

ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTERS

Information and instruction can be conveyed easily and quickly to many people in the congregation through an electronic newsletter. Pastor Bob Herrmann of Sovereign Grace Orthodox Presbyterian church in Moreno Valley, California uses a weekly electronic newsletter to keep the congregation informed and to solicit prayer. Two samples of the newsletter are provided here. The name changes from the first to the second because the congregation changed its name from Grace OPC to Sovereign Grace OPC.

THE GRACE NEWSLETTER 6/25/02

The purpose of our electronic GRACE NEWSLETTER is to keep you informed and up-to-date on the many happenings in our congregation. "Hard copies" are mailed to those friends and members of Grace who do not have e-mail. Your prayers and support of Grace are always appreciated.

QUOTE FOR THE WEEK:

"God's goodness could not be distrusted, if His unchangeableness were well apprehended and considered. All distrust would fly before it as darkness before the sun; it only gets advantage of us when we are not well grounded in his name; and if ever we trusted God, we have the same reason to trust Him forever." Stephen Charnock

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BUILDING PERMIT: The obtaining of a building permit is now in the city's hands. Paul Osborne, our contractor, met with city officials to clarify any remaining issues concerning the layout and details of church facility. We need your continued prayers as the city reviews and assesses the drawing. Please pray that they will issue a building permit in short order and that there will not have to be any significant design changes or additions needed.

Once the permit is issued it will take 3-4 weeks to complete the construction. Volunteers will be needed at times to assist the sub-contractors and to keep the cost of the construction within guidelines. As soon as specific tasks are known we will post sign-up sheets for members and friends of Grace. Together, by God's grace and mercy, we will have our new facility soon.

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BABY SHOWER: The Baby Shower for Kimberly H---- and Calvin Nelson will be held this Saturday, June 29, from 2-4 p.m. at the H-----'s. All the women of the church are all invited to attend and celebrate with Kimberly the birth of her third son. It is still not too late to come. Please call Jeanne as soon as possible (555-5555). Kimberly has posted the items she needs at Target and Toys-R-Us.

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LORD'S SUPPER AND BAPTISM: This Sunday morning we will be celebrating the

Lord's Supper and have a baptism as Everett and Kimberly H---- will be presenting their son, Calvin Nelson, for infant baptism. Baptisms are always a special time for a congregation, especially when parents taking the baptismal vows for themselves and their children.

Although our young children do not yet understand these things, they are nevertheless to be baptized. For the promise of the covenant is made to believers and to their seed, as God declared to Abraham: "And I will establish my covenant between Me and you and your descendents after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your descendents after you." (Genesis 17: 7).

In the new covenant no less than in the old, the seed of the faithful have interest in the covenant and right to its sign and seal and to the outward privileges of the church. For the covenant of grace is the same in substance under both of its dispensations, and the grace of God for the consolation of believers is now even more fully manifested. God declared under the new covenant that "the promise is to you and to your children" (Acts 2: 39). Moreover, our Savior admitted little children into His presence, embracing, and blessing them, and saying, "Of such is the kingdom of God" (Luke 18: 16). Therefore they are also to be distinguished from the world and engrafted into the visible church by the covenant sign of baptism, as was done in the Old Testament by circumcision, which New Testament baptism replaces.

The congregation will be taking a vow as well. They will be committing themselves to pray for and to help in every way as a fellow member of the covenant family, to assist the parents to bring Calvin in the discipline and instruction for Lord so that he make a good profession of faith.

We will also be serving the Lord's Supper as we do each month. Combining our observance of this special meal with the sacrament of baptism, will be a great Sunday to see how our Lord provided us with visible signs to remind us of His work on our behalf and gives us seals of His never ending commitment to those who He has called to be His own. Be sure to be in attendance this Sunday, so that your faith will be strengthen in the promises of our God.

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY: Pastor Herrmann is back from attending the General Assembly meeting of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church which was held at Gordon College, in Wenham, Massachusetts. It was an excellent opportunity to meet other pastors, elders, and leaders of our denomination. In addition to leading devotions on Monday of the Assembly, Pastor Herrmann was asked to tell about our church planting effort in Moreno Valley and to share before all the commissioners our trials and blessings.

A special thank you goes to Mark J-----, a seminary student from Westminster Theological Seminary West, who filled the pulpit during the Sunday morning service preaching from Nahum. And, a special thank you goes to Everett H---- who not only lead the worship service Sunday morning, but also preached and lead the Sunday evening service as well. We are blessed to have such able men to fill in while our pastor is away.

