

WORDS OF GRACE

A Publication of GracePoint Church

The Return of the King

*Of the increase of (King Jesus')
government and of peace there will be
no end . . . with righteousness from
this time forth and forevermore.*

Isaiah 9:7

After thousands of years of darkness, of wars against demonic powers and one another, of more often than not it seeming utterly hopeless that good will triumph, the rightful heir of this world, King Jesus, will return, and the time of reunion, restoration, and rebuilding will begin.

Jesus returns in bodily form to reign as King, to overthrow the political, economic, and religious power structures that have oppressed the most vulnerable, to determine eternal destiny of believer and non-believer, and to establish the throne of God on a new physical earth.

Gone will be the Curse, and all creation will be free. The beauty that we see now is as an impressionist painting compared to future glory. All of the promises of God dwelling with His people, of humans co-ruling the New Earth with Christ, of never-ending progress, and of the ever-expanding kingdom of God will come true.

The reality of Christ's current reign and future return is what drives our present obedience, stewardship, and evangelism. The Lord delays His reappearing because He longs for as

many as possible to receive grace, and so spend eternity in God's kingdom.

Christ does not rapture away the righteous from this world. He removes the unrighteous because this is our home. When we think of our salvation as just a future event when Christ whisks us away, we live in escapism, judgmentalism, and apathy. We fail to be stewards of this earth. We isolate instead of engaging this world as instruments of Christ's present reign and restoration.

Thus, Christ-followers can be leading the way in taking care of the environment. After all, this is our eternal home. We can reclaim the lead in the arts and sciences to manifest Christ's beauty and truth right now, and to create works that will last into the next age.

As N. T. Wright puts it, we do not build the kingdom so that we make this world perfect. We build *for* the kingdom, knowing that every act of love, every work of beauty, every gift and talent given to us by God, God will take into the next age and there enhance it.

Our calling then is to bring as much as possible of the coming kingdom into this present age, and to bring as much and as many as possible of this present age into the coming kingdom.

Pastor Chris



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Office Hours
Mon–Fri, 9:30am–2pm
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Published Monthly

GLORIFYING GOD BY

CONNECTING
people to God

LOVING
God and each other

GROWING
in grace and truth

SERVING
Dubuque and the world

Pastor Chris English
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Clerk of Session Pat Kohler
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Editor Karen Storlie
karen@storlie.net

GracePoint Elders through 2014

Equipping
Mary Hirschey
Stephanie Lange

Missional Outreach
Pam De Meester
Ken Godwin

Fellowship
Ray Wlochall
Wilma Sanders

Prayer
Pam Hillary

Stewardship
Andy Baumann
Mary Burns
Doug Storlie

Worship
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

Summer Worship Schedule

This summer worship schedule will run from May 25 through August 31. We will resume our regular worship and GracePath schedule on September 7.

Prayer for Worship/Personal: 9:05–9:25am

GracePoint Summer Worship: 9:30–10:40am

Fellowship: 10:40–11:00am

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY REGIONAL BLOOD DRIVE

I want to thank all of our heroes who donated blood on July 16th. We had a fantastic record-setting day! We 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. A couple of these heroes were able to donate two pints of blood! Mississippi Valley Blood Center called and said they appreciate our heroes and all our efforts to serve our community. They are looking forward to coming back in January.

I also want to thank our generous people who donated bars and cookies.

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

THANK YOU

The Stewardship Property Ministry Team would like to thank Carolyn Arnold for the many hours she has put into beautifying our grounds. While Scott practiced his music for the Sunday morning worship service, Carolyn worked on the flower beds around the church and at our front sign, weeding and just doing a wonderful job in making all of the flower beds so much more beautiful. Thank you, Carolyn, for your labor of love in helping make GracePoint more beautiful on the outside!

Property Committee

GRACEPATH

September 7—October 12

9:00am

SOUL KEEPING, *Caring for the Most Important Part of You*

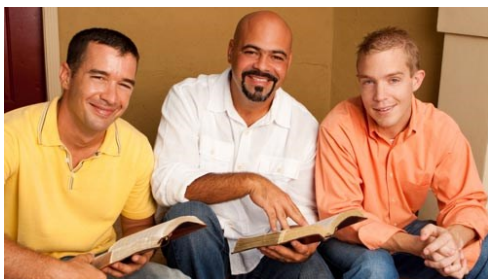
by John Ortberg

Soul Keeping helps Christians rediscover their soul—the best connection to God there is. Caring for your soul is necessary for your Christian life. Learn what your soul is, why it is important, how to assess your soul's health, and how to care for it. When you nurture your soul your life in this world will come to make sense again. Your soul's resting place is in God, and author John Ortberg wants to take us to that home.

