



M Grace Messenger

GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH

122 Walnut Street
Madison, AL 35758
256-837-8821

GBC HOMEPAGES

<http://www.gracemadison-al.com>
<http://sermonaudio.com/gbcmadisonal>

"Preaching the free grace of God which brings a change of lifestyles, masters, and destinies."

DEAN OLIVE, Pastor

— June 2009 Issue —

"Let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe" (Hebrews 10:28).



NURSERY SCHEDULE

June

07 Kevin & Sara Smith
14 Linda Olive & Somja Williams
21 Vicki Johnson & Amber Solan
28 Bob & Faye Williams

July

05 Kristy Hines & Jenny Lovassy
12 Joshua & Lori Hewlett
19 Jon & Tanya Amis
26 David & Mary Alice Olive

FINANCIAL SUMMARY AS OF JUNE 1, 2009

Budgeted expenditures (ytd)	\$ 50,617.91
Actual on-budget expenditures (ytd)	\$ 52,493.66
Actual off-budget expenditures (ytd)	\$ 0.00
General Fund offerings (ytd)	\$ 60,478.33
Love offerings (ytd)	\$ 1,622.00
Total offerings (ytd)	\$ 64,048.51
May Love offerings	\$ 0.00
May General Fund offerings	\$ 13,718.69
Building Fund balance	\$ 64,648.91
Missions Fund balance	\$ 7,870.22
General Fund balance	\$ 61,821.90

A Short Prayer by John Calvin Prayed at the End of a Sermon

Now let us cast ourselves down before the majesty of our good God, conscious of our faults, praying that we may truly see them as they are and renounce the foolish opinions which once deceived us, and with which Satan and his guile still bewitch poor folk. Let us also lay hold of the infinite kindness he has shown us in our Lord Jesus Christ, and since he so mildly and mercifully invites us to come to him, let us learn to obey him and to have done with all that hinders us. May we be willing to be brought low, so that he might lift us up by the powerful hand of his Son whom he has appointed to lead and govern us. And may our confidence never waver, but be firmly fixed in him.



SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

NORMAL SUNDAY SERVICES

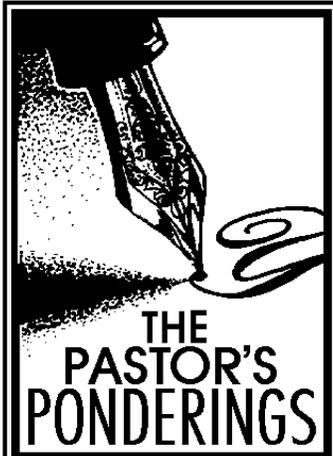
Morning Worship 9:30 AM
Sunday School 11:00 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

WEDNESDAY EVENING

Bible Study and Prayer Meeting
7:00 PM

FIRST SUNDAY SERVICES

Morning Worship 9:30 AM
Sunday School 11:00 AM
Dinner at the Church 12:00 Noon
Afternoon Service 1:30 PM
(No Evening Service)



The Work of Missions

One of the greatest historical events recorded in Scripture is found in Acts 13. Immensely important in the life of the church is this record of the saints at Antioch sending men into distant lands with the gospel message. This chapter stands as a testimony of the church's obedience to

the Great Commission.

Jesus had instructed the apostles to "go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mk 16:15). He had charged them to be his witnesses "in Jerusalem, and in Judea, and Samaria, and to the end of the earth" (Acts 1:8). And the power of the Holy Spirit was promised and given in order for them to do the task.

The church at Jerusalem had done much of the work in taking the gospel from Jerusalem into Judea and Samaria. They had ventured into some other areas near them which had a large concentration of Jews. They had almost exclusively been involved in evangelism of Jews in close proximity to them. This work had been conducted when the Apostle Peter held a central leadership role in the church.

But now, in Acts 13, the gospel begins its extension, as the Savior had intended, to the ends of the earth. The gospel had penetrated Jewish areas, but now it will enter the domain of the Gentiles. And Peter will no longer be central to the work. A man called Paul, a converted blasphemer and Pharisee, took the leading role in proclaiming the gospel to the Gentiles. He became known as "the apostle to the Gentiles" (Gal. 2:7-9).

Acts 13 begins the first of Paul's three missionary journeys. The Holy Spirit made known His will to a church in Syria regarding the sending forth of missionaries into the harvest field. A momentous step was taken then that has impacted the world for the cause of Christ.

The great work that the Holy Spirit began on that day was not launched from Jerusalem. The Holy Spirit chose instead to begin this new phase of mission work by choosing a base in a city outside Palestine, Antioch. The name "Christian" was first used of the believers in Antioch. In this city was a church; a good church. It was from this city located in Syria that God began the first "overseas mission."

The church in Syria was well taken care of. God had raised up several men to serve and minister to the people. Two of these men, Paul and Barnabas, were chosen by the Spirit and sent by the church for the missionary enterprise at hand. The church was

responsive to the Holy Spirit's will and they sent these men out. The mission was inaugurated by the Spirit, but it was the church, upon recognizing his directive, that sent them.

