

Grace Family News

March - April 2011

Special Points of Interest:

- Wingin' It
March 3 and April 7
- Food Pantry
March 5 & 20
and April 2 & 17
- HHH Brunch
March 5
- Women's Retreat
March 11-12
- Baptismal Meeting
March 13
- Seasoned With Grace
Supper Club
March 18
- AWANA Grand Prix
March 19
- Baptism Service
March 20
- T & T Games
March 26
- MOPS Tea Party
April 10
- JIF (Just IN Fun)
April 10
- MOPS Make Candy
April 15
- Good Friday
April 22
- Resurrection Sunday
April 24

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Pastor's Pen

It is getting close to planting season again as spring approaches. It is a wonderful time of year watching the grass start to grow, trees blossom, and seeing a dozen earthworms in my six-year-old's hands after a warm rain. This is the time of year we prepare the soil and plant the seeds for our gardens. Many of us enjoy the process of getting our hands dirty to enjoy the fruits (and vegetables) of our labors later in the summer and fall.

A lot of work takes place in getting the crops to produce well. The soil needs to be prepared. Bugs and animals take their portion of the crop. Weeds need to be pulled up and much hoeing helps produce an enjoyable crop. I enjoy watching my chil-

dren stuff their faces with tomatoes and seeing the red ripe juice trickle down their chins.

Gardening is a progressive work. Timing is crucial. There is no reward of a good crop until it has grown and matured. In 1 Corinthians 3: 8, 9 the apostle Paul writes, "The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his own labor. For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building."

We are all laboring together to spread the gospel, working to see souls saved, and helping each other grow in the Lord. It may seem at times that we are stuck in the mud, constantly

battling distractions (weeds), or not seeing things change (waiting for the crop to mature) spiritually quickly enough. Keep persevering. Keep doing the good work God put us together to perform for His glory. When the crop is ready, and you see the fruits of your labor spiritually in yourself and others, it will well be worth the prayers, time, effort, agony, and wait.

May God richly bless your work for Him this year.

Butch Wilhelm



Meet Our New Elders....

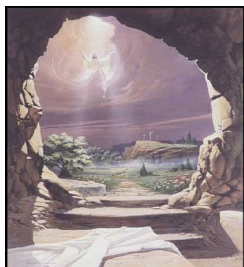
HAL JOHNSON was born in 1952 in Indianapolis. He was transplanted to southern Kentucky in 1963 and then again to northeast Ohio in 1993, where, he, with his wife Kay, raised 2 daughters: Charleigh and Alexandra. Grace has been their home church since June of 1993. Hal was previously ordained by request as Pastor to Grace Baptist Church of Russellville Kentucky by Barbe Baptist Church of Franklin Kentucky. Hal fully committed his life to Christ one day following the birth of their first daughter, Char-

leigh, in October of 1980. Having served as ordained deacon in Barbe and Cedar Grove Baptist Churches as well as Pastor of Grace in Russellville. Hal is now committed to serve the body here at Grace. It is a great privilege to serve this wonderful family of families and the last 17 years as members here have been full of love and blessing.

BUTCH WILHELM grew up in a Christian home in Randolph. He was saved at a young age and attended

Mogadore Baptist Church. He graduated from Cedarville University also having a minor in Bible. He helped with kids, youth ministries and other areas in various churches while in college and working the past 20 years since graduating from Waterloo High School. He has the perfect wife, Cathy, whom God chose for him as well as two wonderful children.

Butch looks forward to the challenges and rewards of helping Grace Church of Rootstown as one of its newest elders.



By Frances J. Cosby

Tell Me the Story of Jesus

Tell me the story of Jesus,
Write on my heart every word;
Tell me the story most precious,
Sweetest that ever was heard.
Tell how the angels in chorus,
Sang as they welcomed His birth,
"Glory to God in the highest!
Peace and good tidings to earth."

Refrain:

Tell me the story of Jesus,
Write on my heart every word;
Tell me the story most precious,
Sweetest that ever was heard.

Fasting alone in the desert,
Tell of the days that are past,
How for our sins He was tempted,
Yet was triumphant at last.
Tell of the years of His labor,
Tell of the sorrow He bore;
He was despised and afflicted,
Homeless, rejected and poor.

Refrain:

Tell me the story of Jesus,
Write on my heart every word;
Tell me the story most precious,
Sweetest that ever was heard.

Tell of the cross where they nailed Him,
Writhing in anguish and pain;
Tell of the grave where they laid Him,
Tell how He liveth again!
Love in that story so tender,
Clearer than ever I see;
Stay, let me weep while you whisper,
"Love paid the ransom for me".