TRIADS AT GRACEPOINT

REGISTER AUGUST 3–24

We want triads to be a key part of discipleship at GracePoint. A triad is a group of 3 same-gendered people who commit to meeting with each other for an hour every other week for a year to pursue spiritual friendships. Triads provide a relational setting that fosters spiritual growth, honesty, accountability, and encouragement. It's a means to develop closer friendships with others at GracePoint while growing in Christ-likeness.



This year we want you to focus on sharing your lives together through conversation and prayer. We'll provide each triad with some guidelines to help foster discussion. It'll be a great year together.

When registration is complete, we will ask you to find two others to join with whose schedules and lifestyle are compatible with yours. You will be given a list of everyone who wants to be part of a triad so you know who is interested and available.

Talk to Mary Hirschey or Lisa Gaylor if you have questions.



Study Guide

\$9.50

Hardcover Book

\$17.00

Registration begins
AUGUST 10

*Comfort one
another.*

*Encourage one
another.*

Love one another.

*Live in harmony
with one another.*

*Welcome one
another.*

*Let us not pass
judgment on one
another.*

*Be kind to one
another.*

*Build one another
up.*

*Seek to do good to
one another.*

School Supply Give-Away

The School Supply Give-Away is an ongoing project at GracePoint. We are now gearing up for the fall and will be collecting supplies for Audubon and Prescott schools. The school supply bin is in the lobby and waiting for you to help fill it. For now, please purchase the standard supplies that are on sale. In August, our schools will provide a specific list of their needs.



I was wrong! Barb Berg is not ready to pass on her school supply give-away to someone else. Talk to Barb if you have any questions. If you would rather donate money, Barb will buy the supplies for you.

HEART OF DUBUQUE 5TH ANNUAL ICE CREAM SOCIAL August 17, 2014



The Dubuque North End and Point area Christian churches will host the fifth annual Heart of Dubuque Ice Cream Social on Sunday, August 17th, from 1–3pm at Comiskey Park. GracePoint would love to have our congregation mingle and serve with our North End neighbors.

The goal of the social is to build community in Dubuque while enjoying ice cream on a summer afternoon. On August 12th, walkers from 6th grade and up are needed to help distribute Ice Cream Social invitations to our neighbors. Pizza will be served to all who help with the distribution.

If you would like to serve ice cream, be a greeter, stamp hands, assist in the fun Minute to Win It games, or distribute invitations, please talk to Pam De Meester or Ken Godwin.



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.

Witnessing Ministries of Christ

Witnessing Ministries of Christ (WMC) is a Presbyterian sponsorship program for changing the lives of Dalit Christian children through nurture and education, and is now in association with Exodus Christian Presbyterian Church of India. During the 25 years since Philip and Elizabeth Prasad returned to Philip's birthplace to begin a ministry to the Dalit people, schools, hospitals, and churches were established and growing in number.

Witnessing Ministries of Christ continues to build schools and churches in Northern India. In a thank you letter to GracePoint, Elizabeth wrote, "...if we can get a child out of the village home and into a mission or ministry school for even one year, that child will never be the same." Elizabeth tells about the first generation children that are moving from thousands of years of oppression into a modern world of education.



The letter of appreciation also notes the amazing number of new adult believers. "At the rate of 10,000 new Christians a month, God's Word is going forth in Northern India. Because the church is growing so fast, four-fifths of the adults in the church today are new to the faith within the last eight years. As they move for the first time out of the mud and the mire of isolation from others, the church truly offers them a new future. Children of the believers are nurtured by their changing families and by the vision and opportunities this indigenous church offers. One can invest in many missions these days, but an opportunity with this kind of depth, potential, and steady progress toward self-support is rare."

Also rare is WMC's policy to spend at least **90 percent** of donations for the actual field work. And when people give to the children's sponsorship, **100 percent** of the donations are spent on the children. The philosophy of WMC is to help people so they can stand on their own feet. This is the reason they educate children to make them fully capable to learn and earn their own living and not need further help from their families.

The Exodus Christian Presbyterian Church is a fellowship of Dalit Christians. The offerings of the member congregations subsidize the children's program as well as pay for the expenses incurred in the performance of religious responsibilities.

Along with Elizabeth, Philip, and the children of India, the Global Missions Team of GracePoint thanks you for your support of the Witnessing Ministries of Christ.

Beverly VanDerZyl, Global Missions Team

See the related article on page 9.

