

WORDS OF GRACE

A Publication of GracePoint Church

Living As a God-Truster

“My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” 2 Cor. 12:9

God-Trusters live out of who they already are in Christ through the indwelling Holy Spirit. They are capable of enormous love toward God and others. Yet, every day they also still experience shockingly dark thoughts, feelings, and actions.

They know that this side of resurrection, life will always be a mixture of struggle and success, of joy and sorrow, of dignity and depravity, and of relationships that go well while remaining extremely hard, with some failing altogether. Even in the face of such inescapable tensions, they trust that Christ is redeeming every tear, will someday soon return, and then all struggle will have been worth it.

They don't respond to their ongoing struggles by trying to pretend they aren't there, or numb them away with sin, pleasure, or busyness, or trying harder to be a good Christian. They no longer pretend they have it all together, as they know their life, and everyone else's life, is and always will be a mess. Instead, they live in vulnerability with God and others, knowing that only in the Light is there healing, freedom, and intimacy.

They no longer strive to work on their sin to get closer to God. Instead, they rest in grace, trusting that Father

God loves and delights in them just as much when they are committing their worst sin as when they are singing songs of worship, because God always sees them covered in the righteousness of Christ.

They engage in the means of grace to weaken their dark side and to strengthen their new able-to-love-God-and-others side. Not because it earns God's love, but because it allows them to experience the extravagant love of God, and empowers them to love God and others more.

They don't strive to arrive. They know that life is an uphill journey all the way, but they do not travel alone. They walk with Christ, with the family of God, with guides who know the path, and with a few trusted fellow sojourners.

Their prayers sound like Psalms. They are full of raw emotion and troubling questions confessing doubts, fears, and love of sin. Though they may begin with their hands clenched in frustration with God, they always end with their hands open in trust and praise.

God-Trusters live in brokenness and vulnerability, trusting that *grace is sufficient, for God's power is made perfect in weakness.*

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 Wlochall

Prayer & Worship

Doug Storlie

Stewardship

Andy Baumann
Mary Burns
Tim Walsh

GracePoint Deacons

Care
Group Deacon

- 1 Sue Lemon
- 2 Robin Wlochall
- 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

GRACEPRAYER

What is GracePrayer? It is praying for one another and sharing requests for prayer. It is taking time on a Sunday morning to have someone pray for/over you for whatever request you have. It is praying for the pastors of GracePoint, for the worship service and for GracePoint Church that we may continue to be a Church of God and continue to strive to do His will.

Where is GracePrayer? GracePrayer will be held in the Prayer Room at the end of the hall next to the Conference Room.

When is GracePrayer? It will be held every Sunday morning during the fellowship time (10:00 – 10:30) unless there is a special program going on during that time.

Why GracePrayer? Your Prayer & Care Ministry Team felt we needed to do more to become a ‘House of Prayer’, and after much prayer, discussion, and discernment, it was decided to launch this new prayer time at GracePoint.

When does GracePrayer start? GracePrayer will start the first Sunday in November.

Can I be one of the people who will be praying for those in need, for our church, for the worship service, and for our pastors?

Yes! Anyone who calls GracePoint home is welcome to be a ‘prayer warrior’ and participate in this new prayer time. Please give any member of the Prayer & Care Ministry Team your name and you will be added to the schedule. We would like to have two ‘prayer warriors’ in the Prayer Room each Sunday.

How will this work during fellowship time? The prayer warriors will be in the Prayer Room for the Sunday they are assigned during the entire fellowship time. If you feel you would like prayer, you can go to the Prayer Room during fellowship time and you will be prayed for. Once the request has been prayed for, you may return to the Fellowship Center or stay in the Prayer Room and continue praying if you’d like.

Your Prayer & Care Ministry Team is excited about this new prayer time at GracePoint, and hope that you will take advantage of it! Volunteer to be a prayer warrior yourself!

