



Membership Class

By Alexander S. Brown, Minister

By now you will have heard me mention from the pulpit, and read in the weekly newsletter, that we are beginning a Membership Class this Fall. Over the course of seven weeks, beginning on Sunday 17th October, we will be having our Fall 2010 Membership Class. I would like to take a few moments to look in more detail at what we will be studying.

When it comes to the Church, it is important that we stop and look back. . .we do not exist in a vacuum, but rather we are standing on the shoulders of giants.

The first purpose the class will seek to fulfill is simply to set Golden Isles Presbyterian Church in its proper context. Before we look at GIPC in particular, we will look at the church in a more general way by taking a broad sweep of Church History, from the Apostles to the present. This will give us a big-picture view into which GIPC fits. We will also look at what has become known as the "Marks of the Church," and see how a true church can be identified from a false church.

In our culture the focus is so often on the here-and-now, on the immediate, but when it comes to the Church, it is important that we stop and look back to realize that we do not exist in a vacuum, but rather that we are standing on the shoulders of giants. If we do not understand how the Church has developed up until this point, and how the Church has developed its understanding of what constitutes a legitimate church, then our view of ourselves and of our future is severely truncated. GIPC is what it is in large measure because of all that has gone before it in the past two thousand years of Christianity.

Having established our foundations, we will then move on to look at our congregation specifically. We will look at what it means to be a Presbyterian Church, and a member congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America (our denomination). As many of you know, there is more than one Presbyterian denomination in this country, and so we will be looking at what makes the PCA distinctive from the rest.

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Dates to Remember

- 10/3 Sacrament of the Lord's Supper (10:30 a.m. Worship)
- 10/3 Guest Minister, Rev. Tim Foster (Associate Pastor, IPC, Savannah)
 - 9:30 a.m. Sunday School: "The Blessing of Contentment"
 - 10:30 a.m. Morning Worship: "God is for Us"
 - 6:00 p.m. Evening Worship: "The Whisper of God"
- 10/5 "Beyond the Pages" Book Discussion Group (WIC) (6:00 p.m. at Sue Taylor's home)
- 10/10 Guest Minister, Rev. Jon Beane (RUF Campus Minister, AASU, Savannah)
- 10/12, 19, 26 *Psalms* Bible Study (WIC) (6:00 p.m. at Cindy Parrish's home)
- 10/17 Membership Class begins (9:30 a.m. at GIPC)
- 10/19 Savannah River Presbytery (Augusta, GA)
- 10/20 Weekly Prayer Meeting begins (7:00 p.m. at GIPC)
- 10/25 GIPC Stated Session Meeting
 - Mondays at 1:30 p.m.—Women meet for prayer (Evelyn Williams' home)
 - Tuesdays at 7:30 a.m.—Men's Breakfast Bible Study (Doug Harris' Fireside Cafe)

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 (AM Worship)
- Sacrament of the Lord's Supper (1st Sunday, AM)

Missed a Sunday?

Bulletins and Sermons are available on the church website:
www.gipc-pca.org

Membership Class *(Continued from the previous page)*

We will look at how the PCA got started, and how its founding principles inform what it does and what it looks like today. We will look at how each part of the PCA works together, and the benefits that come by being connected to a national denomination.

The third major aspect of the class will be looking at why we do what we do at GIPC. This portion of the course will bring the focus more directly upon us as a congregation. We will look at the principles that drive the day-to-day running of the church— what principles are behind our understanding of Worship? Who makes up the Leadership of Golden Isles Presbyterian Church, and what are their responsibilities? How do we see our church as fulfilling the Great Commission?

As part of this we will also look at opportunities to serve and play an active part within the congregation of GIPC. We will also look at why it is important to become a formal member of the church, and what responsibilities come along with that.

