

March 13, 2011

INTOUCH

THE WEEK AHEAD

SUNDAY – MARCH 13

12:30 PM Missions Team Meeting Family Room
 4 & 5:00 PM Children's Bell and Voice Choirs 206 and 207
 5:00 PM CBC Ringers 208
 5:00 PM Teleios Study: *When God Doesn't Make Sense* 209
 6:00 PM SUNDAY EVENING PRAYER Family Room
led by Elder Bill Eaton

Praying for CBC and next weekend's Arizona CityFest at Tempe Town Lake

6:00 PM EXCEL High School Fellowship Hall

MONDAY – MARCH 14

7:00 AM Teleios: *Women's Prayer and Bible Study* Family Room
 9:00 AM Women's Aerobics – *"Kick Boxing"* Fellowship Hall
 7:00 PM Community Bible Study Fellowship Hall and Classrooms

TUESDAY – MARCH 15

9:00 AM Teleios: *Women's Precept Study of Jeremiah* 207
 6:45 PM Teleios: *GriefShare, "Your Family and Grief"* Family Room

WEDNESDAY – MARCH 16

9:00 AM Women's Aerobics – *"That's A Stretch"* Fellowship Hall
 5:30 PM Sanctuary Bells (Adults) Sanctuary
 6:45 PM LOGOS Kids Club Spring Break will not meet this evening
 6:45 PM EXCEL Grades 7-10 Spring Break will not meet this evening
 6:45 PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal Choir Room
 6:45 PM Teleios: *The Best Offense is a Good Defense* Family Room
 7:00 PM EXCEL 11th & 12th grade groups only meeting at homes

THURSDAY – MARCH 17

9:00 AM Women's Aerobics – *"Cirque Du Soleil"* Fellowship Hall
 7:00 PM Young Adults Ministry Fellowship Hall

FRIDAY – MARCH 18

9:00 AM Women's Aerobics – *"Dance It Off"* Fellowship Hall
 8:00 PM Phoenix Chamber Music Society Concert Sanctuary
St. Lawrence String Quartet

SATURDAY – MARCH 19

10:30 AM Messianic Bible Studies 209
 1:00-10 PM ARIZONA CITYFEST Tempe Town Lake
 4:00 PM EXCEL meet to go to CityFest @CBC

SUNDAY – MARCH 20

9:00 and 10:40 AM MORNING WORSHIP Sanctuary
 Pastor Ron Elwardt

"The Marks of Christ-Like Giving"

2 Corinthians 9:1-7

9:00 AM Nursery (birth – 23 months) 301-304
 9:00 AM Children's Discipleship (24 mo – gr. 6) 101-103, 201, 203, 206
 9:00 AM Adult Fellowship Classes 208, 209
 9:00 AM Teleios Study: *Christian History* 207
 10:40 AM Nursery (birth – 23 months) 301-304
 10:40 AM Children's Church (24 mo. – gr. 6) 101-103, 201, 203, 206
 10:40 AM Teleios Study: *Understanding Islam* 207
 10:40 AM Teleios Study: *Heartfelt Forgiveness* Family Room
 12:30 PM Nursing Home Ministry meets in Fellowship Hall
 2:00 PM Nursing Home Ministry serves at Osborn Health & Rehab.

1:00-10 PM ARIZONA CITYFEST Tempe Town Lake

Choir Concert

Camelback Bible Sanctuary Choir & Arizona Christian University Chorale

(See the back of the IN TOUCH for details)

4:30 PM EXCEL meet to go to CityFest @CBC
 4 & 5:00 PM Children's Bell and Voice Choirs 206, 207
 5:00 PM CBC Ringers 208
 5:00 PM Teleios: *When God Doesn't Make Sense* 209
 6:00 PM SUNDAY EVENING PRAYER Library (205)

Grace Transforms Everything

By Dr. Sean Michael Lucas

In our town, a church just went through a re-branding effort as part of their relocation to a new building in a different section of town. Their logo and signage are beautiful and well conceived. One sees their stickers on cars everywhere. And their tagline is memorable: "Faith changes everything."

As I've thought about that tagline, on one hand, it is completely appropriate. Faith in Jesus Christ does change everything about the way we see the world, the way we engage our families, and the way we live out our callings.

And yet, I suspect, based on this congregation's theological heritage, faith is viewed as a decision that the individual makes to follow Jesus. Thus, they emphasize evangelistic outreach, gearing their ministry toward bringing people into contact with Jesus so that they might make a life-changing decision for Him.

While I appreciate this church's evangelistic zeal, I wonder whether this is the best emphasis. What would happen if instead of saying that "faith changes everything" we claim that "grace transforms everything.?"

Over against the moralism that is characteristic of so many evangelical churches, I'd suggest that the truly distinctive message we have as the church is this message of God's grace that "makes beauty out of ugly things" – indeed, grace transforms everything.

The old slave-trader turned hymn-writer and preacher, John Newton, noted toward the end of his life: "My memory is nearly gone, but I remember two things: that I am a great sinner and that Christ is a great Savior." No wonder Newton wrote the great hymn "Amazing Grace." For this is the heart of the gospel of grace: we are great sinners and Christ is a great Savior.

