

WORDS OF GRACE

A Publication of GracePoint Church

Celebrating Our True Identity

“I thank my God always when I remember you in my prayers, because I hear of your love and of the faith that you have toward the Lord Jesus and for all the saints, and I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective for the full knowledge of every good thing that is in us for the sake of Christ. Philemon 1:4-7

When you first called me as your pastor, it was with a mandate to do whatever it took to restore congregational health and to reclaim a missional focus. Such renewal required strong leadership. I know at times I have been too directive and too pushy. I am wired for strong leadership, and like all strengths, the flip side is a weakness. I humbly ask for your forgiveness for any way that I have offended any of you through my leadership style.

There is no more challenging endeavor in pastoring than to bring renewal to an established mainline church. By God’s grace and through strong leadership, we have now successfully “turned around,” and we are now fulfilling God’s missional vision. We have much to celebrate!

In almost all of the major marks of being missional, we have arrived. Not arrived as being done or perfect; there is no such arrival this side of heaven. But arrived in that we can now embrace and celebrate who we really are, and let go of dreams and goals that were not grounded in God’s dreams and goals for GracePoint. Five years into our journey together, we now have

an accurate picture of just who we really are and what we can realistically expect to do.

We are who we are, and who we are is really wonderful! We are a small, local congregation who is relationally healthy, spiritually mature, leadership strong, and missionally driven.

We may never be a big church, but as long as we remain healthy, we should continue to grow by a few people each year. We may never do huge outreaches that reach hundreds, but we can continue to deeply touch a few people each year in significant ways. This, of course, does not leave out the possibility that our wonder-working God can do anything at any time unexpectedly!

We may not have the most polished, cutting-edge worship or world-class preaching, but our worship and preaching are Christ-centered, God-glorifying, sincere, and inspirational. We may not see many conversions, but we now excel at discipling with GracePath. We impact the world through our missions giving and going and through the ripples that have gone out and will continue to go out, from this place of grace.

By all measures we are a healthy, growing, missional congregation. We should not see letting go of some bigger dreams as any manner of failure. We should instead fully celebrate how God is choosing to use a small bunch of ragamuffins to do great things for God’s glory and kingdom!

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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The Bridges Initiative Needs Allies. Is Christ Calling You?

Many at GracePoint have been exposed to Bridges Out of Poverty, a local program that aims to tackle both personal and systemic issues related to poverty. Mark, a recent graduate of Bridges' Getting Ahead class wrote the following song for his graduation.

“We’re from all walks of life,
And we’re sharing the same dream;
We’re looking forward for the new and good,
In everything we’ve seen.

We’re all looking for a way out
Of our locked cage of being poor;
We’re looking forward to a better day,
To maybe have the chance to soar.

And now we’re finding our lives getting better,
For we’ve been given the tools we need,
We’re on the road to a higher life,
On which we start to lead.”

Mark and his wife are now waiting to be “matched” with allies who can encourage them in their dream of a better life. An “ally” is a community member who (after training) agrees to enter into an intentional relationship with a Getting Ahead graduate (referred to as a “circle leader”). The circle leader develops a plan for moving ahead, and meets monthly with several allies to discuss ways of achieving that plan. This is referred to as a “matched circle.”

If you sense Christ calling to you to become his hands and feet in this practical way, I encourage you to attend the ongoing Tuesday night meetings at Prescott Elementary School, 6–8pm. The evening begins with a light supper where you will make interesting new friends from all walks of life. The supper is followed by a program that rotates as follows.





- 1st Tuesday: matched circles and diversity activities for newcomers
- 2nd Tuesday: Support groups for allies, circle leaders, and allies-in-training
- 3rd Tuesday: Guiding Coalition meeting (administrative sub-teams)
- 4th Tuesday: “Big View” meeting (guest speakers on poverty-related themes)
- 5th Tuesday: Family Fun Night

I’d be happy to be your personal guide if you want to check it out! (Alan Crandall, 557-0327)

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT CAMPAIGN UPDATE

On Sunday, August 21st, a short meeting was held after the worship service to bring the congregation up to date on the parking lot project. Here is a synopsis of the presentation.