Paul and Barnabas were sent out by the church and by the Holy Spirit. Verse three says, "they [the church] sent them away." But the next verse says, "So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit..." (4). That is how missions should work. "The Spirit sent them out, by instructing the church to do so, and that the church sent them out, having been directed by the Spirit to do so" (Stott).

The church sends men out, but apart from the Spirit calling men to the work, their action would be irrelevant! There is a balance set forth here which keeps us from going to extremes. Stott refers to the extremes as individualism and institutionalism.

Individualism describes the claim for direct guidance from the Holy Spirit which has no reference to the church. It pictures the man who wants to work independently from the church, the man who wants no accountability, who doesn't want to be responsible to any other authority.

Institutionalism describes the situation where all the decisions are made by the church without any reference to the Spirit. It is man making all the decisions rather than through prayer and dependence on the Holy Spirit to guide.

God's call is declared to both the individual (person) and the institution (church)! B. H. Carroll said, "God always makes a double shot. If he calls a man to preach, he calls a church to recognize that call." There should be a call at both ends of the line. It is the responsibility of the local church to be sensitive to the Holy Spirit in order to discover whom He may be gifting and calling. The Holy Spirit works through the church; **the church works under the impulse and guidance of the Holy Spirit.**

God mightily blessed the work of Barnabas and Paul as they were sent forth on their mission. From Antioch they went to Seleucia and from there to Cyprus (13:4), where they preached throughout the island. They then traveled to Perga in Pamphylia and preached in an Antioch located there (13:13-14). They went from there to Iconium (13:51). Later they were in Lystra (14:6). And then they went to Derbe (14:20). And after that they went back through those towns strengthening the churches and exhorting the brethren (14:21f). They also ordained elders in the churches. And then they came back to Antioch of Syria with a joyous report!

We have a method and a pattern set before us to follow in mission work. Let us pray that God will call servants from our midst to work in missions and that we will recognize their call and send them to the uttermost parts of the earth with the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ!

WEB SITES



PILGRIM RADIO—

www.pilgrimradio.com/

THE GRACE LIFE PULPIT —

www.swordandtrowel.org/

HISTORIA ECCLESIASTICA: THE WEB LOG OF MICHAEL HAYKIN —

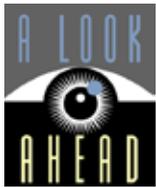
www.andrewfullercenter.org/

THE 1689 CONFESSION OF FAITH REWRITTEN IN MODERN ENGLISH —

wwwFOUNDERS.org/library/bcf/confession.html

ALFRED PLACE BAPTIST CHURCH —

www.alfredplacechurch.org.uk/



JUNE 14-18 - Summer Bible Conference at Prosperity Reformed Presbyterian Church, Yukon, TN. Services each evening at 7 PM with Rev. Chip Edgars preaching. Our mid-week meeting will

be cancelled so we can join them in worship on June 17. Everyone is invited for the fish fry on Thursday, June 18.

JUNE 19 - The Ladies of Grace will meet at the church from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. for spring housecleaning chores and sprucing up the church. If you have any questions, please see Faye Williams or Vicki Johnson.

JUNE 20-24 - Summer Bible Conference at Pleasant Valley Baptist Church, Hartselle, AL. Our mid-week meeting will be cancelled so we can join them in worship on Weds. June 24.

JULY 5 - The ordinance of the Lord's Supper will be observed in the afternoon service.

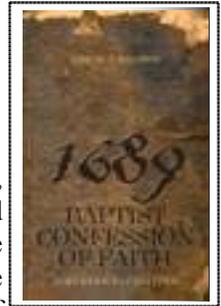
JULY 19 - Missionary to Mexico, Danny Roten, will be preaching on the Lord's Day and telling us about his work in the Sunday School hour.

AUGUST 16 - Our missionary to France, David Vaughn, will be home on a brief furlough and will be at GBC preaching God's word and bringing us up to date on his work.

SEPTEMBER 20-22 - We are hosting a regional FIRE conference at our church. The main speaker is David Ellis, from Hinckley, England. Jerry Marcellino, Donny Martin, and John Crotts will be preaching also (dv).

WE BELIEVE

THE 1689 CONFESSION OF FAITH



CHAPTER 1 – THE HOLY SCRIPTURE

The Holy Scripture is the all-sufficient, certain and infallible rule or standard of the knowledge, faith and obedience that constitute salvation. Although the light of nature, and God's works of creation and providence, give such clear testimony to His goodness, wisdom and power that men who spurn them are left inexcusable, yet they are not sufficient of themselves to give that knowledge of God and His will which is necessary for salvation. In consequence the merciful Lord from time to time and in a variety of ways has revealed Himself, and made known His will to His church. And furthermore, in order to ensure the preservation and propagation of the truth, and the establishment and comfort of the church against the corrupt nature of man and the malice of Satan and the world, He caused this revelation of Himself and His will to be written down in all its fullness. And as the manner in which God formerly revealed His will has long ceased, the Holy Scripture becomes absolutely essential to men.

