

# WORDS OF GRACE

A Publication of GracePoint Church

## FALLING INTO GRACE

*“Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.” Psalm 51:1-2*

Let me challenge you to make a New Year’s resolution of deepest significance, a commitment to pursue wholehearted holiness in Christ.

There are two opposite but equally damaging misunderstandings of personal holiness. One is to pursue holiness by strictly obeying a list of rules. The other is to conclude that since it is impossible to not sin, one might as well just sin boldly, and let grace cover it all. But neither legalism nor licentiousness fosters the holiness God desires and requires.

What then does God require from you in regard to sin and holiness? All God expects and empowers us to pursue is **aggressive resistance** against all temptation, and **perpetual repentance** of all known sin.

Here are two questions to evaluate your heart toward God’s required pursuit of holiness.

Are you aggressively fighting against all sin in your life?

Are you continually repenting of all known sin?

What pleases God right now is not a life without sin, as that is impossible. What pleases God is a person who uses every means of grace available to

overcome sin and to grow in holiness, and a heart that is quick to repent at the Spirit’s conviction.

We all fall hard into sin. The person who pleases God is the one who falls even harder into grace!

Life is war, until Christ’s return, and if we don’t put on the armor of God every day, and fight hard against our sin and the evil around us, we will suffer defeat! That’s the challenging news. The good news is that the battle is part of the victory!

Christ could easily grant us enough of the Spirit’s power to be completely free from any struggle with sin. But God has determined that fighting against temptation, and persevering through trial, is the best way to prepare us for life in God’s eternal, earthly kingdom.

Life is boot camp for co-rulership with Christ. Temptation trains us for eternal glory. Persevering through trial prepares us to live in God’s kingdom. The journey is as important as the destination. The battle is as important as the victory.

May this be your prayer all year long.

*“Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.”*

Psalm 51:10

*Pastor Chris*



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Dubuque, Iowa  
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Office Hours  
Mon–Fri, 9am–2pm  
Volume 15, Issue 1  
January 2012  
Published Monthly

## 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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Stephanie Lange  
Mary Hirschey

Missional Outreach

Beverly VanDerZyl  
Pam De Meester

Worship

Wilma Sanders

Fellowship

Ray Wlochal  
Jan Jenner

Prayer & Care

Pam Hillary

Stewardship

Tim Walsh  
Ben Temple  
Mary Burns

**GracePoint  
Deacons**

Care  
Group Deacon

- 1 Bob Boelk
- 2 Robin Wlochal
- 3 Pauline Brimeyer
- 4 Glenda Temple
- 5 Verna Davis
- 6 Betty Carlson
- 7 Joe Burns
- 8 Sharon Baker
- 9 Carolyn Arnold

Deacon Moderator  
Pauline Brimeyer

**GRACEPOINT FINANCIAL NEWS**

The parking lot project is finished. The engineers and contractors have been paid. Now our attention turns to paying back the \$35,000 borrowed from the bank to bring this all to completion. With the Foundation's matching pledge still in place, this leaves \$17,500 to be raised for GracePoint to be debt free once again.

A line was added to the 2012 general budget to cover the required interest payments, but the principal paydown will still come from the Capital Improvement Fund. While the chart in the Fellowship Center showing our "paving" of the parking lot continues to fill in, there will be an additional graph showing the reduction of our debt.

We ask God to provide for us, and we expect that He will. As He blesses you this year please remember to return some of those blessings to Him as you support our ministries in His name.

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**SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE SUNDAY**  
**JANUARY 22, 2012**



"I have set before you  
LIFE and DEATH ....  
CHOOSE LIFE so that  
you and your descendants may live."

Deuteronomy 30:19, NRSV

## GOT BLOOD? PLEASE DONATE BECAUSE WE CARE! JANUARY 11, 2012

Last July we hosted our 4<sup>th</sup> blood drive for the Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center. We have been averaging about 16 donations at each blood drive, which means we have provided blood products for as many as 192 patients in need of blood products in the Dubuque area!

