

# WORDS OF GRACE

A Publication of GracePoint Church

## The Voices of Shame and Grace

*“And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.*

*...Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked.”*

Gen 2:25, 3:7

Even though God calls us his beloved, his treasured possession, the apple of his eye, we keep listening instead to the shaming voices of others, the Accuser, and our own self-condemning voices. “You’re not enough. If people really knew the real you, they would reject you. You had better put on a mask, and pretend that you are who you think others want you to be.”

Whether you realize it or not, shame is a major barrier that keeps you from experiencing the depth of closeness with God and others that you desire. Shame is an unshakable belief that I do not just do bad things, but that in my deepest identity I am only bad. Shame smothers our new identity in Christ. Shame is a defining fear that I am unworthy of love, grace, and connection with God or others.

Shame is the lie that I cannot trust another with the deepest parts of my soul. Thus, shame drives us to be either a people-avoider or a people-pleaser. Shame is the lie that I can never be good enough for God. Thus, shame drives us to be either a God-avoider or a God-performer.

Here’s the gospel—Shame and grace cannot coincide in the same heart.

The cure for shame is to become a God-truster.

Yet, as *The Cure* expresses this, we continually find ourselves in two possible rooms. The *Room of Good Intentions* is where we strive hard through self-effort to be all we think God wants us to be. The *Room of Grace* is where we rest in trust, and live out of who God says we already are in Christ. The voices we listen to determine the room we live in.

There will always be the voices of the Deceiver and of others, and our own voice that speaks shame to us. The cure for our sin, sorrow, and shame is to hear continually the Trinity’s voice of delight, love, and grace.

Listen for the voice of Father God. “Who told you that you were unacceptable, unworthy? I surely did not! Because you are in Christ, I’m crazy about you. Even in your darkest moments, I am there, forgiving you, delighting in you, calling you back into my arms of love. Come home my child to my room of grace.”

*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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**GracePoint Elders**Equipping

Mary Hirschey  
Stephanie Lange

Missional Outreach

Pam De Meester  
Ken Godwin

Fellowship

Ray Wlochal

Prayer & Worship

Doug Storlie

Stewardship

Andy Baumann  
Mary Burns  
Tim Walsh

**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

October 27 – December 8, 2013

**Jesus in the Feasts**

**Brenda Schwarzmann**

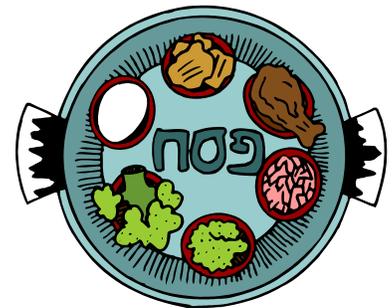
*“Look, I will tell you a secret—not all of us will die! But we will all be changed! It will take but a moment, the blink of an eye, at the final shofar. For the shofar will sound, and the dead will be raised to live forever, and we too will be changed.” (1 Corinthians 15:51, from the Complete Jewish Bible)*

Last month, millions of Jewish people and Messianic believers celebrated the blowing of the shofar (ram’s horn) to signify the beginning of the Jewish New Year and the beginning of the Days of Awe—ten days of repentance and turning away from all that is displeasing to God—that precede the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur). Unbeknownst to them, as well as to many Christians, the celebration of this Feast of the LORD is a *moedim* or dress rehearsal for future events that will mark the return of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

Why did God command the people of Israel to set aside a day to blow a shofar? What were God’s intentions when He outlined the appointed times (Leviticus 23) that the people of Israel are to meet with Him? Understanding the historical, prophetic, and spiritual significance of the Feasts of the LORD will open your eyes to the blessings intended for those who worshiped God at His appointed times and in His prescribed ways.

If you are interested in understanding how the spring Feasts of the Lord were fulfilled during Jesus Christ’s first coming and how the fall feasts will be fulfilled when He returns, join us for these seven sessions and prepare yourself to be blessed!

