

# WORDS OF GRACE

A Publication of GracePoint Church

## Rejoicing with Jesus

*(Christ) said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven." Luke 10:18-20*

Christ is dancing in the Spirit as He declares the promises of this passage. In Christ, God's kingdom of righteousness, peace, and joy has invaded our world. Christ as Lord and King is strongly at work through His people in every place reclaiming, restoring, renewing, and reconciling.

The kingdom of God is near—so death, evil, and darkness are barely hanging on, and in Christ we have the authority and power to move every mountain and tear down every stronghold.

The kingdom of God is near—so every sin, no matter how vile, is forgivable. The kingdom of God is near—so all bondage is breakable, if God's people bring the kingdom to the captives.

The kingdom of God is near—so Christ's freedom, joy, and justice can come to every place of oppression, abuse, and injustice, if God's people bring the kingdom to these places.

The kingdom of God is near—so we can defeat the scourge of human trafficking in our time, if God's people bring the kingdom to this evil.

The joy of participating now in God's kingdom replaces our cynicism with hope, our despair with faith, and our futility with love.

Every time we join Christ in bringing the kingdom to push back darkness, Christ is rejoicing in the Spirit. Every time we join with Christ to set one of His precious little ones free from slavery, Christ is jumping for joy. Every time we join with Christ in loving another hurting person into the kingdom, Christ and all the angels are partying.

Moreover, Father has written our names in the Lamb's Book of Life in the indelible ink of Christ's blood. Thus, every time we sit in silence and solitude just to be with the Trinity, Christ is dancing over us with song. No power in heaven, hell, or earth—no power of sin and failure—not Satan, not death—nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus!

In all of this, we discover our joy—  
inexpressible and full of glory!

*Pastor Chris*



3100 Windsor Avenue  
Dubuque, Iowa  
583-3929  
gracepointdbq.org

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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

*Pastor Chris English*  
pastorchris@gracepointdbq.org

*Assoc. Pastor Dana Perreard*  
pastordana@gracepointdbq.org

*Admin. Asst. Judy Adelman*  
office@gracepointdbq.org

*Clerk of Session Pat Kohler*  
pkteada@yahoo.com

*Editor Karen Storlie*  
karen@storlie.net

**GracePoint Elders**

Through 2014

EquippingMary Hirschey  
Stephanie LangeMissional OutreachPam De Meester  
Ken GodwinFellowshipRay Wlochall  
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

# GracePath Spring 2014

New Classes begin Sunday, March 2nd

**THE REASON FOR GOD 2.0**

Continuing due to popular demand!

Pastor Chris and Alan Crandall will continue their class based on Dr. Tim Keller's book The Reason for God. You can join even if you didn't attend the first module. Topics include the problem of sin, religion and the gospel, the true story of the cross, the reality of the resurrection, and more. Books will be available for \$10.50.

**GETTING THE MOST OUT OF YOUR BIBLE**

Too many of us just don't know what to do with the Bible. Our reading seems pointless, our study fades away too quickly. When we need to be comforted by God's Word, we don't know how to find meaningful scripture. We have all these new technology devices and surely there must be ways to use them to encounter the Bible. Mary Hirschey will lead this course designed to help you come to treasure your Bible and to know how to use it with confidence.

**UPCOMING EVENTS AND LENTEN DATES****Ash Wednesday Worship** - March 5, 7:00pm, at GracePoint**Mission to Mexico** - March 12-19 at Dios es Amor in Cancun**Resurrection Sunrise Worship** - Sunday, April 20, in the River Room of the Grand River Center, time TBA**Worship Service** - Sunday April 20, GracePoint

## ***Pray a Day*** for the Mission to Mexico

Choose a day from March 12–15 for your family to pray for the Mission to Mexico. OR, choose a half day. OR, individuals can choose an hour-a-day prayer time.

See the sign-up sheet in the lobby and put your name in the square of the day you will pray. Indicate what portion of that day you will be praying for the group and the ministry in Mexico.



A sign-up is also on the website calendar at <http://www.gpdbq.org/event>.

Click on the *Pray a Day* event on the day you will pray and submit the sign-up form. Please indicate the times you will pray in the phone number box. You do not have to log in.

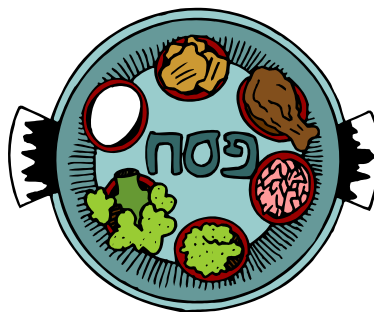
For daily updates and prayer requests, watch the GracePoint Facebook page or the GracePoint website at the Pastors' Place blog <http://www.gpdbq.org/blog>. Gracias!