The Bible speaks of our sin and sinfulness in wide-ranging ways: we are deceitful (Jer. 17:9); dead (Eph. 2:1); dirty (Isa. 1:18; 64:6); wayward (Isa. 53:6); lawless (1 John 3:4); disobedient (1 Tim. 1:9); ungodly (Rom. 4:5; 5:6); ignorant, hardened and alienated from God's life (Eph. 4:17-18). We fall short of God's glory (Rom. 3:23); we suppress God's truth (1:18); and we act out in sinful ways (1:21-32; Eph. 4:19). We deserve God's wrath for our sin and disobedience, and we are already condemned (John 3:17-18; Eph. 2:3).

But God, because He is rich in grace, chose to save some undeserving sinners – He united us together with Christ, made us alive with Him, raised us with Him from our dead condition, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places (Eph. 2:4-7). He has granted us faith to trust in Jesus (Eph. 2:8-9), declared us righteous (2 Cor. 5:21), clothed us with Christ (Rom. 13:14), and gifted us with the Holy Spirit (Eph. 1:13-14). He empowers us to live in ways that please Him (Eph. 4:25 – 5:2; Gal. 5:13-26). We now can say no to our sin and live godly lives because God has shown us grace (Titus 2:11-14).

And this grace, this undeserved favor, is not just for the beginning of our Christian lives, but also for every moment of every day of our discipleship. We come again and again to this fountain of grace, trusting in our union with Christ (Col. 3:1-4), putting to death our sin and living in the light of what is true about us (Rom. 6:11-13; 8:14-15; Col. 3:5-16).

A life lived rooted in God's grace shown to us in Jesus is transformed. Our walk with Christ is transformed – no longer are we driven by mere duty, but by delight in this Son of God who loved us and gave Himself for us (Gal. 2:20). We engage in personal, family, and corporate worship in order to enjoy communion with God through Christ by the Spirit – we're greedy for delight in God.

Relationships with others are transformed – since we're not driven to perform to please God or others, we do not fear losing the Father's smile, but are freed to risk ourselves for others (Zeph. 3:17). Even more, we can be honest about ourselves, which means defensiveness is gone, replaced by authenticity, confession, repentance, and forgiveness.

Continued . . .

Our callings in this world are transformed – this world is more than an evangelistic opportunity or a turbulent sea in which we've been given a lifeboat to save some. Rather, this is God's good world (Ps. 24:1) in which He has called us to serve as signs and agents of God's coming new creation (Isa. 65:17-25; 2 Cor. 5:17). Work, parenting, community involvement, engagement with art, music, film – all take on new meaning because we take Christ with us into those arenas to show what the new world looks like.

Even the ugly parts of life have grace-laden possibilities because Christ is Lord over the whole world and is making all things new (Rev. 21:5-6). As agents of God's grace, we live out of the overflow of undeserved favor, extreme gratitude, and passionate communion with Jesus – which moves us into life's ugliness to see God's beauty emerge.

Here is a manifesto for the church's ministry, a huge vision of God's purpose in this world: In Jesus, God shows grace to undeserving, ugly sinners as part of God's own mission of transforming this world so that it will reflect His glory. And so, what changes when the church has a grace-centered ministry? Everything!

Dr. Sean Michael Lucas is senior minister of First Presbyterian Church in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, and author of the book *On Being Presbyterian*. This article appears in the October 2010 edition of *TABLETALK*, the monthly devotional magazine of Ligonier Ministries, www.ligonier.org, email tabletalk@ligonier.org. Toll free: 1-800-435-4343.

SPRING BREAK THIS WEEK at area schools means that both LOGOS Kids Club and EXCEL will not meet this Wednesday night, March 16, with the exception of the 11th and 12th grade groups which will meet as usual.

NEXT WEEKEND, EXCEL WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE ARIZONA CITYFEST! Plan to meet at CBC on Saturday, March 19th at 4:00 PM (and bring \$\$ for dinner); then plan to meet at CBC on Sunday, March 20th at 4:30 PM (again with dinner \$\$). We'll be home about 10:30 PM both nights.

JUNIOR HIGH AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS! On Sunday, March 27th, you all are invited to **FUEL** from 6:00 to 8:00 PM in Fellowship Hall for dinner, teaching and worship. It will be a terrific evening together in fellowship with each other and the Lord! Friends are welcome; bring yours along!