Summer 2011 Calendar...

This summer we have a few fun and interesting activities that you may want to clear your calendar for....beginning Friday, May 27, the Youth will be hosting the "Night of Nights" to recognize all of our high school graduates and those that will be moving from middle school to high school. Contact Ron Regas for details. Saturday, June 18 will be our annual Community Outreach Picnic. You definitely don't want to miss this one! Paul and Kim Jackson will be organizing this event. Then July 2-9,

those that have been working so hard to prepare for the Mexico Missions trip will be on their way! Again, see Ron Regas for details to see how you can support this endeavor.

And lastly, don't forget Vacation Bible School scheduled for July 24-28! Kim Jackson heads this up and would greatly appreciate any volunteers!

Plan to enjoy your summer here with your Grace Church family!



Preserving Our History

Have you ever wondered who was involved in founding Grace Church of Rootstown (or New Milford Baptist Church as it was called then) or what struggles our family of families has gone through over the years? If so, you are not alone. As was announced at our family meeting in January, this year we are going to make an effort to collect, compile and preserve Grace Church of Rootstown's collective history before it is no longer available. We believe that such a history would be an encouragement for each member of our congregation as to how God has worked in countless lives over the years. To that end, if you have any pictures or other materials relating to

the growth, development and establishing of our family of families, please prepare a brief description of those pictures and materials and place that description with your name in Mailbox #43. We will make every effort to return all originals to you. It is also our intention to send out requests to our prior pastors and to others who have attended here for some time, asking for a brief note or letter from each of them to potentially be included in that history. If you are aware of the location of one of those pastors, if you are aware of the location of someone who can contribute their thoughts or if you would desire to contribute your written thoughts, please place that information in

Mailbox #43 as well.

May God continue to bless Grace Church of Rootstown now and in the future.

Paul Jackson



Meet Lois Bracken . . .

Lois is the mother of six children, (Kathi, Don, Bruce, Wendy, Denise, and Christine) and grandmother of eight, and great-grandmother of one with another on the way! She grew up in Pennsylvania near Titusville and graduated from Spartansburg High School. She attended church at one of the Sunday School Union Churches where she was saved as a young girl.

Her family moved to a fruit farm in Scroggsfield, Ohio. She worked at her Uncle's lumber yard in Carrollton as a secretary, also on the window displays at JC Penney. She attended KSU from 1956-1958 and studied in the field of education. Lois married in 1958 and she and her husband moved to Waukegan, IL where her husband was in the Navy. Later, they, along with their first two kids moved back to Ohio. They built a home in Rootstown and were asked to attend New Milford Baptist by a friend, Blanche Gower and her daughter Marie. In 1964, Lois joined

the choir and kept with it until 2002 when there was a need for a Children's Church teacher for the 2 and 3 year olds. There she has served ever since. Lois also works with the Cubbies in our AWANA program and VBS every summer, and don't forget the nursery! She has a true heart for our kids!

Some memories Lois has through the years here at Grace Church are when someone (probably young people) would push her car to another spot, often out to the far side of the baseball field and she would have to try and find it! Also, she remembers coming into church with their new baby, Wendy (1965), where the greeter, Mr. Bredon, did not even know she was expecting! He proceeded to parade Wendy around the church showing her off! One of the most memorable times was when the church burned the mortgage on the first phase of the new building. She was only here a short time, but

that ceremony really impressed her.

"A lot of people have come and gone, either to heaven or to other churches. I have many, many memories over the years; some great, some fun, and of course some disappointing. It all makes up a growing in Christ experience. It was great to see our church, in the best times, able to make new additions to the building. I would like to see it bursting with people excited to serve the Lord here and expanding to surrounding counties!"

Please take some time to talk with, get to know, and thank Lois for her faithful service to the Lord over the past nearly 50 years here at Grace Church!



The Standard of Holiness

The Sovereignty of God

As Solomon was being prepared to assume the throne from his father David made preparations to gather the finest treasures in all of Israel to furnish the Temple, which was soon to be built in Jerusalem. According to current market value, tens of millions of dollars in gold and silver were freely given by all Jews. David rejoiced by praying in the assembly of Israel:

"Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head above all. Both riches and honor come from you, and you rule over all. In your hand are power and might, and in your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all" (1 Chronicles 29:11, 12 ~ ESV).

It would have been easy to exalt the deeds of the people in the giving of

these treasures, but David knew that these riches originated from God Himself. Essentially, he recognized God's sovereignty over all things and creation.

