

WORDS OF GRACE

A Publication of GracePoint Church

It's Time to Go!

Christ declares, ... *“Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and crippled and blind and lame. ... Go out to the highways and hedges and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled.”* Luke 14:21-23

(Note: This month's article includes excerpts from my annual report.)

For four years now we have been on a journey together we have been calling missional renewal. In the simplest of terms, this renewal is about reclaiming and restoring GracePoint's long heritage of fruitful gospel ministry.

By God's grace, through all your hard work and unmatched faithfulness, all of our internal ministries are now doing well and in a state of ongoing improvement. We have a long-term plan for addressing facility and equipment needs. We can now enter into an extended season of continual improvement, and reaping the fruits of our labor.

This God-empowered success means two things. First, it means we can now enter into a long season of stability in the major areas of infrastructure, leadership, and in-house ministries. Our current weekly worship venues are the best we can offer to fulfill our mission, given our existing resources.

The second ramification of having completed the majority of our internal goals is that we can now focus our missional renewal efforts on expanding our evangelistic

outreach. GracePoint has a long heritage of such outreach.

The one remaining piece is for us to discern how we will engage in compassionate, evangelistic, missional, kingdom justice outreach outside the walls of our church. While we do some outreach in our community, most of our outreach involves people coming to us. Effective evangelism requires both in-house and community-based ministry.

In other words, as for any more major changes to our in-house ministries, worship venues, and weekly schedule, the answer is, “No!” As to what we will now focus our planning and resources on, the answer is, “Go!”

Once this community-based outreach ministry is in place, GracePoint will have successfully completed its missional renewal journey. We will then be complete in offering quality, fruitful, Christ-centered, God-glorifying, Spirit-empowered, kingdom-demonstrating ministry in every area that defines what it means to be a healthy, missional congregation.

That we are accomplishing this major restructuring and radical renewal in such a short amount of time is a worship-fostering testimony to this congregation's God-empowered commitment to Christ and kingdom, and to the extravagant grace and steadfast faithfulness of our triune God.

Pastor Chris



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Office Hours
Mon–Fri, 9am–2pm
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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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Confirmation of Baptism Class

at GracePoint

SATURDAYS

11:30am--2:40pm

February 5th & 26th, March 5th & 26th, April 2nd & 9th
for Kids and Teens Age 8 to 18

Participants will have the opportunity to join GracePoint, join the EPC, and be affirmed as ready to receive communion.

Prayer, fasting, giving, service, Bible study, and worship will be studied and practiced. Christian history and doctrine will be taught. Reformed distinctives will be explained. Participants are to bring a sack lunch. Students will travel in the local area as a part of this class.



WHO INSPIRES YOU?

As I was out for my morning slog (slow, very slow, jog) I was thinking about inspiration. My exercise time is often my best thinking time, and I started to put together a list in my head about who inspires me. I'd like to share my list with you and encourage you to make a list of people who inspire you. Then the real challenge is to tell them!

John, my husband: Keeps me balanced, calm, and reminds me that everyone is not like me, they think differently, act differently, and my way isn't always the right way. Just because I think it is so, doesn't make it so. He helps me realize how little 'things' really mean. This is often done in the comparison of shoes. He has a black pair, a brown pair, tennis shoes, and sandals. That's it. Guess who takes up most of the closet! John is a picture of unconditional love and support.

Leigh, my daughter: Inspires me to push myself. She is a runner, and recently ran the Quad City half-marathon (13.1 miles). As I watched

(Continued on page 11)

Presbyterians to Mexico

Nearly 10 years ago, an historic ministry began with the planning of an unofficial partnership among three Presbyterian churches in Iowa and one in the state of Quintana Roo in Mexico.

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 of 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 and one in Cancun. Gilda Samuels from First Presbyterian Church in Dubuque and Reverend Ramon Celis, the master church planner of Quintana Roo are the cement that holds us together.

The next mission trip to Mexico is July 9–16, 2011. With 10 or more hearty people, we will work at a new church building site in western Cancun in the mornings; with fewer people, we will tile floors in an established church. In the late afternoons, we will help with Vacation Bible School.

Church members and the pastor of a new Presbyterian congregation, *God is Love (Dios es Amor*, in Spanish), will be in charge. We will be assisting them.

Our group will fly from Dubuque to Cancun and will have transportation while there. Our lodging will be a modest hotel as close to the building site as possible. The cost of the trip is \$1,200 per person, an expense we hope to lessen through fundraising. The goal is to raise money and to accept donations to cover at least half the cost for each traveler.

Airline tickets will be reserved by February 14, so if God is prompting you to be one of the travelers, please respond soon. Fundraising will begin with a Make Your Own Taco Lunch after Horizons worship on March 13th.

Please pray for the mission and, if led, contribute to the work of this partnership among brothers and sisters in Christ in Iowa and in Quintana Roo.



God's Whispers at Work = Enhanced Community Outreach

Have you noticed the BUZZ around GracePoint since Pastor Chris delivered the "Hearing God's Whispers" sermon series? Some responses to God's whispers have led to an increased congregational involvement in the community, with the primary recipients, so far, being students at Marshall Elementary School.

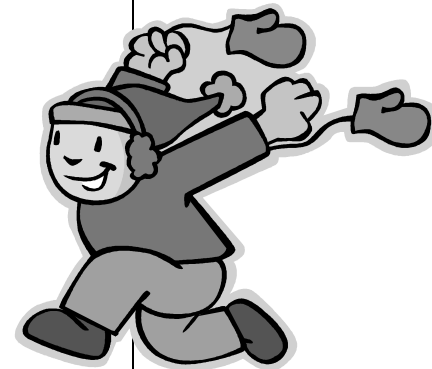
Boots, shoes, mittens, and hats were given to Marshall Elementary School (and other schools) for students without adequate winter wear. Some of the mittens and hats had love stitched in them because they were handcrafted by our Missional Project Ladies. Even Kmart got involved when Dan Baker walked into the store, noticed a sale bin of mittens and hats, and heard God whisper about asking for a reduced price on the items. After hearing the reason for the request, the manager sold ALL of the items for \$5.00. Dan took them immediately to Marshall School.

Another whisper involved MLK, Jr. National Day of Service. A group from GracePoint joined others from the community and scraped wax off of the first layer of interior bricks along the hallway at Marshall School—with razor blades!!

Our two pastors and a regular attendee participated in the Bridges Out of Poverty all-day training session on January 14 at Loras College. Jim Ott, director of the program, preached at GracePoint on January 9 and will make a presentation at church on March 18.

Some people have made a monetary donation to the newly established Community Outreach Fund. The fund will continue from one year to the next and will be used to meet needs in the tri-state area. Talk to the Missional Outreach Team if God reveals needs that the fund can help meet.

No doubt there are other whispers being acted upon that aren't known to all, and that's okay—actually, it's great! Keep hearing and responding and serving others, GracePoint Listeners!



Global Missions Report

JANUARY GLOBAL MISSION REPORT:
MATT AND MILLIE WELDE
U.S. CENTER FOR WORLD MISSION, PCUSA

We received good news from Matt Welde at year's end: Matt's prostate cancer has been officially declared gone (forever) and Millie's fourth stage breast cancer has still not spread to any major organ. This news has allowed Matt to make plans for travel to many third world countries in 2011. Millie is no longer able to accompany Matt on his evangelistic and teaching trips, but they both remain steadfast and full of energy to spread God's saving gospel about Jesus and His cross to all.

I had an opportunity to visit with Matt this past fall. He phoned to talk about the recently held memorial service for Donald Bloesh, which Matt was unable to attend because of schedule conflicts. I had sent Matt a bulletin of that service and he called me to thank me, but also to reminisce about the several "wonderful" visits he has had to Dubuque. During those visits he spent much time with Dr. Bloesh, but also preached the sermon and taught the adults at Third Church. He also spent time with the University of Dubuque seminary students, teaching and leading their chapel services. Those were good memories for Matt as Millie was able to accompany him. I especially remember one visit where an evening's gathering at our home took place and the Church was invited to come and listen to Matt and Millie's adventures on the mission field, its dangers, rewards, and the Welde's total dependence on God's protection for survival.



On another visit Matt and Dr. Bloesh made a side trip to visit two Sisters at the Sinsinawa Convent in Wisconsin. These two Sisters were friends of Dr. Bloesh and he wanted Matt to meet them as they had prayed for and supported Dr. Bloesh in his ministry of spreading the gospel through the writing of text books that have become today's basic texts of Evangelical theology. I thought it interesting that gathered at that meeting was one Spirit—empowered Presbyterian, one UCC pastor/seminary teacher/author, and two Catholic nuns, all standing together for the spread of the Lord's saving grace. I could not help but thank God that at the center, we are all one in Him.

Please continue to pray for Matt and Millie and for their continued grace-filled work for the world's unsaved in 2011.

Scott Arnold, Global Missions Team



February 2011



Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 6:30p Precepts	2 6:15a Men's Prayer Breakfast 9:00a Precepts 5:30p Bell Choir 5:30p FE Praise Band 6:30p Fresh Encounters	3	4 7:00p Movie Night	5 11:30a Baptism Class
6 8:00a Vocal Choir 8:45a Traditions 9:30a Horizons Band 9:45a Bible Classes 9:45a Guys and Gals 10:35a Fellowship Time 11:00a Horizons 6:00p Super Bowl Party GraceUnderground	7 6:00p Food Pantry	8 6:30p Precepts	9 6:15a Men's Prayer Breakfast 9:00a Precepts 5:30p Bell Choir 7:30p Deacons Meeting	10	11	12
13 8:45a Traditions 9:30a Horizons Band 9:45a Bible Classes 10:35a Fellowship Time 11:00a Horizons 1:30p Bethany Home 6:00p GraceUnderground	14 6:00p Food Pantry	15  6:30p Precepts	16 6:15a Men's Prayer Breakfast 9:00a Precepts 5:30p Bell Choir 5:30p FE Praise Band 6:30p Fresh Encounters Communion 7:30p Elder Ministry Teams	17	18	19
20 8:45a Traditions 9:30a Horizons Band 9:45a Bible Classes 10:35a Fellowship Time 11:00a Horizons 6:00p GraceUnderground	21 6:00p Food Pantry	22 6:30p Precepts	23 6:15a Men's Prayer Breakfast 9:00a Precepts 5:00p Golden Oldies 5:30p Bell Choir 7:00p Session	24	25	26 11:30a Baptism Class
27 8:00a Vocal Choir 8:45a Traditions 9:30a Horizons Band 9:45a Bible Classes 10:35a Fellowship Time 11:00a Horizons 6:00p GraceUnderground	28 6:00p Food Pantry					

CLERK'S REPORT

Membership to Date

Active	144
Inactive	3
Perm. Inactive	<u>6</u>
Total	153



Sharon Baker, Glenda Temple, and Robin Wlochal were Ordained & Installed as Deacons on January 9, 2011. Pauline Brimeyer, 2nd term, was Installed as Deacon on January 9, 2011.

Mary Burns, Ben Cernek, Mary Hirschey, and Jan Jenner were Ordained & Installed as Elders on January 9, 2011.

Death of Marilyn Lemmer on January 17, 2011 – Funeral Service on January 20, 2011.

Treasurer's Report

General Fund Beginning Balance, December 1, 2010	\$28,775.58
Total General Fund Receipts	24,682.55
Subtotal Beginning Balance & Receipts	53,458.13
Subtotal Disbursements/Allocations	37,659.69
General Fund Ending Balance, December 31, 2010	\$15,798.44

SAVE THE DATES

Bridges Out of Poverty Part II

6:30 pm Friday, March 18

Continue the conversation begun last March with Jim Ott and others involved with Dubuque's Bridges Out of Poverty program. No charge. Refreshments will be served.

Ladies Spring Gathering

Saturday, April 2, 2011

Details to Come!

GOLDEN OLDIES

Golden Oldies will meet on Wednesday, February 23rd, 5:00pm, at Sunshine Family Restaurant.

Sign up at the Connect Center on the Sunday before the event or call Bob Boelk, 557-9166.

All seniors are welcome!



GUYS AND GALS

On the first Sunday of the month, after the first service, a group of seniors meet for brunch at Chuck and Jo's restaurant on Iowa Street. All seniors are invited to join us. If you have any questions, contact Betty Muellich at 582-3505.



Tuesday
February 15

BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Gina Carlson
- 3 Fred Thomas
- 6 Pete Conrad
- 7 Adam Zivojnovich
- 12 Mike McCarthy
- 12 Doug Mulder
- 13 Bob Boelk
- 14 Mike Stowers
- 14 Ray Wlochall
- 17 Alex Wiest
- 17 Karin Loukinen
- 22 Alan Crandall
- 22 Betty Pothoff
- 23 Nicholas Bell
- 25 Kevin Hirschey
- 25 Bob Burns
- 27 Bob Ege



ANNIVERSARIES

- 25 Ernest & Karin Loukinen
- 19 Loran & Tera Montgomery

Check Out the Library

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

The library is open Sundays from 8:30am till noon. If you have any new books or videos you would like to donate to the library, contact Mable or Bob Boelk, 557-9166.



Attention: Teens (and teens at heart)

GracePoint library has purchased four new books with **you** in mind! Be sure to read the Katie Parker Production series (Jenny Jones, author) and Hangman's Curse (Frank Peretti, author).

No book reports required!!

THANK YOU

Thank you to all who showed compassion and love to us at the passing of Marilyn Lemmer very recently. It was so unexpected but a blessing from our precious Lord. We took care of Marilyn for 25+ years and answered her every call. She loved the Lord as best she could understand and I am sure she is now in heaven with Him.

Thank you to everyone who stopped by to see Marilyn at the Funeral Home. That was very comforting to both Bob and me.

Bob and Mable Boelk





Middle and High School
Youth
6:00 to 8:00pm
Sunday evenings

February Schedule

- FEB 6 SUPER BOWL PARTY AT THE DE MEESTERS
RSVP RIGHT NOW!
- FEB 13 TEENAGE POLITICS—EPHESIANS SERIES
CONTINUES “A SET OF KEYS” CH 4 7-16
- FEB 20 “IT’S ALL ABOUT ATTITUDE” CH 4:17-32
- FEB 27 “BEING TRUE” CH 5 (conclusion of series)

Another top 10 list for you! “What Teens Need”

Feb 17, 2004 - © [Marilyn Robb](#) from “Suite 101.com”

What teens need: **1. Acceptance** They need to belong and feel connected to others, be it family or friends.

As children grow towards the adolescent phase or teenage-hood, they are stigmatized with fluctuating and difficult moods, what may seem like erratic or risky behavior. Most of this, we as adults having been there ourselves, can recognize these as symptoms of the emotional trauma of leaving childhood behind. But because we have been there ourselves doesn't make it easier sometimes to cope with. We tend to forget what it was like and what we needed at that time. Many of us turned away from our parents or the other adults around us and sought comfort and support with our peers. We can however stay close to our teenagers and provide them with the support and help they may not know how to ask for, as they wend their way into young adulthood.

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

Edie Ege
583-1974

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
588-2115

Glenda Temple
582-0464

Pam Hillary
556-5846

Karen Storlie
556-7548

Kim or Jerry Bell
582-4956

SERVANTS OF THE LORD**Traditions (8:45am)**

Ushers (February)	Ben and Glenda Temple
Greeters (February)	Dan and Sharon Baker
Communion Preparers	Robin Wlochall , Verna Davis
Communion Servers	Joe and Mary Burns Ray and Robin Wlochall

	Prayers of the People	Prayer Team Ministry
Feb 6	Paul Jensen	Steve and Sue Lemon
Feb 13	Paul Jensen	Beverly VanDerZyl, Karen Storlie
Feb 20	Pam Hillary	Bob and Mable Boelk
Feb 27	Pam Hillary	Kevin and Mary Hirschey

Horizons (11:00am)

Ushers (December)	Ben and Glenda Temple
Greeters (December)	Dan and Sharon Baker
Communion Servers	Tim and Connie Walsh

Child Care (Horizons)

	Infant	Preschool
Feb 6	Sue Lemon	Dan Brimeyer
Feb 13	Verna Davis	Brandon English
Feb 20	Judy Godwin	Brandon Elliot
Feb 27	Pauline Brimeyer	Lorene Hynes

MISSIONAL PROJECT LADIES**AND****RED HAT LADIES**

The Missional Project Ladies and Red Hat Ladies will not be meeting during February. If you have yarn or fabric for quilt pieces bring the supplies to the church office. They will be working on their projects at home.

(Continued from page 2.)

her and others of all ages, I realized it is up to me to take care of this old body. God only gave me one. This year was the year of the 5K (3.1 miles) and my family (three generations) walked in the DeWitt School Fund Raiser, and others, too! My goal for next year is a 10K, and Leigh is my inspiration. She keeps me grounded in what is most important when it comes to family and putting first things first.

Mae and Lester, my parents: My Dad died in 1983, and I still miss him every day. He taught me generosity and how to love your family. My Mom was a very hard worker, and my work ethic is probably due to her example. She is 91 and thinks she will live forever! (Actually, she will, just not on this earth.)

Lori, my friend: Lori is my co-instructor in many classes I teach for John Deere. She is my prayer partner, the person who keeps me on track, the one who has my back. Her knowledge and willingness to share it has enriched my life.

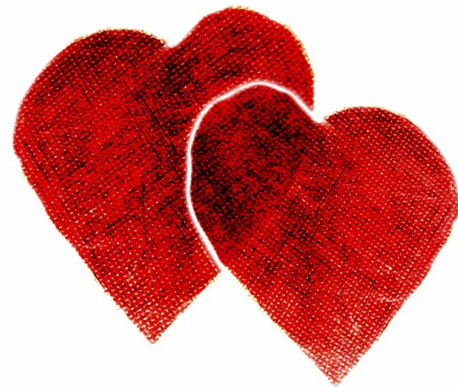
Sondra and Naomi, my sisters: Taught me how to be a good sibling, to share good food, great laughs, and memories, and also remind me that I am, indeed, not 35 anymore! They are generous, caring, Christian women whom I treasure in my life.

My Christian sisters: Over the years, the names have become legion. They are the ones with whom I share mutual trust and respect, who teach me, show kindness and compassion, love and understanding. They are the ones who are only a phone call away, share experiences with me, and most of all, their love of Christ shines through in all they do.

Gentry and Gibson, my grandchildren: They remind me every day of the gift of time. Their energy, candor, questions, 'realness', sweetness, and innocence fill me up to overflowing. Gibson recently reminded his mom that "God has a plan for everyone," and that "Jesus is dancing in his heart." (He's six.)

And, last and most importantly, Jesus Christ, my example of PERFECT INSPIRATION. His unconditional love, forgiveness, grace, and mercy never cease to amaze me. I am in awe of his plan of sanctification through the blood He shed for me. GRACEPATH is a means to sanctification and I am SO looking forward to this process over the next few years.

Pam Hillary





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Friday Night at the Movies

February 4th

7:00pm



As a warm-up to the Super Bowl and for an opportunity to reach out to someone who doesn't have a great church family, the Missional Outreach Team is showing "The Blind Side" on February 4th. The movie begins at 7:00pm in the Fellowship Center. Theater-style refreshments, plus a yummy surprise, will be served.

Save the date and invite a friend or two!