



# GraceNet

Knoxville, TN

March 2015

## Temptations

**H**ow well do you know yourself? What is it that tempts you? Has what tempts you changed? Do you give much thought to what is enticing you to sin?

During Lent on Sunday mornings we pastors will be preaching a series entitled: "Temptations." It is an important topic because it seems that Satan using our culture has intensified the bombardment of enticements to sin. So neatly wrapped and so culturally entwined, today's generation can't even correctly identify many things for what they really are: temptations. This has made us all the more vulnerable as we become less observant of the clever traps Satan has laid.

Here are some basic facts on temptations:

1. God never tempts anyone, nor is He tempted Himself. (James 1:13)
2. Temptation itself is not sin. Jesus was tempted in every way that we are but did not sin. (Hebrews 4:15)
3. There are three sources of temptation: (1) our own desires... "but each one is tempted when by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed." (James 1:14) (2) Satan...just as he did with Jesus... "The tempter came and said, 'If you are the Son of God tell these stones to become bread.'" Matthew 4:3 (3) other people... "the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming." Ephesians 4:14
4. We should not play with temptation or somehow desire it. As it says in the Lord's Prayer, so we, being wise should pray with all sincerity: "And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one."

5. People all around the world face the same or common temptations. God will not let His people be tempted beyond what we can bear. He always provides a way out so that we can stand up under it. I Corinthians 10:13
6. We can and should become familiar with the devil's traps. The Bible lists many of them. For instance, the devil likes to draw us in to foolish and stupid arguments producing quarrels. You may feel you are absolutely right but fall into sin as you demean another. (2 Timothy 2:23-26)
7. One trap is perhaps the devil's most common. "People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil." I Timothy 6:9-10a
8. We are most susceptible to temptations when we are tired or when we are idle.
9. When you think you are invulnerable to a certain temptation then you better be on guard because this is where Satan will attack you in due time.

The best way to know a counterfeit is to thoroughly know the real thing. Temptations are often coming to us by way of spurious teachings. False teaching can lure you to call what is evil, good and what is good, evil. There has been a dramatic rise in false teaching as pastors and churches divorce themselves from the clear teachings of the Word of God.

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Temptations

(Continued)

As Jesus said to His disciples in the Garden of Gethsemane, "Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation." This series of sermons will teach you how to watch, how to identify the traps and schemes and then how to battle temptations that would lure you to destruction.

~ Pastor Rich



## Newborns

### Annabelle Grace McCay

Born: January 30, 2015

Proud Parents: Michael & Morgan McCay

### William Gavin O'Quinn

Born: February 15, 2015

Proud Parents: Jeff and Christie O'Quinn

## Our Grace Family

### Meet Carol Voorhees

Like so many other wonderful members, Carol Voorhees hails from that frigid northland: hers being Morris, Minnesota, Hardy--those folks from that part of the USA! Married to husband Larry, Carol enumerates her family: Luke, married to Gina with three lovable children of their own. Their daughter Kimberly was adopted from Korea (she is single and living in Florida). Unfortunately, Carol and Larry have lost both of their poodles to that wonderful "Petland in the Sky," but fond memories live on!

Pass popcorn, ice cream, bing cherries or kiwi fruit beneath her nose, and Carol will follow you gladly! Her favorite past times include: reading, walking, flower gardening, crocheting, knitting, baking, and scanning the local Sheriff's program, all of which keep her very occupied. But if she had a dream wish, it would involve serving God as a missionary, and her trips to Peru certainly expose her dream of bringing Christ to others!

Memorable moments include Luke's birth and greeting Kim at the airport when she arrived from Korea. Her Bible means the world to her so ask her about the time she lost her original copy and how that all turned out. It is a most interesting story! Larry is not only her spouse but her "best asset." How about that! Carol dreams of taking horseback lessons, too. Just imagine her on horseback, going from place to place, witnessing Jesus Christ as the true Savior! Talk about an effective circuit rider! Wow!



**GraceNet** is published monthly by  
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Articles for GraceNet are due by the **1st of each month** for the following month's edition.