## **CHRIST IN THE PASSOVER**

**April 10, 2014, 7:00pm**

**GracePoint**

What do the Jewish Passover and Jesus' last supper have in common? Our speaker from Jews for Jesus will answer that question as he presents "Christ In the Passover." You'll gain wonderful insights on how the pieces of God's plan of salvation fit together, and you'll remember this visual display of the Passover pageantry for years to come. Be sure to invite your friends and family.



## ALL-CHURCH SPRING POTLUCK

March 23rd  
after the Worship Service

Everyone is invited to join us for an all-church potluck March 23rd after the Worship service. This is your opportunity to get better acquainted with the people of GracePoint and to enjoy a good meal.

Please bring a dish or two to pass and your own table service.\* The drink will be provided.



\*This will save money and reduce garbage costs. We will provide a table service for guests and college students.



## Say Yes to God

“Many think of self-denial as giving up something during the Lenten season. Others have said that it is to be dead to self, or even to hate self. I disagree with these opinions. When Jesus referred to self-denial (Mark 8:34), he was not talking about denying ourselves some luxury item or denying the reality of self or the needs of self. Rather he was focusing on the importance of renouncing self as the center of our life and actions.”

“In other words, self-denial is the decision of each of his followers to give over to God his body, career, money and time. A true disciple is willing to shift the spiritual center of gravity in his life. Self-denial is the sustained willingness to say no to oneself in order to say yes to God.”

Bill Hull

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

## A Church Planting Partnership Continues.

Mission to Mexico ~ 2014, March 12–19

A decade ago, a partnership began among three Presbyterian churches and a seminary in Iowa and Christians in the state of Quintana Roo in Mexico. This month for one week the missional relationship gets a boost when 10 adults and three youth from GracePoint travel to the outskirts of Cancun to help build a church.

**Brief History:** In 2003, an inspired group of 32 people traveled to the Yucatan Peninsula and, with the guidance of a friend who was a local church planner, worked on the first-phase construction of a church. A larger group of 41 people returned in 2005 to help the same congregation.

The partnership has continued each year since 2005 in a variety of forms, thanks to the strong relationship of two visionary, mission-minded people—one in Dubuque (Gilda Samuels, who recently passed away) and one in Cancun (Pastor Ramon, who continues to prepare for our needs while there).

The strong faith of our brothers and sisters in Mexico and their passion to reach out with the Gospel is inspiring. The sweat equity and financial help we give is minimal compared to the results. What the church's neighbors see in Cancun and what the travelers share once they are home is indisputable evidence of God's grace.

Thank you, GracePoint family, for being part of the partnership with Mexico. Please continue to pray, especially the week of March 12–19, and follow the website blog or the Facebook page for updates.

The Global Missions Team allotted partial scholarships for the three youth/current students of GracePoint to go on this mission. They and the rest of the travelers will make a presentation to our congregation as a mission follow-up.

Bendiciones,

Beverly VanDerZyl, Global Missions Team member



2014

Mission to Mexico Team:

Ann Kress  
John Kress  
Judy Godwin  
Rebekah Godwin  
Vincent Godwin  
Vic & Marilyn Learn  
Glenn & Patti Scheer  
Doug Storlie  
Roger & Bev VanDerZyl  
Ray Wlochall

2014



2014

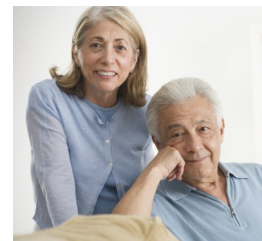
Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<b>1</b> 8:00a-3:00p Rummage Sale ABC Learning
<b>2</b> 8:30a Chapel Service 9:00a GracePath 10:00a Fellowship Time 10:30a Worship Service  6-8p GraceUnderground	<b>3</b>  6:00p Food Pantry	<b>4</b>  6:30p Precepts	<b>5</b> 6:15a Men's Pry Brkfst 9:00a Precepts  7:00p Ash Wednesday	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 9:00a Global Missions	<b>8</b>  1:00p-3:00p Extreme Nursery Team
<b>9</b> 8:30a Chapel Service 9:00a GracePath 10:00a Fellowship Time 10:30a Worship Service  1:30p Bethany Home 6-8p GraceUnderground	<b>10</b>  6:00p Food Pantry	<b>11</b>  6:30p Precepts	<b>12</b> 6:15a Men's Pry Brkfst  5:30p Hand Bells 7:00p Deacons Meeting	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
Mission to Mexico						
<b>16</b> 8:30a Chapel Service 9:00a GracePath 10:00a Fellowship Time 10:30a Worship Service  6-8p GraceUnderground	<b>17</b> 	<b>18</b>  6:30p Precepts	<b>19</b> 6:15a Men's Pry Brkfst  5:30p Hand Bells 7:00p Elder Ministry Teams	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
Mission to Mexico						
	6:00p Food Pantry					
<b>23</b> 8:30a Chapel Service 9:00a GracePath 10:00a Fellowship Time 10:30a Worship Service 11:45a All-Church Potluck  6-8p GraceUnderground	<b>24</b>  6:00p Food Pantry	<b>25</b>  6:30p Precepts	<b>26</b> 6:15a Men's Pry Brkfst 9:00a Precepts  5:00p Golden Oldies 5:30p Hand Bells 6:30p Session	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> 8:30a Chapel Service 9:00a GracePath 10:00a Fellowship Time 10:30a Worship Service  6-8p GraceUnderground	<b>31</b>  6:00p Food Pantry					



