

Fountain of Life Fellowship

Grounded in the Gospel, we **Gather** to **Grow** in the Gospel and **Scatter** to **Spread** the Gospel for the **Glory of God.**

Pastor's Note by Matt Ford

Grounded in the Gospel

Are you familiar with the "church calendar"? Some Christians have never heard of it, while others are seemingly owned by it. Wikipedia describes the liturgical year like this (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liturgical_year):

The liturgical cycle divides the year into a series of seasons, each with their own mood, theological emphases, and modes of prayer, which can be signified by different ways of decorating churches, colors of Paraments and Vestments for clergy, scriptural readings, themes for preaching and even different traditions and practices often observed personally or in the home. In churches that follow the liturgical year, the scripture passages for each Sunday (and even each day of the year in some traditions) are specified by a list called a lectionary.

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Why am I telling you this? Because this Wednesday, March 9th, marks the beginning of Lent. Lent is the "church season" that looks toward and prepares for the events of Good Friday (Jesus' death) and Easter (Jesus' resurrection).

How should we respond or participate? On one hand, there is no biblical mandate for us to officially follow a "church calendar" with various traditions. In fact, there is a sense in which our entire lives ought to be "lenten"; full of repentance and worship as we consider the cross and resurrection of Jesus. On the other hand, official practices and celebrations help us remember, don't they? Birthdays and anniversaries remind us to celebrate one another. In the Old Testament God scheduled many feasts for His people in order that they might remember Him and His deeds and make time for worship.

Council Members

Elders:

Matt Ford
Scott Clair
Ed Mirth
Vince Cabral

Deacons:

Irmgard Bishop
Jerry Schoenenberger
Don Woodhead
Rachel Stewart
Ronell Myburgh

In Jesus we have *freedom*. Freedom from the law and its schedules, for they are fulfilled in Him; but also freedom to have the kind of heart and passions He desires for us. And when it comes to something like Lent, here is the heart of the matter:

Hear the apostle:

1 Corinthians 2.2 For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.

Galatians 6.14 But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

SERIOUSLY: What might it mean for us to deeply “know nothing” but Christ and Him crucified? What might it mean for us to boast in nothing but the cross of our Lord Jesus – to see ourselves as “crucified” to this world?

This pursuit is NOT “something we do for Lent.” *This is something we do for life. This is what life is about.* And Lent can help us remember.

So, on Sunday mornings we will continue to proclaim and embrace this Gospel as we watch the early church live, proclaim, and suffer for Jesus in the book of Acts. As part of our worship we'll consider some sections from the Heidelberg Catechism regarding the person and work of Jesus. In our Life Together Groups we'll consider our suffering God and more of what it means to share in His sufferings with Him. Join us for this in body, mind, and heart!

But what will *you* do? How will you pursue greater knowledge of the cross of your Lord? Here are a few ideas.

Consider Some Reading

There's nothing like thoughtful reading and meditation to have you more treasuring the cross. A brief list:

- 1) Focus on Jesus' death in the four gospels; think on what He says, how He acts, how He responds, what He suffers. Or study through the book of Hebrews for your devotional times. With the teeth of your mind and heart, chew on Jesus' work on the cross and how He fulfills and exceeds the Old Covenant.
- 2) Read a good book on the cross. There are many.
 - a. Easy: *Cross-Centered Life*, C. J. Mahaney/ *50 Reasons Jesus Came to Die*, John Piper (I'll give you one if you come ask...)
 - b. Medium, but so good: *The Cross of Christ*, John Stott
 - c. A little more scholarly, but so excellent!: *Pierced for Our Transgressions*, Ovey and Sach

Consider Some Praying

Schedule time for Christian meditation: pray over the truth of Jesus' cross and fellowship with God therein. Ask Him to show you more of who Jesus is for you and what Jesus has done for you. Do it without hurry and with an open Bible next to you. God may just leave you amazed.

Consider Some Fasting

Don't have time for all this reading and praying? Well I guess that's up to you. Frankly, we all have the same amount of time – 24 hours in a day. The choice is up to us in what we do with it. If you're feeling a time crunch, *fasting* can be perfect for lent. Give up something like facebook, internet surfing, a television show, 30 minutes of sleep, or a meal for a few weeks. This discipline will provide you with a beautiful way to experience what Lent is for: knowing, believing, experiencing the reality of Jesus and His cross for you.

