



Standing on the Shoulders of Giants

By Alexander S. Brown, Minister

A couple of months ago, we started to look at why Golden Isles Presbyterian Church does what it does, and why it looks the way it does. We can easily slip into numbness regarding the things that go on around us in church, but if we are to heed the call of the Reformation and be committed to *Semper Reformanda* (Always Reforming), we must try to understand the reasons and theology that drive our practices.

Over recent years the Church has fallen foul of what C. S. Lewis described as “chronological snobbery” – the idea that what has gone before is inherently inferior to that which is presently practiced. Nowhere has this been more evident than in the area of liturgy, as churches have jettisoned the way prior generations structured and shaped their services of worship, branding them as outdated and irrelevant to the current culture in which the Church exists.

However, there is a primary assumption in that “snobbery” which is false – that previous generations shaped their practices around their preferences, and not around the Word of God. The realization that previous generations of Christians were driven by Scripture to shape their worship as they did is an important check for us as we seek to keep reforming the church. We must be careful that we do not throw the baby out with the bathwater!

The services of Public Worship at GIPC are informed by the practices of those who have gone before us. The Book of Church Order, the governing document of our denomination, the Presbyterian Church in America, states that

“The Bible teaches that the following are proper elements of worship service: reading of Holy Scripture, singing of psalms and hymns, the offering of prayer, the preaching of the Word, the presentation of offerings, confessing the faith and observing the Sacraments; and on special occasions taking oaths.”

This language is not something that the Fathers of the PCA just came up with in 1973 as the denomination was forming, but echoes the language of the Westminster Confession of Faith, and then all the way back to Acts 2:42 where we read of the newly formed Church that “they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.”

As we saw in September, the Word of God has to be central in our Worship – it is the very revelation of God, and so must take central place in our worship. But our high regard for Scripture must then drive all that we do – it must be the voice that informs our practice.

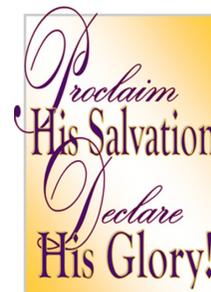
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Dates to Remember

- 11/7 Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper
(10:30 a.m. Worship)
(Clocks “Fall Back” one hour)
- 11/7, 21, 28 GIPC Fall Membership Class
(9:30 a.m.)
- 11/9, 16, 23, 30 Bible Study for Women,
(6:00 p.m., Cindy Parrish’s home)
- 11/12 International Dinner (6:30 p.m.,
with guest speaker Dr. Paul Taylor,
MTW Int’l Director, Asia/Pacific Region)
- 11/13 Saturday Seminar (9:30 a.m.-12:00
p.m., with guest missionaries)
- 11/14 Faith Promise Sunday
(with guest speaker Dr. Paul Taylor
and guest missionaries)
- 11/15 Stated Session Meeting
(6:30 p.m. at IPC, Savannah)
- 11/21 Community Thanksgiving Service
(7:00 p.m. at St. Simons United
Methodist Church—no evening
service at GIPC)
- 11/25 Thanksgiving Day Holiday

WEEKLY

- Monday—Women meet for prayer
(1:30 p.m., Evelyn Williams’ home)
- Tuesday—Men’s Breakfast Bible Study
(7:30 a.m., Sandcastle Café)
- Wednesday—Midweek Prayer Meeting
(7:00 p.m. at GIPC)



15TH ANNUAL WORLD MISSIONS EMPHASIS
NOVEMBER 7-14, 2010 AT GIPC

Worship Schedule

- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:30 a.m. Morning Worship
- 6:00 p.m. Evening Worship
- Children’s Church, Nursery available
- Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper
(1st Sunday, AM)

Standing on the Shoulders of Giants

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It is because of this that we are committed to the reading and preaching of Scripture, as the early church devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to fellowship with one another, to the Sacraments, as the early church was devoted to the breaking of bread, and to prayer.

We do not include these things because they suit our tastes, although they certainly do that. Rather, we do these things because we follow in the footsteps, or rather stand on the shoulders of those who have gone before – whether that be the great 19th century churchmen who did so much to flesh out worship driven by Scripture, or whether that be the great Reformers who rediscovered Scripture as that which governs our practice, and not Church Tradition, or whether that be the Apostles who established the liturgy of the early church.

Golden Isles may be classified as a “traditional” church by some, but we are simply seeking to be a faithful church. We do not do what we do because we are pining for a “Golden Age” which has past, but we do what we do because we serve a Sovereign God who has guided the Church in how she worships. We want to learn from the past, and we want to build on the past that Christ would be glorified in our practices. ▪

GIPC Fall Membership Class

Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

Open to all who are interested in becoming a member of Golden Isles Presbyterian Church or who would like to learn more about our church; or as a refresher course. The class will cover what it means to be a “member” of the church as we study the five Membership Vows.



Mid-Week Prayer Meeting

Wednesdays at GIPC from 7:00-8:00 p.m.

During these meetings we are going through a study by Redeemer Presbyterian Church (NYC) entitled, “Praying with the Psalms.” Our aim is to learn from the Psalms how we should pray, followed by a time of dedicated corporate prayer.

- **Sunday, November 14th: “International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church”** (Info at www.idop.org)
- Mission to the World, the mission sending agency of the Presbyterian Church in America, has designated November as a time to call attention to the work of the gospel and the growth of the church, especially in restricted areas and among unreached people groups. A helpful guide, **30 Days of Prayer: A Month of Prayer for Global Missions**, is available at GIPC.
- **Tuesday, November 9th: “Open House”–Care Net Pregnancy Center** (5:00-8:00 p.m., Brunswick center on Community Road) *Get to know the people behind the scenes—meet the staff! Learn more about their ministry services!*
- **Sunday, November 21st: “Community Thanksgiving Service”** (7:00 p.m. at St. Simons United Methodist Church; there will be no evening worship service at GIPC.)

Dollars & Sense

Notes from the Finance Committee

Please pray for the members of the Finance Committee as they meet this month to work on the budget proposal for fiscal year 2011: Nick Chilton, Wes Currier, John Garvin, Jerry Harrell, Clay Huddleston, and Dan Reed.



Focus on Missions

2010 Faith Promise Commitments: \$39,010
Balance through 10/31: \$24,090 or 62%

Significant Sessional Actions

- The GIPC Employee Handbook was approved at the September Stated Session Meeting.
- The next Session meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 15th, 6:30 p.m. at IPC in Savannah.

Women In the Church (WIC)

Weekly Bible Study:

Psalms: Songs Along the Way

(by Kathleen Buswell Nielson);

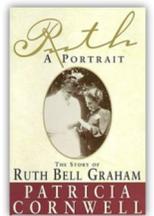
led by Sara Brown; Tuesday evenings at the home of Cindy Parrish.



“Beyond the Pages”

Book Discussion Group

Meeting the first Tuesday of each month at Sue Taylor’s home. The third book to be discussed is “Ruth, A Portrait: The Story of Ruth Bell Graham,” by Patricia Cornwell.



November 18th—next meeting of the WIC Leadership Team

“Operation Christmas Child”

Return filled shoeboxes to GIPC by Sunday, November 7th!