Your Prayer & Care Ministry Team

Doug Storlie (Elder), Karen Storlie, Pam Hillary, Kevin Hirschey, Pauline Brimeyer

GRACEPOINT T-SHIRTS



The Missional Outreach Team will be placing an order for GracePoint polos and T-shirts soon. If you would like to order one, please sign up on the order form in the lobby by November 10th. If you have any questions please see Ken Godwin or Pam DeMeester.

GRACEPOINT YEAR-END MEETINGS

Congregational Meeting to elect new elders and deacons will be December 15th, immediately after the worship service.

Annual Reports are due in the office by December 30th. Please send them electronically to office@gracepointdbq.org. It would be helpful if you would put annual report as part of your title.

Annual Reports will be available to members and regular attenders in the lobby on Sunday, January 19th.

Annual Meeting is January 26, 2014. The potluck starts at 11:45, with the meeting following.

CLERGY APPRECIATION SUNDAY!

November 17, 2013

Clergy Appreciation Month is a special time that congregations set aside each year to honor their pastors for the hard work, sacrificial dedication, and multiple blessings received from their pastors.

On November 17th (please note the date change), during fellowship time, our congregation will have the privilege of showing our appreciation to Pastor Chris and Pastor Dana with a card shower. This will give us the opportunity to encourage and support our pastors by presenting them with cards, gift cards, invitations to lunch, or whatever other creative ideas you may have. A basket is available at the Connect Center for your cards from now until November 10th.

All Things Bright and Beautiful

“All Things Bright and Beautiful” is a fitting hymn for Thanksgiving. Lyrics speak of opening flowers, singing birds, the sunset, morning brightening the sky, ripe fruits, purple-headed mountains and the running river. It ends:

“He gave us eyes to see them,
And lips that we might tell:
How great is God Almighty,
Who has made all things well.”

The hymn was written by Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895), an Irish-woman who was deeply devoted to the religious education of children. She wrote many hymns for her Sunday school class, most of which were published in *Verses for Holy Seasons*. She also ministered to the poor, the ill, the bereaved and especially children.



GLOBAL MISSIONS

"Home" from South Sudan

Paul Both returned to his homeland of Pinythor, South Sudan, this summer with great news of God's provision and unfolding plan. His village greeted Paul with marching bands even before they knew of the good gifts Paul had yet to reveal.

Last spring, an appeal was made to GracePoint Church, exposing the most demanding and immediate needs of Paul's village of Pinythor. Over the summer, the session released the necessary funds to construct a new wooden church building. Lumber was brought in from Ethiopia to the building site. The last leg of the transport (about 2 miles) the logs were carried by the villagers by foot in extreme heat because of muddy conditions and impassible roads. The labor to build the church was gladly provided by the Pinythor parishioners.

Suitcases of gently-used choir robes were also taken to churches in South Sudan and Ethiopia. The villagers were thrilled and filled with praise for this love offering. The new church structure was built in two weeks and will be dedicated ceremoniously in the summer of 2014.

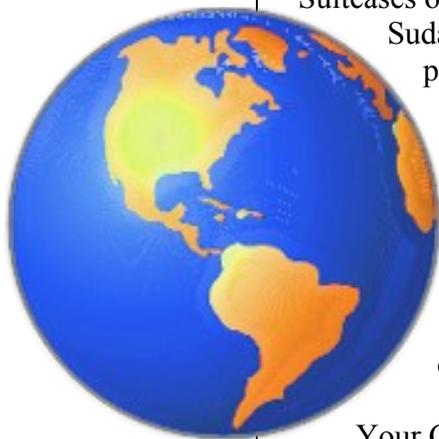
Thanks to your donations, Tylenol, Advil, and Tums were carried overseas and carefully distributed throughout nineteen different locations in Pagak County (in South Sudan) and Gambella, Ethiopia. These basic medications have been dispensed through area churches to those in need.

Your Global Mission Team wishes to thank YOU for your generous hearts and loving support. It is inspiring to witness what God has done and is doing to bring about His Kingdom in South Sudan through Paul Both and the vision of SSEM.

