

# WORDS OF GRACE

A Publication of GracePoint Church

## The Battle Begins at Home

*“That night the LORD said to (Gideon), “Take your father's bull, and the second bull seven years old, and pull down the altar of Baal that your father has, and cut down the Asherah that is beside it and build an altar to the LORD your God on the top of the stronghold here.” Judges 6:25-26*

God was telling Gideon, *You cannot be victorious in battling the enemies of God's people until you first win the battles in your own heart and home.* Likewise, Christ admonishes us—*If you want to win the battle for city and country, you must first win the battle against the idols in your own heart and home.*

We read next that the people who were upset with the loss of their idols gave Gideon a new name.

*“Therefore, on that day Gideon was called Jerubbaal, that is to say, ‘Let Baal contend against him,’ because he broke down his altar.”* The name *Jerubbaal* allows for different interpretations. The people meant it to be derogatory, meaning, *Let Baal fight against Gideon.*

However, God turns the name of derision into a name of honor. God has it mean, *Baal-fighter, one who has fought against Baal!* God will take the name of your defeat, and turn it into the name of your victory!

Your name *used to be—Let addiction (to food, sex, porn, alcohol, drugs, anger, greed, control, etc.) fight against you!* Now God calls you

*—Addiction-fighter, the one who overcomes and helps others overcome!*

Your name *used to be—Let shame, let regret, let timidity, let worry, let fear, let loneliness, let that besetting struggle, fight against you!* Now God calls you—*The one who is victorious in Christ!*

The battle in the public square always begins in private prayer. As the familiar proverb goes, hurting people *hurt* people, shamed people *shame* people, and contrarily, forgiven people *forgive* people, healed people *heal* people, and beloved people *love* people. The rhythm of Christ for us to follow is regular times in restoration then re-engagement in the war of love and justice.

God in grace is always preparing the means of your rescue and redemption during every year of your running and rebellion! God had Gideon use the very wood of the Asherah pole as fuel for Gideon's sacrifice of worship to the true God. God will take the very stuff of your struggle, and use it as fuel for your worship! God will make the very place of your shame the place of your glory!

*Pastor Chris*



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Office Hours  
Mon–Fri, 9:30am–2pm  
Volume 17, Issue 11  
November 2014  
Published Monthly

**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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**GracePoint Elders**

through 2014

EquippingMary Hirschey  
Stephanie LangeMissional OutreachPam De Meester  
Ken GodwinFellowshipRay Wlochal  
Wilma SandersPrayer

Pam Hillary

StewardshipAndy Baumann  
Mary Burns  
Doug StorlieWorship

Beverly VanDerZyl

**GracePoint  
Deacons**

through 2014

Care  
Group Deacon

- 1 Sue Lemon
- 2 Betty Carlson
- 3 Glenda Temple
- 4 Shirley VanDuser
- 5 Janet Metelak
- 6 Barb Berg
- 7 Suz Birch
- 8 Mary Ann Hopkins
- 9 Carolyn Arnold

Deacon Moderator

Shirley VanDuser

**GRACEPOINT'S NEW SECURITY SYSTEM**

The potential attractions for burglars at GracePoint have increased with the acquisition of five new TVs and DVD players; the Fellowship Center completely remodeled; a new portable sound system; and a new video system in the works to project our service into the Fellowship Center, plus all of the existing computers and musical equipment. In addition, our current security system has died of old age. After a lot of research and discernment, it was decided to go with Security Products of Dubuque for a completely new security system. Many thanks to our Foundation Board for approving the use of Foundation monies for this very important and necessary project. The installation of the new system was completed Tuesday the 14<sup>th</sup> of October.

Our new security system is triggered upon opening ANY outside door, plus numerous motion detectors inside our building. There are two keypads to disarm the system in the church building. One is on the kitchen wall in the hallway inside the back door from the parking lot. The second keypad is on the wall just to the right of the doors at the office entrance. You will need to remember and make a habit of only entering the building **after hours** using either the Fellowship Center or the office door.

The Food Pantry will have a keypad that is for the Food Pantry only. The two systems are tied together, however, so your access code can be used for both.

