

▶ **April 2019**

God's Work in Liberia

Last month we sent Mark Kessler and PJ Hartzell to Liberia with Compassion Corps. Here are some of their reflections from the Trip. Additional photos at Grace in the hall outside the gym .

If I had to summarize the trip from my perspective it would go something like this. I went hoping to do three things. The first was to deepen personal relationships with Martha, Pastor John, Pastor Tage and Sam. The second was to come back with a good idea of the direction to take with the ministry there at Martha's, one that would truly benefit Martha and the kids long term and move them closer to being self-sustaining. The third was to understand the vision that Pastor Tage and his wife Ruth have for the medical clinic, the elementary school, the school for training nurse assistants and lab techs, and their plan for growing their church and serving/reaching their community for the kingdom. I feel like all 3 were accomplished and I returned more encouraged than I expected with where things are at Martha's and where they are going. - Mark Kessler



What an awesome opportunity to visit Liberia with Compassion Corps! The Lord put together the perfect team of 9 ladies who were medical people, children's workers, and teachers, plus Mark Kessler who was a wonderful encouragement to our partners in Liberia, a fact finder, and a facilitator to getting work projects started and hopefully completed soon.

We four nurses helped run medical clinics at Healthline Clinic for nearly 8 hours on Monday and Thursday, seeing over 170 people each day. We were overwhelmed to see about 700 people waiting in line on Thursday. We could not see all the people that day, but Pastor Tage made sure that they all heard a Gospel presentation while they were standing in line.

The rest of the week was filled with visits to Martha's Children's Village, Elwa Hospital to teach classes to single, pregnant teens, Marinda's Haweh Academy, and Lifeline Institute to teach classes to the nurses' aide and lab tech students.

Thank you to all who donated supplies, medicines and money for the medicines for Liberia. Thank you also for your prayers and words of encouragement along the way. I am so happy that I finally got to meet most of Compassion Corps' Liberian partners and could finally place actual people with the names I having been hearing for years. Mark and I look forward to sharing many stories about our Liberia trip with our church family in the near future!



-PJ Hartzell

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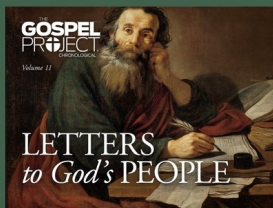
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A LOOK AT
THE SEVEN DEADLY SINS



DAZZLING VICES

SUNDAY MORNINGS
THROUGH LENT



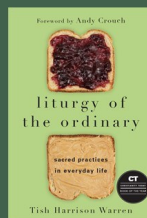
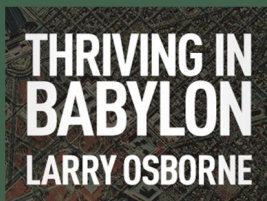
Bible Classes

Sundays at 11am

NEW: A Man and His Work -
Begins April 7 in room 204

Bible Classes

Sunday 11am



Family Night

Wednesdays at 7 pm

Note: normal Family Night groups
will not meet on April 17 to free
you up to attend Maundy Thurs-
day and Good Friday services

Family Night

Wednesdays 7pm

Young at Heart

Young at Heart

Tuesday April 9 at Noon

This Month: Testimonies of God's Grace

Couple's Fellowship

Fourth Fridays from 7-9pm

Couples Fellowship

Friday April 26 at 7pm

Meeting at the home of Clayton & Debbie Wilt

Prayer & Praise SUMMIT

Churches Together Praying for Our Community

Friday April, 12th 2019 @ 7pm



**Drexel Hill United
Methodist Church
600 Burmont Road,
Drexel Hill, Pa 19026**

**SAVE
THE
DATE!**

Upper Darby and Delco Pastors and churches praising God and praying.
We seek His face, He will heal our land. For more info - jcjja@aol.com

Prayer and Praise Summit

Friday April 12 at 7pm

See above for address or see Pastor Aaron

This Takes the Place of 3rd Sunday

Prayer and Praise for April



GRACE CHURCH'S DAY OF SERVICE

SATURDAY, MAY 4, 2019 FROM 8AM TO NOON

Day of Service

Saturday May 4 from 8am - Noon

Projects for every age and skills set, so bring the family! Come and go as you want. If it's nice out bring a rake, all other tools provided. There are indoor and outdoor projects, so come out rain or shine. Free coffee and donuts all morning. Contact: Mike Norquist



International Festival

Saturday June 8

Food, music, and other multi-cultural experiences with internationals from our community.
Plan now to join us and bring a neighbor!
More details coming soon



EASTER SERVICES

Maundy Thursday (4/18) - 6:30 PM
Good Friday (4/19) - 7:00 PM
Easter Sunrise (4/21) - 6:00 AM
Easter Celebration (4/21) - 9:00 AM

Invitations
In the
Lobby!

