

by Pastor Aaron

**"And should I not pity...that great city." – God (Jonah 4:11)**

There is a subtle danger in Christianity of thinking faithfulness consists of praying, reading my Bible, and saying no to sinful choices and worldly patterns of life. And while those are certainly very significant elements of faithful living, they are by no means the sum total. Faithful living is also conforming my heart and mind to the image of Christ who looks with compassion on those in need of mercy. It is actively following Jesus Christ *as He is on mission* to redeem fallen people and broken neighborhoods. It is

saying "no" to sinful choices AND saying "yes" to the call of Christ to pick up my cross and participate in His own cross-shaped mission of love.

Jonah (to quote some singing vegetables) never really got it. God was more a prop to his own pride, security, and sense of entitlement. In almost comic fashion, Jonah is the great foil (antagonist) to the God of relentless mercy and wide-reaching compassion. And...he is a stingy reflection of God's covenant people as a whole - a people who had forgotten and practically abandoned their prestigious purpose of

being God's priestly agents of blessing to all families of the Earth.

As we start back in on fall programs and the excitement of Church life, I'm hoping Jonah will reflect back a few things to look at and question in our own lives individually and collectively. I'm hoping it will stir good conversation and prayerful wrestling over what may be forgotten or neglected callings. Hopefully, it will help us consider afresh how faithfully we are sharing in the compassion of Him who has shown us great mercy and saying "yes" to specific pathways of mission as we follow Him who surrendered all in love for our redemption.

**Inside this issue:**

Welcome / Fall Focus	1
Grace Vision	2
Sundays	3
Community Groups	4
Children/ Wednesdays	6
Youth	8
Operation Christmas Child	9
Serving Others	10
On Mission	12
Resources / Family News	14
Upcoming / Birthdays/ Anniversaries	16
<b>INSERT:</b> New Website and Photo Directory	

Join us  
**SUNDAYS**  
at 9am

*Beginning Sept. 9*





**Our vision** is to be a church that honors God in everything we do. We will share the saving message of Christ with others, introduce them to a personal relationship with Him, and equip and encourage them to continue the good work that He has begun. Directed by the Holy Spirit, we will do this by:

### **Worshipping Him...**

**Publicly** - God is holy and worthy to be praised. We will gather together as God's people to focus our worship on Him through His Son, Jesus Christ.

**Privately** – God has called us to worship Him with our lives. We will encourage families and individuals to set aside time for regular worship which includes Bible reading and prayer.

### **Strengthening believers...**

**Promoting fellowship with one another** - God has given us the privilege and responsibility to fellowship with one another through His Son, Jesus Christ. We will regularly gather together to encourage each other to greater service to God and to man. We will serve God and His family by sharing our abilities, spiritual gifts and talents.

**Building disciples** - God has commanded us to strengthen one another's faith. We will encourage, support and challenge each other in our relationship with God by preaching and teaching His word and by emphasizing the need to be like Christ.

### **Sharing the Good News of our Lord Jesus Christ...**

**Sharing Christ with others** - God has called us to make disciples of all the nations. We will share the saving message of Christ with our community, our nation, and our world.

**Extending Christ's Kingdom** - God has not only called us to declare the gospel but also to demonstrate it by showing the love of Christ through our relationships and activity. We will extend the reign of Christ by being agents of His mercy and compassion wherever we are.





## SUNDAY SERVICES

Morning Worship - 9AM

Coffee Time - 10:30AM

Bible Classes - 11AM

### Morning Worship - 9AM

Each Sunday we gather together to sing songs of praise to our God, to pray and read the Scriptures together, to be encouraged and challenged from God's Word, and to build one another up in the Lord. Every 5-6 weeks we also celebrate the Lord's Supper as part of morning worship.

See Cover Article  
for details on our  
Current Sermon  
Series

### Coffee Time - 10:30AM

Join us in the Gym after worship for a time to greet one another and renew friendships over a cup of coffee and snacks.