During normal office hours, the system may already be disarmed. You will not know if the system is armed or disarmed until you check the message on the keypad. As soon as you enter any door, the alarm is tripped. You will have 45 seconds to enter your personal, four-digit security code to disarm the system. ALL members, who currently have a key to the building, will need a personal security code to disarm the system upon entering the building.

Personal security code forms are available in the Connect Center. Please complete a form and turn it in to Judy in the office. The form asks for your current church key information. Your completed form will also ensure that we have all our key information up to date in our system. You determine your own four-digit code; no one else will have the same code. Everyone who has a security code is responsible for the use of and protection of that code. Your Property Ministry Team will offer training on the new system.

Your Stewardship Property Ministry Team

## CLARIFYING OUR ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT POSITION

There has been some confusion on the role of our church office staff and deadlines for submissions to our bulletin and newsletter. The following clarifications will allow the church office to serve you well.

GracePoint does not have a “church secretary” who is available to any member for tasks. We have an *Administrative Assistant to the Pastor and Session*. The title itself clarifies who may give tasks and feedback to the person in this position.

In 2008, Session approved the following aspects of this position.

- Direct supervision of the Administrative Assistant is by the Pastor.
- Only the Pastor and the Personnel Elder may give correction, critique, and evaluation to the Administrative Assistant on specific tasks done and on overall job performance. Anyone else with concerns may put these into writing, and give them to the Pastor and Personnel Elder.
- Other than submitting info for publication or the exceptions below, only the Pastor, active Ruling Elders, those designated by an Elder to oversee a ministry assignment, our two Directors, the Deacons, and the Clerk of Session may assign work to the Administrative Assistant.
- These restrictions still allow GracePoint members to request assistance for small tasks such as making a copy, locating a resource, using office equipment/material, acquiring contact info, submitting prayer requests, mailing a single letter, or making a call, etc.

### Please note the following deadlines:

- All worship bulletin and announcement content is due **by noon Thursday**.
- All newsletter content is due **by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month**.

Submissions not made within these deadlines will have to wait until the following week or month.

Our Administrative Assistant is very gracious, gifted, and professional in accommodating your ministry and communication needs. The church office serves GracePoint with excellence in accomplishing its vision and mission. These policies are not to be restrictive or unaccommodating, but to foster maximum efficiency and effectiveness, and to be respectful of our Administrative Assistant.

If you have any questions or concerns about these policies, please talk directly with the Pastor or Personnel Elder, not with our Administrative Assistant. *Thank you* for your understanding and support in these crucial matters.

*Pastor Christopher English*



## CLARIFYING OUR ASSISTANT PASTOR POSITION

When we rehired Dana as our Director of Worship and Evangelism, one unresolved critical matter was his ordination status within our EPC denomination, as a Director level position is not an ordained pastor position. Our Rivers and Lakes Presbytery has been very supportive and flexible in working with us in this matter.

We are now excited to report that we have found a way for Dana's position to be recognized by our denomination as an ordained position. There is a category within our polity called an "assistant pastor." Here is how the assistant pastor category differs from an associate pastor position.

### An assistant pastor

- ◆ Is a direct hire by the Session needing no search team or congregational vote.
- ◆ Is an annual contract renewable each year.
- ◆ Requires no benefits such as paid leave, insurance, expense funds, or pension.
- ◆ Cannot become the senior or solo pastor of the same church where serving as an assistant pastor.

Switching Dana's position to assistant pastor status allows him to maintain his ordination, remain in good standing with our denomination with full privileges, and allows him the tax benefits of declaring his salary as housing allowance. Praise be to our gracious God, between Dana's other PT position and Katy's teaching position with full benefits, the Perreard's needs are now well covered.

**Please note:** This change of category from Director to Assistant Pastor does not change anything at all about Dana's position description, salary, or benefits. Dana remains at 10 hours a week with the narrowly defined duties of leading our praise team and doing evangelism.

**Please also note:** GracePoint remains a solo pastor congregation with Pastor Chris as your *only* pastor. Hence, please do not go to Dana for any pastoral care needs or questions.

Thanks be to our faithful, wonder-working triune God of all grace in providing a way for Dana to be on staff at GracePoint, and to maintain his full ordination status and privileges.



Don't forget to sign up to bring treats for fellowship time on Sundays.

You may also honor a birthday, anniversary, or special event.

