

WORDS OF GRACE

A Publication of GracePoint Church

Resurrection and Life

Jesus said, I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

This passage comes within the story of Christ raising Lazarus. Earlier in the story, a messenger to Christ from Mary and Martha, Lazarus' sisters, returned to them with Christ's promise, *"This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it."*

Christ was expecting them to cling to this promise in faith. No matter what happened in the natural realm, Christ had given them this faith-empowering promise. Despite the data of a dead brother, Christ still expected them to trust Him. This is what faith requires—trusting God, and claiming God's promise to you, despite all the data that may scream out, *"This is impossible!"*

By the time Christ arrives, Lazarus was dead in the grave for four days. In confusion, anger, and lingering faith, Martha and Mary confront Christ, saying, *"Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."* In other words, *"Lord, if you would have responded when and how I pleaded with you to do so, things*

would have turned out with the happiness I need and deserve."

They had not lost faith, but their faith was a demand that God respond on their terms, and they could only trust God for future promises. Perhaps, like me, you are sometimes like Martha and Mary. Christ encourages her struggling faith, and ours, declaring in effect,

"I am not just offering resurrection and life in the future. I am Resurrection and Life. Live in me, and I will flood your life right now with abundant peace, purpose, joy, freedom, loving relationships, and fruitfulness. Then you will never die. After you take your last breath of the polluted air of this world, your very next breath is in the celestial air of my heaven and presence."

Christ always responds to our fragile faith with empowering grace. Christ comes along side and says. *"My son, my daughter, trust in me. If I promise to do something, I will always do it. You do not need great faith; you just need faith in a great God. Faith is waiting. Faith is trusting that I will do what I promise in my time and in my way, but always for your best good and Father's most glory."*

Pastor Chris



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

Office Hours
Mon–Fri, 9:30am–2pm
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May 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

Pastor Chris English
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office@gracepointdbq.org

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

We are excited to offer you this summer worship schedule. We believe it best accommodates the summer lifestyle of our multi-generational congregation, and blends well the times of our chapel venue and main worship service. During the summer, we offer one Sunday worship venue, and no GracePath classes.

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

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

Fellowship: 10:40–11:00am

JUST A REMINDER

New Office Hours
9:30am — to 2:00pm
Monday to Friday

Thank You

Dan and Sharon Baker and Bob and Mable Boelk would like to thank everybody for the cards, visits, and above all, prayers for their family with the death of Sharon's and Bob's brother Ken Boelk.

Thankfully,

Sharon and Dan, Mable and Bob

5th Annual Concert of Prayer

May 17th, 8:00am to 1:00pm

Saturday

PLEASE NOTE!

The **CONCERT OF PRAYER**, originally listed for Saturday morning, May 17th, at Four Mounds, has been **POSTPONED** till the Fall, due to too many conflicts in May.

Watch for more information in the August and September newsletters for the CONCERT OF PRAYER in October!

sign-up sheet will be in the
pass-through to the Fellowship Center
by May 13th, or call the church office (583-3929).



Friday
May 16

Sunday, May 11, 2014

Graduation Sunday



Sunday, May 11th, we will recognize our graduates during the 10:30am worship service and honor them with a special cake during fellowship time.

A Month of Farewells

Through the centuries of its existence, our faithful God has lavishly blessed GracePoint with godly and gifted men and women in leadership. This month we say a grateful but sad farewell to three godly men who have served in pastoral leadership.

Andrew Linden ~ Andrew has served as our student pastor throughout this school year. His preaching and leading of our youth ministries have richly blessed us. You all in turn have richly blessed Andrew through your encouragement, prayers, and mentoring. Andrew leaves us having experienced significant growth as a pastor. Andrew graduates from seminary on May 17, and he will then begin seeking a pastoral call. Andrew's last Sunday leading our youth group will be June 1. Please keep him in your prayers for our Lord's next call and please express your gratitude and your congratulations on his graduation in any way you feel appropriate.

Reverend Alan Crandall ~ Alan has served GracePoint in so many pastoral capacities for so many years (longer than Pastors Dana or Chris) he really is one of GracePoint's pastors. There are no adequate words to express what their moving away means as to the loss to GracePoint, to Dubuque, and to most of us personally. Our Lord is leading Alan and Jan to accept a pastoral call in Cedar Rapids, and so we honor and celebrate this new season of ministry. They will make this transition throughout the month of June. Please keep them in your prayers, and please express your gratitude in any way you feel appropriate.

