

IN PURSUIT



Welcome to Grace Community Church. I am glad you're here with us this morning and pray our time together inspires you to be faithful in pursuing the goal of having a deep, exciting and vibrant relationship with God through Jesus Christ. If you are new to our church or the Christian faith, we would love to help you grow spiritually and relationally by connecting you with others. 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.

I am encouraged about what God is doing at our church. Tonight at our Harvest Festival outreach, our campus will be filled with families from our community looking for a fun and safe evening together. What a great opportunity to share our faith (and lots of candy) with those around us.

On His Course,

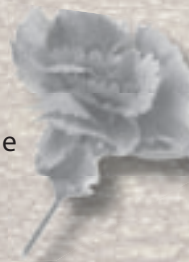
Scott Jones



Discover Grace Coffee
10:45am, Room A1

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.

- Ten people made commitments to Christ following the Gospel message last Sunday.
- Four GCCS students made decisions for Christ during Spiritual Emphasis week.



Today's Memory Verse

Philippians 3:20-21

"²⁰But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body."

Avoiding Spiritual Slumps

Pastor Scott Jones - Philippians 3:10-4:1

To Avoid Spiritual Slumps...

- We pursue a _____ for what we want to look like _____. (10-16)
 1. Admit that we haven't _____.
 2. Never rest on past _____.
 3. Always _____.
- We _____ with others who have the same _____. (17-19)
- We _____ like there really is a _____. (20-4:1)

~Notes~

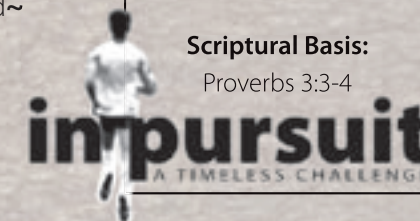
Today's Service

- ~ prelude - Bob Nybakken ~
- ~ praise & worship ~
- ~ welcome ~
- ~ offertory - *Come Thou Fount* ~
sung by Worship Team
- ~ drama ~
- ~ message - Pastor Scott Jones ~
- ~ interview - Bert & Jan Harned ~
- ~ response ~
- ~ benediction ~
- ~ postlude ~

Core Competency:
Faithfulness

Creed: "I am faithful to fulfill God's will for my life."

Scriptural Basis:
Proverbs 3:3-4



Avoiding Spiritual Slumps

Philippians 3:10-4:1

10/31/2004

Mirror, Mirror - by Richard Gotthardt

Allow me to ask you a somewhat personal, perhaps penetrating question. When you look at the person that you have become, at least so far, how satisfied do you feel with what you see? We're talking about a good, hard look in the mirror, now. And no, this is not referring to receding hairlines, increasing waistlines, or added wrinkles or gray hair- we all deal with those realities. We're pressing past things like career status, family harmony, and social and financial standing, too. We're looking down deeper- what kind of person are you, really?

Is your heart full of love for people- not just family and friends, but even those who have hurt you or don't love you back? Do you find peace and contentment that defies even severe shake-ups in circumstances? How about joy- would people call you a joy-filled person? And hope- do you find that your heart is a reservoir of confidence and trust, believing that, no matter what, things are going to be OK because of God's power and perfect plan? The list goes on- are you patient and slow to get angry? Disciplined? Courageous? Discerning? How is that look in the mirror going so far?

If you are anything like me, you probably feel dissatisfied with how far you've come- or perhaps dismayed with how far you have yet to go. And you know what I would say to you? Good. You probably should be. So should I. A crucial life-habit of healthy and maturing people is that they are willing and able to regularly pause and take stock of the status of their hearts and evaluate their progress. Those with real discernment are guided by the Spirit of God in this process: "Search me, O God, and know my heart." -so says the wise Psalmist. And truly courageous people invite others to share another perspective with them as well. In fact, our church has a tool that has been designed with this very purpose in mind- it's called a *Christian Life Profile*. It's not a test- more like a Holy Spirit powered mirror. It's not for the faint of heart, nor those who think they've got it all together, and especially not for those who aren't interested in growing spiritually. Of course, those people probably stopped reading this already. (If you'd like to use this tool, you can join a Home Group)

But how about you? Are you ready and willing to turn some of that disappointment with how far you have to go into spirit-fed fuel for the next step of your journey? Are you ready to press on? Do you want to keep on becoming like Jesus? I thought so. Me, too. Here's the plan:

- Ready, set, STOP.
- Look, LISTEN, learn.
- Now, GO. And I'll see you in the race.

