



The Bible and GIPC

By Mr. Alexander S. Brown, Minister

OVER THESE past few weeks we have been looking together at what it means to be a congregation that is *True to the Bible, the Reformed Faith, and obedient to the Great Commission*. Now, we must turn our attention to what that means in terms of our practices here at Golden Isles Presbyterian Church. Over the coming months I hope to explain how our core philosophy of ministry affects how we sing, pray, read the Bible, preach the Bible, administer the Sacraments, and meet together as a congregation. It is important for us to see that what we do as a church is not simply based on personal preference, but is driven by our central commitment to be true to the Bible, and to the Reformed Tradition, as well as being obedient to the Great Commission.

This month I would like to begin by looking at the place of the Bible in our worship services.

The fundamental principle that we hold in our view of the Bible is that it is the revealed, infallible and inerrant Word of the Living God. If it were not for the Bible, then we could not know anything about God, nor about His great work of Redemption for a lost mankind. Our religion is a religion of the Book, and so we can say with Spurgeon that “the Bible is not God, but it is God’s voice, and I do not hear it without awe.” In its pages we hear our heavenly Father speaking to us, and telling us about Himself, and it fills us with awe. This awe drives us to have the Bible as the foundation and the center of our practices and so we read the Bible, preach the Bible, sing the Bible, pray the Bible and see the Bible, in the sacraments, in our worship services – it regulates and drives all that we do when we gather together in worship.

Another foundational principle which undergirds our practices is that the Bible is basically not about us, but is primarily about Jesus Christ. What this means is that the reading and preaching of the Word in our services is done with the primary intention of discovering what it has to say about our Savior, and not about ourselves. We do not read whichever portion of Scripture applies to our felt-needs, but we read and preach systematically (known as *lectio continua*) through whole books of the Bible in order to see what the whole Bible says about Jesus, and to be transformed as we grow in our knowledge of Him and His saving work. We do not come to the Bible with a set agenda of our problems and concerns first and foremost; rather we come seeking simply to listen at the feet of our God. We noted in our morning service last week how the primary calling of the Twelve Apostles was to “be with Jesus” – to listen to Him, to watch Him, to hear Him – and that is what we seek to do as we come to the Bible. *(Continued on the next page)*

September Calendar

- 9/5 Sacrament of the Lord's Supper (AM Worship)
- 9/6 Labor Day Holiday
- 9/8 Fall Kickoff—Women of GIPC (5:30 p.m. at Nazzaro's)
- 9/11 **GIPC Work Day** (9:00 a.m.—Lunchtime)
- 9/20 Stated Session Meeting (IPC, Savannah)
- 9/26 Church Fellowship Lunch

Mondays at 1:30 p.m.—Women meet for prayer (Evelyn Williams' home)

Tuesdays at 7:30 a.m.—Men's Breakfast Bible Study (Dressner's Café)

Come Worship With Us!

9:30 a.m. Sunday School

“Hear, My Son” . . . covering the Paternal Appeals found in the first 9 Chapters of Proverbs

10:30 a.m. Morning Worship

Mark: A Confrontation with Christ

6:00 p.m. Evening Worship

Ephesians: Rooted in Grace for a Life of Grace

Children's Church, Nursery available (AM Worship)

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper (1st Sunday, AM)



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Now, our ‘felt needs’ will be addressed as we encounter pertinent parts of Scripture, but our primary purpose is to see and savor Jesus Christ – apart from Whom we cannot view our own needs appropriately. We cannot understand marriage, money, work, parenting, debt, speech, love, conflict, friendship, etc., without first seeing how the Gospel of Christ crucified transforms all these things, and so the foundation of our understanding of our ‘felt needs’ comes first from an understanding of Who Jesus is, and what He came to do.

This *lectio continua* reading and preaching of Scripture is one that has a long and noble history, which stretches back through the Reformation to the Ancient Church Fathers, especially Origen (2nd-3rd Century), and John Chrysostom (4th-5th Century). Although the practice was largely lost during the Medieval period, it was resumed with vigor by the Reformers and has continued in the Reformed Tradition. The rediscovery of *lectio continua* reading was the means by which much of the Reformation took hold amongst the populace, as preachers refused to be restricted by a man-made lectionary and preached the whole counsel of God which transformed those who sat before them.

At Golden Isles Presbyterian Church we intentionally hold the Bible in very high regard, and give it a prominent place in our services. Like Spurgeon, we do not worship the Bible, but we do worship its Author and so we listen to it with awe. ▪

Women In the Church (WIC)

Fall Kickoff!

**Join us for Dinner at
Nazzaro's Italian Restaurant:
Wednesday, September 8, 2010
5:30 p.m.**

(Reservations required; please sign up in the foyer or call the church office.)

Weekly Bible Study:

Psalms: Songs Along the Way
(by Kathleen Buswell Nielson);
led by Sara Brown; Tuesday evenings
at the home of Cindy Parrish.

GIPC Ladies Book Club

Meeting the first Tuesday of each month
(beginning 10/5) at Sue Taylor's home.
The first book to be discussed is
“The School of Essential Ingredients,”
by Erica Bauermeister.

*Details of these activities and more
will be announced at the
Fall Kickoff.*



Faith Promise for World Missions

GIPC utilizes the Faith Promise method of giving in order to support a number of families involved in U.S. and foreign-based church-planting, discipleship, evangelism, and medical missions work. All gifts intended for missions support should be designated for “Faith Promise.”

2010 Commitments: \$39,010
*The amount we are trusting God to
provide for missionary support
in 2010.*

**Receipts through 8/31:
\$17,000 or 44%**

**15th Annual World Missions
Emphasis Week:
November 7-14, 2010**

Building and Grounds Committee



Save the Date! The next **Church Work Day** has been scheduled for **Saturday, September 11th from 9:00 a.m. until Lunchtime. Everyone is encouraged to pitch in and help!** There will be a variety of jobs for all skill levels!

Dollars & Sense

Notes from the Finance Committee

Development of the annual budget recommendation to the Session for the 2011 fiscal year is currently underway. Worksheets have been distributed to the various committees of the church for this purpose.

Significant Sessional Actions

- Permission was granted for Mr. Alexander Brown to take vacation from Tuesday 28th September through Wednesday October 13th. He will be gone for two Sundays. Rev. Timothy Foster will be filling the pulpit on Sunday 3rd September, cover for Sunday 10th is still being arranged.
- The Session approved a new job description for Mrs. Dorothy Garvin, Administrative Assistant to the Pastor.

***“May God be gracious to us
and bless us and make His face
to shine upon us,
that Your way may be known
on earth, Your saving power
among all nations.”***

(Psalm 67:1,2, ESV)

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