**No books or materials to purchase**

**What’s the Truth About Heaven**

**Andy Baumann**

Have you ever wondered, what heaven is really going to be like? What will we look like? What will we do every day? Won’t heaven get boring after a while? Picture heaven the way Scripture describes it—a bright, vibrant, and physical New Earth, free from sin, suffering, and death, and brimming with Christ’s presence, wondrous natural

beauty, and the richness of human culture as God intended it. God has put eternity in our hearts.

Now see eternity brought to light in a way that will surprise you, spark your imagination, and change how you live today. If you've always thought of heaven as a realm of disembodied spirits, clouds, and eternal harp strumming, you're in for a wonderful surprise. Heaven is about real people with real bodies enjoying close relationships with God and each other, eating, drinking, working, playing, traveling, worshipping, and discovering on a New Earth. Earth as God created it.



Earth as he intended it to be. And the next time you hear someone say, "We can't begin to imagine what heaven will be like," you will be able to tell them, "I can."

**Optional Book: Heaven by Randy Alcorn - \$16**

## **Gospel-Centered Love**

**Pastor Chris**

Gospel Love, a ten-session small group resource, helps participants examine their relationships and learn how the gospel of Jesus Christ frees them to love others. Topics covered include barriers to loving others, how love is an expression of faith, the role of the Spirit in relationships, honesty vs. judging, and how to live with forgiveness and compassion.

**Optional Book: Gospel Love: Grace, Relationships, and Everything that Gets in the Way - \$12**

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### **THANK YOU**

Pauline Brimeyer would like to thank all of you who sent cards, spoke words of encouragement, and prayed for her during her most recent bout with asthma. Knowing that friends are praying is a real blessing.

### **WANTED**

A UDTS family is in need of a small freezer. If you have one to spare, please contact Gerry Vandenberg, 583-5338 or Ken Godwin, 845-8283.

## FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

It is hard to believe it's October already or, in financial speak, the last quarter of the year.

In order to keep the congregation aware of the current financial situation, the weekly bulletin has contained the amount of Adult Support received for the prior month, as well as a YTD (year-to-date) figure, compared to what was anticipated by our budget. This information is also now included in our monthly newsletter.

However, it is time to make certain the entire GracePoint family is definitely aware of these numbers, as we are now in the season of making our Faith Promise pledges for 2014, and the annual budget that is based on those figures.

**As of the end of August our actual Adult Support received is \$16,531.90 behind what was anticipated.** This figure seems to be growing, and not in a good way, over each month of this year. Certainly, there are many factors that contribute to this deficit, but what needs to be known is that our ministries rely on these funds to continue to operate effectively in our mission to further the Gospel of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

It is not for personal gain, self-satisfaction, or to mark congregational achievement that we allocate these funds to our various ministries. Rather, it is our collective desire to serve the Lord with all our hearts, minds, strength, and resources, and is a fulfillment of the Gospel itself.

If we lovingly sought, and continue to seek, God's will for our lives, and that includes trusting Him with our financial situation, then giving as we pledged we would should not be a question. "Let not your heart be troubled," "let us be of one mind," "let us love the Lord our God," "don't be anxious about anything"—sound familiar? These are the very words of God to us.

So please be in prayer about the current financial state of GracePoint, and if you haven't already done so, begin prayerful consideration of your 2014 Faith Promise pledge and ask for God's guidance in all your future decisions. Remember—the Faith Promise pledges are totaled and this number is what Session uses to create the annual budget.

Pledge what you and the Lord jointly decide is to be your contribution to His church universal through the ministry of GracePoint.

In His service and only for His glory, Mary Burns  
Elder – Financial Stewardship

## GLOBAL MISSIONS

Chris and Kirsten Furr with United World Mission and World Outreach

When the Furr's and their French partners looked at the state of churches in France, what they found were closed doors, empty pews, and a graying congregation that struggled to remain relevant. Six years ago, they began a journey to find a different model of church built around communities of believers, who live out their faith in an authentic and 'French' way. The group of believers that assembled created Eglise de la Brie (The Church of Brie).