Most of us know people with heart disease and cancer who will likely need a blood transfusion. We cannot let up after the holidays, as there is an even greater need right now. We are asking you to give about an hour of your time to donate blood on January 11th. Don't let excuses keep you from saving lives. Please schedule an appointment time at the Blood Donation table in the lobby for a time that fits your schedule.



We plan to pamper our heroes who donate blood with some great home-made chili. In addition, we feel it would be nice to have treats such as cookies and bars. If you are unable to donate blood, please sign up for the food and drink donations at the Blood Donation table in the lobby.

When you come to donate please remember to eat a nutritious meal at least 4 hours before donating, drink plenty of fluids, and bring your donor card, driver's license, or social security card. If you have any questions, please contact Pam De Meester.

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### MISSION TO MEXICO UPDATE

On November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2011, the Mission to Mexico group and its churches welcomed Rev. Felipe Buenfil from the *God is Love* church in Cancun. Felipe brought us greetings from our brothers and sisters in Mexico, showed photos of his church, and remarked about its growth. Judy Godwin was his able interpreter.

We now have 13 committed people who will visit his church on March 8<sup>th</sup>–15<sup>th</sup>, helping with construction and other needs. Thanks be to God!



## GRACEPATH MODULE 3

### JANUARY 1–FEBRUARY 26

### SUNDAYS AT 10:00AM

Registration for the new classes has already begun at the Connect Center. Those of you in The Story class should continue. Book information and prices are at the sign-up table.

The Story (continues)	Alan Crandall and Andy Baumann
Biblical Marriage	Frank and Gaye Grote
Foundations of our Faith	Pastor Chris English

### SPECIAL REPORT TO GRACEPOINT

The Financial Stewardship team has good news to report to you this month. As you know, we recently completed our Faith Promise campaign for 2012. The next step in the budgeting process was to build an operating budget for next year. That step is now complete and the Session has approved a balanced budget for 2012.

Now for the good news! We are pleased to report that the Faith Promises made for 2012 will provide the funding for all of the Session approved programs for 2012, including supporting TWO pastors for the year. You will recall that the Foundation support for Dana that was spread out over three years ended on October 1, 2011. This means that our congregation and friends' Faith Promise giving for 2012 was able to provide the additional funding to cover the end of the Foundation support for our second pastor. Thanks to all of you who made this wonderful news possible.

Since many of you have recently expressed concern over whether we would be able to support two pastors in 2012, and we felt we needed to share this wonderful news with you now before the more formal presentation at our annual meeting. At that time, the entire budget will be available for you in detail. We thank each of you for your support as we look forward in 2012 to serving our Lord in the congregation we joyously call GracePoint.

For the Financial Stewardship Team  
Don Sanders



# Global Missions Report

I want to say THANKS to everyone who supported Operation Christmas Child with shoebox and monetary donations. 170 filled Shoeboxes were received and taken to First Baptist Church, our destination point, on Monday, November 14<sup>th</sup>. The filled Shoeboxes will be shipped to Minneapolis and from there distributed to many areas.

Last year, 2010, was tremendous, as a total of 1,155 Shoeboxes were shipped from Dubuque to Minneapolis. The Midwest Region primarily supplied gifts to India last year.

In 2010 Samaritan's Purse delivered more than 8.1 million shoeboxes to children in 97 countries, including Ghana, Madagascar, Romania, and Papua New Guinea, 500,000 volunteers participated worldwide. Last week we learned that our region is sending shoeboxes to India again along with Zambia.



At its heart, though, the project is still simple and personal—kids helping kids, families helping families—and churches helping churches—all for the love of the Gospel. Every shoebox represents the opportunity to reach one more child with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Through Operation Christmas Child, the lives of Haitian girls and boys who survived the terrible 2010 earthquake, were brightened. After providing shelter, water, medical care, and other vital assistance to hundreds of thousands of destitute families, the teams and church partners in Haiti handed out shoebox gifts to 286,000 children who probably would not have received a present.

Next year I would like GracePoint to be able to ship 200 filled shoeboxes, so watch the sales to buy the items needed. I want to thank Roger VanDerZyl and Don and Wilma Sanders for transporting the filled boxes to First Baptist Church and Robin Wlochal, who helped me check and pack more shoeboxes. Without their help we couldn't have accomplished this.

