

IN PURSUIT



Welcome to Grace Community Church! I'm glad you've joined us this morning and pray our time together strengthens and encourages you on your faith journey. I was humbled last Sunday evening as the Grace family gathered to confirm three new Elders and hear encouraging ministry updates. I am in awe that God chose me to lead this congregation and look forward to seeing how God will use our

church as we pursue the vision He has given us.

If you are new to our church or the Christian faith, we would love to help you get connected to others who are moving in the same direction. Visit the Discover Grace Counter in the Lobby for more information or attend the Discover Grace Coffee held every Sunday at 10:45am in Room A1.



Discover Grace Coffee
10:45am, Room A1

Pursuing,

Scott Jones

The Carnations on our stage represent the lives of those who have recently accepted Christ as their Savior through the outreach efforts of those at Grace.



- A young girl made a decision to follow Christ on a Sunday.
- Two men led three people to Christ in nursing homes.

Today's Memory Verse

Philippians 2:14-15

"¹⁴Do everything without complaining or arguing, ¹⁵so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe."

Shine- Make Them Wonder What You've Got

Pastor Richard Gotthardt - Philippians 2:12-18

As a follower of Christ, I will **shine** most brightly:

1. When we apply _____ to our faith
2. When we appropriate _____ in our lives
3. When we do not _____ or _____
4. When we live _____ and _____
 - a. In _____
 - b. In _____ of **heart** and **mind**

~Notes~

Today's Service

- ~ prelude ~
- ~ praise & worship ~
- ~ welcome ~
- ~ offertory - *I Bow Down* ~
- ~ praise & worship ~
- ~ message - Pastor Richard Gotthardt~
- ~ response ~
- ~ benediction ~
- ~ postlude ~

Core Competency:
Giving Away My Faith

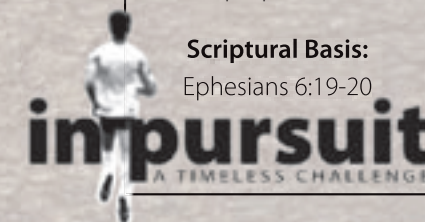
Creed: "I give away my faith to fulfill God's purposes."

Scriptural Basis:
Ephesians 6:19-20

Shine- Make Them Wonder What You've Got

Philippians 2:12-18

10/10/2004



Shine On - by Richard Gotthardt

Let's be honest- the word "Christian" these days is a pretty loaded term. To some people, it means a person who is judgmental and pious (and not in a good way). To others, Christian means a quasi-political label or category, as in "the Christian Right," while to others the word is associated with intolerance and a narrow mind. Naming oneself as a Christian in our current culture can come with some heavy baggage, fair or not.

Perhaps you've had the experience of a friendly and cordial relationship with someone right up to the point that you revealed that you are a Christian. Suddenly the tone changed, the friendliness cooled. You are now "one of them"- and "them" is not good. What should we do?

One option is to simply stay silent- to blend into the surroundings so that we won't be labeled or unjustly lumped into a category that we don't deserve. But eventually we might get so used to blending in that we never actually stand out- even in the right ways. Perhaps a more direct approach is in order. Let people know that you are, indeed, a Christian, but then quickly list all of the things that you are not: petty, narrow-minded, or pious. You are a different kind of Christian. Is that a good strategy?

I believe a better plan is the one that Jesus proposed in the Sermon on the Mount: "Let your light shine before men, that they might see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven." So what does it mean to shine? How about this for starters?

What if we were to stand out as Christ-followers more by what we did than by what we didn't do? What if we were known for our outrageous and deliberate acts of love and kindness and generosity? What if we stood out because we never complained or grumbled, even when treated poorly? What if we served the poor, cared for the needy, and shared the gospel with conviction, gentleness and respect? What if we simply let Jesus shine through our lives so much that people were left speechless? Sure, people might still label us or misunderstand but that would be OK. We'd just keep shining anyway. Clearly, none of us likes to be labeled. So let's let the world catch us doing something good- let's let them see Jesus in us.

- Do you ever feel unfairly labeled as a Christian? How so?
- What is one area that Jesus could shine more brightly through your life?