Want a plant that puts it all together? Check out this Lenten prayer guide: <http://redemptionhill.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/02/lent.pdf>

Fighting to be cross-centered with you:

Matt Ford

Shepherd's Corner

contributed by Matt Ford

The elders met Saturday morning, February 26th from 7.30 a.m. – 10.30 a.m. The meeting included prayer, discussion of member needs, LTGs, and future planning.

Of Note:

Scott will be on vacation from March 4-14. Remember Jon Chenot who interned with us two summers ago? He's getting married in Chicago and Scott gets to be there!

Matt and Ed attended the Classis GLA meeting Tuesday, February 22nd.

Let's come together Thursday evening, March 17th, at 6.30 p.m. in order to seek God's face and treasure the cross of His Son together in prayer and song. Everyone is welcome.



Ignition Update

by Scott Clair

This last month we continued in our study through the Sermon on the Mount. This has been a challenging study for us in the Youth Group as we have seen God's holy standard and come to realize that we don't even come close to meeting it. Despite our falling short, we are thankful for Christ who not only met the Father's holy standard but then submitted himself to death on the Cross for our behalf. Though we fall short of God's holy standard, Christ met it and gave us his righteousness through the cross. What a savior! One of the main things we took from the Sermon on the Mount this month was the need for prayer. We cannot forgive our enemies, hunger and thirst for righteousness, flee from lust, or be peacemakers through our own "willpower", which means we need to be people of prayer –on our face before God asking him to bring these about in our lives.

2:42 Update

contributed by Scott Clair

This last month we looked at Jesus' High Priestly prayer found in John 17. As we looked at the prayer we were amazed that we were on Christ's mind on the night that he was arrested. We also reflected upon the truth that Christ's intercessory prayer is as real and significant as the Cross. After finishing the chapter we were left in awe regarding Christ's love for his people. This month we also had the opportunity to see Jacob Woodhead perform in the Cal Baptist Men's Chorale. The performance was outstanding and left us wanting to sing praised to our God. If you have not had a chance to see Jacob perform, I highly recommend checking out one of his concerts in the near future.

Ronell Myburgh is involved in a ministry that recycles old candles and makes them into new ones. If you have any old candles that you would like to donate, please contact Ronell or bring them to the church. Thanks!



Thankful!

contributed by Matt Ford

1 Corinthians 1.4 reads,

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus.

We have much of God's grace expressed through the service of our brothers and sisters for which to be thankful.

Don Woodhead – Don has made many trips and spent much time in working out some computer issues. Thanks, Don!

Ronell Myburgh – Do you enjoy the flowers on Sunday morning? Can you imagine organizing the cleaning of the church? Ronell enables both of these things. Thank her!

Children's Ministry Volunteers – Every week there are at least four of us who voluntarily miss the Sunday service in order to serve our children. They love to do it, but this is hard work! Thank those who are blessing us with their responsible, loving service in the nursery and children's worship.

Anne Buteyn - Anne does all the treasury work (imagine: bills, taxes, fees, etc) graciously, voluntarily, and with excellence. That is truly amazing. Thank her! And thank the Lord for her!



As many of you know, FOLF has a cleaning committee that serves by cleaning the church every Saturday on a rotation. We are in need of more volunteers for this committee, so if you are interested and able to help clean the church every 6th Saturday, please contact Ronell Myburgh or anyone on council. Thanks!

Out of the Salt Shaker

contributed by Julia Bailey

Speaking the Truth in a Digital Age

But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. (Col 3:8) Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. (Eph 4:31)

Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ (Eph 4:15)

The technological age in which we live provides us with ready access to incredible amounts of information. It allows communication to travel among communities with unprecedented speed. In recent weeks we have seen communications technology brought to bear to bring down dictatorships that seemed insurmountable.

As Christians, we have a responsibility to contextualize the Gospel's admonitions, like those above, and apply them to technology appropriately. Our Reformed tradition encourages us to use technology to the glory of God. That obligates us to use thought as we participate in technological communication. For while information can be transmitted quickly, so can disinformation.

