



July 2011

*From the Pastor's Desk*

**Report of the 39th General Assembly of the PCA**

By Rev. Freddy Fritz

**Our Mission**

To bring people to Jesus Christ and **membership** in his church family, develop them to Christlike **maturity**, equip them for their **ministry** in the church and life **mission** in the world, in order to **magnify** God's name.

Last month I told you a little more about our denomination, the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA), and the upcoming General Assembly. This month I would like to share one of the actions of the 39<sup>th</sup> General Assembly with you that was reported by our General Assembly's Stated Clerk, L. Roy Taylor.

The **Thirty-ninth General Assembly** of the Presbyterian Church in America met in Virginia Beach, Virginia, June 7-10, 2011, at the Virginia Beach Convention Center, hosted by James River Presbytery. A total of 1,183 commissioners attended (901 Teaching Elders and 282 Ruling Elders). The Assembly met before some school systems had ended their academic years, which may have been a factor in a lower than usual Assembly attendance.

The PCA General Assembly is **more than a business meeting** acting upon the reports of the ten General-Assembly-level Permanent Committees and Agencies, other special committees, and the Standing Judicial Commission. Corporate worship with three evening worship

services that include many non-commissioners, seminars on ministry and issues facing the Church, an exhibit hall of ministry resources, networking opportunities, fellowship renewal occasions, and gatherings of alumni and friends of colleges and seminaries are all important aspects of the PCA's annual gathering. Preachers for the three worship services were: Dr. Harry Reeder, Moderator of the Thirty-eighth General Assembly and Pastor of Briarwood Presbyterian Church, Birmingham; Dr. Tim Keller, Pastor of Redeemer Presbyterian Church of New York City; and Rev. Michael A. Campbell, Pastor of Redeemer Presbyterian Church of Jackson, Mississippi.

A Virginian, Ruling Elder Daniel Carrell, was **elected Moderator** of this year's General Assembly.

One of the issues before this year's General Assembly was the Insider Movement. Some missiologists have suggested that people who become believers in the Lord Jesus Christ – and who are in cir-

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**Special Events:**

- ◆ July 3—Summer CE&F Class Begins
- ◆ July 5—VBS Work Party
- ◆ July 9—Missions Trip Car & Dog Wash & Bake Sale
- ◆ July 10—Class 101

# Tampa Bay Presbyterian Church

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## TBPC Trumpet

### Staff—

Rev. Freddy Fritz  
*Editor-in-Chief*

Doug Knox  
*Editor*

It is the goal of the Trumpet staff to provide articles for learning and growing, news for connecting with our church family, and information on opportunities for service and participation.

The views and opinions expressed in the Trumpet have not been reviewed or endorsed by the Session.

Please forward articles, ministry reports and calendar items for the next edition of the *Trumpet* to [sd\\_knox@yahoo.com](mailto:sd_knox@yahoo.com) by July 15, 2010.

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cumstances where the public baptism and joining a Christian church may subject a person to death, persecution, or being ostracized from their families and communities – that such Christian believers remain in their non-Christian religious communities (hence “Insider Movement”). Moreover, some missiologists who advocate Insider Movements suggest that translations of the Bible that cause offense to non-Christians (for example references to the Trinity, God as Father, the deity of Christ, Christ’s being the Son of God, etc.) be adjusted to be non-offensive. Insider Movement advocates think that such an approach enables people to become Christians without crossing cultural barriers. The PCA’s Mission to the World (MTW) has taken the position that people who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ should not continue to practice non-Christian religions but should become part of the Church, and that Bible translations that remove from the text references to God as “Father” (*pater*) or Jesus as “Son” (*huios*), so as to alter the doctrines of the Trinity, the doctrines of the person and work of Christ, or the doctrine of Scripture, are unfaithful to God’s revealed Word. Overture 9, from Potomac Presbytery, “A Call to Faithful Witness,” not only reiterated the position MTW has taken, but also called for a study committee to be established to give further study to the issue. The Assembly **adopted an amended version of Overture 9, authorizing the Moderator to select a seven-member study committee** to be named later. The study committee is to be financed by contributions designated for that purpose.