### Bible Classes - 11AM

We offer Bible Classes for all ages from 11AM - Noon. Our Fall 2018 Adult Bible Classes include:

- **The Gospel Project: The Church on Mission** - Exploring the grand storyline of the Bible and how it centers on Jesus Christ. This fall looking at Acts, followed in the new year by the Epistles and Revelation. - led by Pastor Mark along with Mike Norquist and Richard McIntyre - Room 206
- **This We Believe** - A class for those exploring the fundamental truths of Christianity. An excellent first class if you are new to Grace or to Christianity. - led by Pastor Tim - Room 205
- **Consider the Sermon** - An opportunity to follow up on practical implications from the day's sermon. - led by David Bronkema - Room 103
- **Ladies Class: The Gospel Project** - Join other women for sharing, prayer and exploring the storyline of the Bible (see "The Gospel Project" above for description) - led by Dawn Gambrell - Room 104 *(begins October 21)*
- **Authentic Manhood** - Join other men for a discussion of Christian Manhood using the 33 videos. This semester looking at volumes 2 and 3 on The man and His Story and the Man and His Traps - led by Chip Harper - Room 204
- **Grace Life 101: Membership and Baptism Class** - Learn about who we are as a church, how you can be baptized and become a member, and how to use your gifts - led by Pastor Aaron - Room 104



## COMMUNITY GROUPS

Walk through life together with others from the church and community

*For information on any group you can contact the leader directly, you can go to [gracebfc.org](http://gracebfc.org) and fill out the contact form for that group, or you can contact Pastor Mark at [mbickel@gracebfc.org](mailto:mbickel@gracebfc.org) or (484) 788-9026*

### **Thurs. Night Bible Study - Thursdays, 7PM - Home of Nate & Katie Biermaas**

A gathering of college students, young professionals, married couples and more who meet to share joys and burdens together, mine God's Word for practical truths and life-shaping wisdom, and enjoy fellowship together. The group meets weekly - Thursdays at 7PM in the home of Nate and Katie Biermaas. All are welcome!

### **Women's Bible Study - Wednesdays, 9:30AM - Grace BFC**

A group of women deeply devoted to the Lord Jesus Christ, to the study of His Word, to prayer and to one another as sisters in Christ. Women's Bible Study meets every Wednesday from 9:30am - Noon at the church. They are led by Sandy Weaver.

### **Ladies Fitness and Fellowship - Mondays, 6:30PM - Grace BFC**

A group of ladies who exercise together and encourage one another through prayer and devotionals. Our goal is to keep our bodies healthy. We meet every Monday from 6:30-8:00pm at the church (room 103-104). Debbie Wilt serves as group coordinator.

### **Aston Community Group - Select Mondays - Home of Bob & Corrie Evans**

Intergenerational Bible study and prayer time. They meet on select Monday Nights at the home of Bob and Corrie Evans. Contact Bob or Corrie directly to receive a schedule of when they meet next.

## Brookhaven Community Group - Select Mondays - Home of Mark & Beth Kessler

A mixture of singles and couples who are walking through life together. They meet together to encourage each other from God's Word and through prayer for one another. They meet on select Monday Nights at the home of Mark and Beth Kessler. Contact Mark or Beth to receive a schedule of when they meet next.

## Basics for Believers - Various Times - Contact Pastor Mark

If you want to find out more about what Christians believe, we would love to have you join one of our 7 week "Christianity Explored" groups. If you are a young Christian and want to grow in the basics of the Christian faith, we offer both small groups and one on one mentoring designed specifically to build strong foundations for your faith. Contact Pastor Mark and we will connect you to the group that will be best for you!.

# UPCOMING FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



## Grace Café - Sept. 9, Oct. 7, Dec. 9

Several times throughout the year we have a Grace Café in place of our normal 11am teen and adult classes. These are times for extended fellowship together over refreshments. They are also times to hear about what is happening in the larger life of the church and to pray with our Elders



## Congregational Meal - October 14

Several times throughout the year we hold Congregational Dinners and on Sundays to provide extended opportunities for informal fellowship. Our next meal is:

**SUNDAY OCTOBER 14** *(this is a change of date from prior years)*

**Special Worship Time of 10 am, followed by Lunch at Noon**

This will be our annual Soup, Salad, Sides and Sweets lunch. Watch for signup in late September or see Jaye Norquist for details!



## Young at Heart - Second Tuesdays at Noon

On the 2nd Tuesday of the month everyone over the age of 50 is invited to join us at noon for lunch and a special guest. (October-June).

