



Grace News - December 2015

Monthly Newsletter of Grace Bible Fellowship Church, Wallingford, PA

The Journey

I am not a fan of journeys. I know that some people love to travel but I am not one of them. Packing – get a suitcase – collect stuff – make sure you have everything – make it fit. Airport – security lines – be on time – go to the right gate – sit in a seat one size too small. Or by car – throw everything in trunk – wait in traffic – long hours of endless road.

Okay. Maybe I overstated it. But you can see I don't look forward to a journey. Which makes me ponder the journey of Jesus. He left heaven and journeyed to earth. He left the splendor and glory that were His to live with dishonor and rejection. He left His secure environment to come where He would be killed. The headaches I face when traveling are small change compared to what He faced.

At Christmas we celebrate His journey. Yes, commercialization has taken over in recent decades to move our focus from what is the core of

Pastor Taylor

Christmas. It is about Jesus coming to earth to give Himself for us to deliver us from the condemnation we deserve. His journey was not simply nice but necessary. If He did not make the journey and really become a human being, we would not be saved from our sin and guilt.

While I don't get excited about journeying, I am almost always glad for what comes at the end of a journey, a visit or perhaps an opportunity to serve. While I can't comment on what Jesus thought before His journey, I know He is delighted with what He accomplished as was His Father in heaven. The result of His journey is a people delivered and alive forever who bring eternal glory to His Father who planned it all.

Celebrate Christmas. I hope you enjoy any journeys you take. I hope you will appreciate and delight in the journey of Jesus made with you in mind.

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December 6 - The Cost of the Journey - Pastor Cowen

December 13 - The Plan of the Journey - Pastor Taylor

December 20 - The Response of the Journey - Pastor Bickel

December 27 - The New Journey Ahead - Pastor Taylor

Sunday Bible Classes

Sundays 10:45 am—Noon



New Classes - Starting Nov. 29

Ladies Class

Attitudes of Advent

We will be looking at the way different people involved in the Advent story prepared for the arrival of Christ and what this means to us.

Led by Dawn Gambrill - Room 104

The Gospel Project

The Story Begins - Part 2

Grades K-12 and Adult class

We will continue in Genesis, picking up at chapter 12 with the covenant with Abraham and journeying through the remainder of Genesis during the months of December and January. Children in Grades K-12 will also be studying the same passages within a week of the time the adults will look at them (see schedule below). Adult class Led by Pastor Bickel and Mike Norquist - Room 204-206

Consider the Sermon

Weekly discussion of topics related to each weeks sermon. Come with your questions. Leave with some practical applications. Led by Enoch Stevenson - Room 103

Gospel of John

Ongoing discussion of the life of Jesus as told by his disciple John. If you are new to Grace this is a great place to start. Led by Pastor Cowen - Room 205

The Gospel Project Resources at: Gracebfc.org/gospelproject	Date	Children	Youth	Adults
	Nov. 29	2.2 God Tested Abraham	1.7 God's Covenant with Abraham	
	Dec. 6	2.3 The Promise Reaffirmed	1.8 God Tests Abraham	
	Dec. 13	5.1 Angels Spoke to Mary/Joseph	1.9 God Reaffirms the Covenant	
	Dec. 20	5.2 Jesus was Born	2.3 The Glory of Christmas	
	Dec.27	5.3 The Wise Men Visited Jesus	1.10 God's Dysfunctional Family	

Congregational Meeting - Sunday December 13

Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday December 13 from 10:30 - Noon in the gym. We will hear reports from each staff member as well as the elders and deacons. We will review and ratify the 2016 budget and we will elect elders. The 2016 budget is available in the church lobby, direct questions to Dick McIntyre. The elders up for re-election are:

Chip Harper

Mark Kessler

Bob Evans



Upcoming Events

- ◆ Young at Heart Christmas Lunch
Dec. 8 at the Concordville Inn
See Joyce Bromley for reservations
- ◆ Couples Christmas Party
Dec. 11 at Yacono Home

Family Carol Sing - Sunday Dec. 13 at 4 PM

A time for people of all ages to come together and sing traditional Christmas Carols and Christmas songs. Some families in our church will be presenting special Christmas music. This will be followed by Christmas cookies and beverages.



