

Deacon of the Day:

November

Nov. 7: Rafe Shellooe (*performing the duties*)
Nov. 14: Keith Davis
Nov. 21: Kevin Shea
Nov. 28: Erne Hall

December

Dec. 5: Jeff Lancaster (*performing the duties*)
Dec. 12: Scott Denny
Dec. 19: Rafe Shellooe (*performing the duties*)
Dec. 26: Keith Davis

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: 9:30 am
GSTM: 4:00 - 10:00 pm
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

Thursdays:

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

Fridays:

Grace. Berkeley: 7:00 pm

Deacon Ministry

“So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all men, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.”

Galatians 6:10

This year, the elders and deacons took their first retreat together to discuss the matters of the Diaconate. The deacons came away from it with a refreshed and renewed sense of our roles as ministers of mercy.

We spoke very candidly about the Diaconate and our hopes for its role within and outside the church. Lord willing, you will see a more active vibrant mercy ministry from the deacons, and it is our hope and prayer that you will partner with us in our ministry. It is difficult for us to know all of the needs of our brothers and sisters; so please make us aware of persons or families who may be in need.

Paul’s exhortation to the church at Galatia was to “do good to all men, especially to those who are of the household of faith.” Brothers and sisters, we are all called to show kindness and mercy to all who are around us. Please let the deacons know if mercy and care need to be extended within our own church beyond what many of you already do.

May the Lord be honored in the ministry of mercy within Grace Bible Church.

From Pastor Tony Sanelli

Evaluating Our Worship

In a recent couplet of sermons from 2 Samuel 6 we examined the corporate worship of David and Israel in the vivid account of the transfer of the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem. From this fascinating story we distilled four principles by which we may evaluate our own corporate worship. This was not designed to be a thorough elaboration upon the theology of worship. It was more like an annual physical exam. We were looking at a few key tests in order to determine whether we are on a healthy course or some change is deemed necessary.

These kinds of check-ups are necessary because corporate worship is the most important activity which any of us will ever engage on a consistent basis. Unfortunately, worship is often also distressingly mired in controversy and cheapened by the very fact that we grow accustomed to it. My aim in this short article is to restate each of the principles and provide some practical aids to make the most of this check-up.

#1 - Desiring the spiritual reality of the presence of God

In seeking the Ark, David demonstrated that he desired the most immediate experience of the presence of God that was possible in the Old Covenant. Today, God does not manifest His divine presence in a specific geographical/ceremonial location such as the Tabernacle. God’s presence is mediated through the Word of Christ and the Holy Spirit.

Practical Aids: 1) Remember that the mediated presence of God is not automatic. God blesses in degrees. 2) Pray for the preaching and the teaching of the Word of God to be empowered. 3) Pray for those who bring the Word to be surrendered to the Spirit’s influence. 4) Sign up for the weekly worship email. Read the passage(s) to be covered and meditate on Saturday night. 5) Pray that your own heart would be receptive to the Word regardless of its implications. 6) Make a commitment to come to the morning prayer service on some cyclical basis in order to accentuate the importance of seeking God’s blessing.

#2 - Recognizing and Respecting the Holiness of God

2 Samuel 6 states with absolute clarity that the reason Uzzah was struck dead was irreverence. Touching the Ark was the occasion but irreverence was the heart issue. Irreverence involves showing no respect for what is sacred. Worship on the Lord’s Day is a sacred consecrated event.

Practical Aids: 1) Remember that reverence for God involves living a lifestyle of submission to Jesus. 2) Hence, corporate worship must include the acknowledgement of sin, (*continued on page 2*)

NOVEMBER
EVENTS

Men’s DTP:

November 4 & 18

Office Closed for Thanksgiving:

November 25 & 26

DECEMBER
EVENTS

Men’s DTP:

December 2

Women of Grace Ornament Exchange:

December 5

Home Fellowship Group Caroling:

December 7

Office Closed for Christmas:

December 24 & 27

FUTURE DATES TO REMEMBER

Men’s Retreat at Wolf Mountain:
February 4-6

All-Church Retreat at Koinonia:
May 13-15

Growing Together in the Knowledge and Grace of God

confession and repentance. God desires an honest heart. 3) Arrive early so as to not march casually into God's presence without considering the extraordinary nature of worship. 4) Resist the tendency to evaluate a worship service as you do a performance. 5) Take time to meditate before the service begins by reading the suggested passage for meditation on the front of the bulletin. 5) Follow the lyrics of "special" songs sung or played by soloists so as to focus upon the message.


#3 - Recognizing and Receiving the Provision of God

David's anger and subsequent fear were turned into joy when he realized that the Ark was a sign not only of God's holiness but of God's provision. Though our God is a consuming fire, He can be safely approached through the provision of the sacrifice of His Son. Reverence for God in worship must be accompanied by a continual reflection upon and acceptance of the cross of Jesus Christ.

Practical Aids: 1) Remember that hiding your sin will create an unbearable weight. 2) After the acknowledgement and confession of sin reflect upon the Cross of Christ. 3) Remember that incessant "navel gazing" will not make you more acceptable to God. He desires that you rejoice in His Son. 3) Make the most out of the Lord's Supper. Give time for extra preparation and meditation on these Sundays.

