

WORDS OF GRACE

A Publication of GracePoint Church

The Adultery of Our Idolatry

“For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.”

Colossians 3:3-5

An idol is anything or anyone we trust in to meet our deepest needs other than our triune God. Anything can become an idol if we cannot imagine life worth living without it. Trusting in idols is a demand to be in control. It is continuing to believe the lie of the Garden, “You can do a better job than God in some area. You can be like God!”

The real sin of idolatry is that it is adultery in our relationship to God. It violates our covenant marriage to God. As God’s people, we are the Bride of Christ. Christ has pledged Himself to us in a love that lasts forever. Every time we trust in something or someone else to meet our deepest desires, we commit adultery against Christ.

Our idolatry breaks the heart of Father God, grieves the indwelling Holy Spirit, and spits in the face of Christ. It declares to God, “You are not enough. I cannot trust you in this

area. I must stay in control. You have come up short, and I need to meet this need right now and in my way.”

Freedom for our adulterous idolatry comes when we live out of who we are in Christ. You are royal, adopted, beloved, delighted-in, sons and daughters of the Most High King, and destined for eternal bliss and glory in God’s kingdom. Live now as if all of this were already fully true.

Since we are born-again, Spirit-indwelt children of the living God with direct access to the throne of grace, destined to co-rule the New Earth with Christ, why would we ever want to enslave ourselves again to sin, or trust in dead idols?

Set your hearts and hopes on God’s unshakable promises. When we live according to who we really are as glorious new creations in Christ, the old ways of sin and idolatry lose all power and appeal.

We repent of our idols and replace them with trusting in the person and plans of God when we rest and rejoice in the all-sufficiency of Christ.

Pastor Chris



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**GLORIFYING GOD
BY**

CONNECTING
people to God

LOVING
God and each other

GROWING
in grace and truth

SERVING
Dubuque and the world

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Stewardship

Andy Baumann
Mary Burns
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**GracePoint
Deacons**

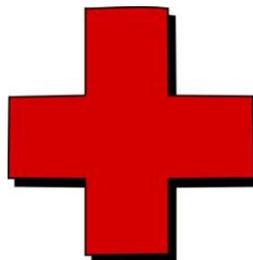
Care
Group Deacon

- 1 Sue Lemon
- 2 Robin Wlochal
- 3 Pauline Brimeyer
- 4 Shirley VanDuser
- 5 Janet Metelak
- 6 Barb Berg
- 7 Suz Birch
- 8 Sharon Baker
- 9 Carolyn Arnold

Deacon Moderator

Pauline Brimeyer

GracePath at GracePoint—Fall 2013

The Cure

We thought we were cured!

We thought so, but most of us unwittingly carried an old, dead perspective into our new life. We couldn't measure up to a standard we created, so we convinced ourselves it was God's. We read His words through our grid of shame, and felt ourselves fall farther and farther behind. We took it out on each other; judging, comparing, faking, splintering. Some of us retreated from the whole charade, becoming cynical, mistrusting, jaded from hope. Our marriages, churches, families, friendships, marketplaces, culture . . . they all need the cure.

But God's cures rarely come in the form we expect. What if, indeed, God is not who we think He is—and neither are we?

- Sundays at 9:00am beginning September 8 through October 20
- "Whole church" course accompanies Pastor Chris' sermon series.
- Video with facilitated small group discussion
- Sign up to attend and order books no later than August 25th.
- Book plus study guide with DVD is \$15.00.

UGANDAN ORPHANS CHOIR AT GRACEPOINT

July 7, 2013



YES, let's all raise our hands and praise the Lord for blessing us with these precious and talented children. It was amazing to watch and hear those energetic kids singing, dancing, and drumming with their happy smiles, to praise the Lord. It was also touching to hear them tell us their dream of what they want to be when they grow up. They now have that opportunity because they are all sponsored.

Not only were we blessed, but the tour leader Josh told us that we also blessed them. Our sanctuary was filled with 219 people who wanted to learn about the Ugandan Orphans Choir. As the congregation witnessed the Choir's passion to help other needy children get sponsored, we collected a love offering of \$1,800! This will make a huge difference in many kids' lives. In addition, 8 needy children were sponsored by families that evening and will now learn about God, receive a good education, have a fulfilled life, and a better future! A special thanks to the sponsors! We also experienced another Godsend with a young man named Joseph who was also a sponsored child from Uganda. He now attends the Divine Word Seminary. Joseph was thrilled to hear that the Ugandan Choir was going to be at our church, and he passionately gave the kids a reality check that they truly can have a future through sponsorship! The kids were mesmerized as he passionately shared his life and they realized they too can have that future.