It becomes easy to be unwitting transmitters of false information that easily can slander someone else. When we pass information on without verifying its veracity, that is gossip and slander in a digital environment. I'm thinking especially of the email "forward". You know the ones: funny jokes, cute pictures...and "breaking news" with negative information about people, often our government leaders. It's easy to push the "forward" button and pass this information along, shaking our heads at the scandalousness of it.

In my own experience, I have learned that often, the more scandalous the information, the less likely it is to be true. And Christians, unfortunately, seem to be as guilty as anyone else at passing along disinformation. When the information regards government leaders, this seems also to fly in the face of Paul's admonition to "respect those in authority."

When we receive information from another Christian, it is easy to assume that the information is factual. But it's important to keep in mind that the information most likely did not originate with them, but they passed on what they received from someone else whom *they* considered reliable.

Fortunately, in our connected age, it is easy to check the veracity of the information we receive. The web site www.snopes.com is dedicated to researching the truth behind what are sometimes known as urban legends. By entering a few key words regarding the subject of the information you received, you can most likely find a wealth of information about the message: how long it has been circulating, previous forms that it may have taken, and the true facts associated with the story.

Budget Report

contributed by Anne Buteyn

Inflow:

General Fund (offerings, rent): \$15,508.00

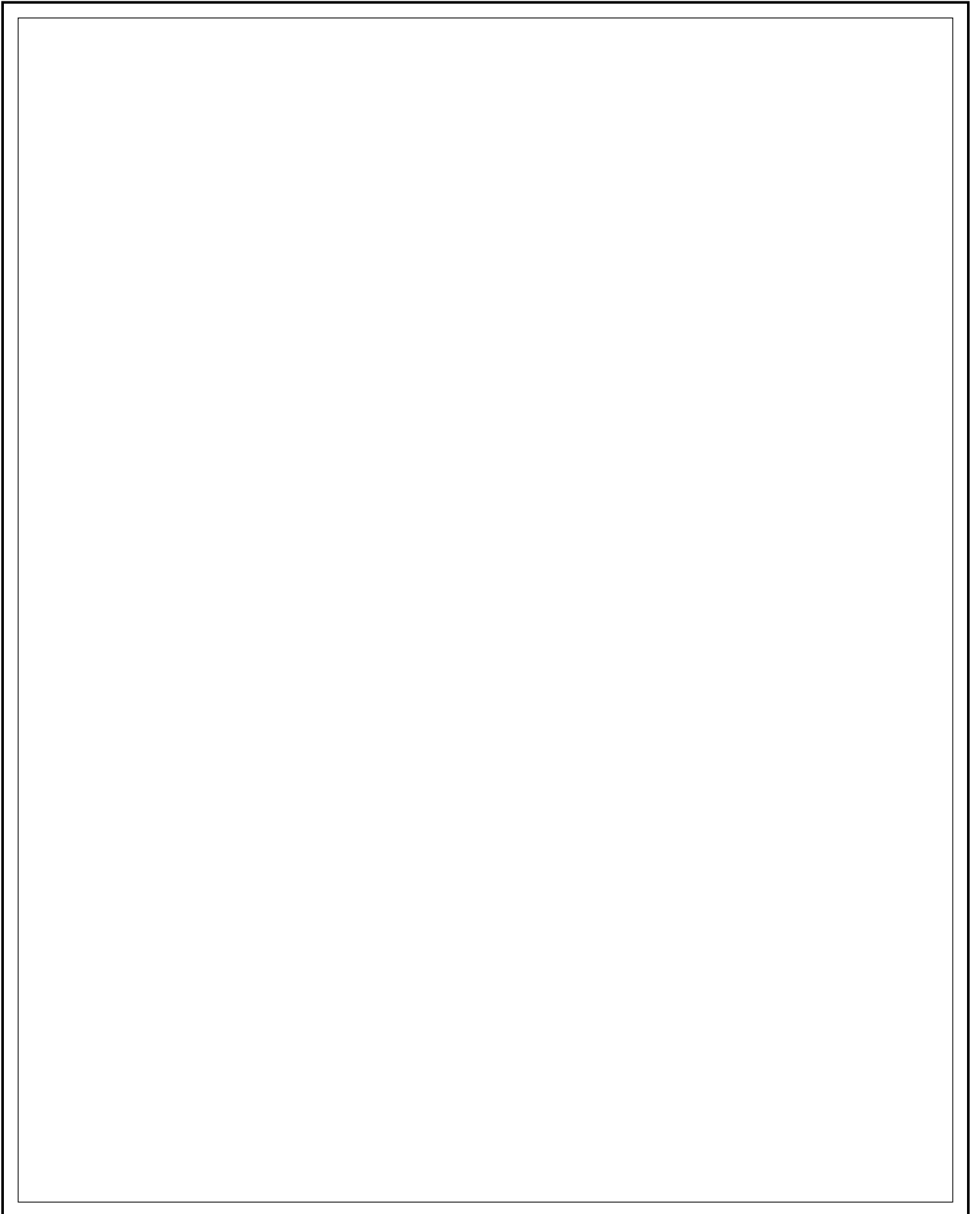
Special offering:

- Horizon Pregnancy Center: \$91.00
- Living Well: \$91.00

Outflow:

General Fund/Ministry Shares: \$15,578.32

Ministry Schedule	Mar 13, 2011	Mar 20, 2011	Mar 27, 2011	Apr 3, 2011
Nursery	Dorothy Julie Q. Niel	Heather L TBD Michael	Melinda Carolyn Lizzy	Kathryn Gayle Audrey
Children's Worship	Wesley Frances	Debbie B Judy	Debbie B Ann S.	Wesley Jacky
Hospitality	April: Ken and Sally			
Greeters	April: Genesee Atkins & Marshia Larson			
Communion Elements	April: Sally			





WOW

Our ladies' bible study, is continuing through the magisterial Gospel of John. Come enjoy this amazing book with us, and bring a friend! Any and every lady is welcome! We meet Wednesday mornings from 9 – 10.30 a.m.

Daughters of the King

We will be continuing our discussion of God's promises when we meet on Sunday, March 20, from 5 – 7 PM. This month we will be looking at God's promises in times of trouble: when we are grieving, when we are waiting on God for deliverance, when we don't understand God's ways, when we are depressed. Come join us to be encouraged by the promises of a faithful God!

We have also set the date for our third annual DOT retreat. The retreat will be held Friday–Sunday, May 13-15. Save the dates, and watch for more information.

Daughters of the King is a fellowship of women from 18 to 102+ who meet to study God's word, play together and learn about each other. Visitors are always welcome!

Come join us and bring a friend! For more information, speak to Ronell Myburgh, Marcia Ford, or Julia Bailey.

Andrizomai

Our next breakfast is Saturday, March 12, 7 a.m. at Carrows (Magnolia, between Heil and Warner). Join us as we enjoy one another's company and continue our study in the Gospel according to Mark. We'll be giving our attention to Mark 7.1-12. Bring a friend!

Care for our Shut-Ins

Below is a list of friends & family of FOLF that would appreciate a call, a card, a visit, and prayer.

Please contact Rachel (Rachel@folfcrc.com) for phone numbers and addresses of those we care for.

Joe Bakkelo has moved back into his home in Victorville. He would appreciate calls and cards.

Hetty De Jonge is still recovering. We give thanks to God for healing! Hetty still loves to have visitors and cards, and enjoys fresh flowers from your garden.

Russ Hanff is in an assisted living home in Whittier. Russ suffers from Alzheimer's; while forgetful, he really enjoys visits and cards (he has no phone). He LOVES to talk about the Angels, and his years of coaching Little League and softball. He recently was able to take a trip to Alaska.

June Verhoeven live at the Artesia Christian Home in Artesia. June cannot walk due to a stroke that she suffered a few months ago. She would love to receive cards and visits. She also enjoy home-cooked food and fresh fruit.

Rosalie would appreciate some visitors from the FOLF family. If you are interested in visiting,, please contact Irmgard for information.

Brian McGuire is a former member of our church. He lives in Fullerton with his son, Kyle. Brian suffers from advanced effects of diabetes. He would love a call or a card