**FIRST MEETING FOR NEW YEAR : Tuesday October 9 at noon,**  
Our guest will be Vijay Adaikkappan speaking on God's work in the midst of suffering







## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

*For information contact Daniel Phillips, aka "Fuzzy", at [dphillips@gracebfc.org](mailto:dphillips@gracebfc.org)*

### Nursery

Our nursery is staffed with skilled workers who safely care for children ages birth to 2 years old during our worship service and Sunday School Hour. Also, our nursery includes a private area for nursing mothers.

### Preschool

The Preschool room is offered to children ages 2 to 4 during both the worship service and Sunday School Hour. Children spend time learning, singing, and playing throughout the morning programs.

### Children's Church

We desire every child to feel purposefully connected to the larger church body. Children in grades K-5 are dismissed during our worship service to learn music, memorize scripture, create art, and develop projects with the purpose of blessing the entire church family.

### Sunday School

Children experience rich, Gospel-centered, interactive, and age appropriate Bible teaching during our Sunday School Hour which begins at 11:00 AM.

### Other Children's Ministry Opportunities

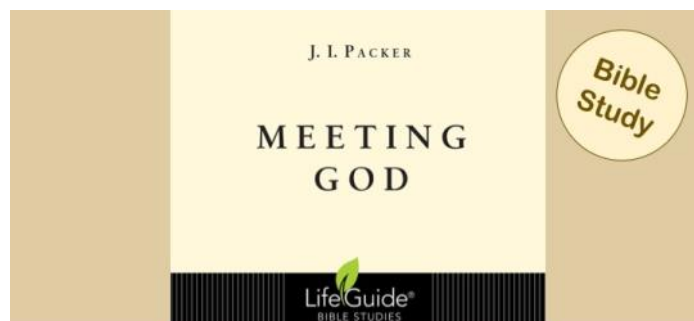
In addition to our Sunday and Wednesday children's programs, we offer childcare on Friday nights to those attending NA, and on Thursday mornings to those attending Mom Matters. We partner with CEF throughout the year to host Good News Clubs in local elementary schools, as well as Backyard Clubs and a kids carnival in the summer. We also host occasional special events like movie nights and family outings to a local bowling alley or ball game.

## WEDNESDAY FAMILY NIGHT

*Wednesdays 7:00 - 8:15 pm from September 12 through December 12*

### WACKY WEDNESDAY

Kids from 1st to 5th grade build friendships, play games, sing songs, and hear the good news of Jesus Christ. As with all of our programs, children from all backgrounds are welcome!



**Bible Training Center** - Entering the 4th year of a 4 year training course in Bible Theology and Christian Life

## VOLUNTEERS and CHILD SAFETY

We take your child's safety seriously. All of our children's ministry volunteers go through a screening process that includes state criminal background and child protection checks. All of our classrooms are staffed with a minimum of two adults, who have been trained in caring for and assuring the safety of your children. Our complete Child Protection Policy is available on our website. If you would like to volunteer to serve in our Children's Ministry, you can obtain an application from our office at [office@gracebfc.org](mailto:office@gracebfc.org) or from Fuzzy, our Children's Director, at [dphillips@gracegbfc.org](mailto:dphillips@gracegbfc.org)





## YOUTH MINISTRY

### Middle School & High School

*For information contact any Youth Leader or email [gbfcyouth1@gracebfc.org](mailto:gbfcyouth1@gracebfc.org)*

#### Sunday Classes

Each Sunday at 11:00 we dig down deep into God's Word to discover who He truly is and what that means for our everyday lives. Grades 6-8 meet in room 201 and grades 9-12 in room 203.

#### Youth Group

We meet every Wednesday night from 7:00-8:15 during the school year to build community, explore our faith, and discuss hot topics from a Christian perspective. We begin in the gym before splitting up between grades 6-8 and 9-12.

#### Prayer Partners

Prayer is powerful. We partner up every teen in our church with an adult who consistently prays for and encourages them throughout their middle school and high school career.

#### Youth Worship Band

Our youth band, grades 6-12, blends a myriad of instruments together to create a unique worship experience. Practices also include discussions on what it means to be a true worshiper of God.

**Parents Note:** We take our assuring your child's well-being seriously. We require all youth leaders to go through the same screening as our Children's Workers. We also require parents to fill out our Children and Youth Information Form and our Parental Permission Form so we know how to best care for your teen.