“Whoever receives one such little child in My name receives Me.” (Luke 9:48)

SEAL Team: Pam DeMeester, Stephanie Lange, Beverly VanDerZyl

PRECEPTS AT GRACEPOINT - FALL 2013

In Precepts this fall we will conclude our study of the book of Romans. We have completed chapters 1–8, so we are half-way there. After much prayer and careful consideration, I've decided that we need to close our class to new participants. It would be difficult at this point to “catch-up” to the group with ease. Watch for the new course to come in January. We would love to have you join us then. Precepts “old-timers” need to contact Mary ASAP to sign up for a workbook.

HOLY MOSES REVIEW

"What a cherished treasure to be surrounded by a cast of 40 and that many crew members in staging a gigantic story from the Old Testament, one of a series to have been performed before our very eyes. The limitless energy of children spills over and is grasped by us oldies who find it all absolutely enchanting. How it all gets done in a limited amount of time is the magic potion of it all. The story behind whether or not there will be a summer play confirms God's overall pleasure in it coming about. Thanks, thanks.

Sr. Donaldo, Mt. St. Francis Convent

SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR PRESCOTT AND AUDUBON

We can use your help! This year we are collecting school supplies for Audubon and Prescott schools to be used during the year for new students or regular students who need to replenish their school supplies. Most stores that sell school supplies have copies of the Audubon and Prescott school supply lists. School lists are also available on the district website.

If you need help shopping, a SEAL team member can do the shopping for you. Now is the time to catch the sales and maximize your dollars. Please put your school supplies in the marked tubs in the lobby. NOTE: Both schools can always use glue sticks, whiteboard markers, washable colored markers, and book bags.

SEAL Team: Barb & LeRoy Berg, Beverly VanDerZyl, Dan Baker, Gaye Grote

GLOBAL MISSIONS

Before retiring from mission service in March 2005, Woody and Barbara Busse served as Regional Liaisons in Central Asia for six years for the Worldwide Ministries Division of Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The Busses have a **long** history of serving the PCUSA, both in the parish and overseas, including fourteen years in Iran and four years in Pakistan. In their “retirement,” they have served under the umbrella of Presbyterian Frontier Fellowship (PFF) as they travel between California and Central Asia to build relationships.

In 2011, Woody wrote about Barbara:

As a PFF colleague recently commented, so many Jesus follower women in Tajikistan and Uzbekistan regard Barbara as one of their closest friends with whom they can share their heart concerns and hopes and whose guidance and blessing they seek. And praise God the same can be said for any number of women who are pre-Christians. They somehow find in Barbara one who is vibrant and a person they would like to meet and see what makes her different. She affirms them and cares about them and lives that out over time. Woody went on to tell how much Barbara values her continued connection to the congregation where she was birthed into the Family of God.

Barbara (Skaife) grew up at Third Church. As a high school student, Barbara realized her passion for mission. She has been unstoppable ever since.

In 2012, Woody and Barbara wrote:

This appears to be the most significant time in our ministry: going twice a year into Uzbekistan and Tajikistan at the invitation of our partner friends; relating with the two Iranian churches we attend in southern California; by god’s grace, having contact with many more in the Persian world.

Woody and Barbara met at the University of Dubuque. Barbara graduated from the college in 1957; Woody completed his master of divinity degree at the seminary in 1955. From 1986 to 1998, Barbara helped raise support for the education of Dalit children in India as a volunteer with Witnessing Ministries for Christ.

We support the Busse’s ministry in Central Asia and the Witnessing Ministries for Christ, led by another UD couple. Please pray for Woody and Barbara as they transition to a new residence in California and find their place of continued service to God and the World.