The following statistical changes were reported to the General Assembly (as of December 31, 2010). Churches and missions: 1,757, an increase of 17. Total membership: 346,814, an increase of 414. Total professions of faith: 10,803, a decrease of 279 from the previous year’s level. Total Family Units: 137,263, an increase of 2,033. Sunday School Attendance: 103,911 which is 1,566 fewer than in 2009. Per capita Giving: \$2,486, an increase of \$94. Per Capita Benevolences: \$451, an increase of \$14. Total Reported Contributions: \$678,150,048, an increase of \$24,259,293. There has been only one year in which there was a reported decrease in PCA membership (2008, when one of our largest churches had a major roll revision). Since its beginning in 1973 the PCA had several years of being one of the fastest growing denominations in North America. The 2010 PCA reported growth rate was positive, (.2%), but that is not as high as in previous years. Seventeen mission churches were organized as new particular churches in 2010.

The 40th General Assembly will convene June 19, 2012 in Louisville, Kentucky.

### **Final Chance to Support TBPC Missions Team!**

The Missions Team preparing for the trip to Cherokee, NC, will have a final car and dog wash fundraiser on July 9, 2011, starting at 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. We will also offer baked goods for sale this time. Contact Jim Aldrich if you are able to provide baked goods for the sale. Please come out and support the Missions Team!

Teaching Elder—

Rev. Freddy Fritz  
Moderator

Ruling Elders—

Jim Aldrich

Bert Barber

Fred Gordon

Doug Hayman

Joe Kirkpatrick

Kevin Nobles

Ken Pothoven  
Clerk of Session

Deacons—

Mike Bowman

Brad Collier

Rick Donaldson

Bob Guest

Jon Massie

Bob McQueen  
Chairman

## If Grace is Received, It Must be Given\*

By Dr. Robert Petterson

At the heart of the Lord's Prayer is the petition, "Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors." And at the end, in Matthew 6:14-15, comes the warning: "For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your father will not forgive your sins."

### Real Grace Versus Illusionary Grace

Grace is undeserved favor. And the Lord's Prayer is all about beggars coming to God with open hands and asking for grace. It begins by calling God "Our Father." We don't deserve that, but by grace we have been adopted into His family. We ask for His kingdom to come. We don't deserve that either. He could destroy this corrupt world, and all of us sinners in it, and be justified in doing so. We beg for "daily bread" we don't deserve, and for forgiveness we can't earn, and for deliverance from temptation we can't overcome, from a devil we can't defeat on our own. This prayer is, from beginning to end, a frantic cry for undeserved favor.

But what happens when we receive grace from our Father, but don't return it—to our family, friends, and neighbors? Again, the fourth petition in Matthew 6:12: "Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors." Jesus connects grace received from God to grace given to others. He even warns us in verse 15 that if we don't forgive the sins of others, our heavenly Father won't forgive our sins.

Do you want an effective prayer life? Then remember that prayers are hindered by broken relationships. Look at what Jesus says in Matthew 5:23-24: "Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother, then come and offer your gift."

We can't come to the altar asking for more grace from God without going to our brother and sister and giving them the same grace we are begging for from God. The apostle gives a practical warning in 1 Peter 3:7 when he says to husbands that they should treat their wives with grace "... so that nothing will hinder your prayers."

Jesus begins the training of His 12 disciples with His Sermon on the Mount and the Lord's Prayer. He ends their three-year training in the Upper Room. He has gathered them for His final meal before His crucifixion. Everything in that Upper Room discourse has the compelling urgency of a deathbed confession. But nothing is more critical than His words in John 13:33-34: "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this will all men know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

This is not really a new commandment. It actually captures the two great commandments of Moses: that we love God and our neighbors with everything we have. I think that you could render this word "new" as "fresh." Sometimes old truths need to be restated in a fresh way. We've heard certain truths so often they hardly make a dent. "Of course, we are supposed to love one another. That's what God's people do." But that's not what they always do. That's not what the disciples were doing that night as they jostled for the highest positions in Christ's kingdom. And 2,000 years later His disciples are still at it. We need a fresh understanding of this principle: If grace received isn't grace given, then grace is illusionary.