City Team - Christmas Angel

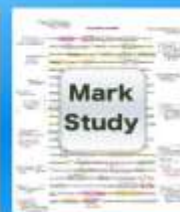
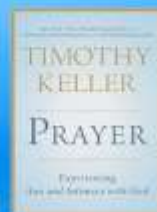


We will be collecting gifts for the children of Chester in partnership with CityTeam. Like last year, we will have requests for clothing and toys for all who wish to be involved. When you see the Christmas tree in the lobby at the end of November, take one (or more) of the request cards off the tree and go shopping! Bring back your gift (unwrapped) along with the card by Dec. 13 and you're a Christmas Angel! Contact Mike Norquist.

**Wednesday
Family
Night**

7:00 - 8:15 pm

September 16 - December 16, 2015



Christmas Eve

Family Celebration - 6 pm

Candlelight Service - 11 pm



Finding Joy in the Journey of Christmas

Family Celebration - 6 pm - "Joy to the world the Lord has come," we sing it but do we really live the joy that Jesus brought to the earth? We invite you to come out on Christmas Eve and celebrate the joy Jesus brought to mankind that first Christmas. The children will be singing and others will be performing in celebration of God's greatest gift. Bring your family, friends and neighbors to experience the angels joyous message, "Christ is born in Bethlehem." Come and discover the joy of this celebration.

Candlelight Service - 11 pm - You are invited to join us for this quiet service of reflection **and meditation which focuses on the wondrous birth of the Savior. This year's readings and music** will center on: Finding Joy in the Journey to Christmas. If you are thinking about bringing someone along with you, remember that this is a great opportunity to hear the Good News clearly shared that each one might come to know and appreciate the One who is truly the reason for the season.

Pinebrook BANQUET & CONCERT DECEMBER 12, 2015

White Christmas

Featuring **Bruce Hefner & Lucy Ritter**

Sarah Smith & Charles Fears

Ministry Moments By
 Dean & Kathy Vander Wiele
 Pastor Charles Cole
 Charles Bomgardner
 Pinebrook Staff Bell Choir
 Corporate Carol Sings
 Candle Light Service
 Check Out Our Gifting Tree

For reservations:
 Call (570) 424-1212
 Email: pbinfo@pinebrook.org

Only \$25 per person
 Table of 8 Only \$175
 Doors Open 3:00PM

Pinebrook Opportunities

We welcome anyone or group who could come and spend time cutting and stacking wood. This will help Pinebrook save thousands of dollars this year. We have grounds work, a time sensitive bathroom project, and are in need of weekend help in the dining hall and snack shop:

Dec 11-13 and 28-31

Jan 1-3 and 29-31

Feb 12-15 and 26-28

If you can help please contact:

Lisa Kellerman

pinebrookrwr@gmail.com

570-436-3986



Christmas Eve Service

We are inviting all kids from the Preschool class on up to be a part of the Christmas Eve Service. We will have a song for the Preschool and Kindergarten to sing and another for the elementary. Rehearsals will be during regularly scheduled programs like Sunday School and Wacky Wednesday. More information will be emailed to the families.



A weekend at Victory Valley camp for kids ages 7-12. Our church is going January 22-24. Please let Beth know if you are interested. There are brochures in the youth rack and we need deposits to be in to the camp soon.

SNO GLO 2016



It's coming quickly, Sno Glo 2016. The Middle School is going on January 8-10 and the High School goes the following weekend January 15-17. A deposit of \$25 is due on December 13. Scholarships are available, but all kids must give the deposit if they want to come. More specific information is found in the Winter Brochure in the Youth Rack. Your teen will want to be there for the excellent teaching of Mark Evans. His messages this year will be from the book of Judges. Make sure to get your deposit in to Beth ASAP.



Youth Events in December

- December 5th MS Rake, Bake and Shake 1:30-6:00 pm
- December 13 HS Guys GEO 12:15-2:15 pm
- December 16 Youth Group Christmas Parties
- December 20 MS Girls GEO 12:15-2:15 pm
- HS Girls GEO 12:15-2:15 pm
- December 23, 30 NO YOUTH GROUP



See Children and Youth Ministry pages on church website for calendar of events and details.
Contact Beth Wiegand, gbfcyouth1@gmail.com

PASTORAL SEARCH UPDATE



In an effort to keep you informed, the elders thought it important to bring you up to date with our decision concerning our search for a Senior Pastor.

This past Tuesday the elders resolved to present Aaron Susek to the congregation as their choice for the Senior Pastor candidate.