Join us!

GRACE CHURCH
— gracebfc.org —

Maundy Thursday (4/18 at 6:30 PM) - Communion Meal

Reliving Jesus' last meal with His disciples and their conversations about a new kind of community.

Please bring a simple meal to share with those at your table. Drinks/desserts provided.

Good Friday (4/19 at 7:00 PM) - Service of Tenebrae

Remembering the world's darkest moment, when the weight of sin & death were placed on God's innocent Son.

Easter Sunday (4/21 at 6:00 AM) - Sunrise Service

Join us just before dawn in the outside church courtyard, to celebrate our risen Savior as the sun rises.

Easter Sunday (4/21 at 9:00 AM) - Resurrection Celebration

Celebrating the death of death in the victory of God's Son... and its powerful implications for God's people.



EASTER OFFERING

We would ask you to consider giving a special offering this Easter, above and beyond your normal giving, that will be used for outreach to our communities this summer. Specifically, we want to support three initiatives:

- **Summer of Visibility at Grace**

We plan to host an International Festival at our church in early June followed by several neighborhood festivals throughout the summer. We also hope to host several kids clubs and to expand our Community Carnival.

- **Summer Festival at Wissinoming**

We would like to take our kids clubs and carnival 'on the road' to help our Wissinoming BFC church reach out to the kids in their community in North East Philadelphia.

- **Christmas In July Classes at Delaware County Pregnancy Center**

We have an opportunity to partner with Delaware County Pregnancy Center to offer The Art of Marriage, The Art of Parenting, and The Art of Money Management classes in Chester this July, along with supplying resources for their ongoing Expectant Mothers classes.

Our goal is to raise \$10,000 to fund these and other summer outreaches. To donate simply place cash or check in an envelope labeled "EASTER" then place in the offering plate or give it to Sam Shiels by the end of April. Questions? See Pastor Bickel.

GRACE YOUTH

SPRING RETREAT

APRIL 26-28 | COST: \$115

Spring Retreat is just around the corner and we as leaders are extremely excited about it! All middle school and high school students will enjoy an action packed weekend centered on Christ and community. We travel up to Camp Orchard Hill in Dallas, PA to use their incredible facilities (including a gym, skate park, soccer fields, canoes, rock climbing, an intense swing, cabin style rooms, amazing food, and a state of the art sound system for our sessions). This year Jenn Lindemuth will be sharing from God's word as well as her own story of how she moved from PA to the Philippines, and our own youth band, In Reply, will be leading the music.

When: April 26-28 (Leave at 6:00 on Friday and return to Grace at 3:00 Sunday)

Cost: \$115 (Includes a t-shirt) ... The \$25 deposit is due on April 10th and the remaining \$90 is due on the day of the retreat. Scholarships are available and will be handled in confidentiality.

Please sign up online or grab a paper permission slip in a youth room. More information on what to bring will be sent out closer to the event.

Upcoming Events for Youth

Year End Tailgate Party: Wednesday, May 22nd from 6-8:30. All teens, their families, and prayer partners are invited!

Hershey Park Trip: Wednesday July 17th for all teens currently in middle school or high school.

High School Beach Trip: Saturday August 10th for all teens currently in grades 8-12.

Middle School Beach Trip: Saturday August 24th for all students currently in grades 5-8.

GRACE kids

Summer Children's Outreach

While we have been richly blessed to partner with CEF for the past two summers in hosting Backyard Bible Clubs, we are planning to shift gears slightly this summer. We are looking for a few families who can commit to visiting at a park/public location in close proximity to the church on a weekly basis over the summer. The intention would be to meet other children/families who could be ministered to. At some point between mid-July to early-August the church will host a 3-day Bible club at those parks, geared towards the children who frequent the park. Our goal would be to share the hope of the Gospel while building lasting relationships with families who are not already connected to a church. **If you are interested in engaging a local park, please reach out to Fuzzy** (dphillips@gracebfc.org). Grace will also host special Wacky Wednesdays scattered throughout the summer as well as our annual kid's carnival. Lastly, if you are interested in hosting a Backyard Bible Club through CEF, we would love to get you connected with them.