DEVOTIONAL



Hiring Teachers

Nursery and Preschool teachers needed during *Insight for Moms* meetings: 2nd & 4th Tue., 8:00am-11:30am. Contact Liz Hyde x332.

Voter Guides

Non-partisan voter guides from the Center for Arizona Policy are available on the porch this morning.

S.P.L.A.S.H Event

Singles "Spruce Up Our Campus Day" is happening Oct. 16, 7:45am-12:00pm. Bring your own water. For info, contact Colleen Radino, VM125.

Fall Fix-up Day

Come be a part of the Nehemiah Team on Saturday, Oct. 16, 7:30am-12:00pm to help make our campus beautiful for the holiday season. Contact JoAnne Vacho at joannevacho@gccaz.org or x235 for questions and to RSVP.



Seniors XYZ Meeting

Thursday, October 14, 10:30am, Davidson Center. Special music: John Shillington, North Phoenix Baptist Church Worship Leader. Speaker: Jeff Small, GCC's Pastor of Communications. Sign up for the Oct. 21-22 trip to Kartchner Cavern's Big Room and more. Call Paul & Dottie Hartzler 480.592.9186.



Men's Bible Study

Personal groups with accountability and a way to grow closer to God. Contact Ken Kohlmeier, kenkohlmeier@gccaz.org or x262.

Extraordinary Women Conference

Women at the Well: Finding Life, Love & Relationships. For discounted tickets call x241. For more info visit www.gracecommunityaz.org .



Pray for Students

Moms with kids in James Madison Prep. and GCCS. Contact Rhonda Howman, 480.899.7339.

International Turkey Network

For anyone interested in Turkey Missions. Word of Grace Church in Mesa, Nov. 10-12. Cost is \$110 but free after 7:00pm. Contact Pat Lew 480.464.3983.

Pray for Muslims

Five Friday Nights During Ramadan. October 15-November 12, 7:00-8:00pm, Room A1. Contact Julie, 480.236.9763, for information.

grace community church

1200 e. southern avenue - tempe, az 85282 - 480.894.2201
on the web @ www.gracecommunityaz.org

Next Grace Series

Are you wanting to grow closer to God, but aren't sure how? **Class 201 "Discovering Maturity"** teaches the dynamics of spiritual growth, why we need to be committed to growing spiritually, how to accomplish it and how to develop a life of worship.

Would you like to learn how to share Christ's love with others more effectively? **Class 401 "Discovering My Mission"** will challenge you to have a greater love for lost people. The goal of the class is to help you personalize and gain confidence in talking to others about Jesus.

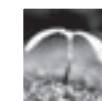
Both classes will be offered **Sun., Oct. 24-Nov. 14 from 11:05am-12:30pm**. Contact Lois Klein at x214, loisklein@gccaz.org or sign up at the Discover Counter in the Worship Center Lobby.

Harvest Festival "The Night Without the Fright"

Join us for an evening of fun Sun., Oct. 31, 6:00pm-9:00pm. Games, candy, amphitheater entertainment, hay rides, moonbounces, KLOVE radio, face painting, food, cake walk, volleyball and basketball tournaments, and a band. Free with only the moonbounce and food areas having a nominal charge. Invite family and friends! For more information or to help with this event, contact Shirley Brothwell, x331 or shirleybrothwell@gccaz.org.

Reception for David Bauer

There will be an all-church reception to welcome David Bauer, the new Pastor of Worship and Arts, Sunday Oct. 10, 7:00pm-9:00pm in the Dorsey Center. Stop in for refreshments and a chance to get to know a new member of our community.



Financial Stewardship Update

Budget-to-date, Sept. 5, 2004	\$ 952,500
Actual-to-date, Sept. 5, 2004	\$ 906,330

A surprising thing that happens when we get in step with the Lord's plan for our financial stewardship is how we are able to "get by" on what remains after we give to the Lord. In man's economy, our "needs" somehow expand to fill an increase in income. But in God's economy, the reverse is true. Our disposable income is decreased as a result of giving to His ministry, yet our needs are taken care of by a smaller amount of money.

We don't know how this happens, but it does. It's the economy of heaven!

Remember Grace in your will or trusts.