## Events and Activities

Activities, trips, and retreats are a great way for teens to build strong bonds with other teens and youth leaders. Check out our events calendar for details on our next adventure. Don't miss out!

## Service and Missions Opportunities

Throughout the year, we provide various opportunities for teens to serve our community both as a group of teens and with their families.

### Youth Calendar

**Youth Group Begins**

September 12

**MS Camping Trip**

September 28-30

**HS Progressive Dinner**

October 13

**MS Hang Out Night**

October 27



*the Power of a  
Simple Gift*



Thank you to all who participated in our craft days during July. It was a fun time and lots of awesome crafts were completed for our Shoeboxes. In just two months it will be time to pack our shoeboxes. Our goal is to pack 300 boxes to bless 300 children around the world. Not only are these children blessed with school supplies, hygiene items, clothing, and toys but each child receives the gospel and is given the opportunity to attend a 12 week discipleship course. A child that receives the gospel and accepts Jesus as his/her Savior has the potential to share his/her new faith with his/her whole family and in many cases his/her entire village. Please pray for children that receive our shoeboxes and prayerfully consider how you can help us reach our goal. **If you are interested in receiving a list of things still needed please see Sue Yavor, Kathy Mills or Janet Letsche.**

**Items for shoeboxes can be placed in the Orange bin in the left coat room outside the sanctuary.**



## SERVING OTHERS

Loving as Christ Has Loved Us

*For information on any group you can contact the leader directly, you can go to [gracebfc.org](http://gracebfc.org) and fill out the contact form for that group, or you can contact Pastor Mark at [mbickel@gracebfc.org](mailto:mbickel@gracebfc.org) or (484) 788-9026*

### N. A. Childcare - Fridays, 7:30PM - Grace BFC

We offer childcare for the Narcotics Anonymous groups that meet at Grace every Friday. Each week kids play in the gym, create crafts, prepare a snack, or play in the nursery. N.A. Childcare is provided Friday nights from 7:15-8:30 year round. We have a rotating schedule of helpers that care for the children, all of which get background checks before working with children.

**NA ChildCare  
is in need of  
additional helpers!  
Contact Maggie  
Henry or Fuzzy!**

### MOM Matters - 1st & 3rd Thursdays, 9:30AM - Grace BFC

Sometimes we don't feel like we matter with the hustle and bustle of daily life. We need to realize we do matter. Our group is an open, accepting place for mothers in the surrounding communities and church to connect with one another. In this group we hope members will experience personal growth, practical help, and spiritual hope. We want women to journey alongside one another and to help each other be more honest, feel more equipped and find their identity.

We meet twice a month at Grace Church, Wallingford PA. We usually meet the first and third Thursday at the church, and we try to connect in smaller groups during the month. Our group is open to all moms, and we provide FREE childcare for children ages newborn to Kindergarten. Please contact Audra Bach or Kimberly Achey with any questions.

Mom Matters theme for the coming year is "Never Let The Fire In Your Heart Go Out"





## Good News Club - Thursday (Oct-May) - Nether Providence Elementary

We partner with CEF to run an after school Good News Club at Nether Providence Elementary School where kids get to sing, make crafts, and hear about God. Good News Club usually begins in October and runs through May immediately after school on Thursdays in the gym at Nether Providence Elementary School. All are Welcome. All adult staff have been properly cleared according to PA standards. Contact Joyce Taylor for details

---

## Backyard Clubs / Carnival - Summers - Multiple Locations

Each summer people throughout the congregation open their homes to children in their neighborhoods for a week of Backyard Bible Clubs. We also end each summer with a free Kids Community Carnival at our church. Contact Fuzzy Phillips for more information on hosting, volunteering, or attending our next round of clubs!

---

## International Friends - Throughout the Year - Widener / Widener Law

There are hundreds of college students from dozens of different countries on our local college campuses. International Friends exist to befriend and serve the students and to share the love of Christ with them. We currently have events at Widener's main campus in Chester and at Widener School of Law. We also offer opportunities for people to have international students into their homes. For details contact Pastor Mark.