Beverly VanDerZyl, for the Global Missions Team



2013

2013



Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 8:30a Chapel Service 10:00a Fellowship Time 10:30a Worship Service 6:00p GraceUnderground	5 6:00p Food Pantry	6	7 6:15a Men's Pry Brkfst	8	9	10 11:15a DBQ Rescue Mission Lunch
		Pastor Chris on Leave				
11 8:30a Chapel Service 10:00a Fellowship Time 10:30a Worship Service	12 6:00p Food Pantry	13	14 6:15a Men's Pry Brkfst	15	16 	17
1:30p Bethany Home 6:00p GraceUnderground		Pastor Chris on Leave				
18 NO Chapel Service 10:00a Fellowship Time 10:30a Worship Service	19 6:00p Food Pantry	20	21 6:15a Men's Pry Brkfst 7:00p Elder Ministry Teams	22	23	24
Pastor Chris on Leave GraceUnderground River Night						
25 8:30a Chapel Service 10:00a Fellowship Time 10:30a Worship Service 6:00p GraceUnderground	26 6:00p Food Pantry	27	28 6:15a Men's Pry Brkfst 5:00p Golden Oldies 6:30p Session	29	30	31

Membership to Date	
Active	150
Inactive	8
Perm. Inactive	<u>3</u>
Total	161

CLERK'S REPORT

It is getting that time of year when "Operation Christmas Child – Shoe Boxes" will be collected. The collection will be starting in October – Watch the September Newsletter for all details as to what can be put in the boxes, etc. Any separate items can be brought in at any time.

Administrative Bookkeeper's Report

General Fund Beginning Balance, May 1, 2013	\$11,159.88
Total General Fund Receipts	<u>28,256.25</u>
Subtotal Beginning Balance & Receipts	\$39,416.13
General Fund Disbursements	\$25,145.81
Allocations & Transfers	<u>1,558.34</u>
Subtotal Disbursements, Allocations & Transfers	\$26,704.15
General Fund Ending Balance May 31, 2013	\$12,711.98

Pat Kohler, Session Clerk

GOLDEN OLDIES

Golden Oldies will meet on Wednesday, August 28th, 5:00pm, for a pot-luck picnic at Richard and Shirley Merrihew's 9364 Scenic Acres Lane. Sign up in the lobby the Sunday before (potluck information is on the sign-up sheet) or call Bob Boelk, 557-9166.

All Seniors are Welcome!

Learning Timelessness

We tend to think of our lives in terms of past, present and future. Therefore, we easily become time-bound, living under the restrictions of clocks, calendars and seasons. The concern of the truly spiritual person, however, is the "now"—that suspension of the flow of hours, days and years. God, who isn't time-bound, breaks in upon our lives, and we sense, however distantly, the eternal. And we're refreshed, healed and lifted up.

The experience of the eternal may happen any time, even amid distraction. But the witness of the mystics is that it most frequently occurs in the time of quiet abandonment in prayer. As we grow spiritually, we become less time-bound and discover that the God of grace isn't limited to the passage of the hours, days and years



Friday
August 16

BIRTHDAYS

3 J'Neane Briden
 3 Dwayne Intveld
 3 Paul Jensen
 4 Kate Winslow Duehr
 5 Dave Gaylor
 7 Pam De Meester
 8 Daniel Harknett
 9 Suz Birch
 12 Nathan Donovan
 12 Glenn Scheer
 15 Mable Boelk
 15 Lorraine Scherf
 18 Nick Buol
 21 Katie Schwarzmann
 23 Edie Ege
 24 Steve Lemon
 25 Dana Perreard
 28 Mary Hirschey



ANNIVERSARIES

4 Kate & Gary Duehr
 5 Sharon & Paul Jensen
 8 Sherry & Jim Huston
 9 Lisa & Dave Gaylor
 10 Pauline & Dan Brimeyer
 11 Kristen & Richard Pope
 13 Jennie & Robert Burns
 14 Robin & Ray Wlochall
 18 Debi & Al Hakanson
 22 Jan & Rev. Alan Crandall

Check Out the Library

We receive donations of new and used books and videos all the time. There is always something new in the library. The library is open Sundays from 8:30am–noon. If you have any new books or videos to donate to the library, contact Mable or Bob Boelk, 557-9166.



Heart of Dubuque

Meet Your Neighbor

Kids Games

Fellowship

Free
Ice Cream
Social

Sponsored by
Neighborhood Christian Churches

Sunday, August 18
1-3PM
Comiskey Park

Summer Summer Summer!

August 4 — GraceUnderground Drop In/Summer Music Academy
 August 11 — GraceUnderground Drop In/Summer Music Academy
 August 18 — RIVER NIGHT!
 August 25 — Fall program starts.

Lifest 2013
 “A Party with a Purpose”
 Sunnyview Expo Center, Oshkosh, Wisconsin

On Thursday morning, July 11, nine youth and four adults packed their camping gear in three vehicles and headed toward Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

They made good time, found the camp grounds entrance, and waited in the check-in line. This year, Lifest campsites were sold out—all 2,500 of them. Two more adults and a small child joined the group. A total of six adults and 10 kids occupied four 15' x 20' campsites. COZY!

