

# GraceNotes

## Stay in Love with God

Hopefully you have been following along the past couple of months with my look at John Wesley's "Three Simple Rules" for Christian living based on Reuben Job's book, "Three Simple Rules: A Wesleyan Way of Living." If not, you can find all three articles on the website, [gracememorial.net](http://gracememorial.net).

To recap, the first rule is "Do No Harm." This first rule simply means that we commit ourselves to not causing harm to anyone with our words or actions. The second rule, "Do Good", goes one step farther and challenges us to not only do no harm, but instead, do good of every kind, in every way possible, and to everyone possible. While these rules do sound simple and easy to follow, they can be quite the challenge to us in our "me-centered" society.

The third and final rule for Christian living is "Stay in Love with God." Once again, this rule is not complicated or difficult to understand, but can be a real challenge for even the most faithful of Christians. John Wesley believed that in order to stay in love with God,

there were certain practices that one must follow in order to stay connected to your Heavenly Father. John Wesley called these practices "ordinances," or religious rites that he prescribed for all Methodists to follow. Today we often refer to them as spiritual disciplines. While Wesley's list is not exhaustive, it is a basis for following and staying in love with God the Father, and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Wesley listed five ordinances as essential for all Methodists or Christians to follow. They are: be actively involved in public worship of God, partake in the Lord's Supper regularly, commit yourself to both private and family prayer, commit yourself to both private and group Bible study, and commit to fasting regularly. These are the disciplines that will help keep you connected and in love with your Heavenly Father.

The third rule, "Stay in Love with God," is not difficult and in fact it is what we all desire if we call ourselves Christians, but the practice of this rule is just as challenging as the first two rules. We have so many things in this world pulling at

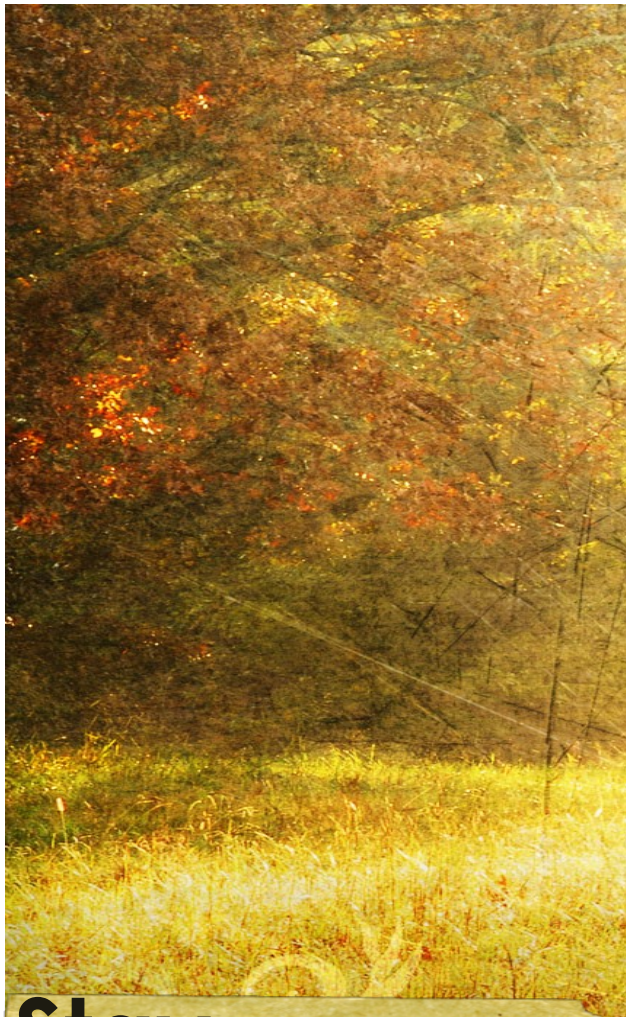
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*Do No Harm*

*Do Good*

*Stay in Love  
with God*



## Stay in love

us and demanding our time, attention, and love that it can be difficult sometimes to stay in love with God. Wesley knew first hand how difficult it was to stay in love with God. That is why he required his followers to discipline themselves by following these practices. To be a disciple of Jesus requires discipline. It requires spending time with God and other Christians on a regular basis.