- A contract has been signed with McAuliffe Excavation with a bid of \$160,700 (lowest bid by 15% or more).
 - Current engineering expense for site specifications and boring samples is \$5,350. Contingency amount for additional/unforeseen expenses is \$7,000.
- Total cost is \$172,050.**

65,000	65,000
55,716	55,716
46,430	46,430
37,144	37,144
27,858	27,858
	
	

DONATIONS through August 20th are \$22,000 from the congregation/friends, with a Foundation match of \$22,000, and miscellaneous funds (20,000). Our congregation approved loan amount is \$105,000. Together, our **financing total is 169.00** (to date).

Our **GOAL** is to have donations of \$65,000, matching funds of \$65,000 from the Foundation, miscellaneous funds of (\$20,000), and the use of a loan amount of \$22,000. **The total funding goal is \$172,000.**

If we can raise \$65,000 through donations by our congregation and friends, we will be able to complete the project having to borrow only \$22,000. (Note: we do not currently have loan payment monies included in the 2011 budget.)

Please prayerfully consider donating to this project. All amounts are welcome and needed.

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will set your path straight.” Proverbs 3:5

The tiling of the main parking lot was estimated to begin the week of August 22nd and paving will hopefully be completed mid-October. We will have use of the parking lot for most of this time; GracePoint members and friends/guests will be informed as far in advance as possible when the parking lot will be unavailable. The contractor stated several times that he will work around our church schedule as much as possible.

Please continue to pray for God’s guidance and blessings in our endeavors to improve our property for His ministries. Watch the bulletin and the Campaign Fund chart in the Fellowship Center to track our progress!

GracePath Triads

Our first year of triads will be wrapping up soon. Most participants would agree that their triad has become a special part of their faith walk, enriching them spiritually and relationally as they pursued discipleship together. Please remember that you need to bring your triad to a conclusion in September so that we are prepared to begin anew. It would be good to review your covenant with your triad partners so you are ready to move forward.



This year's triads will disband in September. Current "triaders" are encouraged to become part of a new triad, and those who have not been in a triad this year are invited to join one. We'll begin sign-ups in September so new triads are ready to launch in October. Watch the newsletters and bulletins for more information about signing up or putting together a triad yourself. We'll fill you in on study materials, as well.

GracePath Classes this Fall

It's that time of the year again, the time when we gather to learn more of God and His design for our lives as Christ followers by participating in GracePath. GracePath is our comprehensive discipleship program, launched one year ago this fall. We encourage you to avoid repeating a course you have already participated in. Instead, move onto something new. This fall we will offer three courses.

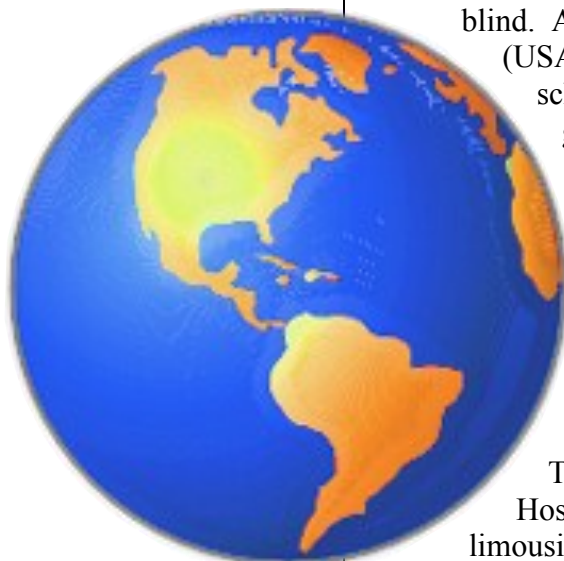
- Just Walk Across the Room Pastor Chris
Learn how to follow Jesus' model of personal evangelism by "living in 3-D"—developing friendships, discovering stories, and discerning appropriate ways to leave your comfort zone.
- No Plan B Alan Crandall
Explore God's Biblical plan to rescue the world from war, poverty and despair. Christians are the key. This is a great follow-up to The Hole in the Gospel.
- The Story—A Bible Survey Mary Hirschey
Come to understand the Bible as one grand, unfolding story, as one sweeping narrative, arranged chronologically from Genesis to Revelation.