Chris and Kirsten support the French leaders of this church, Lorenzo and Marie-Alice Monge. Together during their six years on assignment, a church has been built and Christ followers are actively seeking French people who have never heard the Gospel. Chris takes a very active part in reaching out to the community through his talent as an artist. His thought-provoking, Christ-centered art has been an entryway into French culture and the lives of many who know nothing of the good news.

Recently Chris became the regional director for United World Mission in Europe. This new position will put him at the forefront of the organization's plans for outreach throughout Europe.

Chris and Kirsten are joined on the mission field by their three children—Maren, Reece, and Carlson. The family just completed their Home Ministry Assignment, reconnecting with supporters here in the US. They returned to France at the end of August, eager to begin their third assignment on the mission field.



Prayer requests:

Pray for the building of our partnership team. We would love to have a new partnering church and seven new individual partners by the Fall.

Pray for the continual healing of Chris' mom, dealing with cancer. She looks great and has so much more energy than last summer! Our time with her in June was great. She is also continuing to mourn the death of her mother in May.

Pray for our return to ministry in France. Specifically pray that the kids will sleep well and that our readjustment will go smoothly. Would you also pray that our time with new acquaintances in France would go well? We want to be the light of Christ to them!

Global Missions Team, Nick Lind

2013



2013

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1  6:30p Precepts	2 6:15a Men's Pry Brkfst 9:00a Precepts  5:30p Hand Bells	3	4	5
6 8:30a Chapel Service 9:00a GracePath 10:00a Fellowship Time 10:30a Worship Service  6:00p GraceUnderground	7  6:00p Food Pantry	8  6:30p Precepts	9 6:15a Men's Pry Brkfst 9:00a Precepts  5:30p Hand Bells 7:00p Deacons Meeting	10	11	12  11:15a DBQ Rescue Mission Lunch
13 8:30a Chapel Service 9:00a GracePath 10:00a Fellowship Time 10:30a Worship Service  1:30p Bethany Home 6:00p GraceUnderground	14  6:00p Food Pantry	15  6:30p Precepts	16 6:15a Men's Pry Brkfst 9:00a Precepts  5:30p Hand Bells 7:00p Elder Ministry Teams	17	18 	19
20 8:30a Chapel Service 9:00a GracePath 10:00a Fellowship Time 10:30a Worship Service  6:00p GraceUnderground	21  6:00p Food Pantry	22  6:30p Precepts	23 6:15a Men's Pry Brkfst 9:00a Precepts  5:00p Golden Oldies 5:30p Hand Bells 6:30p Session	24	25	26
27 8:30a Chapel Service 9:00a GracePath 10:00a Fellowship Time 10:30a Worship Service  6:00p GraceUnderground	28  6:00p Food Pantry	29	30	31		

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

## CLERK'S REPORT

Ralph Vandenberg resigned from the Nominating Ministry Team as of August 28, 2013. Andrew Linden, UDTS Student, will be doing his SPM September, October, and November 2013.

New Software Program "Power Church Software" has been selected for the church. \$100,000.00 has been transferred from the Foundation this month to the General Fund and is the Missional Donation Fund and is now being used to pay for the Fellowship Center Program.

The 3rd quarter mission giving was approved at the August 28th Session meeting.

### EPC GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Bailey, Ben & Monica – Middle East	\$250.00
Furr, Chris & Kirsten – France	300.00
Hamd, Robert – Lebanon	575.00
Total EPC Quarterly Giving	\$1,125.00

### GENERAL QUARTERLY GIVING

Aisenbrey, Lou & Debbie, –Wycliffe	\$250.00
Busse, Durwood & Barbara – Allegra Solution	250.00
Clarity Clinic – Dubuque	225.00
Dubuque Rescue Mission	225.00
Elangewe, Isaac – Cameroon	250.00
Grote, Scott & Jessica – MMS Aviation	600.00
Hsu, John & Nellie – E Free Church	200.00
Jews for Jesus – Stan & Holly Meyer	200.00
Krohn, Jeff – SIM	250.00
Leverington, John & Becky – Wycliffe	250.00
Prasad, Philip – Witnessing Ministries of Christ	275.00
Sam & Elizabeth – Frontiers	300.00
Shiloh Christian Children's Ministries	200.00
Siloam Eye Hospital – South Korea	250.00
UD Theological Seminary	100.00
Weber, B. J. – New York Fellowship	250.00
Welde, Matt – US Center for World Missions	275.00
Yeats, Ted & Karey – Navigators	250.00
Total General Quarterly Giving	\$4,600.00
Other Special Giving	
Memorial Gift to Mexico—Gilda Samuels	\$500.00
Total Other Special Giving	\$500.00
<b>TOTAL MISSION GIVING FOR 3rd QUARTER</b>	<b>\$6,225.00</b>