Will you pray for the Global Missions Team? We continue to seek God's eternal purposes worldwide.

We are thankful to our Lord for the resources with which we have been so graciously and generously blessed.

For the Global Missions Team, Scott Arnold
Sue Lemon, Author



2013

2013



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

Membership to Date	
Active	151
Inactive	5
Perm Inactive	<u>3</u>
Total	159

CLERK'S REPORT

Dan, David and Lynn Plisek were removed from the Membership Rolls by Session on September 25, 2013, per their request.

The November Session meeting has been changed to Thursday, November 21st at 6:30pm and the December Session meeting has been changed to Thursday, December 19th at 6:30pm.

Thanksgiving Eve Service will be Wednesday, November 27th at 7:00pm and Christmas Eve Service will be Tuesday, December 24th at 7:00pm.

Administrative Bookkeeper's Report:

General Fund Beginning Balance, September 1, 2013	\$12,440.31
Total General Fund Receipts	<u>25,344.40</u>
Subtotal Beginning Balance & Receipts	\$37,784.71
General Fund Disbursements	\$20,892.24
Allocations & Transfers	<u>1,194.03</u>
Subtotal Disbursements, Allocations & Transfers	\$22,086.27
General Fund Ending Balance, September 30, 2013	\$15,698.44

Pat Kohler, Clerk of Session

Women Mentoring Women Luncheon

The WMW will kick off our season with a luncheon on
November 3rd, 12:00 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)

GOLDEN OLDIES

Golden Oldies will meet on Wednesday, November 20rd, 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
November 15

BIRTHDAYS

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



ANNIVERSARIES

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

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

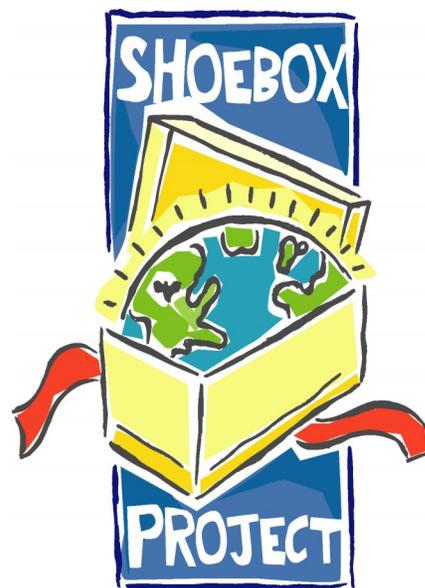
Just a reminder that filled shoe boxes can be brought to church until November 10th (the time has been extended).

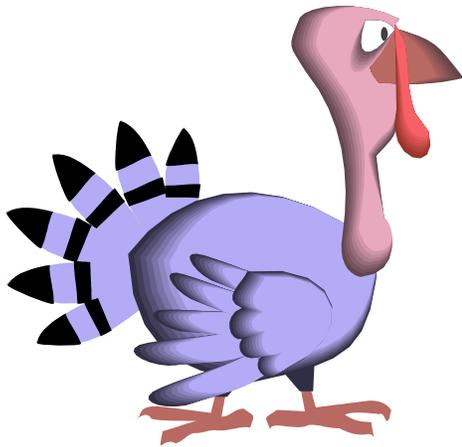
The empty shoe boxes are in the Lobby by the front door. Lists of items that can be put in the shoe boxes are on a table along with bookmarks and other items that are to be taken. Be sure to read the list carefully.

If you have any questions contact Pat Kohler, 583-8978.

The filled shoe boxes will be stacked in the Sanctuary. Please put yours there too.

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT OVER THE YEARS WE HAVE BEEN DOING SHOE BOXES. Our aim this year is 200 filled boxes!





As we look forward to celebrating the civic holiday of Thanksgiving, GraceUnderground thanks God for these great works of His grace over the past 12 or so months:

--Although weekly attendance varies greatly, there have been over 44 youth who have been touched by our ministry.

--17 adults have been involved in this ministry.