---

## Art of Parenting - Wednesdays, 7:00PM - Grace BFC

Join us for an 8-week discussion with other parents. Whether you are a new parent, a parent to teens, or a step-parent, this cause will have practical helps for you. The Art of Parenting includes video interviews with dozens of parents and family experts, as well as a workbook full of helpful articles and ideas. We will meet every Wednesday night at 7:00 . For more information contact Pastor Mark. You can also learn more at [familylife.com/parenting](http://familylife.com/parenting)

---

## GriefShare - Wednesdays, 7:00PM - Grace BFC

Support group for those who have experienced the loss of a loved one. GriefShare includes video testimony from those who have experienced loss as well as seasoned counselors. In addition to the full 13-week GriefShare group, we also offer seminars for surviving the holidays and for those who have lost a spouse. GriefShare meets on Wednesday nights from 7:00 - 8:15pm from September - December and January - April each year. For more information contact Sue Bickel. You can also learn more at [griefshare.org](http://griefshare.org)

---

## DivorceCare - Wednesdays, 7:00PM - Grace BFC

"Support group for those who are facing the *difficult* effects of *marital separation and divorce*." DivorceCare includes video testimony from those who have gone through divorce as well as life-giving advice from experienced counselors. DivorceCare meets on Wednesday nights from 7:00 - 8:15pm from September - December and January - April each year. For more information contact Pastor Tim. You can also learn more at [divorcecare.org](http://divorcecare.org)

---

## Surviving the Holidays - Wednesday Nov. 14, 7:00PM - Grace BFC

Both GriefShare and DivorceCare offer a special one- night seminar entitled "Surviving the Holidays" that they run close to Thanksgiving each year. Contact Sue Bickel and Pastor Cowen respectively for more information.

---



## ON MISSION

Partnering in Spreading of the Good News Near and Far

*For more details contact Bob Evans, our Missions Chairman, at [bevans@bcmintl.org](mailto:bevans@bcmintl.org)  
or Pastor Mark at [mbickel@gracebfc.org](mailto:mbickel@gracebfc.org) or (484) 788-9026*

### Short Term Missions / Summer Missions Teams

Each year we send out many from our congregation to serve others and spread the Gospel. Some go as part of church organized teams for 1-2 weeks to places like Liberia, Russia, Canada and Camp Promise in Montana. Others go out individually through outside missions agencies to serve from one week to several months. Some serve on work teams to give practical assistance to local church plants. Some serve as Christian camp staff and with CEF. Others open their home for backyard clubs or volunteers in some of our larger summer outreaches. All give of their time and efforts to advance God's kingdom and get a small taste of what God is doing in people's lives around the world. All are supported financially and in prayer by the larger body here at Grace. 2019 trips will be posted early in the new year.

### Career Missionaries

Our church supports a number of career missionaries throughout the world in places like France, Australia, The Philippines, Montana and elsewhere. We also support those serving on 1-3 year teams in places like Mexico City where they are being trained and seeking God's longer term direction. Photos, prayer cards and newsletters can be found in our Hall of Missions.

### Missions Committee and Missions Conference

We have a dedicated group of volunteers in the church who oversee our missions programs, care for and support our missionaries, and help to promote missions throughout the congregation. They also work on planning our annual "Global Outreach Conference". You can see more about 2018's Conference theme and date on the next page.

We have a **CRITICAL NEED** right now for some **additional people to join our missions committee..** We invite you to sit down with Bob Evans, our chairman, or to visit one of our regular meetings (4th Tuesday of the month, 7pm @ Grace)



## SAVE THE DATE

### PARTNERING IN THE GOSPEL

MISSIONS CONFERENCE • NOVEMBER 2-4 2018



**CEF**  
CHILD EVANGELISM  
FELLOWSHIP®  
*Reaching children worldwide®*



**Church Extension  
Ministries**  
Philadelphia & Cape May



**GRACEBFC**  
SHORT TERM MISSIONS



**INTERNATIONAL  
FRIENDS**

## MINISTRY PARTNERS

Local Agencies We Support and Partner with in Ministry



**CEF**  
CHILD EVANGELISM  
FELLOWSHIP®  
*Reaching children worldwide®*



## BFC REGION / CHURCH PLANTS

Churches and Church Plants in the Philly / South Jersey Region of the Bible Fellowship Church

Maple Glen BFC (Northeast of Phila.), Wissinoming BFC (in the Wissinoming section of Phila.), South Phila. Church Plant (in partnership with SACC), New Beginnings BFC (Woodbury Heights, NJ), Cape Community Church (Cape May Courthouse, NJ), and praying for a new church planting work to begin in Woolwich Township, NJ. You can find out more about all the BFC churches, church plants, and missions works online at [BFC.org](http://BFC.org)



## RESOURCES

*Available on our newly redone website at [GraceBFC.org](http://GraceBFC.org)*

### Sermons

Listen to or download recent sermons. You can also subscribe to our sermon podcast through iTunes and other podcasting services. See our website for details.