Pat Kohler, Global Missions  
Shoebox Project.

2012



2012

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> 8:30a Traditions 9:30a Fellowship Time 9:30a Guys and Gals 10:00a GracePath Classes 11:15a Horizons	<b>2</b> <b>Office Closed</b>  6:00p Food Pantry	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 6:15a Men's Prayer Breakfast  5:30p Bell Choir	<b>5</b>	<b>6 Epiphany</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 8:30a Traditions 9:30a Fellowship Time 10:00a GracePath Classes 11:15a Horizons  1:30p Bethany Home  5:30p GraceUnderground	<b>9</b>   6:00p Food Pantry	<b>10</b> 9:00a Missional Project Ladies	<b>11</b> 6:15a Men's Prayer Breakfast  3:00-6:00p Blood Drive 5:30p Bell Choir	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>  11:15a Serve at Dubuque Rescue Mission
Pastor Chris on study leave						
<b>15</b> 8:30a Traditions 9:30a Fellowship Time 10:00a GracePath Classes 11:15a Horizons	<b>16</b>   6:00p Food Pantry	<b>17</b> 	<b>18</b> 6:15a Men's Prayer Breakfast  5:30p Bell Choir	<b>19</b>   11:30a Red Hat Ladies	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
Pastor Chris on study leave						
5:30p GraceUnderground	6:00p Food Pantry		6:30p Fresh Encounters 7:30p Elder Ministry Tms			
<b>22 Sanctity of Human Life Sunday</b> 8:30a Traditions 9:30a Fellowship Time 10:00a GracePath Classes 11:15a Horizons  5:30p GraceUnderground	<b>23</b>   6:00p Food Pantry	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 6:15a Men's Prayer Breakfast  5:00p Golden Oldies 5:30p Bell Choir 7:00p Session	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>   Presbytery Meeting	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 8:30a Traditions 9:30a Fellowship Time 10:00a GracePath Classes 11:15a Horizons  5:30p GraceUnderground	<b>30</b>   6:00p Food Pantry	<b>31</b>				

## Membership to Date:

Active	146
Inactive	8
Perm. Inactive	6
Total	160

<b>CLERK'S REPORT</b>
---------------------------

Blood Drive will be held on January 11, 2012, Annual Reports are due December 30<sup>th</sup> and should be sent to the Administrative Assistant. Annual Congregational/Corporation Meeting will be on Sunday, February 5, 2012, at 1:00pm, potluck following Horizons (2<sup>nd</sup>) service.

The 2012 budget of \$290,916.75 was approved at Special Session meeting, November 30, 2011.

The 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Mission Giving was approved:

EPC General Assembly	
Furr, Chris & Kirsten	\$300.00
Hamd, Robert	575.00
Bailey, Ben & Monica	250.00
Total EPC Quarterly Giving	\$1,125.00

General Quarterly Giving	
Ainsbrey, Lou & Debbie – Wycliffe	\$250.00
Busse, Durwood & Barbara – Pres. Frontier	250.00
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
Leverington, John & Becky – Wycliffe	250.00
Prasad, Philip – Witnessing Ministries	275.00
Shiloh Christian Children's Ministries	200.00
Tri-State Pregnancy Center/Clarity Clinic	225.00
UD Theological Seminary	100.00
Welde, Matt – US Center for World Missions	275.00
Yeats, Ted & Karey – Navigators	250.00
B.J. Weber – New York Fellowship	250.00
Jeff Krohn, SIM	250.00
Schoofs, Sam & Elizabeth – Frontiers	300.00
Sloan Eye Hospital	250.00
Total Quarterly Giving	\$4,600.00

Other Special Giving	
Dubuque Rescue Mission – one-time gift	\$1,000.00
Confluence Church Plant – one-time gift	1,000.00
EPC Gratitude Gift	150.00
Total Other Giving	\$2,150.00
Total 4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter Mission Giving	\$7,875.00

(Continued on page 11.)