Look for the sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Center.

# GLOBAL MISSIONS

## Meet Ted and Karey Yeats

I do not believe that the Global Mission Team has previously introduced Ted and Karey Yeats to the GracePoint congregation. The Yates are affiliated with the Navigators and presently serve in Washington, D.C. We first met the Yates thirty or more years ago when they were missionaries in Eastern Europe. At that time they were associated with Campus Crusade in a people-to-people ministry. Their work was very risky and communication with them difficult because of the security that was needed in Communist countries.

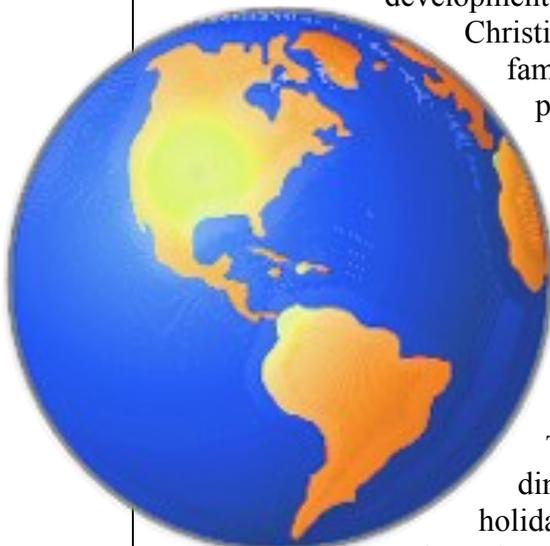
The Yeats serve now with the Navigators in the area of leadership development and support. Specifically, they serve as Christian mentors to members of congress and their families. They also direct a summer internship program for college students who work as interns in congressional offices and federal agencies. Often, many of these interns are later hired to work in these offices.

As residents of the metro D.C. area, they meet and are able to witness Christ's love to many foreign visitors and dignitaries. One example of this would be the opening of their home to these visitors at Thanksgiving for a traditional Thanksgiving dinner and an explanation of the meaning this holiday has for Americans. Here are two quotes from the Yeats' website.

"God's call on our lives: To advance the Gospel of Jesus and His Kingdom into the nations through spiritual generations of leaders, who are living and discipling among those who do not yet know Christ."

"We consider it our high calling to provide relational and spiritual support to the decision makers in our nation's capital. With no political agenda, we serve as confidential friends, encouraging leaders to take the next step in their spiritual journey. We strive to model authentic, Christ-filled lives as we engage people individually and in small groups, helping them apply Biblical truths to their personal and professional lives. *We pursue this vision while intentionally cultivating Environments of Grace and Relationships of Trust.*

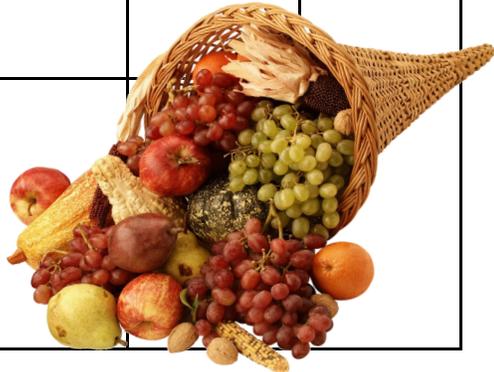
For the Global Mission team,  
Scott Arnold