Meals were prepared and enjoyed at the campsite. They "entertained" a small group of non-campers for the eight meals. Total meals consumed = 120.

Lifest is a family-friendly celebration of Christian music. This was the 23rd year. From mid-morning until after midnight, there were concerts on one or more of the four stages. The concerts included Skillet, Thousand Foot Krutch, Newsboys, Family Force 5, Peter Eide, and many others.

Quote from one of the adults: “I saw a bunch of Christian concerts and got to be involved in some amazing people's lives.”

Quote from one of the GraceUnderground youth, who went for the first time: “I loved it!”

Other things that happened at Lifest:

- 172 people stopped in to give blood during the blood drive at Lifest. According to Community Blood Center, 366 lives were saved because of Lifest.
- Compassion International had a huge trailer at Lifest. A simulation of what it's like to live in poverty in a Third World country gives people a glimpse of the need for sponsors. Many children were sponsored.

Thank you to all who gave their time (and energy) to make this experience possible. Thank you to all who prayed for a safe, spiritually impactful event for the youth. Your prayers were answered!

See Lifest pictures on page 11.



Middle School & High School Youth

6:00–6:30pm
Bible Study

6:30–8:00pm
Drop In Summer Music Academy



Connecting,
Loving, Growing,
Serving

PRAYER CHAIN

To start a prayer, call Pat Kohler or Lois Trausch-Wolfe.

Daytime Prayer Chain

Pat Kohler
583-8978

Gerry Vandenberg
583-5338

Ramona Hennings
583-8739

Wilma Sanders
582-7346

Mable Boelk
557-9166

Sue Lemon
583-4454

Lois Trausch-Wolfe
583-0534

(Lois starts the evening chain.)

Evening Prayer Chain

Sharon Baker
451-4557

Glenda Temple
582-0464

Karen Storlie
556-7548

Kim or Jerry Bell
582-4956

SERVANTS OF THE LORD

August

Worship Venue 10:30am

Communion Preparers (August 4) Suze Birch, Robin Wlochall

Communion Servers (August 4) Scott & Carolyn Arnold
Steve & Sue Lemon

Ushers

Greeters

August 4 Don & Wilma Sanders

Ed boettner, Judy Godwin

August 11 Don & Wilma Sanders

Ed Boettner, Betty Pothoff

August 18 Ann & Andy Baumann

Mike Boland, Tom Scherf

August 25 Ann & Andy Baumann

Betty Pothoff, Dixie Shaffer

Please find your own subs. Substitute ushers are Mike or Ralph Vandenberg. Substitute greeters are Pat Kohler, Dixie Shaffer, or Barb Berg.

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY REGIONAL BLOOD DRIVE

I want to thank all of the 17 heroes who donated blood on July 17th at GracePoint. One of these heroes was able to donate 2 pints of blood! I also want to thank the generous people who donated bars, cookies, ice cream, and root beer. We had a fantastic day and collected 18 units of blood, which has the potential to touch the lives of as many as 54 patients in need of life-saving blood products. Our donations can allow children to grow to adulthood, parents to enjoy their families for years to come, and grandparents to see new generations enter the world. Now, that was an hour of your time that was well spent!

Pam De Meester

NEW BIBLE STUDY AT CLARITY CLINIC

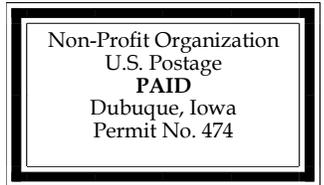
"Surrendering the Secret," an 8-week bible study is being offered for anyone who has suffered from the after-effects of having chosen to have an abortion. (No judgment, no condemnation...only HOPE!) This study starts in August. For more information, please call Kathy 563-557-3123 or Kris at Clarity Clinic 563-556-5250.





3100 Windsor Avenue
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GLORIFYING GOD BY

CONNECTING people to God

LOVING God and each other

GROWING in grace and truth

SERVING Dubuque and the world

Heart of Dubuque 4th Annual Ice Cream Social
August 18 from 1:00 to 3:00pm
Comiskey Park (24th and Jackson Streets)

The neighborhood social allows people to enjoy a summer afternoon of casual conversation, free ice cream, live entertainment, and old-fashioned fun for kids. The event will be held rain or shine.