*\*This is an excerpt from an article by Dr. Petterson that recently appeared in byFaith, the web magazine of the Presbyterian Church in America. It can be viewed in its entirety at <http://byfaithonline.com/page/in-the-world/if-grace-is-received-it-must-be-given>.*

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**Women in the Church**

By Ginny Bremer

**Thank You**

Thank you to Nancy Kirkpatrick for opening her home for our Sister-to-Sister Luau. The atmosphere and decorations were a tropical paradise where sisterly love abounded. This event was also special because, in addition to our sisterhood in Christ, there were several family sisters present. Sheri Nies brought her sister, and Bett Correa and Julie Welzien had three of their sisters as well as their mom. In addition, there were children and grandchildren of our church members to enjoy and get to know. It was wonderful to fellowship with our sisters in Christ. Thank you, too, to Marianne for her devotional on brotherly and sisterly love, and to Bett for leading the games that enabled us to get to know funny stories about each other. It was a fun time for all. And last but not least, thank you to all who attended and contributed to the luau brunch. Everything was delicious. Remember to keep your prayer partner in your daily prayer time and, if possible, get together during the next few months.



**Good News**

Our missionary partner, Dick Fisher, has been able to retain his employment at Hospice. However, he still needs our prayer support for his ministry there. Pray that the Lord will use his gifts and talents to reach the lost in their final days and bring glory to our Lord's Holy name.

**Looking Ahead**

WIC will again support the Pregnancy Care center through a collection of both new and used baby clothing, diapers and money. Although we have not gotten final approval from the Session, we are hopeful that our collection will take place in August. We will let everyone know the exact dates in the August newsletter and the weekly bulletin.

WIC will have our usual WIC 15 on the second Sunday of July immediately following worship in room 23. Plan to attend to share ideas and help plan future events.

If you would like to attend the Amazing Grace 360 Conference in Atlanta Georgia, October 7 – 9, 2011, please let me know. The WIC budget will be able to give a partial scholarship to defray part of your cost. You can access more information at [www.amazinggrace360.com](http://www.amazinggrace360.com).

*Adult Christian Education & Fellowship*  
Bob Guest

*Children*  
Cheryl Barber

*Emptynesters*  
Jan Ousnamer

*Greeters & Welcome Table*  
Bob Koryus

*Growth Groups Session*

*Hospitality*  
LeeAnn DeStefano

*Men's Bible Study*  
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*Pacesetters*  
Randy Mallary

*Pastoral Care*  
Rev. Freddy Fritz

*Ushers*  
Richard Hunter

*Women's Bible Study*  
Betty Pothoven

*Women in the Church*  
Ginny Bremer

*Youth*  
James Barber

## ***If Grace is Received, it Must be Given***

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### **Grace Received**

In John 13:33-34, Jesus says, "As I have loved you, so you must love one another ... ." I never understood the wonder of that love until I was introduced to biblical grace as it was interpreted from Scripture by the Protestant Reformers. They summarized God's grace (the way Jesus loves us) with five truths:

**1. There's not a single molecule of my being that is not corrupted by sin.** Before His grace apprehended me, I was dead in my sins: I had eyes that could not see, ears that could not hear, and a heart that could not feel apart from the regenerating work of the Holy Spirit. Since I have been redeemed I must still say with the prophet Isaiah that even my "righteousness is like filthy rags" next to God's holiness. No matter how sanctified I become, I will end my life saying what Paul said at the end of his days: "I am the chief of sinners."

**2. God has chosen to love me unconditionally.** He doesn't love me for what I am, or what He foresees I might be. Nor will He ever reject me for what I am not. As Paul writes in the first lines of his letter to the Ephesians, He loves me for no other reason than it gives Him pleasure and brings Him glory.

**3. He loves me specifically.** He loves me uniquely, just as I am, the total package with all its weaknesses, eccentricities, and quirky behavior. He wrote my name in the Lamb's Book of Life before He ever spangled the night skies with a single star. He died for me specifically, not just for a nameless, faceless mass of humanity. He called me to Himself by name. The fact that He loves me like this exhilarates and humbles me at the same time.

**4. His love for me is irresistible.** I wasn't dragged kicking and screaming without a choice in the matter. When the Holy Spirit opened my eyes, I wanted to run into the arms of Jesus. In the words of John, I loved Him because "he first loved me." Forty-five years after He found me I find His gracious love more irresistible than ever.

**5. His love will persevere to the end.** Jesus said, "No one can pluck my sheep from my hands." Paul put it another way: "Those he justified, he will glorify." I know that "he who began a good work in me will carry it on to the day of completion." If today I have the most sinful day of my life, I can know that when I put my head on the pillow tonight, He will not love me any less than He did this morning. And if I have the best day of my life, He will not love me any more.