Reverend Dana Perreard ~ Dana has served GracePoint as our Associate Pastor of Worship & Student Ministries for five years. With GracePoint phasing out this position due to missional reasons, Dana, too, is beginning a new season of pastoral ministry. His last day as a GracePoint pastor will be May 31. Our Lord has so abundantly blessed us with Dana's godly and gifted leadership, it is hard to imagine a GracePoint without him. Dana is actively seeking a new pastoral call anywhere in the country. Dana and his family will continue to worship with us occasionally until they find a call, but they will also be using this interim time to do pulpit supply and to experience worship with other churches. Please keep the Perreards in your prayers, and please express your gratitude in any way you feel appropriate. There will be some manner of a thank you event in the coming months.



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

GracePoint has been supporting Rev. Isaac Elangwe for many years. Rev. Isaac had been at the University of Dubuque Seminary and attended our church during his stay in Dubuque.

After Rev. Isaac left Dubuque he went back to the Republic of Cameroon, where he became President of the Theological Seminary in Kumba. He held that position for a number of years, but in July 2010 he retired from the Seminary and became involved in the Dr. Martin Stucki Foundation coordinating the care of orphans and assisting with their primary education.

Dr. Martin Stucki-Stirn in Switzerland has created a foundation whose aim is to help children in primary schools in paying part of their fees and books each year. There are 35 such schools whose 24 hard working pupils each receive 10.000frs plus exercise books/other working materials costing the same amount. This brings great joy to parents of such hardworking children.

The second venture of this foundation is the proper care of orphans whose parents have died due to HIV/AIDS or other diseases and have nothing. Dr. Martin Stucki Foundation takes proper care of these children by sending them to school up to the pre-university level (high school). The Foundation provides 400.000frs CFA for each child in this program every year. They have not built an orphanage, but they allow relatives they call "Caring Mothers" to take care of these orphans in their homes by paying for their upkeep and school needs. There were 36 orphans in the program in 2010.

The Foundation work is also concerned with the care of some helpless people in this area and in helping congregations build better church houses where the rural congregations can worship God. Since 2006 Rev. Isaac has been involved in this benevolent work, and serves as Vice Coordinator of Dr. Stucki Foundation in Cameroon. Rev. Isaac is in charge of the orphans and work in GTC Ebobe-Balue, where 10 students are sponsored doing studies in carpentry. The Foundation is training students in carpentry as a trade which would help youth to be self employed.

Regarding his mission work, Rev Isaac reported that 10 carpentry students of GTC. Ebobe Balue have completed the first stage of their course in August 2012. Some will continue studies in other higher technical schools.

Rev. Isaac has had some eye problems (glaucoma), very difficult to treat in this part of the world. At this time his wife and children are his 'eyes'. Please pray that Rev. Isaac can have surgery done in a hospital in the United States.

Pat Kohler, Global Missions



2014



2014

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 Big Day of Serving 7:30a—5:00p 12:00p Golden Oldies
4 8:30a Chapel Service 9:00a GracePath 10:00a Fellowship Time 10:30a Worship Service 6-8p GraceUnderground	5 6:00p Food Pantry	6	7 6:15a Men's Pry Brkfst 5:30p Hand Bells 7:00p Deacons Meeting	8 6:30p GU Worship Band	9	10
11 Graduation Sunday 8:30a Chapel Service 9:00a GracePath 10:00a Fellowship Time 10:30a Worship Service 1:30p Bethany Home 6-8p GraceUnderground	12 6:00p Food Pantry	13	14 6:15a Men's Pry Brkfst 7:00p Elder Ministry Teams	15 6:30p GU Worship Band	16 	17
18 8:30a Chapel Service 9:00a GracePath 10:00a Fellowship Time 10:30a Worship Service 6-8p GraceUnderground	19 6:00p Food Pantry	20	21 6:15a Men's Pry Brkfst 6:30p Session	22 6:30p GU Worship Band	23	24
25 9:30a Worship Service 10:40a Fellowship Time 6-8p GraceUnderground	26 Memorial Day Office Closed	27	28 6:15a Men's Pry Brkfst	29 ASCENSION DAY 6:30p GU Worship Band	30	31

Membership to Date:

Active	143
Inactive	8
Perm. Inactive	3
Total	154

CLERK'S REPORT

We will be honoring graduates on Sunday, May 11th. Summer Worship schedule changed to no Chapel or GracePath. Worship Service is 9:30am with fellowship following. These changes are in effect from May 25th to August 31st.

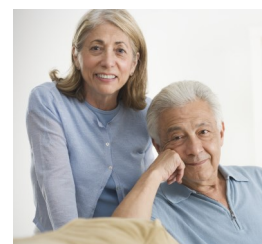
May 11th, Mother's Day Fund Raiser for Right to Life. Worship in the Park on June 15th at the Arboretum. General Assembly June 18–21 at Knoxville, TN—Pastor Chris will be the Commissioner. First quarter mission giving was approved.