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ATTRIBUTES OF GOD: Our pastor will be continuing his series on the Attributes of God during the Sunday morning worship services. So far we have had studies on God's omniscience, omnipresence, omnipotence, sovereignty, and immutability. In coming Sundays of July, we will be hearing sermons on God's holiness (7/7), faithfulness (7/14), goodness (7/21), and patience (7/28).

This series should continue through the end of summer. Outlines are provided for each sermon so that you can take notes. Be sure not to miss this important and practical series so that you can grow in your understanding and knowledge of the person of God.

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SPECIAL PRAYER: We are awaiting word concerning Wayne B-----'s latest tests. His MRI proved negative for any major issues with Multiple Sclerosis (MS). Last week he had a spinal tap to test his spinal fluid for any signs of MS. These results show be back by today (Tuesday, June 25). Pray for God's grace and mercy for Wayne's and that the doctor's will be able to read the tests results properly and well.

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FAMILY CAMP: The 2002 Family Conference went very well. Eric and Nancy F----, Susan H-----, and Jeanne H----- were in attendance from our church. Next year, Rev. Tom Tyson is to be the special speaker and will be addressing the subject of teaching the Westminster Shorter Catechism

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SESSION MEETING: The Session of Grace will be having their next meeting on Tuesday, July 9.

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HELPED NEEDED: -----, a member of the ----- Orthodox Presbyterian Church, will be moving to the Riverside to take a new teaching position this summer. She is looking for an apartment or a room to rent. If you know of any such situation, please give her a call (555-555-5555). ----- plans to attend Grace once she moved to our area.

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NEW PHONE NUMBER: Conrad and Marilyn C----- have a new phone number: (555) 555-5555 (Home) and (555) 555-5555 (Fax). Please update your church directory accordingly. Alex V----- hopes to have a new phone directory for church members by the end of the summer. If you had an address, phone number, or e-mail address change please contact Alex (555) 555-5555 or orthopres@hotmail.com.

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THE MINISTRIES OF OUR CHURCH:

Adult Sunday School: Ephesians by Everett H-----: Ephesians 2
Sunday Morning Worship: Pastor Herrmann: "The Signs and Seals of the Covenant"
Sunday Evening: Pastor Herrmann "The Laborers in the Vineyard" Matthew 20: 1-16
Wednesday Bible Study (6:30 pm) Pastor Herrmann: Hebrews 7

The Lord's Supper is served this Sunday, June 30.

THE SOVEREIGN GRACE NEWSLETTER 7/09/02

The purpose of our electronic SOVEREIGN GRACE NEWSLETTER is to keep you informed and up-to-date on the many happenings in our congregation. "Hard copies" are mailed to those friends and members of Grace who do not have e-mail. Your prayers and support of Sovereign Grace Orthodox Presbyterian Church are always appreciated.

QUOTE FOR THE WEEK:

"How we must yearn for sanctification! When we study the grace of God, we must be moved to request of the Lord that He should take those unworthy things out of our lives, renew us into His image, and use us, trophies of His grace, for the blessings of others. Those who see us should not say, 'Here is another piece of junk. I never expected more.' Rather, they should say, 'Here is somebody in whom God's grace is at work. It is unmistakable. I would like to have a life like that.' Unless we do this, the witness of our lips will not be strong. We may tell the truth, but the truth will never be convincing when it is not back up by our lives." Roger R. Nicole

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WORSHIP TIME AND LOCATION: As most of you know, we sublease the worship center we use each Sunday from Renewed Life Ministries. Since the first of the year, their pastor has been desirous to extend their worship service Sunday morning from 11:00 to 11:30 or later. They have graciously delayed this change waiting for our congregation to make our move to our new facility on Day Street. Since our move has yet to materialize, they have decided to proceed with the time change.

This change would result in our Sunday morning worship service starting at 11:45 at the earliest. Our Session believes this is too late of a time and would not serve our congregation well. **AFTER CONFERRING WITH SOME MEMBERS, THE ELDERS HAVE DECIDED TO HOLD OUR SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE IN UNIT 101A (WHERE WE HAVE ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL) AT 11:00 AM THIS SUNDAY AND FOR THE REST OF THE MONTH OF JULY.** At the end of the month, they will evaluate how the services are doing and see how this arrangement is meeting our needs.