## Membership to Date:

Active	144
Inactive	8
Perm. Inactive	3
Total	155

<b>CLERK'S REPORT</b>
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**GOLDEN OLDIES**

The Golden Oldies will meet on Wednesday, March 26, 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!**

Death of Janaan Reiter on January 30, 2014—Funeral service February 1, 2014.

New Member, Doug Mulder, was received by the Congregation on February 9, 2014.

Easter Sunrise Service will be on April 20<sup>th</sup>, 6:00am, in the River Room of the Grand River Center..

Presbytery Meeting will be at Aplington, Iowa, on April 25–26<sup>th</sup>.

**Bookkeepers Report**

General Fund Beginning Balance, January 1, 2014	\$5,881.52
Total General Fund Receipts	<u>21,057.93</u>
Subtotal Beginning Balance & Receipts	\$26,939.45

General Fund Disbursements	\$15,732.46
Allocations and Transfers	<u>2,325.82</u>
Subtotal Disbursements, Allocations & Transfers	\$18,058.28

General Fund Ending Balance, January 31, 2014	\$8,881.17
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Pat Kohler, Clerk of Session



Monday  
March 17

## BIRTHDAYS

2 Gaye Grote  
 2 Martha Intveld  
 4 Robyn Schwarzmenn  
 8 Angela Godwin  
 11 Mike Vandenberg  
 12 Sandy Tilton  
 13 Jean Bruce  
 13 Mary Scherf  
 17 Jenna Bell  
 20 Betty Emerson  
 21 Mike Kelley  
 22 Mike Boland  
 25 Scott Arnold  
 26 Andrew Baumann  
 26 Victor Learn  
 28 Nickolas Pope  
 29 Diana Conrad  
 30 Dennis Dement  
 31 Janet Marshall



## ANNIVERSARIES

12 Frank & Gaye Grote  
 15 Pete & Diana Conrad  
 17 Richard & Juanita Cottrell

## Check Out the Library

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

Donations of new books or videos are always welcome; contact Mable or Bob Boelk, 557-9166.



## CONCERT OF PRAYER

*The Concert of Prayer this year will be at Four Mounds on Saturday morning, May 17<sup>th</sup>.*

*Information will be coming soon.*

*Please save the date and plan to join us!*

## THANK YOU!

I want to thank my GracePoint church family for all the prayer, cards, visits, food, and again—prayer—during my illness. I would especially like to thank Pastor Chris, Pastor Dana, Andrew, and my deacon Janet Metelak! You are all family and so much appreciated!





# GRACEPOINT'S BENEVOLENCE FUND POLICY

## PURPOSE

GracePoint has an established Benevolence Fund for the purpose of extending limited, short-term financial help to those in immediate crisis living within our tri-state region and to fund our Food Pantry ministries.

## OVERSIGHT

This fund is under the authority of Session, and is directly administered by the Board of Deacons.

## ACCOUNTABILITY

The Deacons submit a monthly report to Session detailing the current balance of the fund, and the amount and purpose of any funds distributed. Session maintains the right to request names and details of any given distribution of funds.

## AMOUNT

The portion of the fund designated for extending financial assistance is capped at \$2,500 annually and is referred to as our Local Benevolence Fund. The portion of the fund to purchase material goods for our Food Pantry ministries is capped at \$6,000 annually, and may be adjusted as costs fluctuate. At the beginning of each fiscal year or during the year, Session will approve whatever allocations are needed to replenish the Food Pantry fund. This fund also receives donations through designated giving.

## QUALIFYING FOR FUNDS

- 1) The Local Benevolence Fund is primarily designed to help non-members living in the tri-state area, and GracePoint's members and regular attendees, who are experiencing an immediate financial crisis and have no other means to meet that need.
- 2) Requests made for those living outside our tri-state area are considered under very special circumstances, and do require Session approval.