We'll begin GracePath on September 11 with sessions for adults, kids, and teens. Adults are invited to a re-orientation session that Sunday where we'll review the components of GracePath and how they work, how to use your GracePath journals, spiritual assessments, the role of Triads, and our discipleship courses. The adult courses will begin on September 18. Please plan to attend and begin praying now as you choose your course for the fall.

Global Missions Report

One of the three Missions we supported through John Knox Presbytery was Siloam Eye Hospital in Korea. When the final installment of our promissory note was paid to John Knox Presbytery, the Global Mission Team decided they still wanted to support Siloam Eye Hospital. Our support is given directly to them. Rev. Sun-Tae Kim is the Director of Siloam Eye Hospital. This is a bit of information about him and the hospital.

Rev. Sun-Tae Kim was orphaned at the time of the Korean War in 1950 and became blind in both eyes. He then lived as a beggar for 2 ½ years. When he was in despair, God sent an angel, and with the help of one of the American soldiers, Rev. Sun-Tae Kim was able to enter a school for the blind. After that, missionaries sent by the Presbyterian Church (USA) gave funds for his schooling expenses in middle and high school, university, and seminary—thus, he studied by God’s grace and became a pastor.



Now Rev. Sun-Tae Kim is doing medical mission for South Korea’s 200,000 blind, reaching out with love through the medical work of free eye treatment and eye operations to those with weak eyesight in Korea’s farm and fishing villages, beginning with those in North Korea to those in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. These are people in undeveloped countries who are needy neighbors. They bring light out of darkness through Siloam Eye Hospital’s Eye Center outreach. They also have a 46-person limousine bus fitted for complete eye hospital treatment, called the Mobile Siloam Hospital.

Their work report for the year 2010 is as follows. Free examination and eye treatment were extended to 16,957 persons to prevent the loss of eyesight and to treat eye problems, along with eye operations for 1,358 persons to let them see the light. The mobile eye hospital made 46 trips to remote and low-income areas, providing treatment and surgery to patients living not only in these areas but also in orphanages, leper villages, youth correctional facilities, prisons, homes for the elders, and schools for the blind.

Thinking of the precious work and gifts of those in Korea and abroad makes it possible for Rev. Sun-Tae Kim to do his work. He sends prayers and thanks in the Lord’s name and asks God’s blessings on those who partner with them through support and prayers.

Pat Kohler, Global Missions Member

2011



2011

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 10:00a Summer Worship 11:00a Fellowship Time 11:00a Guys and Gals	5 Labor Day Office Closed NO Food Pantry	6	7 6:15a Men's Prayer Breakfast 5:30p Bell Choir	8	9	10
11 8:30a Traditions 9:30a Fellowship Time 10:00a GracePath Classes 11:15a Horizons 1:30p Bethany Home 6:00p GraceUnderground	12 6:00p Food Pantry	13 6:30p Precepts	14 6:15a Men's Prayer Breakfast 9:00a Precepts 5:30p Bell Choir 7:00p Deacons Meeting	15 11:30a Red Hat Ladies	16	17
18 8:30a Traditions 9:30a Fellowship Time 10:00a GracePath Classes 11:15a Horizons 6:00p GraceUnderground	19  6:00p Food Pantry	20 6:30p Precepts	21 6:15a Men's Prayer Breakfast 9:00p Precepts 5:30p Bell Choir 6:30p Fresh Encounters 7:30p Elder Ministry Teams	22	23	24
25 8:30a Traditions 9:30a Fellowship Time 10:00a GracePath Classes 11:15a Horizons 6:00p GraceUnderground	26 6:00p Food Pantry	27 6:30p Precepts	28 6:15a Men's Prayer Breakfast 9:00p Precepts 5:00p Golden Oldies 5:30p Bell Choir 7:00p Session	29	30	

CLERK'S REPORT

Membership to Date:
 Active 152
 Inactive 3
 Perm. Inactive 6
 Total 161

Don and Elder Wilma Sanders were the delegates for the General Assembly on June 22–25th. Fresh Encounters will resume on the 3rd Wednesday every month starting September 21st at 6:30pm. Bethany Home Service is every 2nd Sunday at 1:30pm.