2014

November

2014

| Sunday  | Mon   | Tue  | Wed   | Thu  | Fri  | Sat   |
|---|---|--|---|--|--|---|
|   |   |  |   |  |  | 1   |
| <b>2</b><br>8:30a Chapel<br>9:00a GracePath<br>10:00a Fellowship<br>10:04a Prayer Room<br>10:30a Worship Service<br><br>6:00p GraceU  | <b>3</b><br><br>6:00p Food Pantry<br>7:00p Coffee,<br>Prayer and Praise | <b>4</b><br><br>6:30p Precepts                         | <b>5</b><br>6:15a Men's Prayer Brkfst<br>9:00a Precepts<br><br>5:30p Hand Bells                           | <b>6</b>   | <b>7</b><br><br>7:30p Family<br>Dance Night  | <b>8</b>  |
| <b>9</b><br>8:30a Chapel<br>9:00a GracePath<br>10:00a Fellowship<br>10:04a Prayer Room<br>10:30a Worship Service<br>12:00p Women to Women<br>Luncheon<br>1:30p Bethany Home<br><br>6:00p GraceU | <b>10</b><br><br>6:00p Food Pantry                                      | <b>11</b><br><br>4:00p Golden Oldies<br>6:30p Precepts | <b>12</b><br>6:15a Men's Prayer Brkfst<br>9:00a Precepts<br><br>5:30p Hand Bells<br>7:00p Deacons Meeting | <b>13</b>  | <b>14</b><br><br><div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">                         Youth Retreat Camp<br/>                         Wyoming                     </div> | <b>15</b>   |
| <b>16</b><br>8:30a Chapel<br>9:00a GracePath<br>10:00a Fellowship<br>10:04a Prayer Room<br>10:30a Worship Service<br><br>6:00p GraceU   | <b>17</b><br><br>6:00p Food Pantry                                      | <b>18</b><br><br>6:30p Precepts                        | <b>19</b><br>6:15a Men's Prayer Brkfst<br>9:00a Precepts<br><br>5:30p Hand Bells<br>6:30p Session         | <b>20</b>  | <b>21</b>  | <b>22</b>   |
| <b>23</b><br>8:30a Chapel<br>9:00a GracePath<br>10:00a Fellowship<br>10:04a Prayer Room<br>10:30a Worship Service<br><br>6:00p GraceU   | <b>24</b><br><br>6:00p Food Pantry                                      | <b>25</b><br><br>11:15a Red Hat<br>Ladies              | <b>26</b><br>6:15a Men's Prayer Brkfst<br><br>7:00pm Thanksgiving<br>Eve Service                          | <b>27</b><br><b>Thanksgiving</b><br><b>Day</b><br><br>OFFICE<br>CLOSED | <b>28</b><br><br>OFFICE<br>CLOSED  | <b>29</b>   |
| <b>30</b><br><b>First Sunday of Advent</b><br>8:30a Chapel<br>9:00a GracePath<br>10:00a Fellowship<br>10:04a Prayer Room<br>10:30a Worship Service<br><br>6:00p GraceU                          |   |  |   |  |  |  |

## Membership to Date:

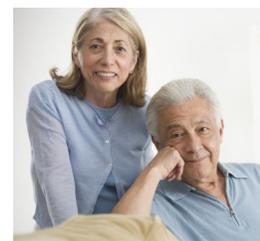
|                |          |
|----------------|----------|
| Active         | 138      |
| Inactive       | 7        |
| Perm. Inactive | <u>3</u> |
| Total          | 148      |

|  |
|--|
| <p style="text-align: center;"><b>CLERK'S<br/>REPORT</b></p> |
|--|

Session meeting night has been changed to the 3rd Wednesday of the month. GracePoint will host the Presbytery Meeting in April 2015. The 1st Sunday of Advent starts on November 30th. Thanksgiving Eve Service will be Wednesday, November 26th, at 7:00pm. Coffee, Prayer, and Praise will be Monday, December 3rd, at 7:00pm. Old-Fashioned Christmas will be Friday, December 12th. Annual Reports are due Friday, January 9, 2015. The Annual Congregational/Corporation Meeting will be Sunday, February 9, 2015, following the Worship Service.

**Administrative Bookkeeper's Report**

|   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| General Fund Beginning Balance, August 1, 2014  | \$20,456.13      |
| Total General Fund Receipts                     | <u>15,089.31</u> |
| Subtotal Beginning Balance & Receipts           | \$35,545.44      |
| General Fund Disbursements                      | \$20494.07       |
| Allocations & Transfers                         | <u>1,474.99</u>  |
| Subtotal Disbursements, Allocations & Transfers | \$21,969.06      |
| General Fund Ending Balance, September 30, 2014 | \$13,576.38      |

**GOLDEN OLDIES**

Golden Oldies will meet Tuesday, November 11th, 4:00pm, at the Alverno Apartments, 3525 Windsor Avenue. Sign up the Sunday before in the Connect Way or call Bob Boelk, 557-9166. .

All seniors 50 years and older are welcome!

