

From *The Cost of Discipleship* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer:

Cheap grace is the deadly enemy of our Church. We are fighting today for costly grace. Cheap grace means grace sold on the market like cheapjacks' wares. The sacraments, the forgiveness of sin, and the consolations of religion are thrown away at cut prices. Grace is represented as the Church's inexhaustible treasury, from which she showers blessings with generous hands, without asking questions or fixing limits. Grace without price; grace without cost! The essence of grace, we suppose, is that the account has been paid in advance; and, because it has been paid, everything can be had for nothing....

Cheap grace means grace as a doctrine, a principle, a system. It means forgiveness of sins proclaimed as a general truth, the love of God taught as the Christian 'conception' of God. An intellectual assent to that idea is held to be of itself sufficient to secure remission of sins.... In such a Church the world finds a cheap covering for its sins; no contrition is required, still less any real desire to be delivered from sin. Cheap grace therefore amounts to a denial of the living Word of God, in fact, a denial of the Incarnation of the Word of God.

Cheap grace means the justification of sin without the justification of the sinner. Grace alone does everything they say, and so everything can remain as it was before. 'All for sin could not atone.' Well, then, let the Christian live like the rest of the world, let him model himself on the world's standards in every sphere of life, and not presumptuously aspire to live a different life under grace from his old life under sin....

Cheap grace is the grace we bestow on ourselves. Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline, Communion without confession.... Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate.

Costly grace is the treasure hidden in the field; for the sake of it a man will gladly go and sell all that he has. It is the pearl of great price to buy which the merchant will sell all his goods. It is the kingly rule of Christ, for whose sake a man will pluck out the eye which causes him to stumble, it is the call of Jesus Christ at which the disciple leaves his nets and follows him.

Costly grace is the gospel which must be sought again and again and again, the gift which must be asked for, the door at which a man must knock. Such grace is costly because it calls us to follow, and it is grace because it calls us to follow Jesus Christ. It is costly because it costs a man his life, and it is grace because it gives a man the only true life. It is costly because it condemns sin, and grace because it justifies the sinner. Above all, it is costly because it cost God the life of his Son: "ye were bought at a price," and what has cost God much cannot be cheap for us. Above all, it is grace because God did not reckon his Son too dear a price to pay for our life, but delivered him up for us. Costly grace is the Incarnation of God.

Costly grace is the sanctuary of God; it has to be protected from the world, and not thrown to the dogs. It is therefore the living word, the Word of God, which he speaks as it pleases him. Costly grace confronts us as a gracious call to follow Jesus. It comes as a word of forgiveness to the broken spirit and the contrite heart. Grace is costly because it compels a man to submit to the yoke of Christ and follow him; it is grace because Jesus says: "My yoke is easy and my burden is light."

On two separate occasions Peter received the call, "Follow me." It was the first and last word Jesus spoke to his disciple (Mark 1.17; John 21.22). A whole life lies between these two calls. The first occasion was by the lake of Gennesareth, when Peter left his nets and his craft and followed Jesus at his word. The second occasion is when the Risen Lord finds him back again at his old trade. Once again it is by the lake of Gennesareth, and once again the call is: "Follow me." Between the two calls lay a whole life of discipleship in the following of Christ. Half-way between them comes Peter's confession, when he acknowledged Jesus as the Christ of God....

This grace was certainly not self-bestowed. It was the grace of Christ himself, now prevailing upon the disciple to leave all and follow him, now working in him that confession which to the world must sound like the ultimate blasphemy, now inviting Peter to the supreme fellowship of martyrdom for the Lord he had denied, and thereby forgiving him all his sins. In the life of Peter grace and discipleship are inseparable. He had received the grace which costs, (pg. 45-49).

The Cross... a symbol of grace for all. We have a tendency to throw that word "grace" around in the church. We know grace to be a gift from God. Yet, I wonder if it is one of those gifts that we are thankful to receive one day and then we toss it in the closet never to be thought of again.