We will still have refreshments between Sunday School and morning worship, but they will be served in Unit 101B. We would ask that refreshments not be brought into Unit 101A until AFTER the morning worship service. The morning worship nursery for pre-school children will now meet in Unit 101B as well.

The officers ask for your assistance and understanding during this time. Lord willing we will be in our new facility by the end of August with a much larger sanctuary (see article below). Until then, however, we will need everyone's cooperation to make our worship of God reverent and well ordered in the smaller space of Unit 101A.

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SUNDAY SERVICES: This Sunday our pastor will be preaching on the subject of God's faithfulness. When we speak of the attribute of God's faithfulness we mean that God is true in His inner being, in His revelation, and in his relation to His people. This quality is essential to God's being. Without it He would not be God. God never

forgets, never fails, never falters, and never forfeits His Word. God has kept and will make good on every promise and prophecy He has ever made. All are encouraged to be present this Sunday morning at 11:00 am as we take a deeper look at this attribute and see how God faithfulness provides stability and confidence in our lives.

Then on Sunday evening we will be looking at the second parable that our Lord addressed to the spiritual leaders in Jerusalem the last week of His earthly life. In the Parable of the Tenants, found in each of the first three gospels, Jesus continues to expose the true motives in the hearts of the chief priests and elders. Come prepared this Sunday evening by reading and studying the text (Matthew 21:33-46, Mark 12:1-12; Luke 20:9-19) and let us learn together the meaning of this parable and how it applies to us today.

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BUILDING PERMIT: P.R.O. Construction, the contractor for our new facility, has conveyed to us that the city has returned the drawings requesting three minor revisions. The folks at P.R.O. were very encouraged by this and hope to have the revised plans back to the city by the end of the week. If all goes well, construction should start on the new facility by the end of July. Please keep praying for final approval of the building permit by the city and that our contractor can complete the construction work before the end of August.

Concerning the construction of the new facility, the contractor has asked for volunteers from Sovereign Grace to help in various aspects of the construction. Please contact one of the Trustees this Sunday (Alex V-----, Nelson D-----, or Don S-----) or by e-mail (orthopres@hotmail.com) if you have any skills (sheet rock, wiring, painting, cleaning, etc.) that could be helpful. By our assisting in the building process we will be able to lower our costs.

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SERMON TAPES: A number of members have inquired whether or not the church makes recordings of the pastor's morning sermons. With the help of Everett H----- we now will be able to make these recordings. Please contact Everett if you desire a specific message. Recordings began with this past Sunday with the sermon "The Holiness of God".

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MIDWEEK NIGHT BIBLE STUDY: We are now studying the eighth chapter of Hebrews on Wednesday evenings. We have seen the author of Hebrews show the superiority of the ministry of Jesus Christ to that of the Mosaic covenant. This Wednesday we will be looking at the great prophecy from Jeremiah 31:31-34, in which the God prophetically contrasts His new covenant with the old.

The Wednesday night Bible study is always a great place to learn and to discuss the scriptures. Everyone is encouraged to join in this time of study. For those who desire further discussion, a portion of those who attend the study usually go onto Coco's for dessert (or dinner) where they discuss the study and have a good time of fellowship. Why not join with us this Wednesday.

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THE MEN'S JULY BREAKFAST: The men of Grace will be enjoying their third Breakfast in the Park this Saturday (July 13) at the Moreno Valley Community Park at the northeast corner of Cottonwood and Frederick just south of the Moreno Valley Mall. All men are invited to join in this time of fellowship.

If you need more information please contact Carl Ciaglo (555-555-5555)

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SESSION MEETING: The Session of Sovereign Grace was cancelled it's meeting this week. It is rescheduled for next Tuesday, July 16. Please pray for our leaders.

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NEW CHURCH PHONE DIRECTORY: Alex V----- is preparing the new edition of our church phone directory. If you have not contacted him concerning changes in address, phone number, or e-mail address, please contact him as soon as possible. You can either call him [(555) 555-5555] or email him at orthopres@hotmail.com.

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THE MINISTRIES OF OUR CHURCH:

Wednesday Bible Study (6:30 pm): Pastor Herrmann, Hebrews 8

Adult Sunday school: Ephesians by Everett Henes: Ephesians 2-3

Saturday Men's Breakfast (8:30 am) Moreno Valley Community Park

Sunday Morning Worship: Pastor Herrmann, "The Faithfulness of God"

Sunday Evening: Pastor Herrmann, "The Parable of the Tenants", Matthew 21:33-46

The Lord's Supper will be served next Sunday, July 21.