## GOLDEN OLDIES

Golden Oldies will meet on Wednesday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, 5:00pm, at the Point Café, 2370 Rhomburg Ave. Sign up at the Connect Center the Sunday before or call Bob Boelk, 557-9166.

**ALL SENIORS ARE  
WELCOME!**



## GUYS AND GALS

On the first Sunday of the month, after the 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  
January 17

## BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Katelyn Wiest
- 2 Richard Merrihew
- 4 Erin Barsema
- 10 Tiffany Fox
- 11 George Schwarzmann  
III
- 13 LeRoy Berg
- 15 Amy English
- 15 Anna English
- 22 Ken Iron
- 22 Terry Thompson
- 24 Paulette Kress
- 25 Bob De Meester
- 26 Wilma Sanders



## ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 Mable and Bob Boelk
- 3 Doug and Karen Storlie

## 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 to donate to the library, contact Mable or Bob Boelk, 557-9166.



Come in and check out our library. We have new books: God's Story, Heaven Is for Real, Christmas in Mitford, and others. We have added new DVDs: Little Drummer Boy, Princess and the Pop Star, Veggie Tales, and the Nativity Story. Please return books and DVDs when finished.

## MISSIONAL PROJECT LADIES

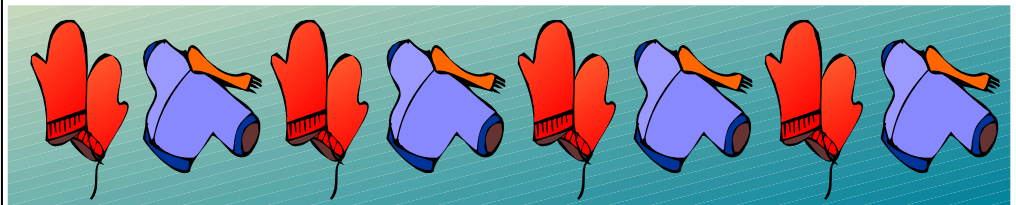
The Missional Project Ladies will be meeting Tuesday, January 10th, 9:00am, until done. We will be developing and working on community projects. All women are welcome. If you have suggestions or know of specific community needs, we would love to hear from you. If you have questions or need more information, contact Edie Ege, 583-1974.

## RED HATS

The Red Hats will be meeting at Happy Joe's Thursday, January 19th, at 11:30am. Please R.S.V.P to Edie Ege, 583-1974. All women are welcome, just wear your red hat.

## FELLOWSHIP HOUR

Volunteers are needed to supply treats for the fellowship hour on Sundays. More treats are needed for January. Sign up in the fellowship center or call Barbara Berg, 608-763-2950.



## A LOOK AT 2012

It's hard to say what a year will hold, but as it stands so far, here are the up coming special events.

**February 24-25** / "30-Hour Famine" [www.30hourfamine.org](http://www.30hourfamine.org)



What is a 30-hour Famine?

It's students around the world loving God and fighting hunger. Every year, thousands of students unite to do the famine. They learn about hunger, raise funds to help hungry kids, and experience hunger for themselves.

**March 7-10** / Tri-State Work Camp for grades 8-12, based at camp Albrecht Acres. We will worship, meet in teams, and minister to the tri-state area. Scholarships are available.

**March 16-17** / Ignite "Tools" for grades 6-12 in Des Moines. This leadership conference will feature Phil Vischer (creator of Veggie Tales), Alex and Brett Harris (authors of "Do Hard Things" and "Start Here"), and Dr. Joe Stowell (led Moody Bible Institute for 17 years). Great breakout sessions, comedy and music as well as worship and prayer will be there, too. New lower price—\$45 per student, max \$65 per family. This includes lodging at Willowbrook Bible Camp!

**July 11-15** / Lifest—over 150 acts on 8 stages and best of all, Switchfoot kicks off lifest! After having been absent from the Lifest line-up for a few years, Switchfoot and Jon Foreman are returning to Lifest for one of the largest kick-off nights in Lifest history.