(Continued on page 10.)

## GOLDEN OLDIES

Golden Oldies will meet on Wednesday, October 23rd, 5:00pm, at Sunshine Family Restaurant (401 Central Avenue). Sign up in the lobby the Sunday before or call Bob Boelk, 557-9166.

**ALL SENIORS ARE  
WELCOME!**



Friday  
October 18

## BIRTHDAYS

- 4 Chris English
- 5 Elaine Boettner
- 6 Pauline Brimeyer
- 6 Gerry Vandenberg
- 7 Viola Wright
- 8 Kelly English
- 12 Karen Storlie
- 13 Zoey Roling
- 15 Ben Temple
- 17 Paul Both, Jr.
- 18 Lucas Perreard
- 24 Verna Davis
- 27 Dick Hennings
- 29 Sharon Jensen
- 29 Russ Trenkamp
- 31 Rachel Lemon
- 31 Kristen Pope



## ANNIVERSARIES

- 11 Vicky & Jim Fox
- 13 Ann Marie & Andy Baumann
- 16 Connie & Tim Walsh
- 24 Ramona & Richard Hennings
- 26 Sue & Steve Lemon

# Check Out the Library

There is always something new in the library. We receive donations of new and used books and videos all the time. 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.



## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOE BOXES

It's that time of year again! Samaritan's Purse by Operation Christmas Child will be starting its yearly collection. For many years we have supported this program through the filling of **Shoe Boxes**.

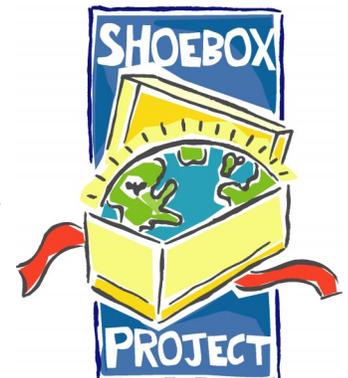
Through this project, the caring congregation of GracePoint can once again fill Shoe Boxes to give the Good News to millions of children and their families all over the world. The gift-filled Shoe Boxes not only bring joy to some of the world's poorest communities, but also provide local churches around the globe with one of the most effective tools for Evangelism, working through local pastors to deliver the gifts and to share the message of eternal life through Jesus Christ.

As the Shoe Boxes are distributed, every effort is made to give each child a Gospel storybook in his or her own language; these easy-to-read booklets explain the true message of Christmas.

Shoe Boxes must be filled and returned by the end of October in order to get them ready for shipping in early November, so start shopping now!

Lists will be available at the Connect Center soon. It is very important that only items from the list be purchased; some things cannot go into the Shoe Boxes, so please read the list carefully.

Wrapped boxes will be in the Narthex after October 1<sup>st</sup>. If you want boxes sooner or have questions, please contact Pat Kohler, 583-8978. Let's make 2013 the best year yet!



## WHAT IS TRI-STATE WORK CAMP?

OCTOBER 24–26

Tri-State Work Camp is a ministry of tri-state area churches with a desire to see their students serve and impact the tri state area with the life-changing message of Christ's love.

Using Group's Student Work Camps as a model, we do home repairs, serve meals, serve non-profit organizations, and pray on location.

Morning devotions and evening programs are filled with worship, prayer, and testimonies. We will be staying at Camp Albrecht Acres in Sherrill, Ia.