Meet Matt Piasecki — Our Newest Deacon

Hi, my name is Matt Piasecki. I am so grateful to be installed to serve my Grace family as a deacon. For those of you that don't know me well, I would like to share some of my life with you all. I was raised in a big family (1 of 6 children) to my parents (Steve and Sue Piasecki). I have an older brother, Andrew, an older sister, Bekah and three younger siblings, Elizabeth, Tim and Hannah. I was brought up in a Christian home and brought to Grace since I was born. I spent the first 9 years of my life in Upland, PA and then my family moved to Swedesboro, NJ, where I lived until I married my wife.



In July 2015, I married my wife, Abbie Piasecki (Worrell), my best friend. We spent the first year of our marriage living in Charleston, SC while Abbie finished her nursing degree. While living there, God led me to work for Coca-Cola, where I received my CDL license. When we moved back to PA, I began driving trucks for Russell Reid and shortly after we added a new member to our family, Ava Ruth Piasecki, on October 14th, 2017. We have been so blessed with this loving, fun, strong-willed and silly little girl that God has given us.

At Grace, I play the drums for worship team monthly and am a middle school youth group leader. I also serve on the security team here at Grace. I am so grateful and humbled by God's calling me to serve as a deacon. I trust that God will continue to grow, strengthen and guide me in this new role. I would greatly appreciate your prayers as I serve you in the Lord.

Romans 8:18 "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us."



Operation Christmas Child Grace BFC Collection Schedule

- February & March - Hygiene Items
- April & May - Toys for 2 to 4 yr. olds
- June & July - Fun items for 5 to 14 yr. olds
- August & September - School Supplies
- October & November - Misc. items

For the months of April and May we will be focusing on collecting toys for the youngest age group, the 2 to 4 yr. olds. (Coloring Books, balls, cars, dolls, play dough, plastic animals, etc.). Don't forget to check after Easter Sales in your favorite stores. You can find a lot of good bargains for our shoeboxes. We are still collecting hygiene items as well. Your donations can be put in the orange bin in the coat room by the sanctuary.

The sewing group meets the 1st, 3rd and 4th Tuesday at 12:30 in the fireplace room. We are still in need of people to help in this area.

For info contact Kathy Mills, Sue Yavor or Janet Letsche

Good News, Great Joy.....the power of a Simple Gift.

Bible Fellowship Church Special Events



Being Light in Dark, Dark Places

BFC Missions Rally
Saturday, May 4, 2019
Cedar Crest BFC, Allentown, PA

BFC Missions Rally - May 4 from 9am - 1:30pm

Separate Adult, Youth and Kids Programs

Free - light lunch included

Register by April 22 at BFCBOM.ORG

HEROINES OF FAITH

WOMEN'S
RETREAT
AT PINEBROOK
MAY 3-5 2019
REGISTER ONLINE
@ PINEBROOK.ORG
OR CALL
800-806-5501

HOSTED BY
RACHEL KESSLER!

SPEAKERS:
LORRIE ARNICK
JUDY HUBBARD
MONA MAURO
WORSHIP LEADER:
JUDY HUBBARD

"You meant it for evil..."

by Pastor Emeritus Richard Taylor

When I read the story of Joseph which gets lots of space in the book of Genesis, I do some deep thinking. If you have never read the whole story, you should. It is presented in Genesis 37 – 50. A summary would show you that Joseph is knocked down, is up again, knocked down and up again. This cycle is repeated. He is sold into slavery, imprisoned as a result of a false accusation of rape, promised release but forgotten. It is not hard for me to imagine myself becoming very hardened and bitter. So, how did Joseph escape the destructive trap of bitterness?

After Joseph's father Jacob died, his brothers who were responsible for his miserable circumstances, thought Joseph would finally let them have it and expected Joseph's retribution. Joseph's response was marvelous. "Do not fear," he said, "For am I in the place of God? As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good..." (Genesis 50:19-20)

How was Joseph able to give this answer? It mystifies me that Joseph should be so aware of the goodness of God after all the calamity he experienced. It would appear that Joseph somehow saw a bigger picture than the catastrophes he endured. In the midst of his struggles, he saw that God was doing something. Joseph does not get a lot of coverage in the New Testament but he is listed among those who believed. "By faith Joseph, at the end of his life, made mention of the exodus of the Israelites and gave directions concerning his bones." (Hebrews 11:22)

It is this about Joseph that makes me think deeply. While I have never experienced what Joseph experienced, I do experience ups and downs. I enjoy and appreciate the ups. But the downs are another matter. I don't tend to see the bigger picture and see how God is working through them. I need to remember what is going to happen to my bones. When all is said and done, my bones (my resurrected ones) are going to wind up in the presence of God. The ups and downs are just what I will go through until I get there. That's the bigger picture I need to see.