**Woman to Woman Luncheon**

Our next Woman to Woman luncheon will be on Sunday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, at noon, after our worship service. We will meet at the kitchen counter for our food, and gather in the conference room to eat and enjoy each other's company. We're thinking soups, breads, vegetables, and dessert!

If you have joined us before, you should have heard from us by e-mail or a telephone call. We would also truly enjoy new visitors to our group! Please call one of us so we will have your contact information or to answer any questions you may have. We hope to see you there!  
Karen



Pam Hillary 580-9523/Martha Intveld 581-6371/ Karen Storlie 580-0734



Saturday  
November 15

## BIRTHDAYS

3 Mary Trenkamp  
 5 Jim Fox  
 7 Lois Trausch-Wolfe  
 8 Joe Burns  
 10 Brandon English  
 12 Angela Baumann  
 12 Shelby Shaffer  
 12 Frankie Shepherd  
 14 Elaine Scheer  
 14 Ben Cernek  
 15 Doug Storlie  
 16 Ann Marie Baumann  
 19 Carolyn Arnold'  
 23 Madeline Perreard  
 24 Dan Brimeyer  
 24 Destiny Huston  
 25 Betty Carlson  
 27 George Schwarzmann Jr  
 29 Ed Boettner



## Anniversaries

3 Mike McCarthy & Dixie Shaffer  
 18 Robert & Edie Ege  
 19 Don & Wilma Sanders  
 23 Roger & Beverly VanDerZyl  
 28 LeRoy & Barb Berg  
 28 John & Pam Hillary

# Check Out the Library

There is always something new in the library, and it is open Sundays from 8:30am till noon.

Donations of new books or videos are always welcome. Questions? Contact Mable or Bob Boelk, 557-9166.



## Old-Fashioned Community Christmas

**December 12, 2014**

**6:00—9:00pm**

The Missional Outreach Team is in the process of offering this event to reach out and share God's love with our community. We would like to offer the popular horse-drawn wagon rides, treat them to delicious home-made foods prepared by our generous congregation, take family photos, engage kids in crafts, and fill their ears and hearts with great Christian music.

In order for this to happen, we really need our Congregation to support this event. We will have sign-up sheets available in the Connect Way early in November. Please be in prayer as to what areas you will sign up for to reach out to our community.



Pam De Meester, SEAL Team Leader

## HELP WANTED

GracePoint is recruiting people to fill the following positions.

1. Baristas for the new Common Grounds coffee café. (Please contact Pastor Dana Perreard to sign up) First training is set for Nov 3 at 6:30pm.
2. Projectionist substitutes for the Sunday GracePoint worship. (Please contact Shirley VanDuser or Beverly VanDerZyl)

*Compensation: Eternal rewards redeemed in Heaven*

## "Prayer Is Legal"

In 1962 the Supreme Court ruled that official prayer had no place in our public schools. (To be exact, they said that school officials should not compose a prayer for students to recite.) Many people saw this as a turning point for our nation. Personally, I'm sure it was, even if it did protect the integrity of the constitution.

Thinking about this, I can't get the words of Jim Cymbala out of my head. He said in his book *Fresh Wind, Fresh Fire*, "Am I the only one who gets embarrassed when religious leaders in America talk about having prayer in public schools? We don't have even that much prayer in many churches! Out of humility, you would think we would keep quiet on that particular subject until we practice what we preach in our own congregations. I know they took prayer out of schools, but when did they take it out of churches?"

I don't mean to be dramatic, but I'd be dishonest if I said anything but this—we are all in need of what we have traditionally called "revival." Years and years ago I heard a pastor whose name I don't remember define this for me. He said, "Revival is what happens when God restores what is intended to be normal in the life of the church." How I long for that. I know Pastor Chris does, too. A cool, mechanical exercise of church or religious duties can't restore what God intends to be normal in a Christian's life, but a little bit of turning of the heart along with some exercise of activity—that can be a start.

With that in mind, I want to call you to prayer. I don't think much will happen through our bravest or most clever evangelism efforts if we don't turn our hearts to God in real surrender and honesty. Please pray. Please continue to pray. Pray that we'll want to pray. We need God's help to face the times that appear to be coming and to flourish in spite of the evils and trials we face.