GracePoint will host a Presbytery Meeting on September 28–29, 2012.

Administrative Bookkeeper's Report:

General Fund Beginning Balance, July 1, 2011	\$29,209.54
Total General Fund Receipts	28,759.69
General Fund Disbursements	\$17,516.45
Allocations & Transfers	1,633.35
Subtotal Disbursements & Allocations	<u>19,149.80</u>
General Fund Ending Balance, July 31, 2011	\$38,819.43

Pat Kohler, Clerk of Session

NEW FALL SCHEDULE

In order to have more fellowship time, more time to get to GracePath classes, and to meet and invite guests to GracePath, the following schedule has been adopted by your Session Elders.

Beginning September 11, 2011

8:30 – 9:30am Traditions
 9:30 – 10:00am Fellowship Time
 10:00 – 11:00am GracePath Classes for All Ages
 11:15 – 12:15pm Horizons

Fresh Encounters is the third Wednesday of every month from 6:30 to 7:20pm, beginning September 21st.

GOLDEN OLDIES

Golden Oldies will meet on Wednesday, September 28th, 5:00pm, at Sunshine Family Restaurant.

Sign up at the Connect Center 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 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
Sep 19

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Brenda Schwarzmann
- 2 Juanita Cottrell
- 4 Frank Grote
- 4 Joan Higley
- 4 Jerry Bell
- 6 Raymond Wlochall Jr.
- 10 Liz Harknett
- 17 Rachel Jensen
- 18 Beverly VanDerZyl
- 19 Christian English
- 19 Ernest Loukinen
- 19 Harry Vandenberg
- 19 Becky Pfeiffer
- 20 Mary Burns
- 21 Kent Briden
- 22 Bob Birch
- 22 Barb Berg
- 24 Jamie Pluemer

**ANNIVERSARIES**

- 3 Kevin & Mary Hirschey
- 7 Fred & Dorothy Thomas
- 10 Kevin & Melissa
Donovan
- 12 Tom & Mary Scherf
- 29 Barry & Shelly Montague

Precepts at GracePoint**What: Colossians**

Gaining a 'true knowledge' of Christ so no one deludes you. Don't let anyone delude you with man-made philosophies or traditions that contradict the Word of God. Learn to be 'complete in Christ' and let Him alone meet all your needs."

When: Tuesday evenings at 6:30pm beginning September 13
Wednesday mornings at 9:00am beginning September 14
The course will conclude December 7

Where: GracePoint's Fellowship Center

Books: There are two choices:

Precepts' PUP workbook	\$27.00
Precepts' New Inductive Series <i>That I May Know Him</i>	\$7.00

How Does Precepts Work?

Each week you will prepare a lesson at home in your workbook. In class we discuss the lessons in depth and then have a video teaching option. We have fun in Precepts, lots of sharing and laughter, good discussion, yummy treats, much application, and great fellowship.

Yes, Bible Study can be FUN. Try it!

VOCAL CHOIR

GracePoint Vocal Choir will begin practice at 8:00am on September 11th. The vocal choir generally performs at the Traditions venue once a month. If you would like to join the vocal choir, please contact Sharon Jensen, 583-0285.

BELL CHOIR

GracePoint Bell Choir will resume practice at 5:30pm on September 7th. The Bell Choir generally perform once a month at the Traditions venue. If you would like to join the bell choir, contact Kent Briden, 582-2738.



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

Fall Schedule!

Aug 28TH Parents and Leaders Night 6-8 pm

Middle School 4:00-5:30pm — LIVE: character development and basic Christian training.

