



Grace Bible Fellowship
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Fellowship Church

Grace News
is normally 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

Grace eNews
is an email reminder
of this week's events,
subscribe by emailing
Barb:
office@gracebfc.org

Questions? contact
Pastor Mark Bickel
mbickel@gracebfc.org

Web Version of Grace News

To protect people's privacy private phone numbers, addresses, birth-days and anniversaries have been removed from the online version of Grace News. If you need to contact the leader for any group feel free to contact the Church Office.

From time to time articles may be altered or removed due to the sensitive nature of the material.

A complete print version is available from the Church Office: office@gracebfc.org

Sound System Upgrades

During the month of January we had a professional sound company fully evaluate and do repairs on our Sanctuary sound system. This included replacing the main speakers and putting in a new sound board. This should improve the sound quality throughout the sanctuary, making the spoken word clearer, eliminating dead spots and allowing a better, more reliable mix for our worship teams. In the coming weeks the sound team will be tweaking it to fit our use. If you have any concerns, see Pastor Tim.

Upcoming Events

- Feb. 4 Special Class on Women Serving as Deacons
- Feb. 11 Congregational Meeting
- Feb. 11 Special Class on Women Serving as Deacons
- Feb. 18 Communion
- Feb. 18 Prayer and Song Night
- Mar. 11 Communion and Fellowship Meal

Full Calendar at Gracebfc.org

Save The Date

We have two special days set aside this spring for us to gather as a church for food, fellowship and fun together.

Fellowship Meal - Sunday, March 11

This is what we used to call our "Celebration Luncheon". Same date and purpose, but new name. Also note that our worship service that day will be at the normal 9am time, but there will be no Bible Classes, so the meal will begin around 11am.

Church Picnic - Sunday, June 24

We have moved the picnic a few weeks later in June this year to enable us to change venues. The new facility has a larger pavilion, playgrounds for the kids, several different sports areas, a pool, lots of space to just sit and talk, and much more. Details coming soon, but mark your calendars now so you don't miss it!

Questions? See Pastor Tim



Grace News - February 2018

Monthly Newsletter of Grace Bible Fellowship Church, Wallingford, PA

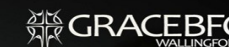
Take Note

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SUNDAY 9AM



KNOWING and FOLLOWING
JESUS



January Jumble

You are all invited for an informal afternoon visit with the Susek, Cowen and Bickel families in their homes on Sunday, January 28. Each home will be open from 4-9pm. They will each have food and places to relax and socialize. The women have also put together a fun game for all, with prizes! You can come and go as you please throughout the evening and go to the homes in any order.

Sunday, January 28
4:00 - 9:00 pm



FAMILY
PRAYER and SONG
NIGHT

THIRD SUNDAYS • 6:30 PM

Special Sundays

Feb. 4 & 11

Special Class
for Adults and
Teens on
Women as
Deacons

March 11

Fellowship
Meal

The Gospel Project

*Children, Youth
and Adults study
the Same
Passages*

More at
[Gracebfc.org/
Gospelproject](http://Gracebfc.org/Gospelproject)

Special Wednesdays

March 28

No Classes
Join us for
Maundy
Thursday
and
Good Friday



Sundays 10:45 am

- Gospel Project - 206
- This We Believe - 205
- Ladies Class - 104
- Consider the Sermon - 103

Sunday Bible Classes

Date	Children	Youth and Adults
February 4	21.3 Jesus Met Samaritan Woman	Special Class: Women Deacons, Pt. 1
February 11	21.4 Jesus Rejected at Nazareth	Special Class: Women Deacons, Pt. 2
February 18	21.5 Jesus and Zacchaeus	7.11 Jesus Rejected
February 25	25.1 Jesus was Anointed	9.1 Savior is Anointed for Burial
March 4	25.2 Jesus Cleansed the Temple	9.2 Jesus in Jerusalem