We'll need some helpers with RVs for this one, and some adults who love a real heavenly party (don't forget—heaven is LOUD). Last year Lifest was one of our most inspiring events. With enough adult help this year it should be even better. **We'll be there from Wednesday July 11<sup>th</sup> until they shut it down on Sunday, July 15<sup>th</sup>.** We'll need to get our tickets fast with this line-up of artists! Tickets are only \$54 right now. So with camping, gas, ice, food and incidentals, we're looking at around \$100 for five days of camping and the best Christian artists under the sun. That is a screaming deal (no pun intended). Let's get this going and sign up right away with a verbal commitment to Pastor Dana and \$25 in earnest money (donated to the youth fund if you change your mind).



### Middle School & High School Youth

5:30–6:00pm  
Food—all ages

6:00–7:00pm  
Middle School games. Senior High worship and teaching/equipping

7:00–8:00pm  
Senior High games. Middle School worship and teaching/equipping

Senior high worship team will meet from 5:00–5:45pm.

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
  - Eddie 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

January

**Traditions Worship Venue 8:30am**

- Ushers** Dan & Sharon Baker
- Greeters** Betty Carlson, Mary Ann Hopkins
- Communion Preparers** Robin Wlochal, Glenda Temple
- Communion Servers** Dan & Sharon Baker, Ben & Glenda Temple

**Prayers of the People Prayer Ministry Team**

- Jan 1 Edie Ege Mable & Bob Boelk
- Jan 8 Edie Ege
- Jan 15 Edie Ege
- Jan 22 Edie Ege
- Jan 29 Edie Ege

**Horizons 11:15am**

- Ushers** Janet Metelak, Pam Hillary
- Greeters** Suz Birch, Beverly VanDerZyl
- Communion Servers** Beverly VanDerZyl, Janet Metelak

**Child Care (Horizons)**

- |        | <b>Infant</b> | <b>Preschool</b>  |
|--------|---------------|-------------------|
| Jan 1  | Verna Davis   | Beverly VanDerZyl |
| Jan 8  | Angela Godwin |                   |
| Jan 15 | Sue Lemon     | Rachel Lemon      |
| Jan 22 | Steve Lemon   | Beverly VanDerZyl |
| Jan 29 | Mable Boelk   | Bob Boelk         |

**THANK YOU**

On behalf of the pantry workers and patrons, Gerry Vandenberg would like to thank everyone who donated toward the purchase of a turkey or ham and to everyone who donated a turkey or ham for the food pantry. Your generosity has blessed many families in our city.

(Continued from page 7)

Membership Rolls were reviewed and the following members were placed on the in-town inactive rolls for a period of 2 years, November 17, 2011 – November 17, 2012: Chris Daniels, Loran and Dr. Tera Montgomery. The following members were placed on the out-of-town inactive rolls for a period of 1 year, November 17, 2011 – November 17, 2012: Laura and Dave Zwart.

The Administrative Bookkeeper's Report :

General Fund Beginning Balance, November 1, 2011	\$33,448.43
Total General Fund Receipts	<u>21,961.43</u>
Sub-total Beginning Balance & Receipts	55,409.86
General Fund Disbursements	\$20,468.38
Allocations & Transfers	<u>1,633.35</u>
Sub-total Disbursements & Allocations	22,101.73
General Fund Ending Balance, November 30, 2011	\$33,308.13

Pat Kohler, Clerk of Session

## GRACEPOINT MEMBER RECEIVES SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Harry Vandenberg, a long-time member of the Noon Lions Club, was recently named a Melvin Jones Fellow, an honor named after the founder of Lions Club International. This is the highest honor a Lion can receive at the club level. A club member is named a Melvin Jones Fellow for his dedication to humanitarian service projects in the local community and through the Lions Club International Foundation.

Congratulations Harry Vandenberg!





3100 Windsor Avenue  
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January 2012  
Volume 15, Issue 1  
Published Monthly

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Dubuque, Iowa  
Permit No. 474

Return Service Requested

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**LOVING** God and each other

**GROWING** in grace and truth

**SERVING** Dubuque and the world

**Annual Congregational / Corporate Meeting  
and Potluck  
February 5th, 12:30pm**



**Bring a dish or two to pass. Table service and drink are provided.**

**The annual meeting follows the potluck.**