When Jesus says, "As I have loved you ..." this is the love He is describing. Do you know this love? Has it gripped your soul and transformed your life? Jesus says that if it changes your life it must change your relationships with others.

### **Living out Grace**

Jesus goes on in John 13:34 to say, "As I have loved you, so you must love one another ... ." It is not enough to claim a vertical relationship with God. That same love relationship must become horizontal in the same way with others.

I recently counseled an angry old man. He was proud of the fact that he embraced the great doctrines of the Protestant Reformation. He had been raised in a Dutch Reformed Church. With tears he would rattle off the five points of Calvin (the five truths about Christ's love I just shared). He would argue endlessly with those who didn't buy into the doctrines of sovereign grace. But this man was also estranged from his children. He hasn't talked to one daughter for more than five years. His wife could barely tolerate him. He has created controversy in every church he has ever attended.

I challenged this man with Jesus' words in John 13:34-35 and asked him if the five truths that I have shared with you captured the love of Christ for His elect. Without hesitation he said, "Yes!" Then I asked him, "If you were to love others the same way, wouldn't that require that you love them with those same five points?" I then explained what that means in practical terms.

1. You won't be shocked, disappointed, disillusioned, or angry when others mess up. You will accept them for who they are: sinners, like you, desperately in need of God's grace and your love.

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## Truth Matters Today

By Joe Burns, TruthMattersToday@tampabay.rr.com

### ***The Honorable Anthony Weiner and Moral Mediocrity in America***

Last month, U.S. Representative Anthony Weiner joined a long list of those found to be embroiled in scandalous activities of a sexual nature. Initially making a vehement case that he had nothing to do with explicit text messages transmitted via his Twitter® account, Weiner was forced to recant within days as additional evidence emerged.

Backed into a corner, the congressman held a heart-felt press conference tastefully appointed with sincere tears and sniffles where he acknowledged lying, doing things he deeply regretted and causing pain for people dear to him. Nonetheless, he flatly declared he was unwilling to resign.

*"Look, I am sorry...but I don't see anything that I did that violated any rules of the [U.S.] House [of Representatives]. I don't see anything that I did that certainly violated my oath of office to uphold the Constitution...I don't believe that I [did] anything that violates any law or any rule."*<sup>1</sup>

Even after taking full responsibility for his self-confessed wrongdoings, the Congressman did not feel he brought sufficient dishonor to the office for which the dictates of protocol require the masses to refer to him as *The Honorable Anthony Weiner*. Honor to Mr. Weiner was clearly tied only to concrete standards such as written rules or the law.

### ***The Morality-Law Divide***

That's not too hard to understand given the words and examples of those he respects. The man who officiated at his wedding, former President Bill Clinton, finished his term after sexual immoralities involving much more than cell phones or computers while serving in an office of vastly greater significance. As did Mr. Weiner, President Clinton lied about his sexual adventures. Unlike, Mr. Weiner, Mr. Clinton also lied under oath, which most certainly is against the law. Yet he survived.

Colleagues such as Illinois Representative Danny Davis testified that Weiner's rank dishonesty wouldn't inhibit their ability to collaborate with him on the nation's business. "Oh, I can continue to work with Anthony Weiner...without a doubt. He's one of the brightest...and one of the best minds in Congress."<sup>2</sup>

In a similar spirit following Weiner's mea culpa, his mentor and onetime boss, New York Senator Charles Schumer, immediately issued his protégé a pass for all his misdeeds and summarily declared him righteous. "By fully explaining himself, apologizing to all he hurt and taking full responsibility for his wrongful actions, Anthony did the right thing. He remains a talented and committed public servant."<sup>3</sup>

Note the post-script rationalizations by Davis and Schumer. Would these gentlemen be as understanding if they felt Weiner was talentless and dull? Perhaps in their economy it's not the gravity of the evil but the gravitas of the evildoer that matters most.