- How often do you do this kind of serious self-evaluation? Why is that?
- What are some of the potential benefits of assessing your spiritual progress? What are potential pitfalls?

DEVOTIONAL



Christmas Choir

We invite all singers to join the choir for the Sunday mornings of Advent and for a special Christmas Eve service. Join us for a kick-off dinner Friday, Nov. 12 and workshop the following morning. Call Nancy or Lauri, x237 for info.



Pray for Students

Join **Moms in Touch** to pray for students of GCCS and James Madison Prep. Contact Rhonda Howman, 480.899.7339

Men's Bible Study Groups

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



Seniors XYZ Meeting

Thursday, Nov. 4, 10:30am, Davidson Center. Music by Earle Harrington, saxophone and soloist Paul Hartzler. Speaker: Don Christensen. Still room for the Calif. trip Nov. 27-29 to "Glory of Christmas," Saddleback Church, Tour of TBN, Disney Parade of Lights. Res. needed now for Broadway Palm Dinner/Musical Show Dec. 8. Call Paul/Dottie Hartzler 480.592.9186.



East Valley Young Life Fall Fundraiser

Monday, Nov. 8, 7:00-9:00pm at the Stone House Pavilion at the Phoenix Zoo. Guest speaker Hugh Hewitt. Refreshments served. Seating is limited, RSVP, Joe & April West, 480.730.0983.

Singles Project CURE

Monday Nov. 8, 6:00pm. Help sort medical supplies at the Tempe warehouse. Contact Singles ALIVE, VM125.

Full-Time Ministry Assistant

Support facilities staff with strong administration, organization and communication skills. Must enjoy an environment of varied tasks and customer svs. Contact HR at x215.

Car Care Clinic

Volunteer to service vehicles, be a parts runner, serve as a host(ess) to waiting single parents or other serving opportunities. Nov. 6, 8:00am, Gracie's Family Thrift Store. Contact Bob/Clare Dorsch, 480.545.7792.



Pray for Medical Team

Come forward today to pray for Don and Marcia Christensen, Tanner Folio, Kelly Ramsland, and Sarah Barth for their upcoming trip to Cambodia.

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.

grace community church

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

"The Night Without the Fright"
Join us for an evening of fun and games tonight from 6:00-9:00pm. Enjoy the games and candy, amphitheater entertainment, hay rides, moonbounce, KLOVE radio, face painting, food venues, cake walk, volleyball and basketball tournaments, and a teen band. This is a free event with only the moonbounce and food areas having a nominal charge.

harvest festival

Tons of Candy Needed

We still need candy for tonight's Harvest Festival. Please place unopened bags of individually wrapped candy in drop-off boxes in the Worship Center Lobby and in the Information Center. The candy is used for children's prizes at the game booths.

Singles Serving Opportunity

Help with set up, cashiering, filling orders, cooking and clean up for the Harvest Festival. For more info or to help contact Claudia Novak, 480.664.0992.

Cakes, Cakes and More Cakes

Women of Grace, please bring desserts to the Info. Center today for the Harvest Festival cake walk. We need lots of cakes, brownies and bar cookies to help make this a fun event. Thanks for your help and support.

Coat Drive

Fourth Grade KidCommunity West will be collecting coats to give to Neighborhood Ministries as well as hosting a wheelchair race to raise awareness of Disabilities Ministry. Please bring coats tonight to the Harvest Festival booth by the A-building.

Don't Forget to Vote! This Tuesday, November 2.



Financial Stewardship Update

Budget-to-date, Oct. 26, 2004	\$ 1,176,400
Actual-to-date, Oct. 26, 2004	\$ 1,109,380

From a recent article, entitled "A Half-Price State of Mind," by Mary Hunt, *The Cheapskate Monthly*:

Current figures are in and they're not pretty: The average American is spending \$1.22 for every \$1.00 of income. If you're "average," you are in trouble. You are digging yourself into a horrible pit of debt... If you are living from paycheck to paycheck, and one thing goes wrong, you'll be in trouble.

The key to achieving financial freedom is to live below your means. Impossible? No. It takes skill, effort and determination. It takes desire and commitment to live below your means - without giving up your style and your quality of life.

Remember Grace in your will or trusts.