Wednesday Family Night 7:00 - 8:15 pm

- Apologetics
- Bible Training Center
- DivorceCare
- GriefShare
- Youth
- Wacky Wednesday

Counseling and Support Groups



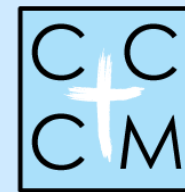
GriefShare

Group for those who have lost loved ones
Contact: Sue Bickel



DivorceCare

Group for those struggling with the effects of divorce
Contact: Pastor Tim Cowen



Personal and Family Counseling

One on one pastoral counseling, as well as mentoring couples.
Additionally, we are now a site for Christ-Centered Counseling Ministries which offers professional Biblical counseling.
Contact: Pastor Tim Cowen

Sexual Misconduct

by Pastor Richard Taylor

Sadly, the last couple of months have brought almost daily reports of people who have been accused of sexual indiscretions. And, it seems that many of the accusations are true and have been admitted. While we may harbor a certain glee in seeing people in high places brought low, such a response to sinful activity is not a sign of love (1 Corinthians 13:6)

While we will agree that sexual misconduct is despicable, we must confess that we could easily be guilty of such behavior. We were created by God as sexual beings and sexual urges are part of who we are. Complicating our need to face up to these things is the fact that sexual activity is good when it exists within the God ordained boundaries of marriage. But our urges and desires don't want to stay within God's boundaries. The fact that we are surrounded by sexual imagery and internet fantasy does not help matters.

The Bible records some incidents of sexual sin. Amnon and Tamar may come to your mind. Potiphar's wife and Joseph also fall into this category and I find Joseph's response very helpful (Genesis 39). In this case, the aggressor, and identified harasser, is female which may not be the statistical norm. However, Joseph must have felt all the pressure. Joseph's response to her seduction is a model. "How then can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?" He ran. And, he paid the price for his godly desire. In the end, whether we pursue sinful activity or not will revolve around the question of whether we want what God wants or we don't.

Having said that, it is a battle to want what God wants because sinful temptations are so powerful. Sexual temptations offer instant pleasure and who does not love pleasure? In the end, we must fight the battle daily and like Joseph run away from the opportunities that sin places in our path.

One of the best things we can do is be aware of our vulnerabilities and, like Joseph, run and don't look back. And we can pray that God will fill our hearts and minds with the knowledge of the pleasures that come with doing what He desires.

Local BFC Church Plants

Cape May

Brad & Vicki Boyer
Cape May Court-house, NJ

Philadelphia

Josh and Juli Dupiche
New Church plant in partnership with SAAC in South Philly

Woolwich

Praying for a church planter to serve in Woolwich Township, NJ

Other Regional BFC Churches

Wissinoming

Ralph and Carole Ritter in Philly.

Maple Glenn

Lou and Linn Prontniki in Maple Glenn., PA

New Beginnings

Tim and Brenna Nessler in Woodbury Heights, NJ

Local Ministry Partners



CityTeam
Ministry to
Homeless,
Hungry and
Recovering Addicts
in Chester



**Del. County
Pregnancy Center**
Ministry to women
and families in
crisis pregnancies



Young Life
Ministry on local
MS and HS
campuses



**CEF (Child
Evangelism
Fellowship)**
Ministry to kids
through Good News
Clubs and
Backyard Bible
Clubs

Opportunities to Serve



We encourage everyone in the church to plug into a small group for your own growth in the Lord as well as finding a place to serve others and share the Gospel. The January Grace News listed some of our small groups. Below you will find some of our service, support and sharing teams.