### ***Between Law and Freedom***

These commentaries illustrate a phenomena described by seminary professor David Wells as the outworking of a cultural shift where *self-restraint* was replaced as a cardinal virtue in our society by *self-gratification*. That now-displaced self-restraint, he explained, grew out of our conviction that "we had to preserve three domains in society. Lying between law on one side and freedom on the other would be a middle territory for the cultivation of character and the affirmation of truth,



Anthony Weiner [http://onlineathens.com/stories/060811/nat\\_841144137.shtml](http://onlineathens.com/stories/060811/nat_841144137.shtml)

one which would be as vital to the preservation of our society as law and freedom."<sup>4</sup>

Sadly, far from being affirmed in our culture, truth has been under deliberate attack for decades and has slowly been supplanted by a moral relativism which claims absolute truth is merely an illusion. That transformation gave way to an ever-growing permissiveness that willingly sanctioned escalating levels of depravity. Consequently, as Wells pointed out in 1998, "what was once an open space between law and freedom, one governed by character and truth, is now deserted, so law must now do what character has abandoned."<sup>5</sup>

### ***Where the Road Leads***

In addition to the unmistakable harm the disappearance of moral standards portends, another danger lurks when we hold only lawbreakers accountable. Eventually, we will spawn enough laws to fill the space once occupied by character. Majority rules will then form the morality of our era. Not too promising given what majorities have enacted of late. Even worse, by abdicating character's middle ground to law, all powers of decision regarding right and wrong is ceded from the governed to the government. History shows that is a poor bargain to make.

In 1978, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics dissident and author of The Gulag Archipelago Alexander Solzhenitsyn spoke at Harvard University's commencement. Here was a man imprisoned and beaten—for anti-Soviet statements and writings—by agents of a government with absolute authority to determine right and wrong. As you might imagine, Solzhenitsyn cautioned his Harvard listeners to strike a balance between what the law controls and what it doesn't:

*"I have spent all my life under a communist regime and I will tell you that a society without any objective legal scale is a terrible one indeed. But a society with no other scale but the legal one is not quite worthy of man either. A society which is based on the letter of the law and never reaches any higher is taking very scarce advantage of the high level of human possibilities. The letter of the law is too cold and formal to have a beneficial influence on society. Whenever the tissue of life is woven of legalistic relations, there is an atmosphere of moral mediocrity, paralyzing man's noblest impulses. And it will be simply impossible to stand through the trials of this threatening century with only the support of a legalistic structure."*<sup>6</sup>

In the end, Anthony Weiner was forced to resign by mounting political pressure from his former allies who felt his story would strangle chances to move their agendas forward and, perish the thought, inhibit their reelection to office. He still stands, though, as a mile marker on what could easily become America's highway to "moral mediocrity."

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1. "Full Transcript of Weiner's News Conference." 6 Jun 2011. New York Post. 21 Jun 2011 <[http://www.nypost.com/p/news/local/full\\_transcript\\_of\\_weiner\\_news\\_conference\\_JxlqpgCFcbffrWKKcwsyLL/8](http://www.nypost.com/p/news/local/full_transcript_of_weiner_news_conference_JxlqpgCFcbffrWKKcwsyLL/8)>.
2. FoxNews. "Special Report with Bret Baier." 9 Jun 2011.
3. Raju, Manu. Politico. 6 June 2011. 8 June 2011 <[http://www.politico.com/blogs/glennthrush/0611/Schumer\\_pained\\_and\\_saddened.html](http://www.politico.com/blogs/glennthrush/0611/Schumer_pained_and_saddened.html)>.
4. Wells, David F. Losing Our Virtue: Why the Church Must Recover Its Moral Vision. Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1998.
5. Ibid.
6. Solzhenitsyn, Alexander. "Text of Address by Alexander Solzhenitsyn at Harvard Class Day Afternoon Exercises, Thursday, June 8, 1978." 8 Jun 1978. Columbia University in the City of New York. 11 Jun 2011 <<http://www.columbia.edu/cu/augustine/arch/solzhenitsyn/harvard1978.html>>.



## **Importance of Chaplains in Ministry**

By Bob Guest

In a recent report to our denomination from (Brig. Gen., USA, ret.) Douglas E. Lee, Executive Director of the PRJC (Presbyterian & Reformed Joint Commission on Chaplains and Military Personnel), he noted the following.

"Many folk do not realize that chaplains have a breadth of ministries; included are:

- Working in overseas communities to enhance U.S. relationships;
- Being on call many nights per week;
- Engaging in 30-40 hours of counseling per week...plus their other duties!;
- Leading marriage, singles, pre- & post-deployment retreats several times each month;
- Advising civilian and military leaders via regular staff meetings;
- Nurturing the living; Caring for the wounded; Honoring the dead – sometimes all in one day!
- Assisting firemen and policemen in crisis after crisis; and
- Giving the last word and prayer aboard Navy ships every night.