The concept of God's sovereignty is a difficult one to grasp because this attribute is in direct conflict with our human nature. It is God who has ordered all things, controls all things, and rules over everything. For He has no counselors and it is impossible for the human mind to understand His judgments and His ways. God is absolutely sovereign over all creation, being that He created all that exists, and the events of history did not transpire outside of His pleasure. Compared to God, we are fallible mortals whose life can be extinguished merely at the blinking of His eye.

Tozer writes: "God is said to be absolutely free because no one and no thing can hinder Him or compel Him or stop Him. He is able to do as He pleases always, everywhere, forever. To be this free means also that He

He must possess universal authority. That He has unlimited power we know from the scriptures and may deduce from certain other of His attributes" (The Knowledge of the Holy, pg 78).

Why is God's absolute sovereignty important? Because it is upon this attribute of God that our faith, salvation, and hope as Christians rest. It is upon His sovereignty that every one of His promises ever made is true. If you remove the steadfastness of God's sovereignty, then all other doctrines of the Christian faith will crumble. It is upon His sovereignty in which God's integrity and His Word rests.

In our lifestyle of worship, it so important to have a proper view of God, and this includes His sovereignty. John Moore, an 18th century British pastor, said it best, "We've humanized God, deified man, and minimized sin." Let us not find ourselves guilty of this.

Scott Burdett



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Who Am I?

Fill in the blanks and unscramble the letters found in parenthesis. The Gospel of Luke was written to this person.

1. I am the grandfather of Moab and Ben-Ammi. Come to think of it, I'm the father, too. __ ()
2. My husband didn't love me very much. Was it because my eyes were weak? _ () _ ()
3. I ate at David's table, and I was crippled in both feet. __ () __ () _____
4. I visited Solomon and gave him all kinds of presents. What a guy! _____ _ () _____
5. King David gave me everything that belonged to Mephibosheth who had betrayed him. _____
6. As king of Judah, I ousted my grandmother from the throne because she made a pagan idol. _____
7. Some eunuchs threw me from my window, and dogs just ate me up. _____ ()
8. I was "wee little man" in Jericho. _____ () _
9. I traveled with Paul after his little tiff with Barnabas. _ () _ _
10. Paul left me with those Cretans who are "always liars, evil brutes, lazy gluttons." _____ ()

The Gospel of Luke was written to THEOPHILUS

1. Lot Gen 19:36-38, 2. Leah Gen 29:16, 3. Mephibosheth, 2 Sam 9, 4. Queen of Sheba, 1 Kings 10:1-13, 5. Ziba, 2 Sam 16:4, 6. Aza, 1 Kings 5:13, 7. Jezebel, 2 Kings 9:33-37, 8. Zacchaeus, Luke 19:1-3, 9. Silas, Acts 15:40, 10. Titus, Titus 1:12

Women of Grace

Ladies,

How are those New Year commitments going – is your sink still shining? Remember, being consistent means that what I am on the inside is what I am on the outside. How can we remain consistent? Psalm 1:2-3 states that a righteous man meditates on the law of the LORD day and night. "He will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water . . ." Just like a tree that is planted near a stream grows strong due to a root system being consistently fed by the stream, we must daily feed on the words of our LORD.

Many years ago I was caught talking during Dr. Billington's sermon. I thought for sure I was far enough away from my Mother's eagle eye, but no, she knew (though I still wonder if one of her spies told on me). Anyway, my punishment was to either apologize to Dr. Billington or memorize Psalm 1 and it had to be done before that Friday or I wasn't

going skiing at Boston Mills with the church's ski club. Oh boy did I memorize those 6 verses fast. (What? You thought I'd have the nerve to tell Dr. Billington I was talking through his sermon? You're out of your mind! This man used to stop his messages to call out the youth for talking!) However, my heart wasn't for God's word, my heart was for skiing. It wasn't until years later I truly studied, and relearned, this passage of Scripture. Let's do just that. Take verse one: underline the actions of the righteous man and circle the words "does not" and "nor."

How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, Nor stand in the path of sinners, Nor sit in the seat of scoffers!

When we are carefully walking with God our counsel comes from His word. Note the downward slope of listening to unwise counsel. You first walk with them, then your actions stop you in your

tracks and you stand with them, you then sit, wallowing with unwise counsel. From where do you receive counsel? Oprah, other talk shows? Our delight must be in the law of the LORD.

Psalm 19:8 ~ The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes.

I didn't long for God's precepts, I longed for a night of skiing. What is your longing? And from whom/where do you receive counsel?

Go forth dear friends as Women longing to delight in the law of the LORD.

In Christ,

LeAnna Burdett



P.S.: In case you were wondering, I never had to memorize past Psalm 1 for a punishment.