--I can still remember the tears flowing through the closed eyes of a teen girl as she gingerly raised her hand to indicate that she wanted salvation through Christ.

--Acquire the Fire: the grace of God moving in the lives of the 13 teens who went away for this weekend trip

--A winter retreat that had an atmosphere of revival

--Joining Hope's youth to serve in the Dubuque area through the "Tri-State Work Camp"

--Being part of the Big Day of Serving, another service opportunity in Dubuque

--Lives changed at Lifest

The Lord has done great things and given us many opportunities. As we give thanks for the good works of God that we've seen in the past, we are encouraged to take heart, and have faith, that God will do great works in the future.

Upcoming

Winter Retreat: Jan 17-19?

Acquire the Fire: Feb 21-22

Pastor Dana



**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**November****Worship Venue 10:30am**

Communion Preparers (November 3) Pauline Brimeyer, Janet Metelak

Communion Servers (November 3) Doug & Karen Storlie
Kevin & Mary Hirschey

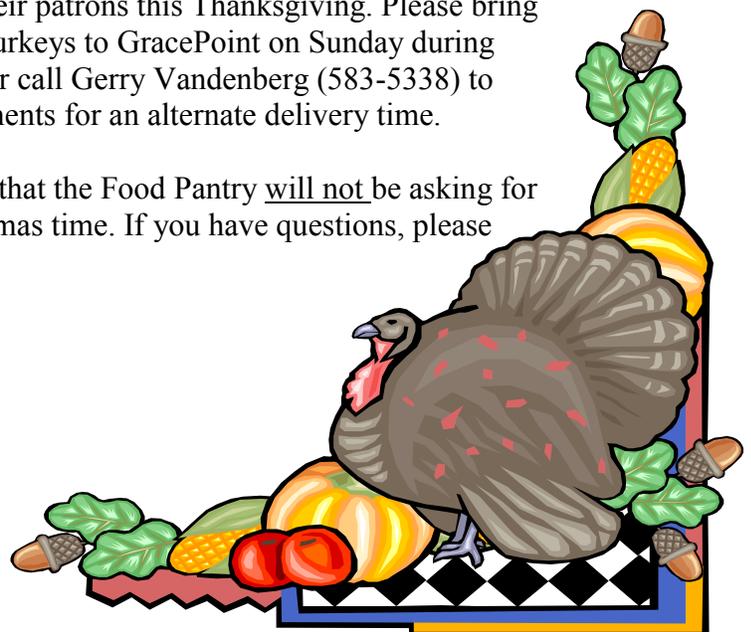
	Ushers	Greeters
November 3	Suz Birch, Martha Intveld	Ray Wlochall Frank Shepherd
November 10	Beverly VanDerZyl Martha Intveld	Pat Kohler Doug Mulder
November 17	Beverly VanDerZyl Barb Berg	Doug & Karen Storlie
November 24	Suz Birch, Doug Storlie	Lisa & Dave Gaylor

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

Food Pantry Needs

The Food Pantry will be needing turkeys of all sizes to distribute to their patrons this Thanksgiving. Please bring your donated turkeys to GracePoint on Sunday during service times or call Gerry Vandenberg (583-5338) to make arrangements for an alternate delivery time.

Please note that the Food Pantry will not be asking for hams at Christmas time. If you have questions, please call Gerry.



Missional Project Report – November 2013

Paint the Town Red

Well, not yet, but there has been a lot of painting going on in the renovated areas of the Fellowship Center. Painting is almost complete in all areas. Both ends of the Fellowship Center have the new color, as well as the new entryway. The beams and upper wall areas have been painted black to help them “disappear.” The new closet is finished with painted walls, new carpet on the floor, and new shelving. Most of the items from the old storage area are now stored in the new closet.

The institution-looking walls have been smoothed over, and will soon be painted. In other areas the walls will be covered with board and batten wood, similar to the pattern on the front sanctuary wall.

New ceiling panels and lighting are on order, and will arrive in mid-November. Also in mid-November, the new floor will be ready for installation.