EPC GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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
Durwood & Barbara – Allegra Solution	250.00
Clarity Clinic – Dubuque	200.00
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
John & Becky – Wycliffe	250.00
Prasad, Philip – Witnessing Ministries of Christ	275.00
Sam & Elizabeth – Frontiers	300.00
Shiloh Christian Children's Ministries	175.00
Siloam Eye Hospital – South Korea	250.00
South Sudan Education Mission (SSEM)	200.00
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	\$4,650.00
Other Special Giving	.00
TOTAL MISSION GIVING FOR 1st QUARTER	\$5,775.00

**GOLDEN OLDIES**

We will meet for lunch, Saturday, May 3rd, at the Point Café, at noon. Anyone 50 years-of-age or older is welcome to join us. Sign up in the pass-through to the Fellowship Center or call Bob Boelk at 557-9166.

Please note the new day and time!

**ALL SENIORS ARE
WELCOME!**

(Continued on page 8.)

BIRTHDAYS

1 Richard Cottrell
 2 Ramona Hennings
 2 Carrie Shepherd
 4 Petey Jenner, Jr.
 5 Tim Walsh
 7 Miriam Lind
 12 Eileen Schulze
 13 Mike Barsema
 14 Sharon Baker
 15 Jonathan Duehr
 17 Ann Kress
 17 Caleb Perreard
 17 Dixie Shaffer
 19 Phyllis Kelley
 21 Micah Godwin
 23 Sherry Huston
 25 Jan Crandall
 26 Johanna Boettner
 30 Georgie Schwarzmenn



ANNIVERSARIES

22 Carolyn & Scott Arnold
 22 Carrie & Frank Shepherd
 25 Dawn & Nick Buol
 27 Gerry & Harry Vandenberg
 30 Kelly & Chris English
 30 Paulette & Cary Kress

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. Contact Mable or Bob Boelk, 557-9166.



Woman to Woman
Build Your Own Salad Luncheon
Sunday, August 10, 2014
(following the worship service)

More details to come!

(Continued from page 7.)

Bookkeepers Report

General Fund Beginning Balance, March 1, 2014	\$7,182.27
Total General Fund Receipts	<u>25,687.02</u>
Subtotal Beginning Balance & Receipts	\$32,869.29
General Fund Disbursements	\$21,822.51
Subtotal Disbursements, Allocations & Transfers	<u>1,474.99</u>
	\$23,297.50
General Fund Ending Balance, March 31, 2014	\$9,571.79



Our Redeemer Lives

“For I know that my Redeemer lives, and in the end He will stand upon the earth.” Job 19:25

It is increasingly true that people allow cynicism to replace faith, immediate gratification to replace hope, and self-centered relationships to replace love.

Each person does whatever is right in his or her own eyes. Evil calls wrong right and darkness light. Justice goes to the ones with enough money to buy it. The rich are becoming richer at the expense of the poor becoming poorer.

We idolize the immaturity of youth, and dishonor the wisdom of our elders. We lift up as role models the rich, famous, and powerful, regardless of their character or lifestyle. We make rich those who entertain, and barely pay those who sacrificially serve.

We murder babies, but protect whales. We are raising up women who act like men at their worst, and men who act like effeminate, immature cowards. The will to power drives our politicians more than serving the country. All our secular and religious institutions are failing miserably to address the evil of global injustice, trafficking, suffering, and poverty.

However, as followers of Christ, as people of God’s Story, we can live in and tell a better story. Though all around us are choosing unrestrained self-indulgence, it is still possible to choose faith. Though all around us are choosing violence and narcissistic self-centeredness, we can choose love. Though all around us may choose cynicism, we can choose hope.

You can overcome and endure all the evil in this world and the trials in your life, by declaring over them our Redeemer lives! Our Redeemer lives, and so right now Christ is making all things right. Our Redeemer lives, and so Christ does not let a single tear go unnoticed. Our Redeemer lives, and so Christ will not let a single act of evil escape judgment.

Our Redeemer lives, and so Christ will nurture every single drop of love, goodness, and grace you pour into someone’s life right now, and enhance it in the coming kingdom. Our Redeemer lives, and so Christ is at work right now in the midst of all evil redeeming all for good purposes.

Our Redeemer lives, and in the end, Christ will stand on this Earth, we will inherit a New Earth where righteousness, peace, justice, and joy reign over all forever more!