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If you have a special event you would like to have publicized in GraceNet, please submit the information to

Debbie Booher by the 1st of each month for publication in the following month's newsletter.

## New Library Materials

**H**istorical fiction, novels set within the framework of a set period in history and suspense fiction, novels filled with excitement, intrigue, and/or mystery are the genres of fiction added to the library's collection this month.

### Historical Fiction

**With Every Breath** by Elizabeth Camden (Fic Cam): Set in our nation's capital city in 1891, tuberculosis, a lethally contagious disease, is ravaging the country. This book was inspired by the doctors and nurses who risked their lives to treat this fatal disease, especially Dr. Edward Trudeau, a physician who contracted TB during the course of his work.

**Beyond All Dreams** by Elizabeth Camden (Fic Cam): This novel by Camden is also set in our nation's capital city; most specially the Library of Congress. When a map librarian, Anna, stumbles on the mysterious disappearance of a ship at sea, she enlists the assistance of a powerful congressman, Luke, to unravel the riddle. As the secrets of the ship are revealed, Anna and Luke are embroiled in perils beyond their imaginations.

**Butterfly Palace** by Colleen Coble (Fic Cob): Lily Donnelly arrives at the lavish Butterfly Mansion in Austin, Texas, in 1899, as a housekeeper. This is a time of extravagance, intimidation and political prowess. Before Lily recognizes the potential danger she faces, the path of the Servant Girl Killer leads uncomfortably close to Butterfly Palace. This was not what Lily had hoped for when she left her old life behind her.

**Steadfast Heart** by Tracie Peterson (Fic Pet): This first title in a new series, **Brides of Seattle**, is set in Seattle, Washington, in the 1880's. Peterson uses this time of the mail-order brides as the basis for the relationship that develops between spoiled Lenore Fulcher and a young lawyer from Chicago, Kolbein Booth, who arrives in Seattle searching for his sister who answered an advertisement for a bride. Journey back in time with Peterson as she gives her readers a taste of the business and life of a mail-order bride. Further titles in the series will appear later this year.

### Suspense Fiction

**The Third Target** by Joel C. Rosenberg (Fic Ros): Using his extensive knowledge of the Mideast, Rosenberg penned another high-stakes thriller in which a "New York Times" foreign correspondent uncovers a rumor that ISIS has captured chemical weapons in Syria. ISIS has already attacked two governments, killing everyone who opposed them. Now there is a third target, and time is short to uncover its location.

### For Young Adults

**Jack Staples and the Ring of Time** and **Jack Staples and the City of Shadows**

by Mark Batterson (YA Fic Bat): Eleven-year-old Jack Staples' ordinary life is overturned when he is thrust into a fantasy adventure filled with danger and intrigue. The future rests on Jack's making the right choices and trusting that he can complete his mission. The series will be completed in June with the publication of **Jack Staples and the Poet's Storm**.



### Non-Fiction

**Storm: Hearing Jesus For the Times We Live In** by Jim Cymbala (with Jennifer Schuchmann)(253.7 Cym): Cymbala believes, and statistics uphold, that the church in America is in the middle of a powerful storm. Our culture is increasingly hostile to biblical Christianity, our young people are leaving the church in increasing numbers, political issues have created divisions among believers and churches are shrinking as pastors are leaving the pastorate at a rate of 1500 per month. But Cymbala speaks with encouragement and hope as he relays powerful stories of people whose lives have been transformed by Christ. We are living in the midst of a storm, but Christ is always at work.

### Picture Books

**Bear Family Treasury** by Jan and Mike Berenstain (J Ber) This is a collection of eight of the beloved stories about the bear family in their cozy tree house. Little ones will learn significant lessons about life and how to get along with others.

**One Lost Sheep** by Rhonda Gowler Greene (Fic Gre) Using Jesus's parable about the lost sheep, Greene assures her little listeners that Jesus is faithful as our Good Shepherd willingly leaving the 99 to search for the one that is lost.