They informed him of this decision on Wednesday and asked him whether or not he is willing to take another step with us in the search process. Aaron stated that he and Amy are still seeking the Lord in this matter. They are praying and meeting with folks close to them in order to allow trusted brothers and sisters to speak into their lives in order to determine God's will for their future. Aaron has stated that he will make his decision within two weeks.

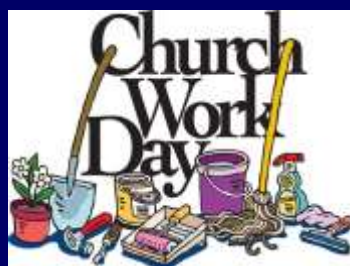
If he determines not to accept the offer, the Board of Elders will convene again to decide how best to move forward. If, however, Aaron agrees to move forward, the elders and Aaron will select a weekend here at Grace when he will come and preach and interact in some creative ways with our congregation. The elders' desire is to have as many of our members as possible be able to get to know Aaron and Amy during this introduction weekend. We are tentatively targeting the first weekend in January. But let us wait on the Lord before we get ahead of His timing... As soon as we are aware of Aaron's decision, we will be sure to share this with you all.

The elders wish to thank you all for your prayer commitment to this important role in determining the Lord's choice for our next senior pastor. You have been faithful and diligent and we deeply appreciate you all!

The elders ask that you continue to fast and pray for God's will to be made known through the final steps of the process. If you have any questions, feel free to contact myself, or any of the other elders.

All for the glory of Christ!

Scott Simmons, Chairman, Board of Elders



Stewardship Saturday Dec. 5, 8am - Noon

Join us for the morning to decorate the church for the Christmas season as well as to help Pastor and Joyce Taylor move out of the parsonage and into their new home in Brookhaven.

Questions? Contact Mike Norquist



Partners in the Gospel - NEXT STEPS

Upcoming Partnership Opportunities

- City Team Christmas Angel – see Tree in Lobby beginning the Sunday after Thanksgiving
- Young Life Ridley “**Sender Team**” Prayer - **December 7, 7:00pm at the Worrell's home**
- **Help with “Text a Toastie”** outreach at Swarthmore College (late Nov / Early Dec)
- Childcare and/or cooking food for **Young Lives in Chester** (Tuesday in December)
- Serving food and/or help with program at **Hope Café** at CityTeam (Saturday in January)

Upcoming Partnership Opportunities

- **Regular helpers** for NA Childcare, Prison Ministry, Good News Club, CityTeam, Young Life, Delaware County Pregnancy Center, Love in Action and others
- **Invite people to come to** DivorceCare, GriefShare, Mom Matters, Man Night, Good News Club, Young Life as well as our church plants in Cape May Courthouse and Philadelphia
- **Befriend a student or help with special events** for International Friends as well as InterVarsity
- Sign-up to **get newsletters and emails** to inform your **prayers**
- **Financially support** some of the ministries and the missionaries working with them

Partnership Follow-up Card

Use the card in the lobby to let us know which ministries you want to find out more about and we will connect you. Or contact Pastor Bickel (mbickel@gracebfc.org)

Partnership Offering

It's not too late to give toward our special partnership offering. Put donation in an envelope marked Missions and place in offering. See Sam Shiels with questions. Funds will be used for local ministries, sending Operation Christmas Child boxes, and for 2016 short term trips.



Grace BFC Office:
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We're On the Web!
GraceBFC.org

Grace News
 is published the last
 Sunday of each month.
 Submit upcoming
 events and articles to
 Barb by the 15th of
 the month before
 publication. Send to:
 office@gracebfc.org

Questions can be sent
 to Pastor Mark Bickel
 mbickel@gracebfc.org

December Anniversaries

Upcoming Events

December

- 5 Stewardship Saturday
- 6 Communion in Worship
- 13 Congregational Meeting (5pm)
- 13 Family Christmas Carol Sing
- 24 Christmas Eve Services
 - 6pm - Family Celebration
 - 11pm - Candlelight Service

We have several small group Bible studies and fellowship groups that meet regularly each month, and other ministry opportunities not listed here. For the complete church calendar and information on each of our ministries go to Gracebfc.org

Grace Link Bulletin Board

Be sure to check out our new Elder/Deacon Bulletin Board on the gym hallway. Browse the list for your Elder/Deacon Connection. If you do not have an Elder, contact Scott Simmons.