### WHO CAN PARTICIPATE IN TRI-STATE WORK CAMP?

To be eligible to participate in Tri-State Work Camp 2013, a teen must

- be in grade 8 through 12.
- regularly attend youth group at a church that has signed up to participate in Tri-State Work Camp.
- submit a complete student application to your youth leader.
- commit to serve God with all his or her heart, soul, mind, and strength at Tri-State Work Camp 2013

The cost is \$30 per teen.

## Shout Outs!

Thanks, Ann Kress, for helping as a youth leader!

Glad to have you for another semester, Andrew Linden!

Glad you're back in town, James Knapp!

Thanks for praying for the youth!

## Upcoming

Tri-State Work Camp: Oct. 24–26

Winter Retreat: Jan 17–19?

Acquire the Fire: Feb 21–22



**Middle School &  
High School  
Youth**

**Fall Schedule  
6:00—8:00pm  
Sundays**

**(No meals are served on  
regular nights.)**

**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****September****Worship Venue 10:30am**

<b>Communion Preparers</b> (September 1)	Sue Lemon, Carolyn Arnold	
<b>Communion Servers</b> (September 1)	Pam Hillary, Beverly VanDerZyl Pam De Meester	
	Ushers	Greeters
<b>October 6</b>	Patty & Glenn Scheer	Shirley & Richard Merrihew
<b>October 13</b>	Patty & Glenn Scheer	Shirley & Richard Merrihew
<b>October 20</b>	Mike Boland, Ed Boettner	Doug & Karen Storlie
<b>October 27</b>	Mike Boland, Ed Boettner	Doug & Karen Storlie

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

*(Continued from page 7.)*

**ADMINISTRATIVE BOOKKEEPER'S REPORT**

General Fund Beginning Balance, Aug. 1, 2013	\$13,107.34
Total General Fund Receipts	<u>18,338.09</u>
Subtotal Beginning Balance & Receipts	\$31,445.43
General Fund Disbursements	\$16,649.53
Allocations & Transfers	<u>1,558.34</u>
Subtotal Disbursements, Allocations & Transfers	\$18,207.87
General Fund Ending Balance, Aug. 31, 2013	\$13,237.56

**REMEMBER**— Operation Christmas Child Shoe Boxes. The wrapped shoe boxes will be in the Narthex the 1st of October. Take several and fill them for the children. Brochures and lists of items to be put in the shoe boxes will be on display in the Narthex.

Pat Kohler, Clerk of Session

## Missional Project Report – October 2013

### Looking Through the Windows

In case you haven't noticed, there is a new look in the Fellowship Center—a new look to the outside through the 145 square feet of new glass! The new windows have been installed, opening up another step in the re-missioning of the Fellowship Center.

The main construction work is just about completed, with the new openings and doorways leading between the Narthex and the Fellowship Center. The improved free-flow between the two areas is intended to improve the connection between Worship and Fellowship. You can now stand in the Narthex, and see the trees outside the Fellowship Center.

Work is underway to finalize the interior space décor to include new acoustical ceiling panels, new wall treatment and paint, and lighting. The floor design is complete, and floor coverings are on order. The coffee café details are also being finalized.

In the meantime, there are a number of volunteer opportunities, as we continue to repaint and redecorate the space. Watch for announcements for needed help.

Our team would also like to have a congregational contest for a name for the new coffee shop. Please submit your name ideas in the coffee mug on the table in the Narthex.

We praise God for the donations of the donors, and the vision of the Envisioning Team to refresh this space to provide new opportunity for Missional Outreach.

Your Missional Project Team,

Pam De Meester, Elder

Ken Godwin, Elder

Dan Baker

Bob De Meester

Sara Scherf



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

The sign-up sheet is in the Fellowship Center. You may also honor a birthday, anniversary, or special event.



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Dubuque IA 52001-8154

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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

## Women Mentoring Women Luncheon

The WMW will kick off our “season” with a luncheon on  
November 3rd, 1:00 pm, after the Worship Service.  
We are going to change things up a bit based on what we have  
learned in our first year as a group.

We hope you will join us!

Prayer and Care, SEAL Team Women Mentoring Women  
Karen Storlie, Martha Intveld, Pam Hillary (Organizers)