**Far Flutterby** by Karen Kingsbury (Fic Kin): Cody the Caterpillar isn't happy on the ground. He wants to soar through the air in Flutterby. But even if he were to get there, would he be able to soar?

Find these and other materials new to the library on display throughout the month of March.

~ Mary Schultz

*From Pastor Justin: The following article was written by Frank Powell and was published in the August 2014 issue of Relevant Magazine.*

## ***5 Lies American Culture Feeds Us Every Day***

*by Frank Powell*

**F**inding out you've been deceived stinks, but the moment the lie is exposed is important. Why? It is the moment the truth is brought to light. And the truth is what we are seeking. No one wants to live under a cloud of lies. No one wants to operate under a constant barrage of deceptions and false declarations. We want the truth.

We are meant to know the truth. Especially if you are a follower of Jesus. It might not be easy. It might force us to change our perspective or some of the ways we live. It might not always be what we want, but it's what we need.

Our culture feeds us plenty of lies. And many of us have accepted them for years. The Church has even been shaped by these lies. And it's time to expose them.

So, here are a few of the lies American culture feeds us every day:

### ***1. You Can Be Anything You Want to Be.***

I remember growing up watching Michael Jordan. Everyone wanted to "be like Mike." And why not? Who doesn't want to dunk from the free throw line? Gatorade created a genius tagline. But they also created an enormous lie.

You can't be anything you want to be. But this is a good thing. It frees you up to be the man or woman God has called you to be.

Americans believe this lie because it speaks to the core of American ideals. America does afford people opportunities that other countries do not. That is something to be thankful for. But this value creates the lie many believe every day. We tell people that if they work harder and never give up, they can be anything they want to be.

Most of us realize this is false by the time we reach adulthood. There are many things we could work hard to achieve and never actually achieve.

The truth is every person has a unique set of talents and abilities.

You can't be anything you want to be. But this is a good thing. It frees you up to be the man or woman God has called you to be.

### ***2. Your Actions Have No Bearing on Anybody Else.***

No man is an island. Sin has consequences that reach beyond the individual into the community of people around you.

To the guy or girl who believes lust or a pornography addiction has no bearing on any other person, you have believed a lie. True, you might not be in a relationship now, but eventually you might, and your actions in the present will carry into that future relationship. To the guy or girl who thinks jealousy and bitterness are not hurting anyone else, you have been deceived. These will break down your relationships.

Your actions are affecting others. Maybe not in the moment. Maybe not tomorrow. But eventually it will happen.

### ***3. There is Only One Road You Can Take.***

God has a plan for your life. But this idea that there is only *one* road in life is false. It is no where in Scripture. It is everywhere in culture.

I have witnessed this too many times. A college graduate is torn between two choices. They worry, make pros and cons lists, maybe they ask God for clarity. And inherent in this response is the notion that God only has one set road for your life and whether you choose the right one is directly dependent on your ability to seek Him.

If this is true, then I am terrible at seeking the Lord. There have been many times in my life when I was presented with multiple options. And all of them appeared viable. So I prayed to God for clarity. Cue the Jeopardy music. I waited. And waited. And waited. No sign. No clarity. Well, what now? Was I not praying hard enough? Did I choose the wrong road?

Absolutely not.

God's plan for our lives is not always linear. This is a Western mindset, not a Biblical one. God's direction can include branches and offsets. The path to the final destination can be achieved more than one way.

God's design for your life is for you to seek Him with all of your heart. When you get to a fork in the road, pray about it

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## 5 Lies *(continued from page 4).*

and then just choose a road. Stop wasting months. Stop waiting on “clarity.” Stop agonizing over whether you chose the “right” road. Just choose a road. If you are seeking the Lord, there is no *wrong* road.

### 4. *Individualism is a Noble Pursuit.*

Richard Koch said, “If there is one defining quality of the West, it is individualism.” It’s sad, but true. Individualism makes the claim you and I should not be dependent on any other person. You take care of you.