There has been significant contribution of labor by a few faithful members. Many thanks for their dedication to GracePoint and this project. We look forward to having this re-envisioned space ready for new outreach ministries.

Your Missional Project Team,

Pam DeMeester, Elder

Ken Godwin, Elder

Dan Baker

Bob DeMeester

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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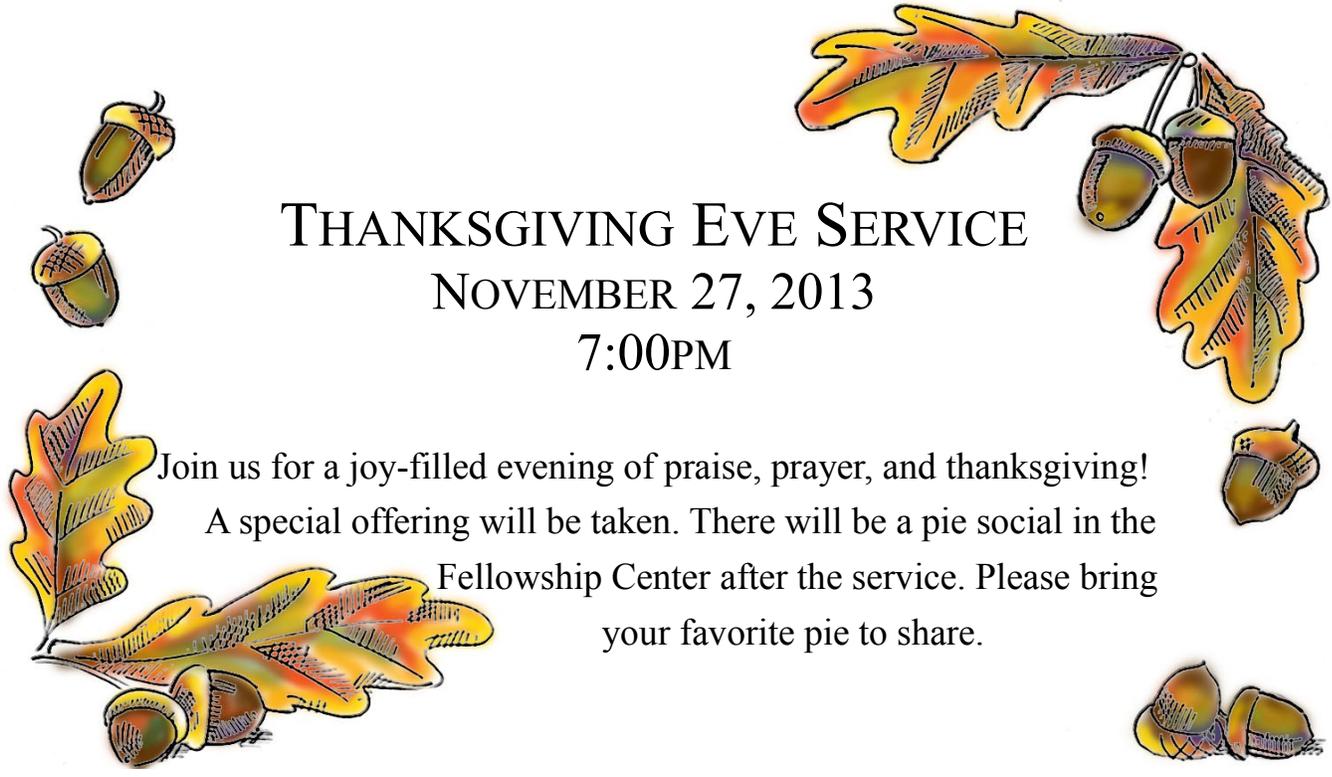
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SERVING Dubuque and the world



THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE
NOVEMBER 27, 2013
7:00PM

Join us for a joy-filled evening of praise, prayer, and thanksgiving!
A special offering will be taken. There will be a pie social in the
Fellowship Center after the service. Please bring
your favorite pie to share.