They are men who will fearlessly do what has to be done to provide meaningful spiritual support to U.S. citizens and military personnel all over the world. They are bold in their proclamation of Christ. Thank you for your faithful prayer and financial support as we press on with the "best kept secret" in our denominations!"

## **Missions Committee Report**

By Jim Aldrich

On June 9th, the Missions Committee met at Church, and reviewed the status of planning and fundraising associated with our short term Missions Trip to Cherokee, NC during the week of July 30 - August 6 to work in the MTW ministry that supports Native Americans in that area. The Missions Team will be conducting a VBS program in the mornings, and working on a light construction project in the afternoons, except for Wednesday afternoon when the Team plans to go "white water rafting"! We have 13 TBPC members on the Missions Trip Team, and we ask for your prayers that our Team may be a blessing to those we go to assist.

The Committee also continued work on developing "missionary support criteria." It is the endeavor of the Committee to have a more clearly defined set of criteria, or guidelines, so that in the future the Committee can objectively evaluate financial support applications submitted by missionaries desiring support, and then make appropriate recommendations to our Session.

The Committee also discussed our proposed 2011-2012 Missions budget.

The Missions Committee meeting concluded with prayer for all of our TBPC Missionaries. Please pray for them; there is a list in the Trumpet of our TBPC Missionaries. If you are interested in joining the Missions Committee, please see Jim Aldrich.



# Missionaries Supported by TBPC

## *Mission to the World*

Esaie & Natacha  
Etienne  
Ken & Tammie  
Matlack  
Carla Stevens

## *Reformed University Fellowship*

Jeff & Jenny Lee

## *MNA Chaplain Ministry*

Dick Fisher

## *Navigators*

Larry & Laura Hardie

## *New Harvest Missions International*

Nathaniel & Cherita  
Adawonu

## *Serving In Missions*

Rene & Lili Palacio

## *Wycliffe Bible Translators*

Don & Judy  
Vander Ploeg

## *Ven Con Nosotros Church*

Dr. Oscar & Elizabeth  
Alvarez

## *Chamberlain-Hunt Academy*

Pam Johnston

## ***If Grace is Received, it Must be Given***

*(Continued from page 5)*

2. As a result, you will have no other choice but to love them unconditionally. You won't love them for who they are, what they do for you, or what you hope they might become. You won't reject them if they don't measure up.

3. You will love them with specific grace. It is easy to love all Christians in a general way. It is quite another thing to love specific people for what they specifically are, in spite of their particular weaknesses, eccentricities, and shortcomings.

4. Your love will demonstrate irresistible grace. Such unconditional love will draw them irresistibly to the Christ who has filled you with such irresistible love. It will have an irresistible force drawing others who witness this love to the same Christ.

5. And this grace turned horizontal will persevere to the end. It will never forsake or abandon its commitments or covenants. It won't run from those who frustrate, reject those who irritate, or wall off those who disappoint. In the words of Paul to the Corinthians, this love "... always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres ... ." In short, it never fails.

If these five points of grace encapsulate the way Jesus loves us, then with these same five points we must love others. That day my old Calvinist friend saw that he couldn't receive this love from His heavenly father without giving the same love to his wife, daughters, and fellow Christians. Nor can any of us.

The truth is, my old Calvinist friend also discovered a supreme and humbling irony that day: the way he treated others was diametrically opposed to his theology about the way God loved him: He didn't apply his doctrine of total depravity to his daughters. He expected them to be better than that. When they didn't measure up, he was shocked, disappointed, and disillusioned. He refused them unconditional grace. Because they didn't measure up to his expectations, he cut off his love to them. He believed in definite atonement, but he didn't love them for who they uniquely and specifically were. His perverted love was anything but irresistible in its grace. It repelled them, their mother, and most everyone else who came into contact with him. Forget about persevering grace. He cut them off emotionally and then spatially when they failed to please him.

### **Paying Grace Forward**

Jesus ends His new commandment with these explosive words in verse 35: "By this will all men know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." Our horizontal relationships with people are the proof of our vertical relationship with God.