Often, the Western Church is not much different. It is almost frowned upon to be dependent upon something or someone other than yourself. We might not directly say it, but we sometimes believe it: “Who cares if Jesus said stuff about losing your life? Who cares about all of that radical sacrifice stuff? God gave you a brain, He expects you to use it.”

Tragically, Christianity in America often confuses faith in God with just faith in self with some Godly values attached.

Translation: God thinks logically. He would never expect you to make a decision that flies in the face of self-reliance. Don’t sell your house. Don’t give your savings to feed the hungry. Don’t move into the inner city. It is dangerous there.

Tragically, Christianity in America often confuses faith in God with just faith in self with some Godly values attached. Dependence on self and faith in God are mutually exclusive. Choose a side. But don’t choose both. To choose both is to choose neither.

### 5. *If You are not Busy, You are Lazy.*

American culture is filled with exhausted men and women. Depression is at an astronomically high rate. So is anxiety. Why? At least in part because we have a culture that says if every hour is not filled with something, you are lazy or unproductive.

This rubs hard against the ways and rhythms of Jesus. To Jesus, Sabbath and retreating were as integral to His mission as engaging, healing and teaching.

If we learn anything from Jesus, we learn this: Productivity is not achieved without a constant rhythm of engage and retreat. This culture doesn’t need busier people. This culture needs more productive people. It needs more people who follow the way of Jesus.

Retreating is not an insignificant activity. It might just be the most productive part of our week.

## Parade of Tables 2015

Saturday, March 7

11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

The decoration theme for the 2015 Parade of Tables is *Nations of the World*. Proceeds from this year’s event will go to the Restoration House.

Tickets are \$15. This event is usually sold out so don’t wait. Tickets will not be sold at the door.

Please contact Nancy Duthey or Maria Breslford if you have any questions.



LUTHERAN WOMEN’S MISSIONARY LEAGUE

In addition to the March 7 Parade of Tables, our monthly LWML meeting will be held on **Saturday, March 21**, in the Fellowship Hall at 9:30 a.m. We will be tying quilts. Come and enjoy our fellowship, all ladies are welcomed.

On the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 1:00 p.m., we tie quilts in the Fellowship Hall, this is part of our Mission Project. You don’t have to sew anything, just have to be able to tie a knot.

If are looking for a mite box for all your lose change, you can find them on the LWML bulletin board, next to the mail boxes, just pull one off and put it together. Any other information you may need should be posted on the board as well.

## Did Jesus Descend Into Hell?

People ask, "Where in the Bible does it say Jesus descended to hell? I looked and I cannot find it!" Actually, the phrase about the descent into hell from the Creed is a direct quotation of a New Testament passage.

First, the usual passage cited is 1 Peter 3:18-20 ("He went and preached to the spirits in prison.") Some also cite 1 Peter 4:6 ("The Gospel was preached to the dead."), although much depends of the meaning of "the dead" there. It may only refer to live people dead in sin.

The original text of the Apostles' Creed is in Greek (even though the official text is Latin). The phrase in the Greek text of the Creed that says Jesus descended to the lower parts of the earth is identical in every way to the Greek text of Ephesians 4:9, except that one uses the comparative form ("lower parts of the earth") while the other uses the superlative ("lowest parts of the earth").

You may be wondering how we get from "the lower (or lowest parts) of the earth" to "hell." "Lower (lowest) parts of the earth" is a Greek way of speaking about Hades, or the place of the dead. In the later Latin text of the Creed we read "the inferno." (Dante's Italian depiction of hell in his "Divine Comedy" is called "The Inferno.") The German and English texts of the Creed have "hell." (Some may object that Hades is not the equivalent of hell. But, Jesus does speak of it at times as hell. See Matthew 16:18 and Luke 16:23.)

This section of Ephesians 4 makes the point that Jesus has overcome every enemy, every evil in all of creation and has shown Himself completely victorious over them by His death and resurrection for us. He descended from heaven on high, even going down to the lower parts of the earth (the underworld), before ascending again to the highest of heavens, "that He might fill all things." A similar thought is found in Colossians 2:12-15. (Rulers and authorities are demonic powers whom Jesus vanquished. Leading them in a victory procession is a military practice from the Ancient World designed to humiliate enemy soldiers by tying them to each other at the waist and leading them naked from the waist down at minimum in a public victory procession.) In regard to the underworld, Philippians 2:10 speaks of the powers from under the earth which Jesus vanquished and how they must now acknowledge Him.