#4 - Vigorous praise that is concerned with God's honor and not our own

David was exuberant in his worship because he was not concerned with his own honor. Michal demonstrated her father's character in condemning David. Saul was more concerned with his own honor than God's and therefore never sought the Ark or the restoration of proper worship. When we are concerned with what others are thinking about us we will have a difficult time being absorbed by the God-centeredness of worship.

Practical Aids: 1) Remember that you are not seeking to emulate anyone else's manifestation of praise. 2) If you practice the first three principles you will more easily be absorbed by the glory of God. 3) If you participate in worship on the platform resist the notion that you need recognition or acknowledgement. 4) Practice viewing everything you do on the Lord's Day as an offering to God through Christ. 5) Avoid discussing with others the "small" things that distract you on the Lord's Day. Sunday is not a "problem solving" meeting. Come with the simple agenda of giving your best to the Lord in adoration and praise! 



What an exciting time for the nursery ministry! We are so grateful for the many ways the Lord has been blessing and providing.

In September, Mariam Denny agreed to join me in serving on the "director's team", she has been a great blessing already.

Also in September, the C.E. and Nursery workers got together for a training meeting and enjoyed a wonderful brunch that many of you helped to prepare, thanks to all who cooked, baked, sliced, shopped and decorated!

Perhaps you have come by to see what has been happening in the new classrooms. What a transformation! Mike Cain and his crew did an amazing job building our new nursery facility in a little more than three days! Thank you to all who had a part in that. We are grateful for all the patience and enthusiasm that has been displayed as we make the transition to our new home.

We are always thankful for the Lord's provision in giving us workers who are faithfully serving each Sunday. You are all such an encouragement to us.

Our ministry keeps growing—the Lord is giving us new visiting families all the time and is also providing our regular families with new little blessings. We would love to have you join us in caring for these little ones!

In Christ,
Vicki Sandberg



Fellowship Hall

In order to prepare for demolition of the Fellowship Hall, the entire building, including the men's restroom and former nursery and ladies restroom area, shall be off-limits due to unsafe conditions. The building will be utilized for storage purposes and a "pass-through" will be maintained to allow passage through the hall to access the rear courtyard. This pass-through area will be clearly marked with yellow construction tape. Please refrain from using any other area besides the area marked for passage. Also, parents, please keep children from running through the hall at all times. Usage of the hall will remain under these conditions until it is demolished for construction.

Book Ministry

The GBC book store ("nook") has been moved to the small downstairs office across from the drinking fountains during construction. The book store is open during church hours on Sundays. Policies for the purchase of books will remain the same and will be found posted inside.

Tape Ministry

The GBC Tape Ministry table has been relocated to the kitchen in the modular unit located in the rear courtyard of the campus.

Building Fund Offerings

The elders would like to set aside two Sunday offerings in their entirety for the building fund. Most of you know that a \$300,000 matching gift has been pledged for our building fund from April-December of this year. This means that all gifts given to the building fund during this time, up to the amount of \$300,000, will be matched. To date we have approximately \$144,000. Should we reach the total amount of \$300,000 by the end of the year we will be very near the estimated cost of the entire project. To have reached this goal through prayer, supplication and sacrificial giving alone will give all the glory and honor to the Lord. Because the Lord has blessed our general offerings, the elders, after consulting with the finance committee, would

like to give everyone the opportunity to share in this wonderful expression of worship. Please pray and seek the Lord and give with a cheerful and sacrificial heart. Our first special offering was on OCTOBER 31st and the next one will be on NOVEMBER 21st. May God's gracious hand continue to be upon us.

New Classrooms and Nursery

As our church body continues to grow and we make way for a new Worship Center, certain projects go on behind the scenes to keep "church life" going on without interruptions on Sunday mornings.

Due to the Lord's graciousness, we were able to move the church offices in August, which gave way to the possibility to build new classrooms in the old office space. Due to the hard work of several brothers and the Youth Group, we have three new classrooms (Rooms 203-205) located upstairs in the old office.

Also, with the pending demolition of the Fellowship Hall, the Nursery needed to be relocated. Many thanks to Mike Cain and Bob Lytle who in three short days converted Rooms 102-104 into the new nursery. It even has running water! After a long hard day of painting on Saturday, October 9, the Infant and Toddler nurseries were open for ministry on Sunday. If you haven't seen their handy-work, stop on by and take a peak. A special "Thank you" to STEAMATIC for donating its time to patch and clean the carpets.

Christmas Banquet

As many of you are already aware, there will be no Christmas Banquet this year. As this "season" in our church comes to an end, the elders and deacons will be looking for other evangelistic opportunities for GBC to be involved with during this coming holiday season. It is their hope and prayer that the many of us who volunteered our time and efforts to put together the Christmas Banquet, will likewise help with whatever ministry opportunities the Lord brings our way this year. Stay tuned!