IF JANUARY AND FEBRUARY FLEW RIGHT BY YOU without being able to participate in any of the great Teleios classes offered during those months, there's a small window of opportunity still open. Two new classes this month are being offered. If you feel God "nudging" you to engage in either one, please call the church office to enroll. Classes beginning this month:

Understanding Islam, Sundays, March 13 – April 17, 10:40 AM in Room 207
Parenting Foundations I, Sundays, March 27 – April 10, 10:40 AM in the Library (Room 205). *This class is a prerequisite for anyone wishing to dedicate their child.*

HOUSING NEEDED! – CBC HOSPITALITY EXTENDED! We are privileged once again to be hosting the **Master's College Chorale** of Santa Clarita, California. They will be joining us in worship on Sunday morning, April 3rd and singing a concert at 3:00 PM that afternoon in our sanctuary. It is our privilege and blessing to house these 55 college students! So please take this opportunity to extend Christian hospitality and contact Tammie Valencia in the church office (602-955-6370, Ext. 112 or tammie@camelbackbible.org) if you are willing and able to host two to four (or more) of these young college students **overnight Saturday the 2nd and Sunday the 3rd**. They will be delightful guests and very appreciative of your hospitality. More details will be forthcoming but your response now is important!

DESERT BELLS SPRING CONCERT/AUCTION is a terrific event to help raise financial support for Desert Bells International (the acclaimed handbell organization founded and led by our own Kay Cook, with the help of husband, Tom Cook). This year's event, to be held on Saturday, April 2, 2011 from noon to 3:30 PM in our Fellowship Hall includes: *Dining With da Vinci*, an appetizer-introduced, six-course meal of Italian fare, accompanied by an auction and musical presentation by three of her handbell groups – Cactus Wrens (the little guys and gals), Bronzeworks (her outstanding teenage group), and Scottsdale Handbell Ensemble (the adult group). Adult tickets are \$20; Seniors over 60 and Children 12 and under are \$15. Call 602-494-7464 for information about those and Family Tickets. And please RSVP by March 20, 2011 to Desert Bells International, PO Box 22013, Phoenix AZ 85028, 602-377-6239 or 602-810-1959, or tcook@desertbells.org.

Combined Choir Concert

Next Sunday, March 20, 2010

3:00 pm in the Sanctuary

The Camelback Bible Church Sanctuary Choir &
Arizona Christian University Chorale (formerly Southwestern College)
Present

Randall Thompson's

The Peaceable Kingdom

and other selections

It is the delight of these two choirs to join together once again
to sing praises to our great God!

It was in December of 2009 that their voices and hearts combined
to bring us Handel's *Messiah, Part I*, and Vivaldi's *Gloria*.

IMPORTANT – BLOOD DRIVE ON MARCH 27th! From 9:00 AM to 12:30 PM the United Blood Services Blood Mobile will be here (east side of Fellowship Hall) to take our life-saving blood donations. There are two ways to sign-up: Call Kris Pitrat at 602-799-0330 or go online to www.bloodhero.com/index.cfm?group=registration. All donors in March will be entered automatically to win one of 25 pairs of tickets to see the Arizona Diamondbacks take on the Chicago Cubs.

THE 21 DAYS OF GENEROSITY CHALLENGE: As you give daily, you can record what you're learning about your experience on the 21-Day Generosity Challenge by emailing Pastor James- hoxworth@camelbackbible.org. Again, as we live generously, we are reminded that it is out of the gratitude of what Christ has done for us that we give of ourselves to the work of Christ in our city and world!

A PASSOVER CELEBRATION, complementing our Holy Week observances, is planned for Saturday, April 23rd, at 10:30 AM in Fellowship Hall. Tickets are \$10 and are available in the church office or by calling Rabbi Paul Saduskyj at 602-295-9815. Seating is limited, so do obtain yours as soon as possible.

SAVE THE DATE! Carnival in the Park, Saturday April 2! Stay tuned for details.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL . . . SUMMER SEAQUEST . . . JUNE 6-10, 2011
The hours will be 8:30 AM – 12:00 PM (Monday-Thursday), 8:30 AM – 11:30 AM (Friday) immediately followed by the Closing Program and Family Festival! Set sail with us on a life-changing VBS voyage! Each action-packed day includes skits, contests, Bible stories, crafts, music, recreation, games, snacks and more! Cost is \$20/child, \$40 maximum/family, \$7/T-shirt. Go to www.cbcaz.org/vbs to register.

VOLUNTEER FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL This is the major Children's Ministry outreach into our community each year. There are many ways to volunteer including: Classroom (teaching), Admin/Office Work, Crafts, Decorations, Music, and Recreation & Snacks. Please consider prayerfully whether God would have you serve. If you are interested in serving, please contact **Pastor Jason** at 602-955-6370 or doughty@camelbackbible.org. Thank you!

SAVE THE DATE: EXCEL SUMMER CAMP – Grades 7-12 – June 19-24, 2011.

FAMILY CAMP 2011! We will be going to Forest Home Camp in Forest Falls, California, a new location for us and one of the premier camping locales in the Southwestern U.S. The date is also new, with two options: **Full Week July 3rd through 9th**; or **Half Week July 3rd through 6th**. Financial assistance is available. For more information contact Pastors Jason Doughty and Ron Elwardt, or call Nancy Marvich, Program Reservations at Forest Home Camp, 909-389-3468.

CBC GIVING TO DATE, 2011	
Last Week's Giving	\$ 19,100.00
March Giving to Date	\$ 19,100.00
Year to Date Giving	\$ 194,976.00