

# GPC REDDING NEWSLETTER

COMMITTED TO THE WORD OF GOD AND THE FAITH OF THE REFORMATION

- MARCH, 2011 -



Grace  
Presbyterian Church  
Worship 11:00 AM  
Sunday School (All ages)  
10:00 AM  
Red Bluff Mission  
Worship 5:00 PM

## PRaises AND PRAYER REQUESTS:

~Our expectant mothers:  
*Nichole Wilder, Sara Mintz,  
Yoce Stark, and Stacey Miller*  
~The mission works in Texas  
and Red Bluff  
~Our Elders and Deacons  
~Our Sunday school teachers  
~Those looking for work  
~Our Youth Group  
~The Miller Family returning to  
California this summer



## Pastor Stark's notes for March:

*"Life is short. Eat dessert first!"*

We laugh at the above because it represents a philosophy that sees the good things of life and recognizes the urgency of enjoying them. It sounds like a good idea. Desserts are usually for the end. We promise them to children as a reward for eating all their dinner. (Just how wise this is can certainly be debated.) Having it first could be nice. But that also means it won't be there at the end of the meal, quite simply, because you've already eaten it.

We should enjoy the present life as a gift from

God. Solomon wisely observed:

"And also that every man should eat and drink, and enjoy the good of all his labor, it is the gift of God." Eccles. 3:13. (see also 2:24 and 5:18)

Paul the Apostle, even when exhorting the rich to be unselfish, wrote to Timothy to "Charge those who are rich in this world, that they not be high-minded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy."

We are to share what we have with those in need, but we are also to remember, "God... gives us richly all things to enjoy." (1Tim. 6:17). We can and ought to enjoy life and the blessings God gives us. This doesn't mean we should give ourselves over to the pursuit of pleasure as an end in itself. .  
(Continued on page 2)

## "HANGING BY a Thread"

BY PASTOR CARL MILLER

"Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand." Isaiah 41:10

About a month ago, I saw a close family friend of mine whom I hadn't seen in a long time. Though this friend and I grew up together, he and his family now live in Colorado where he is the director of a wilderness camp ministry. When we were young, he always loved the outdoors so he took to this position like a fish takes to water and thoroughly enjoys it. One of his regular activities is leading groups on mountain and rock climbing adventures. On climbs, he walks around with a harness and ropes. His rope is a very literal lifeline. If he falls, it is the only thing he has to hold on to.

### THE ROPES IN LIFE

If you think about it, we have a variety of "ropes" in our lives. Some examples include our Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 5), His Word (Romans 15:4), and fellow believers (Galatians 6:2, 1 John 3). We have no emotional or spiritual connection with a physical rope that is tied to us. However, Jesus, through his abundant love for us, establishes the tightest bond, the strongest lifeline we could ever possibly imagine. Romans 5:8 tells us that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Beloved, Jesus didn't and couldn't send someone else for this rescue mission. He gave us himself, as the lifeline that will never fail. (Continued on page 3)



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### Pastor Stark's notes for March: Continued

God's Word seriously warns us about that type of foolishness. "Rejoice, O young man, in your youth; and let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth, and walk in the ways of your heart, and in the sight of your eyes: but know, that for all these things God will bring you into judgment." Eccles. 11:9

As Paul tells us: "But this I say, brothers, the time is short:... [Let] those who use this world, as not abusing it: for the fashion of this world is passing away." 1Cor. 7:29,31.

"If then you are risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall you also appear with Him in glory." Col. 3:1-4.

The Christian's heavenly feast begins here, but continues in heaven (where it never ends!).

Jesus said, "Blessed are those servants whom the Master, when He comes, will find watching. Assuredly I say to you, that He will gird Himself and have them recline to eat, and He will come and serve them." Luke 12:37.

"Life is short. Save dessert for Heaven!"

-DTS

### Announcements:

- \*GPC Redding Fellowship dinner Sunday March, 6 - Join us!
- \*GPC Redbluff fellowship dinner Sunday March, 18 - after service
- \*Youth Group Wednesdays from 7-8:45 pm at the Doeblers home - call Doeblers for directions!
- \*Youth Group Game Night/Hang Out March 12th @ 6pm at the Dore's home. Bring a friend!
- \*Marriage group March, 27 (Ask Nichole Wilder for more details)



It's a girl!