Short Term Missions Sunday - May 12

Meet our Russia, Camp-Promise and Handi-Camp Canada missions teams. Learn how to support them both financially and in prayer. Give a special donation to help an individual or the teams as a whole.

- **BREAKFAST - 7:45-8:45 am** - Join us in the gym for a Mother's Day Breakfast before worship. Come when you can. Bring the entire family. Free, but you are encouraged to donate to missions.
- **WORSHIP and SUMMER TEAM COMMISSIONING - 9 am** - During the normal worship service we will be commissioning our summer short-term missions teams.
- **MEET and GREET - After Worship** - All teams will be available during the coffee time in the gym, stop by to meet them, hear stories from past trips, and pickup a prayer card for each team.
- **DESSERT AUCTION - Ending at 10:50 am** - There will be fun and fancy baked goods on display during Breakfast as well as the Meet and Greet. You can bid on one to take home with you. Bids will end at 10:50 with winners announced at 11am. Proceeds go to Short Term Missions.

Ministry Partner Events

City Team - Angel Event

Saturday, April 13 at 11:30am—2:00pm- at Springfield Country Club. This annual event benefits our Mother & Baby programs which provide life giving support to families in crisis all over the Delaware Valley. Contact Cindy at City Team: 610-872-6865; ext. 6106

Christ Centered Counseling Ministries - Annual Fundraising Banquet

Saturday, April 13 from 5:30-7:30pm at Faith Bible Fellowship Church in Lancaster. This years theme is "In Christ Alone" and the guest speaker is Dr. Todd Magnum from Missio Seminary. RSVP by April 4 at c-ccm.org or see Pastor Tim.

Compassion Corps Student Sponsorship Program - Short Stacks for a Tall Cause

Saturday, May 4, 2019 at 8 AM - 10 AM. Applebee's on Pennell Rd., Aston, PA. \$10 per person. See PJ Hartzell to purchase your tickets

Delco CEF - Walk-a-thon

Child Evangelism Fellowship of Delaware County walk-a-thon **Saturday, May 4, 2019**, 9am-1pm at Ridley Creek State park (Pavilion 17). Support a walker or sign up to walk at cefdelco.com. For more information on walking or supporting CEF see Justin Gambrill (Justin will be one of those walking)

Delaware County Pregnancy Center - Baby Bottle Campaign

Fill a bottle, impact a life! It's that simple! Simply take a bottle and fill it with loose change, cash, or a check and return it **by June 2**. Your gift will help DCPC continue its ministry to women facing unplanned pregnancy. **Baby Bottles will be available at church on Mother's Day. (May 12)** See Ashlee Martino

Grace Bible Fellowship Church

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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

Questions and suggestions can be sent to Pastor Mark at mbickel@gracebfc.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 6	Children's Passover Seder
April 9	Young at Heart
April 12	Prayer and Praise Summit <i>(details on p. 3)</i>
April 18	Maundy Thursday Meal <i>(6:30 pm)</i>
April 19	Good Friday Service <i>(7 pm)</i>
April 21	Easter <i>(6am Sunrise, 9am Celebration)</i>
April 26	Couples <i>(at Wilts)</i>
April 26-28	Youth Spring Retreat
May 4	Grace Day of Service
	BFC Missions Rally <i>(at Cedar Crest BFC)</i>
	BFC Women's Retreat <i>(at Pinebrook)</i>
May 5	Communion
May 12	Short Term Missions Sunday <i>(including Breakfast as well as Dessert Auction)</i>
June 8	International Festival

Full Calendar at Gracebfc.org

April Birthdays

5	Vanna Lay	19	Michael McManiman	29	Cynthia Crawley
7	Adriana Chalson	20	La'Kira Buckner	30	Lucy Gambrill
9	Ashley Harper	21	Nate Biermaas		
10	John Roach	21	Julie Lawton		
11	Ethel Fehl	22	Elliott Canning		
11	Susan Young	23	Matt Kessler		
12	Ruth Keeney	25	Gil Cahall		
14	Dani Plourde	25	Jerry Moyer		
14	James Clontz	26	Christy Rydel		
14	Tom Stackhouse	26	Elijah Yacono		
15	Liz Brennan	26	Ethan Yacono		
15	Sam Brennan	26	Gavin Yacono		
15	Pamela Canning	28	Christine Wiseley		

April Anniversaries

14	Mark & Sue Ardary
18	Byron & Mary Ann Pennington
30	Scott & Betty Ann Simmons

Financial Update

February giving:	\$46,017
Budget need:	\$48,732
YTD giving:	\$91,506
YTD budget need:	\$99,523