Birthdays to Celebrate

NOVEMBER

- Rachel Sandberg ~ 1
- Kevin Smith ~ 3
- Paulina Sanelli ~ 3
- Matthew Redmond ~ 3
- Carol Wilson ~ 5
- Matt Telle ~ 5
- Gregory Dutson ~ 6
- Emily Jones ~ 10
- Tim Dodenhoff ~ 12
- Esther Pena ~ 12
- Renee Lam ~ 13
- Darlene Shea ~ 14
- Hyeran Albert ~ 18
- Nicole Botelho ~ 19
- Jacob Smith ~ 20
- Madeline Smith ~ 20
- Joe Borden ~ 25
- Ethan Mantle ~ 27
- Cindy Ribergaard ~ 28
- Kellen Dresdow ~ 28
- Parker Dresdow ~ 29
- Mohan Krishna ~ 30

DECEMBER

- Nicole Sanelli ~ 2
- Damon Duncan ~ 3
- Victoria Kruggel ~ 5
- Rafe Shellooe ~ 6
- Ed Hill ~ 8
- Charity Starchanka ~ 10
- Tracy Sharp ~ 9
- Geoffrey Morgan ~ 12
- Gayle Moussa ~ 12
- Annie Kruggel ~ 12
- Shelly Warner ~ 13
- Mariah Moussa ~ 14
- Bill Moore ~ 19
- Rainie Cuomo ~ 20
- Stephanie Duncan ~ 20
- Nancy LaDieu ~ 22
- Kevin Shea ~ 22
- Marie Perri ~ 27
- Thomas Johnson ~ 27
- Penny Doering ~ 28
- Pat Zentner ~ 28
- Tim Menez ~ 29
- Diane Dresdow ~ 30
- Robert Sharp ~ 30

Follow up ministry at Grace Bible Church

Perhaps the greatest challenge of a numerically growing church is for newcomers and visitors to feel welcome and 'at home'. Becoming familiar with a campus is pretty straightforward. Learning where to check kids into Sunday School only takes a Sunday or two.

But breaking the ice with people, getting to know an entire church full of strangers, this is scary business. It is this prospect that keeps many brothers and sisters away from a new church, and one of the primary reasons a newcomer might never become a 'regular'.

Because of this, we desire to take seriously the work of initial contact as an aspect of the work of discipleship. During the summer, I taught a Sunday School class on follow up and evangelism, with the specific intent of training up men and women to do the work of ministry in welcoming and getting to know visitors and newcomers. Of the 14 brothers and sisters who completed the class, 8 are now actively serving in follow up ministry; Janet Balsiger, Marie Perri, Wolfgang & Mary Mueller, Gary & Sue Rickman, and Nate and Brittany Morgan.

Operating in four teams of 2, these brothers and sisters make initial contact with each newcomer and visitor that provides us Welcome Card data. Their contact includes thanking them for visiting Grace, answering any number of questions about the ministry, and helping them get familiar with us as a church body.

Perhaps most importantly, each team member seeks an opportunity to meet in person, in order to foster a deeper conversation about the state of their soul and to present the good news of Jesus Christ.

Subsequent contact is then made in about 14 days after the initial contact, to see if the visitor is still attending Grace, has developed additional questions, and just to extend Christian love in another conversation.

In the short time since its inception, the ministry is already bearing fruit. Our teams report they have found grateful recipients of their phone calls, great interest in the ministry here at Grace, and open opportunities to share Christ. Join with me in praising God for sending workers into His harvest, eager for the work of follow-up and evangelism. But our prayer is to continue to grow and expand this ministry as Grace continues to grow. We hope to offer our training class again this coming year; if you have interest in this aspect of ministry, please contact me at the church office so we can discuss your interest.

Please remember to pray for God's rich blessing in making our follow-up and evangelism teams' hard work effective for the sake of eternal souls and the glory of God.

Pastor Tim Wat

“Look on
the
fields,
that
they are
white
for
harvest”



Women of Grace

MINISTRY NEWS



Game & Gab Night

Friday, November 5, 7:00 p.m.

Deb Wat's home in Concord.

Come enjoy a time of fellowship, playing games, or gabbing, and bring a snack to share. If you have any questions, please call Deb at the church office or C.G. Senft at 798-7925.



Ornament Exchange

Sunday, December 5, 6:00 p.m.

Kim Smith's home.

Mark your calendars and look for more details in the invitation that will be mailed out closer to the date. Any questions, call Kim or C.G.

Merry Mailbox

November 28-January 2

For those of you who would like to save time and stamps in sending Christmas cards to those within the Grace Bible Church body just address the cards/envelopes with the person's name (no stamps needed) and drop them in the marked box. (box location to be announced) You can either stop by and check if you have any, or they will be handed to you on Sundays. Please do not deposit cards addressed to people who have left the church. If we cannot hand deliver the cards by January 2, they will be returned to you (if your name is on the outside of the envelope) Sorry, all undeliverables will be discarded after Jan. 2.

Women's Winter Retreat

March 18-20

Camp Koinonia in the Santa Cruz mountains.

Mark your calendars and watch future publications for more details.

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