If we can't love others the way Christ loves us, then perhaps our faith is illusionary. There is the frightening possibility that it is not real. The writer of this gospel later warns us in 1 John 4:8, "Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love." If it is not illusionary, it is certainly impotent. Love that lacks the power to transform our relationships will never convince the watching world that it is divine love. Therefore it becomes irrelevant to those outside the Church. Unless our relationship with Jesus Christ has the power to transform marriages, families, and every other relationship it will be rejected as illusionary, impotent, and irrelevant. All men will only believe that Christ has made a difference in our lives when they see a difference in our relationships with one another.

How about you? Do you want to receive the fullness of God's loving grace? Then ask yourself a critical question: Who do I need to seek out and love in a new and gracious way?



### ***July Birthdays***

6—Christine Todd  
6—Joey Weir  
9—Rick Hallstrand  
16—Barbara Hess  
16—Joyce Petersen  
17—Rayna Burger  
17—Zach Gawrych  
18—Bob Moore  
21—Eileen Fritz  
22—Gertrude Hunter  
23—Pat Smith  
24—John Andel  
24—Mary Lee Yates  
29—Bob Koryus

### ***July Anniversaries***

2—Peter and Ling Wu  
12—Phil and Chris Lear  
18—Rene and Lili Palacio  
19—Tony and Bett Correa  
23—Roy and Gertrude Hunter  
24 —Sam and Marianne Calie  
25 —Brian and Alisa Carrier  
31—Jerel and Heather Tomasello

# July 2011\*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<b>1</b> 7:00p CMA Spanish Bible Study	<b>2</b> 7:45a-9:00a Men's Bible Study; Men's Discipleship Group
<b>3</b> 9:00a -10:15a Children's Sunday School; Adult CE&F 10:00a-10:30a Greeters & Welcome Table ; 10:30a-11:45a Worship Service; 6:00-7:03p CMA Spanish Bible	<b>4</b> Independence Day (Office Closed)	<b>5</b> 10:00a-11:30a Staff Meeting 7:00p VBS Work Party	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 7:00p CMA Spanish Bible Study	<b>9</b> 7:45a-9:00a Men's Bible Study; Men's Discipleship Group 10:00a Missions Team Car & Dog Wash & Bake Sale
<b>10</b> 9:00a -10:15a Children's Sunday School; Adult CE&F 10:00a-10:30a Greeters Table 10:30a-11:45a Worship Service; 2:00p-6:00p VBS Work Party	<b>11</b> 8:30a-12:30p Vacation Bible School	<b>12</b> 8:30a-12:30p Vacation Bible School	<b>13</b> 8:30a-12:30p Vacation Bible School	<b>14</b> 8:30a-12:30p Vacation Bible School 7:00p Missions Committee Meeting	<b>15</b> 8:30a-12:30p Vacation Bible School 7:00p CMA Spanish Bible Study	<b>16</b> 7:45a-9:00a Men's Bible Study; Men's Discipleship Group
<b>17</b> 9:00a -10:15a Children's Sunday School; Adult CE&F 10:00a-10:30a Greeters & Welcome Table ; 10:30a-11:45a Worship Service; 12:30p Emptynesters Lunch	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 7:00p VBS Work Party	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 7:00p Session & Diaconate Meetings	<b>22</b> 10:00a Missions Trip Meeting 7:00p CMA Spanish Bible Study	<b>23</b> 7:45a-9:00a Men's Bible Study; Men's Discipleship Group
<b>24</b> 9:00a -10:15a Children's Sunday School; Adult CE&F 10:00a-10:30a Greeters Table 10:30a-11:45a Worship Service	<b>25</b> 10:00a-11:30a Staff Meeting	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 10:00a VBS Open House	<b>28</b> 7:00p Leadership Meeting	<b>29</b> 7:00p CMA Spanish Bible Study	<b>30</b> Missions Trip to Cherokee 7:45a-9:00a Men's Bible Study; Men's Discipleship Group

\*Due to the number of events scheduled, we cannot fit all Sunday activities on the monthly newsletter calendar. Please consult the online calendar at <http://prem.calendars.net/tbpc> for the complete schedule of activities on Sundays in April.



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## The Sunday Schedule

Time	Location	
9:00 AM	Classroom Wing	Sunday School for Children C E & F for Adults
10:30 AM	Sanctuary	Worship Service