.....

### Bulletins and Newsletters

Weekly bulletins are normally placed on the website on Friday afternoons. You can also find our current and past Grace Newsletters in the resources section of the website.

.....

### Prayer Email and Weekly eNews

Subscribe to receive our weekly eNews with information on this weeks events, as well as our regular prayer update email. You can subscribe on our website, or send a request to [office@gracebfc.org](mailto:office@gracebfc.org) or to [mbickel@gracebfc.org](mailto:mbickel@gracebfc.org)

.....

### Devotional and Gospel Resources

Our website has a link to various devotional guides as well as resources for sharing the Gospel with others. From time to time we also publish special devotional guides and blog posts to the site (such as our recent family Lent guide and Advent devotional guide.). In addition to the links on our website, we provide printed devotional guides including My Daily Bread and others for free just outside the church sanctuary.

.....

### COMING SOON: Online Church Directory

This October we hope to provide password-protected access to an online church directory and other communications and connections resources for all those who are a part of our extended church family. See Pastor Mark for details.

.....



## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Available from Pastor Mark, [mbickel@gracebfc.org](mailto:mbickel@gracebfc.org)

### Bibles, Tracts and Booklets

Free Bibles and Tracts are available just outside the church sanctuary. At key times throughout the year, additional tracts, as well as Christian booklets on hot topics, are available in the lobby. Additional tracts, Bibles, Children's Bibles, and "Resources for Changing" booklets are available anytime from Pastor Mark.

.....

### Bible Commentaries and Christian Books

Pastor Mark maintains a collection of Commentaries, Biblical Reference Books, and Books on the Christian Life. He also has a selection of Small Group Leader and other training materials, as well as access to the former Church Library. If you are ever looking for resources for your own study or ministry talk to him, all his materials are available to borrow.

.....

### Access to RightNow Media

The church provides free online access to a library of over 10,000 Christian training videos and children's videos through RightNow Media. All those who attend Grace, as well as your relatives, friends and ministry contacts, are welcome to join for free. Simple send pastor Mark the email address you wish to subscribe with (send to [mbickel@gracebfc.org](mailto:mbickel@gracebfc.org))

.....

---

## GRACE FAMILY NEWS

---

### New Addresses:

See church office for new addresses



GraceBFC.org

## Grace Bible Fellowship Church

723 S. Providence Road

Wallingford, PA 19086

(610) 876-8725

[office@gracebfc.org](mailto:office@gracebfc.org)

Follow us on Twitter: @Gracebfc

Like our Facebook Page

**Grace News** is normally published the last Sunday of each month. Submit upcoming events and articles to Barb by the 15th of the month prior to publication. Send to [office@gracebfc.org](mailto:office@gracebfc.org)

Questions and suggestions can be sent to Pastor Mark at [mbickel@gracebfc.org](mailto:mbickel@gracebfc.org)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- |                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| Sept. 9          | Grace Café  |
| Sept. 12         | Start Wednesday Family Night                          |
| Sept. 16         | Start Fall Bible Classes,<br>including Grace Life 101 |
| Sept. 27, 28, 29 | Directory Photo Shoot                                 |
| Oct. 4           | Start Mom Matters                                     |
| Oct. 7           | Grace Café / Grace Link Groups                        |
| Oct. 9           | Start Young at Heart                                  |
| Oct. 14          | Congregational Meal                                   |
| Nov. 2-4         | Missions Conference:<br>Partners in the Gospel        |
| Nov. 11          | Day of Prayer / Teen Prayer Partners                  |

***Full Calendar at [Gracebfc.org](http://Gracebfc.org)***

## Web Version of Grace News

To protect people's privacy private phone numbers, addresses, birthdays 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](mailto:office@gracebfc.org)

### PHOTO DIRECTORY

Sign-up to be a part of our Picture Directory

Thursday, Sept. 27 : 2-9 pm

Friday, Sept. 28: 2-9 pm

Saturday, Sept. 29 : 10 am-5pm