"The rules are simple, but the way is not easy. Only those with great courage will attempt it, and only those with great faith will be able to walk this exciting, but very demanding way." (Job p.62)  
My prayer is that all of us here at Grace Memorial Community Church will commit ourselves to living by these "Three Simple Rules."

## The Autumn of Our Lives

By: Ken McKinney

*There comes a time when we will know,  
We are in the autumn of our lives.  
We look around and hear natures' sounds,  
Before that first snowflake arrives.*

*Spring and summer have slipped away,  
Leaves tumble to the ground.  
Once rich, green, lawns look more like hay,  
Not a bluebird to be found.*

*Summer winds have turned crisp and cold.  
The leaves are painted too,  
With brilliant shades of red and gold,  
Against the skies of azure blue.*

*The lone robin sits at the top of a pine.  
He almost looks out of place.  
His friends have left him far behind,  
Soon to follow in the chase.*



*If we see ourselves like that robin,  
Whose friends have gone on before,  
We know we are in the autumn of our lives,  
We can see the signs for sure.*

*Our hair, like leaves, has changed its' color,  
The sounds are not as clear.  
Our gait is slower and our shoulders lower,  
The winter of life is near.*

*The bluebird can represent the treasures,  
That we have sent on ahead.  
Only things we have done for Christ,  
Not good works we have done instead.*

*Through Jesus we can have true peace,  
In our autumn days here on earth.  
By trusting in Christ, because He paid the price,  
We can claim a brand new birth.*

*Spring and summer have gone by, oh so fast,  
But we can awaken to a brand new day,  
When we open our eyes in the heavenly skies,  
And see our loved ones, ... we pray.*

*Yes autumn is here and winter is near,  
But this is not a warning.*

*Though skies turn gray as we pause to pray,  
The Lord said, "Joy cometh in the morning."*

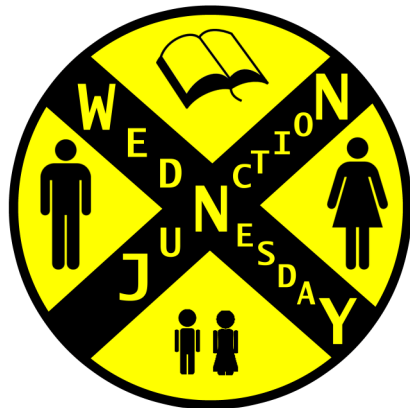
Psalm 30:5

# Wednesday junction

Wednesday Junction is a new ministry opportunity for us here at Grace Memorial Community Church. It is an opportunity for us to meet together between our Sunday worship times to encourage one another. It is also a time to reach out to friends and families in our community and invite them to Live, Love, Learn, and Grow in Grace along with us. The idea is to meet together regularly like the first church in Acts 2. "They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their numbers daily those who were being saved." (Acts 2:46b-47)

A junction is a place where two or more roads or railroad lines come together. Wednesday Junction is a place where two or more kids, teens, and adults come together for a meaningful time of fun, food, fellowship, and family. Wednesday Junction is a

place where we can "Live and Love" together. We will begin each week with a family meal at 6:00 pm. The family meal time is a chance to catch up with your own family as well as a time to get to know others and learn more about their lives. It is also a time to love and encourage one another as the family of God



around the dinner table.

Wednesday Junction is also a time to "Learn and Grow." Each week after the mealtime, we will head to our small group time. There will be small groups available for all

ages. Throughout the month of November, all groups (kids, youth, and adults) will be working on some basic Bible skills. Then between 7:30 and 7:45 pm, we will all come back together for some fun and learning as a large group before we head home. On November 23<sup>rd</sup>, we will have a special Thanksgiving celebration.