Now, you may have noticed that this class is called simply a “Membership Class” and not a “New Members Class” or an “Enquirers Class,” and that is because this class is intended for everyone in the church, whether you are interested in joining GIPC, simply curious about why we do what we do, or whether you have been a member for many years. I hope that many of you will come and be part of this class, whether it is to learn about the church or simply to be refreshed. It should be a fruitful time of fellowship as we study these things together. ▪

Proclaim His Salvation Declare His Glory!

15th Annual World Missions Emphasis Week: November 7-14

2010 Faith Promise Commitments:

\$39,010

Balance through 9/30:

\$21,910 or 56%

Building & Grounds Committee

The B & G Committee wishes to extend a huge *Thank You* to all who came out to the Work Day on Saturday, 11th September. We really had a great turnout, and got a lot of work done around the church. Your help was greatly appreciated, and it was exciting to see the church come together like this! Thank you all very much!

Dollars & Sense

Notes from the Finance Committee

Budget worksheets for the 2011 fiscal year were distributed to all committees to be completed and returned by the end of October.

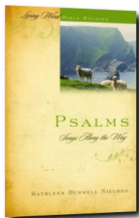
Women In the Church (WIC)

Weekly Bible Study:

Psalms: Songs Along the Way

(by Kathleen Buswell
Nielson);

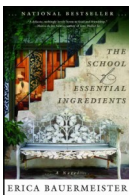
led by Sara Brown;
Tuesday evenings at the
home of Cindy Parrish.



“Beyond the Pages”

Book Discussion Group

Meeting the first Tuesday of each month (beginning 10/5) at Sue Taylor’s home. The first book to be discussed is “The School of Essential Ingredients,” by Erica Bauermeister.



“Operation Christmas Child”

Brochures are available in the church foyer, along with sample shoeboxes. The date to return boxes to GIPC is Sunday, November 7th. Please see Evelyn Williams, Connie Reed or Betty Harrell if you have questions!

Meet Our Members!

(This feature is available in hard copy only—available in the church foyer.)



**Beginning Wednesday, October 20, 2010
at
Golden Isles Presbyterian Church
Prayer Meeting**

On Wednesday 20th October, at 7:00 p.m., our mid-week meeting is starting up again—but not as you’ve known it! We are beginning a weekly congregational prayer meeting at the church, which I hope many of you will plan to attend.

During these meetings we will be going through a study by Redeemer Presbyterian Church of New York City entitled “Praying with the Psalms.”

Tim Keller gives three reasons why we should root our prayer lives in the Psalms:

1. The Psalms teach us to pray through imitation and response.
2. The Psalms take us deep into our own hearts.
3. The Psalms force us to deal with God as He is.

Our aim is to learn from the Psalms how we should pray, and then following that we will turn to a time of dedicated corporate prayer.

Prayor meetings were once common in churches across America, but have fallen out of favor in recent years. However, they remain tremendously important to the life and ministry of the local church, and need to undergird all that we do. Listen to how C. H. Spurgeon described the importance of Prayer Meetings:

The prayer meeting must be maintained at all cost. The communion of the church with God must never be broken. If you visit a factory, you may see thousands of wheels revolving, and a host of hands employed. It is a wonderful sight. Where is the power that keeps all this running? Look at the slated shed! Come into this grimy place, smelling of oil. What is it? It is the engine-house. You do not think much of it, but that is the centre of power. If you stop that engine, every wheel will stand still.

Some good people say, ‘I am not going out tonight. It is only a prayer meeting.’ Just so. It is only the engine, but that is everything. Go on board a great ocean steamer, bound for New York. You say, ‘I have been in the saloon. I have seen the wonderful luxuries provided for the passengers. It is a marvelous vessel.’ Did you look at her engines? ‘What! go down that ladder? I saw some black fellows below, stoking great fires; but I do not care for that.’ Talk not so. If it were not for those sooty stokers, the grand saloon and the fine decks would be of no use.

Prayer is the engine of the church; it supplies the force. I like to see the engines going; praying, praying, praying, praying! Then the hidden screw, down under water, drives the huge ship, and causes it to speed towards the appointed haven.

Keep the Moses part of the work going; and let not the Joshua-work be slack.