Grace cost God's Son His life. What does it cost you to be covered...to be called a disciple by this same grace?

Choosing to remember the high cost of grace this Easter,

Pastor Rob

Wednesday Night Services

Menu

Cooks

Dessert

| | | | |
|----------|---|----------------------------------|---|
| 03.06.13 | Pulled Pork, Salad, Green Beans and Dessert | Pat Brown and JoAnn Pierce | Pat Brown, JoAnn Pierce and Betty Nash |
| 03.13.13 | Stroganoff, Salad, Bread and Dessert | Verna Gilliland and Nancy Kaplan | Edie Logston, Norma Gilliland and Frances Buckley |
| 03.20.13 | Taco Salad and Dessert | Aaron Larimore and Mary Gordon | Amy Schwartze, Kara Kilmer and Tina Gessman |
| 03.27.13 | NO | SERVICES | TONIGHT |

WORSHIP
TEAM
PRACTICE
Thursday
@ 6:00 pm



MEETING

03.03.13 BOARD OF TRUSTEES @ 1:00 PM
03.19.13 CHURCH COUNCIL @ 6:00 PM

Easter Lilies

Easter Lilies Sign Up is in the Lobby.
Prices have not been determined at this time
but will be announced soon.

Women's Bible Study

03.04.13 & 03.18.13 @ 6:30 pm
Chazown by Craig Groeschel

Single Purpose

03.10.13

McCallister's Deli

Private meeting room immediately after church.
We will be discussing ideas for future events.

Annual Church Budget

| Monthly Budget 2012-2013 | \$16,665.00 | |
|-------------------------------|-------------|------------|
| Monthly Debt Reduction (Bldg) | \$3,020.00 | |
| Actual Giving | Budget | Building |
| September | \$18,411.24 | \$2,610.00 |
| October | \$15,461.61 | \$2,715.00 |
| November | \$12,685.90 | \$2,040.00 |
| December | \$21,638.75 | \$2,460.00 |
| January | \$14,418.09 | \$2,175.00 |
| February | \$13,349.91 | \$1,535.00 |

EASTER EGG HUNT

9:45 am Easter Morning
After Breakfast but before Worship.

Please sign up in the lobby!

Also, we are asking for egg donations, stuffed or unstuffed by March 30th. We will be stuffing eggs on March 30th at noon.

If you have any questions please ask
Chris or Christina Bolton.



Maundy Thursday

Communion and Foot Washing
Service

Thursday, March 28
6:30 pm

Easter Sunday

8:00 Worship Service
9:00 Breakfast
9:45 Easter Egg Hunt
10:30 Worship Service

Easter Breakfast
Sign Up in the Lobby!



Join a LIFT Group near you. This will provide you and your family a place to connect, grow and serve within a small group. LIFT Groups will meet ...

| | |
|-----------------|----------|
| Nash Group | 03.10.13 |
| Gilliland Group | 03.08.13 |
| | 03.22.13 |
| Larimore Group | 03.17.13 |
| Redcay Group | 03.10.13 |
| Ruth Group | 03.17.13 |

Contact Pastor Rob for additional information.

March 2013



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|--|---|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| 3 BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING @ 1:00 PM Sunday School 9 am Worship 10am | 4 Women's Bible Study @ 6:30 pm | 5 Food Pantry 1-2 pm | 6 Wednesday Night Services Dinner 5:30 Track Meet 6:15 Rock the House 6:15 Bible Study 6:30 | 7 Worship Team Practice 6:00 pm | 1 8 L.I.F.T. | 2 9 |
| 10 L.I.F.T. L.I.F.T. Single Purpose 03.10.13 McCallister's Sunday School 9 am Worship 10am | 11 | 12 | 13 Dinner 5:30 Track Meet 6:15 R the H 6:15 Bible Study 6:30 | 14 Worship Team Practice 6:00 pm | 15 | 16 |
| 17 L.I.F.T. L.I.F.T. Sunday School 9 am Worship 10am | 18 Women's Bible Study @ 6:30 pm | 19 Food Pantry 1-2 pm CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING @ 6:00 PM | 20 Dinner 5:30 Track Meet 6:15 R the H 6:15 Bible Study 6:30 | 21 Worship Team Practice 6:00 pm | 22 L.I.F.T. | 23 |
| 24 Sunday School 9 am Worship 10am | 25 | 26 | 27 NO WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERVICES | 28 Maundy Thursday 6:30 pm | 29 | 30 |
| 31 EASTER Worship 8 am Breakfast 9 am Easter Egg Hunt 9:45 am Worship 10 am | | | | | | |