SCRIPTURE – Psalms 19:1-3; Proverbs 22:19-21; Isaiah 8:20; Luke 16:29,31; Romans 1:19-21, 2:14-15, 15:4; Ephesians 2:20; 2Timothy 3:15-17; Hebrews 1:1; 2 Peter 1:19-20.



Congratulations 2009 Graduate

Congratulations to Hannah McFadden who graduated from High School this year. Hannah is a home-school graduate associated with Cornerstone Christian School. May the Lord bless and use you for His glory in the days ahead.



Puritan Gems Better Than Rubies and Pearls

Thomas Brooks

"Christ is a most precious commodity, He is better than rubies or the most costly pearls; and we must part with our old gold, with our shining gold, our old sins, our most shining sins, or we must perish forever. Christ is to be sought and bought with any pains, at any price; we cannot buy this gold too dear. He is a jewel more worth than a thousand worlds, as all know who have Him. Get Him, and get all; miss Him and miss all."

IS IT WORSHIP WITHOUT POWERPOINT?

DR IAIN D. CAMPBELL

I recall a church advert in a prominent Christian newspaper some years ago highlighting its times and place of worship, and proudly boasting in the advert that it used the Authorised Version and no microphone. Presumably the first of these was a sign of its complete and utter orthodoxy, while the second was a sign of its reliance solely on the Spirit, and not on technology.

The advent of technology has sometimes caused great crises of conscience. I am old enough to remember debates about the merits of recording sermons, for example, and to recall people smuggling bulky recording devices into church, placing cumbersome microphones on the boardrest of the pew in the hope of immortalizing a favorite preacher. But legitimizing the recording of the sermon was only half the issue – should the prayer be recorded, for example?

We have come a long way from that, thankfully, and few, I suspect, would question the use of such technology in church today. We rely on microphones to carry the voices of mumbling preachers, we rely on loop systems to overcome the disabilities of hearing impaired listeners, and we rely on recording devices to provide for those who are unable to attend church, or who may – surprisingly – wish to listen to our sermon again.

And for the internet-savvy generation of Christians in the twenty-first century, we rely on technology to make sermons available on the internet – hundreds of thousands of sermons digitally captured online every week from hundreds of thousands of preachers all around the globe. The benefits of this are staggering; I can, for example, listen to, and watch, the papers of an American conference without ever having to attend in person. MP4 is the new tape ministry.

I would be the last to hinder the application of the new technology in

these ways, although often the devil can be in the details...

But, for me, PowerPoint is the rub. Many churches today have three distinguishing items of furniture: the communion cup, the baptism font and the digital projector. The latter of these will be linked with wires and cables to a laptop computer somewhere, which will have a sequence of words and images, the displaying of which are considered indispensable to modern worship.



Not that I rubbish it altogether. We have had missionary talks at our church, for example, which have used digital projection very well. We have also had missionary talks which have used it badly; and we rarely have missionary talks which don't use it. In such contexts, good imaging can bring a missionary story to life, and can greatly enhance our understanding of what is going on throughout the world...

But I still won't be in a hurry to set up digital projection equipment for my worship services. For one thing, getting the stuff onto the computer in the first place takes an inordinate length of time – at least for novices like me. There are better things to do with preparation time for worship. Images need to be located, downloaded (after checking copyright, of course), sized, placed, edited and contextualized. Words need to be typed, formatted, colored, emboldened and put in the right place on screen. I tell you – it's hard work, that could more profitably be spent on our knees. Less PowerPoint and more Prayer would probably serve us much better.

For another thing, there is a huge risk in using visual images to illustrate biblical points. It was not without reason that God gave us a Word, not a Picture, to proclaim. Images often make for distraction, and lead our minds to wander away from the point that is being made. Word pictures, on the other hand, force our minds to concentrate. When I read 'a sower went out to sow...' it is far more profitable for me to imagine that scene in my mind than to be forced to conform my thinking to the internet picture before me.

I have also been in churches where the preacher's sermon was on the screen, virtually word for word – or at least heading for heading... And nothing, surely, is more restrictive of the liberty of the Holy Spirit in our worship, than to prepare a sermon from which we are not prepared to deviate. What if the Spirit prompts me to take a different text? What if he leads me to develop the sermon in a new direction? PowerPoint doesn't do tangents. But sometimes the most powerful effect of a sermon has been in the detail that was not prepared.

I am no Luddite – I believe in embracing the new technology. I can tolerate PowerPoint for welcome notices, for asking people to switch off their mobile phones, for displaying notices, for displaying our psalms and speaking to the children. What concerns me is the assumption that one need not take even a Bible with one to worship, because it will all be provided on the screen. And what I simply cannot tolerate is the growing dependence on PowerPoint for proclaiming the message of the Gospel, and the niggling feeling I have that we are raising a generation of public speakers who cannot preach a sermon without turning it into a presentation.

DR. IAIN D. CAMPBELL IS THE MINISTER OF BACK FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND ON THE ISLE OF LEWIS.