Sept 4th -25th 4:00-4:30pm: games
 4:30-5:30pm: openers, worship, lesson, discussion groups

Light supper 5:30-6:00

Senior High 6:00-7:30pm — “Underground Reality”
 Voice of the Martyr’s
 6:00-6:30pm: games
 6:30-7:30pm: openers, worship, lesson, discussion groups

“River Day” (Middle School)
 Kate Duehr
 Chris English
 Katy Perreard
 Robin Salazar

“River Night”

Roger and Beverly VanDerZyl
 Bob and Pam De Meester
 Paul and Sharon Jensen
 (pics from Beverly)



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 Worship Venue 8:30am

- Ushers (September)** Ben & Glenda Temple
- Greeters (September)** Betty Carlson, Mary Ann Hopkins
- Communion Preparers** Margaret Fah, Sharon Baker
- Communion Servers** Don & Wilma Sanders, Kevin & Mary Hirschey

Prayers of the People Prayer Ministry Team

- Sep 4
- Sep 11 Paul Jensen Steve & Sue Lemon
- Sep 18 Kevin Hirschey Don & Wilma Sanders
- Sep 25 Kevin Hirschey Peter & Jan Jenner

Horizons (11:15am)

- Ushers (September)** Doug Mulder, Pam DeMeester
- Greeters (September)** Bob & Jennie Burns
- Communion Servers**

Child Care (Horizons)

	Infant	Preschool
Sep 4		
Sep 11	Lorene Hynes	Verna Davis
Sep 18	Paulette Kress	Steve Lemon
Sep 25	Glenda Temple	Suz Birch

THANK YOU

Thank you so much for taking time to come to church to help celebrate my 80th birthday. You are so special to me and it was a special day having so many of you stopping by and leaving many blessings. May God richly bless each and every one of you.

Mable Boelk

Who Is Your Deacon?

Every member of GracePoint has a Deacon who is praying for you! Each Deacon has a care group made up of several members of GracePoint. Deacons want to know if you need prayer or have any other special needs. Your Deacon is one person to call in an emergency. Deacons will support you and pray for you. They also want to celebrate with you when wonderful things happen to you!

Deacons provide so much for GracePoint. They pray. They care. They take requests for the needs of the congregation. They work closely with the Food Pantry. They are responsible for the Cradle Roll.

I hope you have all heard from your Deacon through a birthday wish, an anniversary card, or just in a note to say "hi." Pauline Brimeyer is the Moderator for Deacons. If you don't know who your deacon is, contact Pauline or the GracePoint office.

Pam Hillary
Elder to the Deacons

Musical Theater Camp Thank You

We want to give a big thank you to everyone who helped with the musical. We don't have room in this newsletter to list everyone, but we do want to thank Pam De Meester and Mary Burns for all their work behind the scenes to make a successful production. Pam received a thank you note from a fan and we have reprinted it here.

Thank you for the invitation to be present for the dress rehearsal of the story of Queen Esther, based on the Old Testament book. What you accomplished in a week's time of a musical theater bible study is one of many facets that made your play so wonderful.

Whoever appointed the character parts did a splendid selection as each one of you seemed to have been born for the part you played...

The costuming and stage settings and sound effects were so accurate for the story you presented, I wondered if you might have called in a seasoned set designer from New York for advice? Then there's the parts you knew so well, even as you did justice to the dancing and singing. You are a great troupe, and your parents must have been ever so proud of what you accomplished during the week of musical biblical theater study.

One of your Fan Club,
Sister Donalda Kohoe
Mt. St. Francis Convent

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 Margaret Fah

Deacon Moderator
Pauline Brimeyer

GracePoint Elders

Equipping
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



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LOVING God and each other

GROWING in grace and truth

SERVING Dubuque and the world

Fresh Encounters

6:30-7:20pm

3rd Wednesday of each month

Beginning September 21st

This is a fun, fast-paced, life-changing, and kingdom-advancing gathering. The prayer model we use makes it easy even for novice prayers, children, and teens to participate.

We gather together for worship in song, a short Bible teaching, and prayer in large and small groups. We will also share in Holy Communion each month. Our Scripture passage for the night determines our prayer topics, so every month is different than the last.