faith in Action

March 2013


First Church of God
Connect, Grow, Serve.
1614 Southwest Blvd.-Jefferson City, MO 65109
573.635.0963 www.jeffcityfirstchurch.com

Schedules

03.03.13

Nursery: David Larimore, Chelsea Kilmer, Desiree Redcay and Courtney Kilmer
Early Elementary Church: Charlie & Jeannie Ruth
Children's Church: Karen Roberts and Tresha McBaine
Worship Team: Randy Gilliland, Fred Proebsting, Jeannie Ruth, John Kriete, Mary Crader, Karen Kelly and David Highfill
Audio: Robert Schwartz
Visual: Dan Gessman
Head Usher: Kevin Griep
Greeters: Kevin Griep and Brian Bush
Ushers: Mike Nash, Elmer Redcay, Nathan Redcay and Kellen Griep

03.17.13

Nursery: Tresha McBaine, Alex Gilliland, Shelby Hoener and Pat Brown
Early Elementary Church: Brenda Proebsting and Penny Sneller
Children's Church: Jennifer Redcay and Tina Gessman
Worship Team: Kevin Highfill, Kim Highfill, John Kriete and Mary Crader
Audio: Kent Denny
Visual: Keith Denny
Head Usher: Kevin Griep
Greeters: Kevin Griep and Brian Bush
Ushers: Michael Larimore, Kent Denny, Keith Denny and Junior Shikles

03.31.13

Nursery: Thom & Amanda Bolden, Desiree Redcay and Courtney Kilmer
Early Elementary Church: Florine Tripp and Chris Bolton
Children's Church: Amy Schwartz
Worship Team: Kevin Highfill, Randy Gilliland, Mark Sneller, Kayla Kespelher, Karen Kelly, Mariah Gilliland, John Kriete and Mary Crader

03.10.13

Nursery: Laura Smith, Rebecca Gessman, Carmen Bentsch and Autumn Bush
Early Elementary Church: Kara Kilmer and Nancy Kaplan
NO CHILDREN'S CHURCH
Worship Team: Randy Gilliland, Norma Gilliland, Chelsea Kilmer, John Kriete and Mary Crader
Audio: Kent Denny
Visual: Keith Denny
Head Usher: Kevin Griep
Greeters: Kevin Griep and Brian Bush
Ushers: David Larimore, John Caples, Justin Caples and Brandon Redcay

03.24.13

Nursery: Debbie Whitener, Erin Larimore and Travis & Lisa Glenn
Early Elementary Church: Charlie & Jeannie Ruth
NO CHILDREN'S CHURCH
Worship Team: Florine Tripp, Betty Nash, John Kriete and Mary Crader
Special: Florine Tripp
Audio: Mike Morris
Visual: Robert Schwartz
Head Usher: Kevin Griep
Greeters: Kevin Griep and Brian Bush
Ushers: Zach Bolton, Chris Bolton, Robert Schwartz and Charlie Ruth

Audio: Robert Schwartz
Visual: Mike Morris
Head Usher: Kevin Griep
Greeters: Kevin Griep and Brian Bush
Ushers: Adam Sneller, Steve Hawk, Kent Denny and Keith Denny