NA ChildCare

Every Friday night we provide childcare for those attending NA, NarAnon and Nara-Teen. Contact: Mike Wiegand mikewiegand@verizon.net 610-635-9820

Mom Matters

First and Third Thursdays, 9:15-11:15 am. Great place for moms. Preschool child-care provided. Contact: Audra Bach gbfmops@yahoo.com (215) 287-6756

Operation Christmas Child

This winter we are collecting hygiene items to go in shoeboxes for children around the world this fall. Contact: Sue Yavor SYAVOR@aol.com (610) 544-3006

Evangelistic Small Groups / Christianity Explored

We would love to start / help you start an evangelistic small group using one of the Gospels or using Christianity Explored or Life Explored. You could meet in your home, or even one on one at the local coffee shop. To start or join a group, or for outreach resources, see Pastor Mark mbickel@gracebfc.org 484-788-9026

Contact Info for Local Ministries:

City Team: Cityteam.org

Church Contact: Mike Norquist mikequist1@gmail.com 610-368-8512

Delaware County Pregnancy Center: Dcpcchester.org

Church Contact: Ashlee Martino ashlee.rothera@gmail.com 610-506-9468

Delco Young Life: Delco.younglife.org

Church Contact: Debbie Worrell dlworrell@comcast.net 610-574-8584

Young Life Area Director: Jeff Boyda jrboyda@gmail.com 610-357-7200

YoungLives: Asia Summers asummers0214@me.com 484-888-0645

Child Evangelism Fellowship of Delaware County: cefdelco.com

Church Contact: PJ Hartzell richandpj@aol.com 484-326-1118

Good News Club at NPE: Joyce Taylor jttaylor723@gmail.com (610) 874-5660

Local Prison Ministry

Church Contacts: Mike Norquist mikequist1@gmail.com 610-368-8512

Vince Urbano vsurbano1@gmail.com 484-620-9463

Pastor of Adult Discipleship and Outreach:

Mark Bickel mbickel@gracebfc.org 484-788-9026

AN IMPORTANT CHANGE IN THE OFFICE OF DEACON HERE AT GRACE!

Several years ago, our denomination undertook an investigation into the question of women serving as deacons in the Church. To that point, it had been the position of the BFC that the office of deacon was one to which only men were appointed by God. But after considerable study of God's word and prayerful discussion in committees, Churches, and our Annual Conference, the denomination could find no real reason to continue holding that position. They found no instance where God's Word prohibits women from using their gifts in this role or declared it to be reserved solely for men. And in fact, it seemed God had called certain women to the position in the history of the Church. So a change was made to our Faith and Order.

The elders here at Grace, being concerned not to impose extra-Biblical restrictions on the movement of God's Spirit or deny any member of the Church the opportunity to use their gifts in ways God might be calling and equipping them, undertook their own study on the matter. Similar to the denomination, after a few years of study, prayer, and conversation, we found ourselves in full agreement with the BFC and felt a change was in order for us as a local Church. The decision was made to open up the office of deacon to both men and women.

Our desire at this point is to fill you in on how that decision was made, both on the denominational level and also here at Grace. So we've set aside the first two Sundays in February, during the Bible Class hour, to look at God's word together, look at the path forward for us in this area, and discuss any questions or concerns you might have.

We're excited to see how Christ will work in our Church and denomination as we seek to be more faithful to Him and His kingdom mission in this area. And we encourage you to come be part of the conversation as we start the process forward.

Special Sunday Classes on Women Deacons For All Adults and Teens

FEBRUARY 4th – Ralph Ritter, pastor of our Wissinoming Church and member of the study committee appointed by the denomination to consider the Bible's stance on women deacons, will present some history and perspective on how their committee and eventually the denomination arrived at their conclusions.

FEBRUARY 11th – Scott Simmons, chairman of our board of elders, will share how God led us at Grace to change and what that change will look like moving forward.

Congregational Meeting - February 11

We will have a brief congregational meeting immediate **after Worship on Sunday February 11.** We will meet in the Sanctuary for the purpose of officially receiving the 2017 Financial Report (available in the lobby) and to elect the Church's Delegate and Alternate Delegate to BFC Conference. We will have our normal fellowship time in the gym after the meeting, followed by a special class for Adults and Teens on Women Deacons.