Some assume if Jesus descended into hell it would have been to suffer further for our sins, but that was complete on the cross when Jesus said, "It is finished." Rather, His descent was to show Himself the victor over every evil power.

~Rev. Phil Bohlken

**Healthline** is a 30-minute Medical Education television show hosted by Grace's very own Sheila Wittke.

AIR TIME: Sunday afternoons at 6:00 p.m.

#### STATIONS:

CTV COMCAST Cable Channel 12 (Knoxville)

CTV CHARTER + WOW Channel 6 (Farragut)

AT&T U-Verse Channel 99

Direct TV and Others: You can stream HealthLine on your computers, but it must be done at the time it is aired. Go to [CTVKnox.org](http://CTVKnox.org), click the CTV icon and watch.



#### MARCH 2015 SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND GUESTS

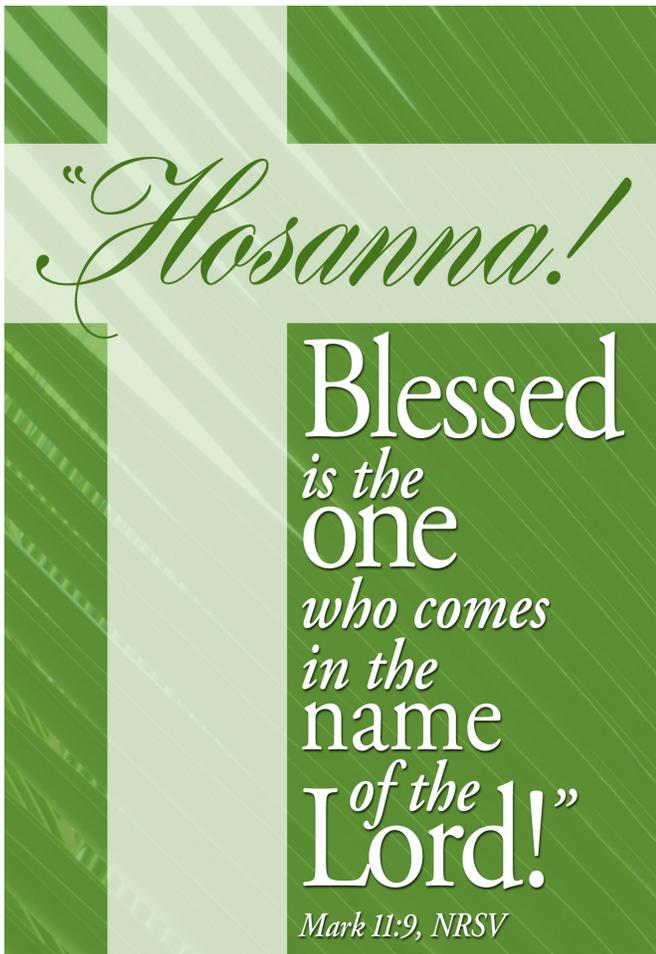
01 - Preventive Measures for Breast Cancer - Dr. John H. Bell

08 - Defining Autism - Dr. John B. Robertson, Jr.

15 - Urinary & Bowel Incontinence - Dr. Bryce Bowling

22 - Gamma Knife Radiosurgery for Brain Tumors - Dr. Donald H. Hauge

29 - Understanding Deep Vein Thrombosis - Dr. Marcus A. Barber



**March 29, 2015**

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Sunday Worship: 8:00 a.m. (Traditional) and  
9:30 a.m. (Blended)/11:00 a.m. (Contemporary)  
Wednesday Worship: 6:30 p.m. (Blended)  
Sunday School & Bible Classes @ 9:30 a.m./11:00 a.m.

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

TO:

