

WORDS OF GRACE

A Publication of GracePoint Church

A New Commandment for a New Year

Christ declared, "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." Jn 13:34-35

"This is how we've come to understand and experience love: Christ sacrificed his life for us. This is why we ought to live sacrificially for our fellow believers, and not just be out for ourselves. If you see some brother or sister in need and have the means to do something about it but turn a cold shoulder and do nothing, what happens to God's love? It disappears. And you made it disappear. My dear children, let's not just talk about love; let's practice real love." I Jn 3:16-20
MSG

Christ living and loving in human form leaves humanity with no excuses for not understanding what love looks like in action.

Love looks like Christ feeding the hungry, healing the sick, forgiving sinners, setting captives free, loving the unloved, and giving dignity to the marginalized, like women, children, the poor, the diseased, the outcasts, and the victims of oppression and discrimination.

Love also looks like Christ confronting the religious for their loveless legalism, admonishing his own followers for their selfish

ambition and bigotry, and chastising the rich for their greed and materialism.

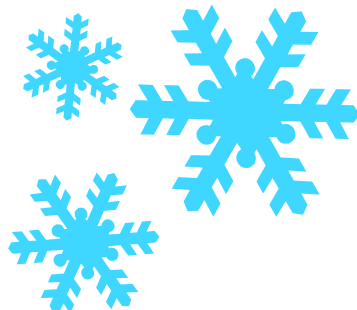
Love is God in an animal's manger.
Love is Christ on a criminal's cross.

In these Bible passages, love is defined in the most practical of terms. "If we see someone with a need that we are able to meet, and do not do so, then we simply cannot claim to have God's love in us." How convicting!

Any excess, any hoarding, any stockpiling of goods, or saving of money that is beyond what we truly need for the moderate lifestyle to which we are called, and which could be used to serve others, is a violation of Christ's new command to love as God loves. Any turning a blind eye to injustice is a violation of our call to be God's love and gospel.

Here is a New Year's resolution to challenge us all. Let us love as Christ loves. If we see a person in need, whether face to face or via any other medium, and we have the ability to meet that need, let us do so. If we see any injustice that we have the ability to confront, let us do so. My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, *"let's not just talk about love; let's practice real love."*

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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PRECEPTS BIBLE STUDY

We will begin a new LORD study “Lord, Is It Warfare? Teach Me to Stand” January 11th and 12th that will run through mid April. The cost of the Lord study book is \$9.50. Contact Mary Hirschey if you have questions or want to reserve a spot in the new class.

NEW ELDERS, DEACONS, AND NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEMBERS – AT LARGE

At the Special Congregational Meeting on December 19th, the following members were elected to serve the GracePoint congregation. Please be sure to thank those leaving office for their service and dedication to the work of the Lord.

Also, encourage those who are now serving.

Elder Positions for the Class of 2013

Mary Burns
Ben Cernek
Mary Hirschey
Jan Jenner

Deacons for the Class of 2013

Sharon Baker
Pauline Brimeyer
Robin Wlochall
Glenda Temple—to fill the 1-year term of Jan Jenner, Class of 2011

Nominating Committee At-Large For 2011

Carolyn Arnold
Dwayne Intveld
Paulette Kress
Roger VanDerZyl

Elder Tim Walsh is the chair of the 2011 Nominating Committee.



2011 Mexico Mission Update

Plans are underway for a 2011 Summer Mission Trip to Mexico. So far, 11-12 people from both GracePoint and First Presbyterian Church have expressed interest in traveling to the Cancun area on July 9. Additional people are praying for clearer direction from God and have questions about the experience.

Answers to some of the questions:

Depending on the wishes of the group, a modest hotel with air-conditioning units, close to the building site, will be available for lodging. The other choice is the Bethesda Presbyterian Church, where hammocks or mattresses and showers are available. The church is the home base for most of the groups, but is a long way from the church building site.

Cancun was identified by Trip Advisor as the safest place in Mexico for travelers. <http://www.tripadvisor.com/Travel-g150807-s206/Cancun:Mexico:Health.And.Safety.html>

Fundraising efforts will begin in January, and grant possibilities are being researched. The estimated \$1,200/person will be off-set by funds collected.

Currently, round-trip airfare between Dubuque and Cancun is \$510.72, including fees. The prices are rising. In an effort to be good stewards, we want to book the airfare as soon as possible.

Please listen carefully to God's call and be ready to decide early this new year. A firm commitment is needed by January 17.

May God guide and bless you throughout this New Year!

Beverly VanDerZyl, GracePoint
Gilda Samuels, First Presbyterian Church.



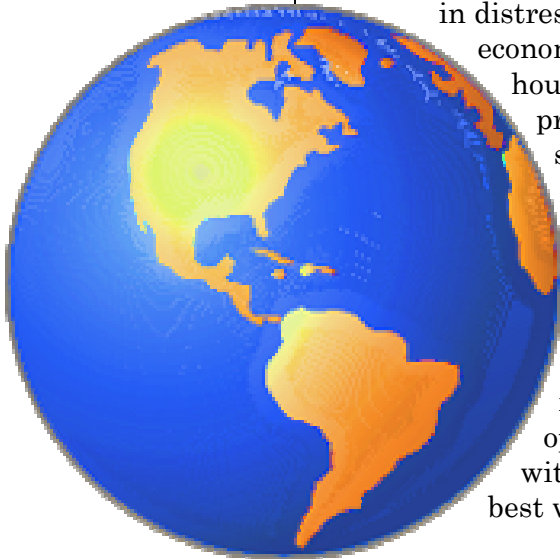
Sunday Bible Classes for All Ages

9:45am	Infants (Birth to age 2)	Childcare - Infants
	Preschool Class (Age 2 to Pre-K)	Childcare—Preschool
	<u>Lower Level</u>	
	K-5th grade	Discipleship Room
	Youth (JR & SR High)	Youth Room
	<u>Grace Path Bible Studies</u>	
	Bible Survey	Conference Room
	The Basics of Reformed Theology	Choir Room
	Biblical Marriage	GC-2

Global Missions Report

One of the joys in serving on the Global Missions Task Force is that we receive communications from many of the missionary groups or families that GracePoint helps support in the Mission endeavors around the world. Last week I received an e-mail “winter newsletter” from Robert and Joyce Hamd. They are serving in World Outreach as EPC Missionaries, now assigned to Lebanon. If you haven’t looked at a world map lately, Lebanon is located just north of Israel and west of Syria. This area continues to be an area of the Middle East that has more than its share of political problems.

Robert is serving as pastor of a global south, non-Western church. They are a small congregation made up of diverse people groups following Jesus Christ. Robert also serves as the director of the Philemon Project. This ministry aims to come alongside the poor and marginalized living in Beirut. Their primary ministry focuses on women in distress, the most vulnerable people group. Many women are economically deprived, living in poor conditions, working long hours, and suffering many hardships. They can show practical care for these folks regulated to the margins of society because of partners like GracePoint. In 2010 the ministry established a computer training center and an English language institute.



Joyce teaches 12th grade English at the Lebanon Evangelical School, where she can talk to, challenge, read, and think with these students. What she enjoys most about teaching in this venue are the many opportunities, both in class and out, to share her faith with her students. She says that teaching English is the best way to do that

The Hamds have three children. Ben, the oldest, is studying Middle-East studies at George Washington University in D.C. Joseph is a senior on the debate and varsity soccer teams, and looks forward to going to college next year. Lydia is in several choirs and will be part of the school’s production of “Hamlet” this year.

It is my privilege to share with you this brief report about missionaries who are doing their best to bring Christ to this part of the world with all of the challenges that accompany being in a Middle East country that has many problems. We ask that members of GracePoint join with the Global Missions Team in holding the Hamds in prayer for safety and for the ministry needs they strive to meet as they serve in Lebanon.

For the Global Missions Team, Don Sanders

**Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center
Blood Drive
Wednesday, January 12th
3:00-6:00pm
Fellowship Center**

The Blood Drive gives us another opportunity to fulfill our mission of serving Dubuque. The process takes about an hour of your time, and you can touch as many as three patients with that single donation. Please schedule an appointment time in the lobby or call the office at 583-3929. We need a minimum of 16 appointments so our Church can be there to save lives. If you have any questions, please contact Pam De Meester.

The Regional Blood Center recommends you eat before donating and you must bring a photo ID. We will have delicious and nutritious refreshments there to build you up again from your donation. You can get more of your questions answered at www.bloodcenter.org.

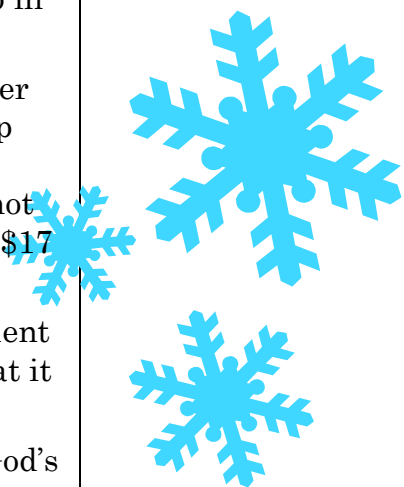
“Per Member Asking” going up for 2011

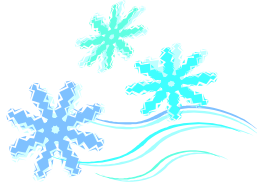
Due to the splitting of the Mid-America Presbytery into two separate presbyteries—one embracing female ruling and teaching elders and the other one not—GracePoint will be moving to the new presbytery that does embrace women in roles of leadership in the church.

Starting up a new presbytery is not an easy task, and in order to do so, funds as well as people are needed to get everything up and running. Thus, the presbytery portion of the “Per Member Asking” has gone up \$4.00 for 2011. The Per Member Asking (not Per Family) for 2011 is \$40.00. The money is to be allocated as \$17 for Presbytery and \$23 for General Assembly.

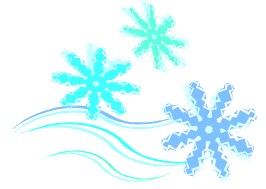
GracePoint needs to make every effort to meet our commitment to our new Presbytery and our General Assembly, and to do that it will take every member’s participation.

Thanks for all you give of your time and monies to further God’s Kingdom here at GracePoint and around the world.





JANUARY 2011



Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 New Years Day
2 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 GraceUnderground	3 6:00p Food Pantry	4	5 6:15a Men's Prayer Breakfast 5:30p Bell Choir 5:30p FE Praise Band 6:30p Fresh Encounters	6 Epiphany of the Lord 7:00p Special Budget Mtg	7	8 9:00 Un-decorating
9 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	10 6:00p Food Pantry	11 6:30p Precepts	12 6:15a Men's Prayer Breakfast 9:00a Precepts 3:00p Blood Drive 5:30p Bell Choir 7:30p Deacons Meeting	13	14	15
16 8:00a Vocal Choir Practice 8:45a Traditions 9:30a Horizons Band 9:45a Bible Classes 10:35a Fellowship Time 11:00a Horizons 6:00p GraceUnderground	17  6:00p Food Pantry	18 6:30p Precepts	19 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	20	21	22
23 8:45a Traditions 9:30a Horizons Band 9:45a Bible Classes 10:35a Fellowship Time 11:00a Horizons 6:00p GraceUnderground	24 6:00p Food Pantry	25 6:30p Precepts	26 6:15a Men's Prayer Breakfast 9:00a Precepts 5:00p Golden Oldies 5:30p Bell Choir 7:30p Session	29	28 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">Presbytery Meeting</div>	29
30 8:45a Traditions 9:30a Horizons Band 9:45a Bible Classes 10:35a Fellowship Time 11:00a Horizons 12:00p Potluck and Annual Meeting 6:00p GraceUnderground	31					

CLERK'S REPORT

Membership to Date:

Active	147
Inactive	3
Perm. Inactive	6
Total	156

Lana and Pam Vandenberg were removed from the membership rolls as of November 18, 2010 (had been on the Inactive Rolls for a period of two years) November 18, 2008—November 18, 2010).

Steve Connors and Jamie Pluemer were placed on the Inactive Rolls for a period of two years (November 18, 2010, to November 18, 2012).

Christmas Decorations will be taken down Saturday, January 8th starting at 9:00am.

Installation of Officers is Sunday, January 9th.

Presbytery Meeting will be on Friday and Saturday, January 28 and 29th, at Bridgeton, MO.

Annual Congregational / Corporation Meeting Sunday, January 30th – potluck at 12:00 and meeting at 1:00pm.

Movie Night is Friday, February 4th, at 7:00pm. The movie is “The Blind Side.”

Treasurer's Report:

General Fund Balance, November 1, 2010	\$30,318.81
Subtotal Total General Fund Receipts	26,063.51
Subtotal Beginning Balance & Receipts	\$56,382.32
Disbursements / Allocations	\$27,606.74
General Fund Ending Balance, November 30, 2010	\$28,775.58

Clerk of Session, Pat Kohler

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOXES

A huge thank you to everyone who participated in this very special project. Another big thank you to Roger VanDerZyl, who delivered 182 shoeboxes to the First Baptist Church, which is the drop-off point. Many children will be blessed by your generosity.



It's not too early to start planning and saving for next year. We are planning to do more shoeboxes and bless more kids.

GOLDEN OLDIES

Golden Oldies will meet on Wednesday, January 26th, 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.



Monday
Jan 17th

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Austin Roling
- 1 Katelyn Wiest
- 2 Richard Merrihew
- 4 Erin Barsema
- 10 Tiffany Fox
- 11 George Schwarzmam III
- 15 Anna English
- 15 Amy English
- 22 Ken Irion
- 24 Paulette Kress
- 25 Bob De Meester
- 26 Wilma Sanders
- 28 Betty Sheehan



ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 Mable and Bob Boelk
- 3 Karen and Doug Storlie
- 18 Laurie and Pete Andersen

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.



Annual / Corporate Meeting and Potluck January 30th, 12:00pm In the Fellowship Center



Bring a dish or two to pass. Table service and drink will be provided.
The annual meeting follows the potluck.

MISSIONAL PROJECT LADIES AND RED HAT LADIES

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



Middle and High School Youth

6:00 to 8:00pm
Sunday evenings

2011 – LOOKING TOWARD HEAVEN

Here are some of the ministry opportunities GraceUnderground is looking forward to in 2011.

JANUARY AND FEBRUARY: Ideas are brewing, but it's top secret right now!

MARCH 11–12: Jr. and Sr. High “Ignite” Youth Leadership Conference featuring Masab Hassan Yousef, the author of “Son of Hamas” and converted son of a founding member of Hamas. The theme of this year’s conference is “Martyr.” Other keynote speakers are Bill Alison of Cadre Ministries and Dr. Emir Carner president of Truett-McConnell College and author of “The Truth about Islam and Jesus.” Youth-led worship and top-notch comedian, Michael Jr. (www.michaeljr.com) are also in the mix. Michael has performed for crowds as big as 60,000 and has been on BET and Comedy Central, etc. Great breakout speakers are offered, as well. All of this for the great price of \$290 per student...wait...that was a typo...make that **\$29!** Can you believe it? That’s the early-bird price, so register with Pastor Dana this month! (Early-bird prices end January 31st.)

The very next weekend (eat your Wheaties, kids) Senior High only!

TRI STATE WORK CAMP MARCH 17–19, 2011. Tri State Work Camp is a ministry of Dubuque-area churches with a desire to see their students serve in a meaningful City ministry and a desire to impact the City of Dubuque with the life-changing message of Christ’s love.

Using Group’s Student Work Camps as a model, we want to develop a Dubuque-based ministry that reaches the City with God’s love in very practical ways—home repairs, serving meals, serving in other areas of Dubuque.

Not only does Work Camp provide Sr. High students with a tremendous opportunity to serve God, a lot of effort and planning is also put into challenging the students to grow in their faith. Morning devotions and evening programs filled with worship, prayer, testimonies, and teaching are designed

Connecting
Loving
Growing
SERVING

Ushers needed!
Are you willing to help usher on a Sunday morning?
Is your family willing to help get you there on time?
Talk to Pastor Dana or Wilma Sanders for more information.

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 (January)** Dan and Sharon Baker
- Greeters (January)** Gary and Kate Duehr
- Communion Preparers** Pauline Brimeyer, Jan Jenner
- Communion Servers** Dan and Sharon Baker, Ben and Glenda Temple

Prayers of the People

Prayer Team Ministry

- | | | |
|--------|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| Jan 2 | Sue Lemon | Frank and Gaye Grote |
| Jan 9 | Sue Lemon | Mary Burns, Martha Intvelt |
| Jan 16 | Kevin Hirschey | Laurie Andersen, Pam DeMeester |
| Jan 23 | Kevin Hirschey | Glenda Temple, Gerry Vandenberg |
| Jan 30 | Beverly VanDerZyl | Don and Wilma Sanders |

Horizons (11:00am)

- Ushers (December)** Ann and Andy Baumann
- Greeters (December)** Suz Birch, Tom Scherf
- Communion Servers** Beverly VanDerZyl, Ray Wlochall

Child Care (Horizons)

Infant

Preschool

- Jan 2**
- Jan 9**
- Jan 16**
- Jan 23**
- Jan 30**

(Continued from page 9)

to bring students into the presence of God and to send them home energized, changed and strengthened.

Work Camp begins with registration at 5:00pm Wednesday night and continues through the closing session of praise and testimony on Saturday ending at 11:30am. In between are times of work, prayer, teaching, worship, socializing, eating, and (a little) sleep.

Stay tuned for more information about this event. The cost should be around \$50 per student. (Scholarships/fundraising will be made available as needed.) To reserve a spot, talk to Pastor Dana.

APRIL AND MAY: Business as usual.

JUNE–AUGUST: Outdoor activities, possible trip to Lifefest (if enough interest), meeting at homes. S'mores.

SEPTEMBER: Brace yourself for program changes as the school year approaches; we are always re-inventing ourselves and trying to stay fresh.

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER: Fall retreat? Money and interest permitting.

DECEMBER: Have yourself a merry little Christmas. ☺



TOP TEN MISTAKES PARENTS MAKE

10. Giving Up Too Soon: Forgetting the "Three Times" Rule
Most teens who have already figured out creative ways to get what they want will not "buckle down" after one attempt to change their behavior, especially if you have backed down on consequences consistently for a period of time. Face it: your teen's going to test your resolve. They are going to test it once, twice, and again. Some teens will look for that crack in the armor to appear and will test every time they see it. Teens are smart. They know if you are tired and frustrated, and they often have an uncanny ability to test you just when you are least likely to have the energy to resist. Don't give up. Be consistent. Stay vigilant. This might sound alarmist, but as a parent, your primary job is to raise your children to be independent adults. If you relinquish this full-time responsibility, someone else will teach them the ropes, and that someone may not have their best interests in mind.



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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!