CHRISTMAS WREATH DECORATING PARTY

Friday, December 12, 6:30 pm at the church

Come decorate an artificial pine wreath with ribbon, ornaments, lights, figurines, etc. Decorating supplies will be provided, but we are asking for a \$10 donation to offset the cost.

Please sign up at the Women of Grace table in the courtyard/fellowship area by Sunday, December 7, so we know how many supplies to get. Space is limited to 25 people (guys are welcome, too!). If you have questions, please contact Penny Miles at 687-8690.

MERRY MAILBOX

December 7, 14 and 21

Save those stamps and trips to the post office!

Bring your Christmas cards addressed to those in our church body to the Merry Mailbox located in the fellowship hall/area beginning December 7. They will be distributed to the addressees on a weekly basis through December 21. Please call C.G. Senft at 798-7925 if you have any questions.

WOMEN'S RETREAT

January 30 and 31, 2004

The location has changed and will now be held at Grace Bible Church.

The cost is \$30 per person.

Sign-ups continue until November 30. Call C.G. Senft or Eileen Stephens for more information.



Children's

ministries

Praise God all of our classrooms are filled with teachers and many are overflowing with kids. What a joy it is to see how the Lord is working in our body. Just so you know who is working where and maybe you can give them some encouragement from time to time, see the following list of teachers.

FIRST HOUR

Tiny-Tots: Jessica Lin and Alicia Lu

Preschool: Glenda and Caleb Becker
and Dustin Ribergaard

Kindergarten: Nate and Brittany Morgan

1st-3rd: Tim and Marilyn Dodenhoff

SECOND HOUR

Tiny Tots: Diane and Steve Schachterle
and on rotation: Katie Clopton, Allyson Jones,

Annie Kruggel, Mike Cain and Laura and Denise Schachterle

Preschool: Dawn Payne and Katie Dresdow

Kindergarten: Sheri Sanelli and Shelly Werner

1st-3rd: Gayle and Herb Moussa

4-6th Girls: Janece Shellooe and Jenny Lancaster

4-6th Boys: Rafe Shellooe and Dave & Collin Copeland

Please pray for these teachers this year and the children in our classes. Also please pray about your own involvement in Children's Ministries. We can *always* use more substitutes, we may need some fill in teachers this winter and we will certainly need summer teachers! I'm hoping to fill all the summer positions by May 1, which will be here very soon.

—Liz Jones

What's News from THE Youth GroUP?

BODY BUILDERS BEGINS!

Ephesians 4:12 reminds us that part of the purpose for God giving us the gifts of our Pastors and Teachers is “to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ.” It is out of this verse that our “Student Leadership” Team has morphed into what we are calling “Body Builders!” Rather than having a smaller number of students serving in various lead roles within our ministry, we now have created about 8 teams that students can sign up to be a part of, allowing for more opportunities for them to serve in ministry on a regular basis. We have teams for Set Up, Clean Up, Worship, Prayer, Media, Fundraising, Hospitality & Outreach and Sports and Recreation. In addition to these, we are also currently revamping the Service Desk/Rent-A-Kid ministry to make it a more effective vehicle for ministry.

We've been studying in our weeknight series how the Lord has determined to grow us, all of us, in our knowledge of Christ and Christ-likeness, our maturity and unity of faith as well as our love by each one of us doing “the work of the ministry” that He has assigned and is equipping us to do. He has even prepared the works for us to do, we are simply to walk in them (Ephesians 2:10). But in order to walk in them, we need to be doing two things...looking for them and then, when we see those opportunities to serve, doing them. Please pray that the Lord will use “Body Builders” to not only help us grow in the Youth GroUP, but that it will also be helping the church body to grow as well, as students seek to serve the Lord in not only these but other ways in the church. It is always a blessing for me to see our students helping with worship or running sound, helping with a Sunday School class or working with ministries like VBS and San Quintin. May the Lord use each of us to “stir one another up to love and good deeds” (Hebrews 10:24) as we seek to grow in Him.

LAST CALL FOR “GRAND-PRAYERENTS”

This will be the last week we'll be taking sign-ups for the “Grand-Prayerent” ministry. If you have hesitated, don't wait another minute and call the office today. As a reminder, the “Grand-Prayerents” ministry is one of prayer. Each “Grand-Prayerent” will have a list of students that they will simply pray for until the next school year starts. At this time, we have only 6 people serving in this ministry of prayer for our students. To be honest, that is a bit disappointing as I know there are many in our body that could certainly take on this type of simple ministry. However, the encouragement of just hearing from some of the current “Grand-Prayerents” talk about how this ministry has blessed them, has been wonderful! And to hear from some of the students as they share what a blessing it has been for them as well, has also been a great encouragement to me.

Please don't let anything get in the way of you serving in this way, if you feel so led by the Lord. If you are about a generation removed from high school, we would love to have you be a part of the ministry as we seek, not only to fulfill the command to pray for one another, but also to be “Bridging Gaps and Building Relationship.” If you have questions or decide you do want to take part in this ministry, give me a call in the office and I will get you set up. Last day for sign ups is Friday, November 7th.

In His Grace,
Chris

Body Builders

Ephesians 4:12