Pastor Chris

**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

Volunteers are priceless at GracePoint!**Worship Venue 10:30am**

Communion Preparers (May 4) Carolyn Arnold, Sue Lemon

Communion Servers (May 4) Pam Hillary, Mary Hirschey

	Ushers	Greeters	Prayer Room
May 4	Richard & Shirley Merrihew	Rebecca Godwin Angela Baumann	Patti Scheer
May 11	Suz Birch Ed Boettner	Glenn Scheer Beverly VanDerZyl	Doug Storlie
May 18	Suz Birch Ed Boettner	Vic & Marilyn Learn	Pauline Brimeyer
May 25	Ray Wlochall Doug Mulder	Steve & Sue Lemon	Karen Storlie

ChildCare

May 4 Katie & Madeline Perreard

May 11 Dan Brimeyer, Paulette Kress

May 18 Amy English, Anna English, Patti Scheer

May 25 Betty Carlson, Patti Scheer

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

Clare Johnson Memorial Fund

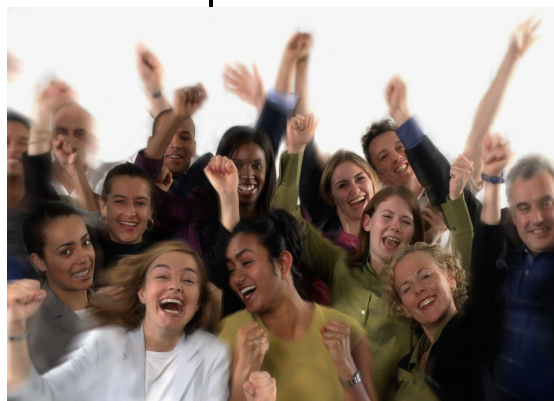
Some church members have asked if there is a memorial fund set up for Clare Johnson, wife of Pastor Glen Johnson. If anyone wishes to donate a memorial "love gift", it should be directed to Pastor Slade Johnson, to be used toward the publication of Clare's last book trilogy. His address is

Pastor Slade Johnson,
12 Media Drive,
St. Louis MO 63146

GraceUnderground

Schedule of Events: May

May 3rd—Big Day of Serving: 7:30 AM-5:00 PM
 May 4th—GraceUnderground: 6-8 PM
 May 8th—Worship Band Practice: 6:30-7:45 PM
 May 11th—GraceUnderground: 6-8 PM
 May 15th—Worship Band Practice: 6:30-7:45 PM
 May 18th—GraceUnderground: 6-8PM
 May 22nd—Worship Band Practice: 6:30-7:45 PM
 May 25th—GraceUnderground: 6-8 PM
 May 29th—Worship Band Practice 6:30-7:45 PM
 June 1st—GraceUnderground: 6-8 PM (LAST ONE BEFORE SUMMER!)



Hey GracePoint,

The school year is finally winding down and summer is almost here. That being said, this schedule outlines what the rest of this school year of GraceUnderground will look like before summer programming begins.

One thing to note that is coming up extremely fast (it may have even by the time you read this) is Big Day of Serving—a city-wide, multi-organizational, multi-city, gigantic service project. So it should be a fun time serving the community and connecting to churches and other youth groups across the city.

I'm excited for the month of May—partially because the weather is *finally* nice enough so that we can take games outside! I'm also excited because we have an entire month of fun, insightful, formative, and worshipful GraceUnderground sessions to help us get through the rest of the semester.

Blessings,
 Andrew


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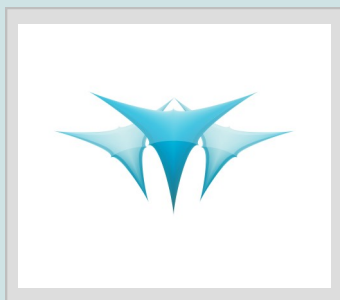
GLORIFYING GOD BY

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Keep June 1 Open

A thank you celebration for Pastor Dana and his family is being planned.

- Photos
- Food
- Fun

Watch for ways to join in the party!

May is Celebration Month at GracePoint

May 4 - SPM Sunday

Paul Both and Andrew Linden "practiced" ministry among us as students at UDTs. We thank and celebrate them.

May 11 - Graduate Sunday

All graduates in attendance this Sunday will be recognized. We congratulate them.

May 18 - Cookies for Camp Sunday

Youth who are planning to go to summer bible camp will make

cookies for people to take home. Donations for camp are welcomed. We encourage them.

May 25 - Gratitude Sunday

Alan and Jan Crandall have served GracePoint in many ways for many years. As they begin a new chapter in their lives, we thank them.

Please consider giving notes of congratulations and appreciation.