-Pastor Dana

### **November 3rd, Coffee Night and Prayer**

7:00pm Coffee House Music

7:30pm Worship Music

8:00pm Prayer

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## Food Pantry

We would like to thank everyone who has donated food or given money to support our food pantry. This year we don't need turkeys for Thanksgiving but we can use more hams for Christmas. Please give your ham, cash, or check to Gerry Vandenberg on one of the upcoming Sundays. The Food Pantry will be closed December 1st.

**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
- Kim or Jerry Bell 582-4956
- Karen Storlie 556-7548

**Volunteers are priceless at GracePoint!**

**Worship Venue 9:30am**

**Communion Preparers** (November 2) Janet Metelak & Suz Birch

**Communion Servers** (November 2) Steve & Sue Lemon

|                    | Ushers                      | Greeters                          | Prayer Room      |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| <b>November 2</b>  | Dwayne & Martha Intveld     | Dan & Pauline Brimeyer            | Doug Storlie     |
| <b>November 9</b>  | Doug & Karen Storlie        | Betty Carlson<br>Mary Ann Hopkins | Pauline Brimeyer |
| <b>November 16</b> | Ed Boettner<br>Doug Mulder  | Ann Baumann<br>Dixie Shaffer      | Janet Metelak    |
| <b>November 23</b> | Andy Baumann<br>Mike Boland | Don & Wilma Sanders               | Patti Scheer     |
| <b>November 30</b> | Ed Boettner<br>Doug Mulder  | Vic & Marilyn Learn               | Mary Ann Hopkins |

**ChildCare**

- November 2 Judy and Rebecah Godwin
- November 9 Melissa Donovan, Paulette Kress
- November 16 Sue Lemon, Betty Carlson
- November 23 Pam DeMeester, Martha Intveld
- November 30 Steve Lemon

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

**FAMILY DANCE  
NOVEMBER 7TH, 7:30PM**

In our beautiful new Fellowship Center there will be a family dance with a free-will offering to raise funds for the Joanna Project. A professional dance instructor will be on site. We will play a variety of music (yes, even country). Come dance, enjoy the fellowship, and support a great cause!.

Questions? Contact Judy Godwin.



## Youth Ministry Report

October brought great times with the youth:

- Movie Night ~ Friday, October 3; watched “Forever Strong”
- GraceUnderground on Sunday nights, 6-8pm
  - 10—15 youth in attendance
  - Music rehearsal at 5pm
  - Assistants: Judy Godwin, Beverly VanDerZyl, and Pauline Brimeyer
- GracePath classes on Sunday mornings, 9–10am
  - Assistants: Steve and Sue Lemon
  - Substitute teacher: Doug Mulder
- Bethany Home worship assistance ~ Sunday, October 12
- Service Project at Pat Kohler’s home ~ Saturday, October 18



*Duane Mullen teaches, and youth discuss in groups.*

*Youth have fun!*



### Plans

- Retreat at Camp Wyoming ~ November 14–15
- T-shirts
- Once-a-month involvement with existing ministry teams
- “Dance the Night Away” at GracePoint ~ November 7
- Christmas Caroling with Deacons
- Acquire the Fire (ATF) postponed until February 2015



### Youth Ministry Support Team

Ken Godwin, Elder  
 Judy Godwin  
 Pam De Meester, Elder  
 Stephanie Lange, Elder  
 Doug Mulder  
 Duane Mullen  
 Beverly VanDerZyl, Elder

Duane M. Mullen  
 GracePoint Youth Director  
 Church: 563.583.3929  
 Cell: 206.707.5985  
 Facebook:  
[GraceUnderground](https://www.facebook.com/GraceUnderground)  
[www.gracepointdbq.org](http://www.gracepointdbq.org)  
[youth@gracepointdbq.org](mailto:youth@gracepointdbq.org)



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November 2014  
Volume 17, Issue 11  
Published Monthly

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Dubuque, Iowa  
Permit No. 474

Return Service Requested

**GLORIFYING GOD BY**

**CONNECTING** people to God

**LOVING** God and each other

**GROWING** in grace and truth

**SERVING** Dubuque and the world

**THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE**

November 26, 2014  
7:00pm at GracePoint

Join us for a joy-filled evening of praise, prayer, and thanksgiving! A special offering for the Dubuque Rescue Mission will be taken.