LADIES please join us in welcoming Ms. Ellie Mae Gover!

Where: Grace Presbyterian Church  
When: Saturday, March 19 @ 2:00pm  
RSVP: to Katy Dinwiddie (530) 440-6258



**Congratulations to Katie McCain on becoming a confirmed member of Grace Presbyterian Church!**

Please CONTACT Sean and/or Katy DINWIDDIE WITH ALL IDEAS, PHOTOS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE GPC NEWSLETTER - [katgdinwiddie@gmail.com](mailto:katgdinwiddie@gmail.com)

## "HANGING BY A THREAD" CONTINUED..

Romans 15:4 says that it is through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures that we might have hope. Christ promises and provides great hope and comfort through the Scriptures, as we know we are being sanctified by his Truth (John 17:17). God also blesses us with support and true fellowship with other brothers and sisters in Christ. Often times, they too are lines of support, love and compassion. They care for us in ways that are incredibly meaningful as they pray for us and share in the bearing of our burdens. Isn't it beautiful how the Lord has ordained and organized such effective means to provide for our every need? To Him alone be the glory!

### HANGING BY A THREAD

When my friend goes on a climb, there is no room for error in having a damaged or faulty rope. The consequences could be disastrous! Similarly, we need to make sure that our ropes are strong and reliable. There are many times in life when we realized that we were holding a faulty rope, or maybe even the wrong rope. Sometimes it feels like we are hanging by a thread, watching the rope unravel. Other times, we may be holding the right rope in the middle of a severe storm. It brings such reassurance and peace to know that our God is not only the right rope to hang on to, He will never break or unravel, and more importantly, HE is the One that holds on to us and never lets go (John 10).

## THE ROPE THAT HOLDS YOU

He is the perfect expression of love, grace, mercy and compassion. When Israel was under oppression, note what He told them in Isaiah 41. He would calm their fears, dash their despair, give them strength, help them and uphold them. Read verse 10 again and pause to think about it. Beloved, our God is not one that leaves us hanging on the ropes of life with no hope. Remember that He is with you. He loves you more than you can ever fathom. It is very easy to focus on trusting things or people that we can see and touch. Many times they may be very trustworthy. Even more so, trust in Him, for He is with you. There is no other lifeline that holds you life He holds you. He will uphold you with His righteous hand. When friends and family fail you, He will strengthen you (1 Samuel 30:6). Be encouraged, all of your other ropes could unravel and fall away, but His presence will protect, sustain, and bless you in the most troubling times. In Him you have refuge (Psalms 46:1,7). He promises that He will lift you up (James 4:10).

**"Beloved, our God is not one that leaves us hanging on the ropes of life with no hope."**

May God give us grace to put away all the doubt, the fear and despair, that we would be filled with comfort and joy, being fully assured that He has us in His grasp and will never let go.

## RECIPE CORNER!

### Mrs. Kate Reynolds Quinoa Tabbouleh:

- 4 cups water
- 2 cups quinoa
- 1 tsp cumin
- 1 tsp kosher or sea salt
- 1/2 lemon juice
- 2 tsp minced garlic
- 1/2 cup olive oil
- green onions, chopped
- cilantro, chopped
- red bell pepper, chopped

\* Some other great additions to choose from are: diced tomatoes, grated carrots, chopped cucumber, chopped parsley, feta cheese, diced celery. \*



- Bring water to boil in a saucepan. Add quinoa, reduce heat to low, cover, and simmer for 15 minutes. Cool to room temperature and toss quinoa with a fork.
- Combine all other ingredients in a large bowl and add to quinoa. This can be served immediately, but I recommend letting it sit overnight in the refrigerator to really bring out the flavor. The longer it sits, the better it gets!
- Approximately 8-12 servings.



## **Psalm 128 †**

*A song of Ascents.*

Blessed is every one who fears the Lord,  
who walks in His ways.

When you eat the labor of your hands,  
You shall be happy, and it shall be well with  
you.

Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine  
In the very heart of your house,  
Your children like olive plants  
All around your table.

Behold, thus shall the man be blessed  
Who fears the Lord.

The LORD bless you out of Zion,  
And may you see the good of  
Jerusalem

All the days of your life.  
Yes, may you see your children's  
children.

Peace be upon Israel!