2014



2014

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 5:30 Youth Cook-out	2
3 9:05a Prayer for Worship 9:30a Worship Service 10:40a Fellowship Time	4 6:00p Food Pantry	5	6 6:15a Men's Pry Brkfst	7	8	9
10 9:05a Prayer for Worship 9:30a Worship Service 10:40a Fellowship Time Woman To Woman Luncheon 1:30p Bethany Home	11 6:00p Food Pantry	12	13 6:15a Men's Pry Brkfst 7:00p Deacons Meeting	14	15	16
17 9:05a Prayer for Worship 9:30a Worship Service 10:40a Fellowship Time Fellowship Center Commissioning 1:00p Ice Cream Social at Comiskey Park	18  6:00p Food Pantry	19	20 6:15a Men's Pry Brkfst 5:30p Golden Oldies 7:00p Elder Ministry Teams	21	22	23
24 9:05a Prayer for Worship 9:30a Worship Service 10:40a Fellowship Time Youth Ministry River Night	25 6:00p Food Pantry	26	27 6:15a Men's Pry Brkfst 6:30p Session	28	29	30
31 9:05a Prayer for Worship 9:30a Worship Service 10:40a Fellowship Time						

Membership to Date:

Active	148
Inactive	7
Perm. Inactive	<u>3</u>
Total	158

CLERK'S REPORT

Blood Drive was held on July 16th was a huge success—18 units of blood were donated.

Fellowship Center Commissioning Celebration will be held August 17th following worship service—name of coffee café will be disclosed at that time.

The Dubuque Chamber Ambassadors will hold a ribbon cutting ceremony in the new coffee café Thursday, September 4th, at 4:30pm.

Administrative Bookkeeper's Report

General Fund Beginning Balance, June 1, 2014	\$13,936.18
Total General Fund Receipts	<u>20,862.43</u>
Subtotal Beginning Balance & Receipts	\$34,798.61
General Fund Disbursements	\$20,245.99
Allocations & Transfers	<u>1,474.99</u>
Subtotal Disbursements, Allocations & Transfers	\$21,720.98
General Fund Ending Balance, June 30, 2014	\$13,077.63

Pat Kohler, Clerk of Session

Woman to Woman Luncheon

Sunday, August 10, 2014

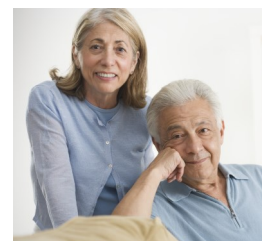
(following the worship service)



Attention, all women of GracePoint (including high schoolers)!

Are you interested in intentionally building solid Christian relationships with other GracePoint women? Then please join us at 11:00am Sunday, August 10, in the Conference Room for a build-your-own-salad luncheon and lively discussion.

Bring a salad bar item or two OR dessert OR beverage. Notify Martha Intveld at martha.intveld@gmail.com or 563.581.6371, no later than August 7, of what you plan to contribute. Invite a friend to join us!

**GOLDEN OLDIES****ANNUAL SUMMER PICNIC**

On Wednesday, August 20th, 5:30pm, we will meet at Richard and Shirley Merrihew's home, 9364 Scenic Acres Lane, off of Olde Davenport Road.

Bring a dish to pass and your own table service. When signing up, please list what you are bringing. The drink is provided. Sign up in the pass through to the Fellowship Center on August 10th or 17th. Any questions, call Bob Boelk at 557-9166.



**Monday
August 18**

BIRTHDAYS

3 J'Neen Briden
 3 Dwayne Intveld
 3 Paul Jensen
 5 Dave Gaylor
 7 Pam De Meester
 9 Suz Birch
 12 Nathan Donovan
 15 Mable Boelk
 15 Lorraine Scherf
 16 Glenn Scheer
 18 Nick Buol
 21 Katie Schwarzmenn
 23 Edie Ege
 25 Dana Perreard
 28 Mary Hirschey
 29 Steve Lemon



Anniversaries

4 Kate & Gary Duehr
 5 Sharon & Paul Jensen
 8 Sherry & James Huston
 9 Lisa & Dave Gaylor
 10 Pauline & Dan Brimeyer
 11 Kirsten & Richard Pope
 13 Jennie & Bob Burns
 14 Robin & Ray Wlochall
 18 Alfred & Debi Hakanson
 22 Jan & Alan Crandall

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. See page 9 for a complete list of our new books and videos. Questions? Contact Mable or Bob Boelk, 557-9166.



Red Hat Ladies

The Red Hat Ladies will meet every fourth Tuesday, 11:15am, at Tony Roma's. In August the date is the 26th. Please R.S.V.P. to Edie Ege, 583-1974

FELLOWSHIP CENTER COMMISSIONING CELEBRATION AUGUST 17, 2014

After worship, join in a celebration of the redesigned Fellowship Center. Be part of the commissioning of the facility to serve the congregation and the community. See and hear the stories, which make this space set apart. AND, be among the first to know the name of the coffee café!





After having seen many court scenes in movies and TV, we are aware of the importance of an eyewitness. Shortly before His ascension, Jesus said: *ye shall be my witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea and Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.* Acts 1:8 (ASV) Well, this command is not just for our pastors and our missionaries. Jesus has included all of us. Yes, all of us.

One might say, **"I don't have a degree in theology. I'm scared to witness"** Other than Paul, none of the apostles had theological degrees, yet they spread the gospel and were His witnesses. God has already taken care of our concerns by sending the Holy Spirit to dwell in us. God, the Spirit, does the witnessing.

But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall bear witness of me. John 15:26 (ASV)

"What if people don't respond to my witnessing?"

We are not to concern ourselves with the response. We are to obey His command to be an eyewitness. Saving a person is a work of God. Often we hear the phrase, "such and such can only be done by an act of U.S. Congress." Well, salvation can only be received by an act of God. There is a mention of a lady named Lydia whose heart the Lord opened to receive the gospel. Interestingly, Lydia is the first European Christian.

And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple of the city of Thyatira, one that worshipped God, heard us: whose heart the Lord opened to give heed unto the things which were spoken by Paul. Acts 16:14 (ASV)

He prepares our hearts to receive salvation, gives salvation, and makes us royal priests.

But ye are an elect race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, that ye may show forth the excellency of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. 1 Peter 2:9 (ASV)

"Lord let me lead a person to Him. What responsibilities do I have in that person's life?"

In Christ Jesus I begat you through the gospel. 1 Cor. 4:15 (ASV)

The Corinthians were Paul's spiritual children. He led them to our Lord and instructed them on their spiritual life. Almost similar to the way we instruct and bring up our earthly children.

Joseph Joseph

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 (August 3) Barb Berg, Betty Carlson

Communion Servers (August 3) Ray & Robin Wlochal
Doug & Karen Storlie

	Ushers	Greeters	Prayer Room
August 3	Mike Boland Mike Vandenberg	Bob & Jennie Burns	Kevin Hirschey
August 10	Doug Mulder Ed Boettner	Dan & Sharon Baker	Kevin Hirschey
August 17	Ben & Glenda Temple	Glenn & Patti Scheer	Karen Storlie
August 24	Janet Metelak Mike Boland	Rebekah Godwin Beverly VanDerZyl	Pam Hillary
August 31	Ray & Robin Wlochal	Dave & Lisa Gaylor	Beverly VanDerZyl

ChildCare

August 3 Judy Godwin, Micah Godwin

August 10 Martha Intveld, J'Neane Briden

August 17 Alex Wiest, Pam De Meester

August 24 Erin Barsema, Stephanie Lange

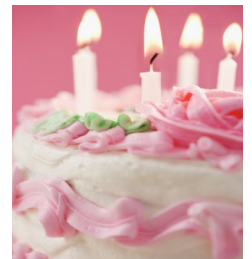
August 31 Gaye Grote, Beverly VanDerZyl

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

65th Anniversary!

Jennie and Bob Burns will be married 65 years on Wednesday, August 13th!

Please join them for cake during the fellowship time after church (11:40am) on Sunday, August 17th, to celebrate! Happy Anniversary, Jennie and Bob!



GraceUnderground

Coming Back Strong in August

Youth Ministry Cook-Out August 1

All youth of GracePoint and GraceUnderground are invited to a cook-out and game night hosted by Ken and Judy Godwin. The event begins at 5:30pm, and transportation will be provided to the Godwin's home. Watch the bulletin and the GraceUnderground group on Facebook for more details.



Youth Ministry River Night August 24



Watch the bulletin and the GraceUnderground group on Facebook for more details.

Session and the new Youth Ministry Support Team (YMST) have committed to a youth ministry emphasis at GracePoint. It is built upon the previous work of Pastor Dana Perreard. Enjoy, and get excited!

YMST Members:

Ken Godwin, Elder

Judy Godwin

Pam De Meester, Elder

Stephanie Lange, Elder

Doug Mulder

Duane Mullen

**Beverly VanDerZyl,
Elder**




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Dubuque IA 52001-8154

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RIBBON CUTTING



Ribbon Cutting September 4—The Dubuque Chamber Ambassadors will hold a ribbon cutting ceremony at 4:30pm on Thursday, September 4, in the ‘new’ coffee cafe. Be part of the planning to introduce the community to this impressive facility. Light refreshments will follow the ceremony. Please find the volunteer sign-up sheet in the Connect Way.