GRACE FAMILY

On the Mission Field:

Karley Yori - Dominican Republic

Medical Mission - January 30 - February 7

Bob Evans - Myanmar / Philippines

Encouraging Missionaries - January 30 - February 15

UPDATE - Search for Part-Time Director of Children's Ministry

Just a brief update on our search for a Children’s Ministry Director: We have posted the position on various employment boards at local colleges and seminaries. We’ve also sent it out across the denomination. We expect to close the open application period this week and begin interviewing qualified candidates in the days ahead. Thank you for your continued prayers on our behalf. If you have questions about the process or perhaps know of someone who might be interested in applying, please feel free to contact Chip Harper or Pastor Aaron anytime.



Upcoming Youth Events

February

Saturday, February 10 HS Ice Skating 6-9 pm
Saturday, February 17 MS Hang Out Night, 5-8 pm

See Youth Ministry page on church website
Youth Contact: gbfcyouth1@gmail.com



Child Safety

To ensure of the safety of all our children we ask that children be supervised at all times while on church property. When arriving for children’s programs please take your kids to their classrooms, or to the designated check-in point, and assure there are adult leaders present before leaving them. On Sunday mornings please keep elementary children in the worship service with you until the children’s dismissal slide is shown. Before and after programs in the building, please personally supervise your children in the halls / gym, or assure they are with an adult who is responsible for them.

Children’s Ministry Contact: Pastor Mark
mbickel@gracebfc.org

Missions Giving

You perhaps wonder, what happens to the funds designated for the Missions Outreach of our church?

Each year the Missions Committee gathers information from the individual missionaries and the local and foreign ministry organizations we support. We ask about their accomplishments, goals, future plans and financial needs. A budget is then developed by the committee and ultimately presented to the Elders for approval. For 2018 the Missions Budget is \$128,000. Not included in that is the Missions Conference Goal, which usually is about \$15,000. Last October more than \$16,600 was received. Giving for Short-Term teams and individuals last year was more than \$45,000. The recent Special Offering for the Philippines Disaster Relief was over \$7,000.

In addition we gave \$1,000 to Wissinoming BFC in Philadelphia as a way to encourage them in their outreach to a depressed area of the City. Also, \$1,000 was given to help Jeff and Emmy Ort, in Montana, purchase a new van to accommodate the special needs of their foster son Orion. Chris and Becky Merrick were sent to Morocco on a Special Assignment and needed \$3,000. We provided 1/3 of that. Trevor and Ashley Morse resigned from University Campus ministry with Inter-Varsity so that Trevor could enroll at Gordon Conwell Seminary to prepare for long-term ministry. We were able to send a gift of \$1,150 toward his tuition costs.

If you ever ask, “does my giving make a difference”? The answer is YES! As a result of your GIFTS, your PRAYERS, and your PARTICIPATION the Gospel is being heralded near and far.

Thank you, God bless you and keep it up.

Grace Church Missions Committee

Ministry Partner Fund-Raising Events

In addition to the funds that Grace gives to overseas missions, we partner with a number of local ministries (see list on the next page). Many of these ministries Grace supports financially from our budget. We also seek to partner with them by providing volunteers and helping with special programs throughout the year. Additionally, we seek to make you aware of both service and fund-raising opportunities you may want to participate in. Below is basic information on some upcoming events, along with contact information for more details. We also post flyers and other information from the organizations in our Hall of Missions.

CEF Annual Fund-Raising Banquet - Thursday, March 22 at 6pm at Drexelbrook Banquet Facility. Guest Speaker is David Akers, former Philadelphia Eagle. No cost to attend. Contact Rich or PJ Hartzell by February 25 to reserve a spot.

CEF VIP Reception - Meet and Greet with David Akers before the Banquet on March 22. Cost is \$40. Very limited number of tickets available. See flyer on Missions board for details or contact Rich or PJ Hartzell.

Compassion Corps Auction - Saturday, March 24. Details coming soon, check the Missions hall for more.