The month of November will be our trial run for Wednesday Junction. We wanted to give Wednesday Junction a trial period

so that we could work out all of the little details in preparing to launch Wednesday Junction to the public in January 2012. However, you are welcome and encouraged to invite family and friends to Wednesday nights in November so that we can learn what small groups and ideas will work best for Wednesday Junction in January. Please pray for this ministry and how you can be involved.

## **Wednesday Junction details**

Meeting Wednesdays November  
9  
16  
23 – Thanksgiving Celebration  
30

Time: 6:00 – 8:00 pm

Place: Fellowship Hall at GMCC

Cost: \$2/person with a \$10 maximum for a family

# our special events

## new logo

Vote now and vote often! Don't let your favorite logo lose! Monies collected will purchase gifts for boys camp.

## special music

Would you volunteer to sing a special during one of our morning worship services? Sign-up in sanctuary.

## nov. 6th missions

Eric & Inga Zirk will be with us to share about their ministry in Latvia during the Sunday School hour (9:30 am). They will also give a short missions update during our worship service.



## turkey chase

**Attention Youth!** Join in the 1st ever GMCC Turkey Chase on Sunday, November 13th at 2 pm. What is a turkey chase you ask ... Turkey Chase is a team digital picture scavenger hunt around the town. What do I have to do to participate? Form a team of friends, recruit your own adult driver and report to the church Sunday by 2 pm. Don't forget to bring your digital camera or phone.

## New logo

*Don't forget to vote for your favorite!*

We are in the process of choosing a new church logo. Both of them are displayed in back of the sanctuary. The logo receiving the most money will be declared the winner. All monies will go towards the purchase of Christmas gifts for the boys from the Savage Mountain Youth Detention Center. Don't let your favorite logo lose! Voting ends on November 13th!



## Special music

*Share your talent!*

We are looking for people willing to participate in special music during the months of November and December. If you would be willing to share your talent during a Sunday morning service, please sign-up in back of the sanctuary.



# Upcoming events



## Operation Christmas Child

*The deadline for turning in your Christmas shoebox is November 20th.*

All year long we have prepared for Operation Christmas Child. This month we will collect all the Christmas shoeboxes that have been prepared! Your shoebox will help put a smile on the face of a hopeless child this Christmas.

Once your shoebox is prepared, you may want to include a nice note and picture of yourself. Please enclose \$7 to help with shipping.

We are collecting boxes November 14–20! Grace members, be sure to place your shoe boxes at the altar.

Join us after church on Sunday, November 20th to help pack shoe boxes for delivery!

## Advent Family Sunday

*Join us on Sunday, November 27th for a special Advent Family Sunday!*

One of the most fun times of the year is digging into those Christmas decorations and preparing to decorate for the holidays! Calling all church families to come help us

decorate the church for Christmas on Sunday, November 27th at 4:00 p.m.

The boys from Savage Mountain Youth Detention Center will be coming to help us kick-off the holiday season.

When we are finished decorating we will have a meal together with the boys. Please sign-up to bring a soup, salad or dessert.

Following the meal, Chris Miller's band will be here to entertain us, as well as some other special surprises.

If you are unable to help with decorating, please come and be a part of our meal together and share in the camaraderie of this special evening.

*Women's Tuesday morning Bible study is continuing in the book of Genesis with Joseph being tested.*

We are to realize that a Christian does not have to sin, but rather that he makes his own decision whether he will obey God or have his own way. We need to appreciate God's grace and that God selected men who were a sample of humanity as it is, rather than using only men who earned God's favor by their high morality.

Satan's purpose is to ruin us.  
God's purpose is to make us holy.

Satan wants to find our weak spots;  
His intentions are always evil.  
God wants to purify us;  
His intentions are always good.

Satan wants to get rid of us.  
God wants to purify us;  
As a stepping stone to a holy life.

Satan wants to spoil God's purposes.  
God wants to prepare us for a special task.