## ACCESSING THIS FUND

- 1) Any official member of GracePoint can present a request to the Deacons to access funds for someone in immediate financial crisis using our Local Benevolence Fund Request Form.
- 2) If an actively serving Deacon requests funds for a family member, the Deacon is dismissed from the room as the Board of Deacons discusses this request.
- 3) The Deacons will normally only consider and approve requests in an officially called Deacon meeting. Exceptions can be made for dire emergencies above \$25 with approval granted by the Deacon Moderator after consultation with at least three other Deacons via phone call, e-mail, or

Connecting,  
Loving, Growing,  
Serving

*(Continued on page 10.)*

**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

**Volunteers Are Priceless at GracePoint!****Worship Venue 10:30am**

**Communion Preparers** (March 2) Shirley VanDuser, Mary Ann Hopkins

**Communion Servers** (March 2) Dwayne & Martha Intveld

	Ushers	Greeters	Prayer Room
<b>March 2</b>	Ed Boettner	Sharon & Dan Baker	Doug Storlie
<b>March 9</b>	Doug Mulder Ed Boettner	Jennie & Bob Burns	Patti Scheer
<b>March 16</b>	LeRoy & Barb Berg	Dixie Shaffer Dan Brimeyer	Pauline Brimeyer
<b>March 23</b>	Mike Vandenberg Mike Boland	Karen & Doug Storlie	Pam Hillary
<b>March 30</b>	Mike Vandenberg Mike Boland	LeRoy & Barb Berg	Janet Metelak

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 9.)*

- conversation. Such emergency allocations will need formal approval at the next Deacon meeting.
- 4) In addition to these formal requests, access to the Local Benevolence Fund is permitted between Deacon meetings for emergencies of \$25 or less, and are administered through the director of our Food Pantry or the Deacon Moderator. Such requests still require the submitting of a Local Benevolence Request Form, which should be signed initially by the requester, and then eventually by the Deacon Moderator. All such requests must follow the guidelines detailed in #6 below.
  - 5) The annual maximum total amount of any distribution to an individual or family is capped at \$200. If an emergency situation arises that requires going over this amount in a given year, this request will need approval by Session. Special caution will be exercised before granting funds to any individual who seeks funds repeatedly each year.
  - 6) Distribution checks are made out to the agency or business that provides the requested need, not to the GracePoint member making the request nor to the individual in need. Distributions are not made in cash. If a situation can only be addressed outside these parameters, a Deacon or church member will accompany the person in need to assure these funds are being used for the designated request. Whenever possible, receipts for the services rendered are acquired and submitted.

# GraceUnderground

## Middle & High School Youth Group

March 2<sup>nd</sup>—GraceUnderground: 6-8pm  
March 6<sup>th</sup>—Worship Band Practice: 6:30-7:45pm  
March 9<sup>th</sup>— GraceUnderground: 6-8pm  
March 13<sup>th</sup>—Worship Band Practice: 6:30-7:45pm  
March 16<sup>th</sup>— **No GraceUnderground—Spring Break**  
March 20<sup>th</sup>—Worship Band Practice: 6:30-7:45pm  
March 23<sup>rd</sup>—GraceUnderground: 6-8pm  
March 27<sup>th</sup>—Worship Band Practice 6:30-7:45pm  
March 30<sup>th</sup>—GraceUnderground: 6-8pm

I cannot believe the month of February is already over! The youth group has sure done a lot in this first month back. While GraceUnderground's re-launch in February brought with it new leadership and a different way of doing things, I am excited to say that attendance has kept up and the conversations and formation that students find here are as great as ever.

One particularly exciting change that has occurred this month is the addition of a youth praise and worship team for GraceUnderground. A big thank you is order for all those who contributed, and a big invitation is in order for all youth who still wish to contribute their musical gifts and talents.

Also, in February, I have had the privilege of taking the youth to *Acquire the Fire*, a weekend long Christian worship conference in Des Moines. I was incredibly nervous about this, seeing as it was my first time ever being in charge of a trip like this, but the Lord was faithful and he pulled me right through it, encouraging me as I went. The group was relatively small, but I saw great things come out of this conference for my youth and myself.

After a month like this February, March looks pretty routine and uninteresting. However, I hope and pray that it will be as good, if not better, than last month!

--Andrew



  
**GracePoint**  
3100 Windsor Avenue  
Dubuque IA 52001-8154

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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



March 5, 2014  
7:00pm  
at GracePoint

Please join us for a special time of praise, prayer, Holy Communion,  
and the imposition of ashes. Invite you friends and family.

All are welcome!