

# Grace Notes



Grace Church Congregational  
1055 Williams Street  
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Welcome to the July edition of the Grace Church newsletter. If you have any suggestions or submissions for the August newsletter, please send them to [secretary.gracecc1@verizon.net](mailto:secretary.gracecc1@verizon.net)





## From the Pastor's Desk

*Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by command of God our Savior and of Jesus Christ our hope, to Timothy, my true child in the faith: (1 Timothy*

Paul was both a theologian and a missionary. For him the two were not mutually exclusive. More than any other writer in the New Testament, the Apostle Paul defined in a systematic way the high doctrines of the Christian faith- doctrines such as God's Sovereignty and salvation exclusively by grace through faith in Christ. At the same time, Paul devoted his life to the planting and development of new churches in pagan lands. He had a passion and a vision for the expansion of Christ's Kingdom. In doing so, Paul put feet to his theology.

One example of this is how we find Paul making the effort to mentor other young men in the faith. Timothy is a case in point. Here we have not one letter but two in the New Testament addressed specifically to this one young man. In fact it is almost certain that the last recorded letter written by the apostle is to Timothy, penned shortly before Paul, knowing full well what was in store for him, was executed for his faith. All this should tell us a great deal about our calling both as individual Christians and as a church.

We just finished another season of basketball. The Miami Heat beat the Oklahoma City Thunder for the championship this year. Not too many years ago, the San Antonio Spurs took the championship. For many years David Robinson was the heart of the team, not because he was a superstar in the same vein as Michael Jordan, but because of his vision to serve as a mentor to the younger members of the team, Tim Duncan in particular. Robinson is a graduate of the Naval Academy (thus his nickname, "the Admiral). He is also a Christian. It was amazing to watch how served as a father figure to the younger Duncan, and even when the championship might be on the line, set Duncan up for good shots instead of monopolizing the ball himself. For those who knew what he was doing, it spoke volumes. Robinson has been retired from basketball for a few years now, but Duncan is still playing.

I see a similar pattern in the Apostle in his ministry to Timothy and think about what it means for us here at Grace Church. I find myself thinking more and more about my age. (I'm 61 now) I don't intend to close my Bible and step away from the pulpit in the near future, but I do find myself thinking about the future of Grace Church. Where are we headed? What's God got in store for us in the coming years? Where are the young people? What are we doing with the young people? Do we ever take into consideration the fact that we will turn the keys of the church to them in a few years?

There are many times when I feel, "I've got my theology in order." "I know how to exegete the Bible." "I know how to run the church", all the while keeping the younger generation at arm's length. "Just sit down and be quiet, kids, and let us do it right." But that's not mentoring. Mentoring means that we are committed to both the spiritual welfare of the next generation today and to the welfare of the church as whole tomorrow.

Will they make mistakes? Oh gracious, yes! But then I guess I do too, even at my age. I'm awfully glad that God doesn't hold that against me. The most important thing to remember is that the welfare of the church rests in Christ's hands, both present and future, but he has given us a responsibility. The question is, will we take our responsibility seriously?

Pastor Tom





# GRACE CHURCH NEWS



Then Jesus told them a parable to show them that they should always pray and never give up. Luke 18:1

## Prayer Gathering

Please join with us as we go before the throne of God seeking His direction and provision for our ministry in the community, and interceding for one another. We will meet in the sanctuary on **Sunday, July 29th, from 5:00-6:00 p.m.**



## Men's Prayer Fellowship

Men of all ages are invited to be a part of the Men's Prayer Fellowship which meets monthly year-round. The next gathering will be Saturday, **July 21st, from 7:00-8:30 a.m.** Join us for a study of Psalm 51, prayer and fellowship. Light refreshments will be served.

## Ministry Opportunities

- ♦ **Greeters-** Friendly faces are also needed to take a turn at greeting incoming worshippers and handing out bulletins on Sunday morning. If you think you would enjoy this, please speak to Charleen (499-3040) so that you may be added to the rotation.
- ♦ **Church Cleaning-** Just a couple of individuals are carrying the burden of keeping the church clean and presentable for all of us. Please consider lending a hand. Grab a friend or family member and share the load! See Elder Tom Ross for a list of cleaning duties.
- ♦ **Operation Christmas Child-** In November, our church will once again be a relay center for Samaritan Purse's annual collection of gifts for children around the world. This will involve staffing the church with volunteers during certain hours the week before Thanksgiving (Monday - Sunday afternoon). We will receive shoeboxes from people in the area, and pack them into larger boxes which will be picked up and transported to Northampton. This is a wonderful opportunity to play a larger role in an effective ministry, and to increase our exposure in the larger community. Interested in volunteering and/or finding out more? Speak to Charleen (499-3040).

## Encouragement Needed

No doubt we all know someone who needs encouragement right now. It seems that there are many among our families, church family, and friends who are going through difficult trials. In the Scriptures we are instructed to "bear one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ" (Galatians 6:2). We are instructed to "encourage one another". Let's take the time this month to pray and consider how we may come alongside someone who is hurting. There are many ways to encourage: a visit, a phone call, praying together, sharing a book or a Scripture, offering practical help, baking something, cooking a meal, listening, bringing flowers. *"It is more blessed to give, than to receive."* (Acts 20:35).





# JULY 2012



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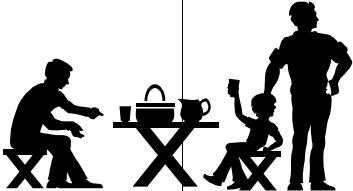
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<b>1</b> 10:00 Worship	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>  <b>Independence</b>	<b>5</b> 7:00 Addictions Victorious	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 10:00 Worship	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 7:00 Addictions	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 10:00 Worship	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 7:00 Addictions Victorious	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 7:00-8:30 a.m. <b>Men's Prayer Fellowship</b>
<b>22</b> 10:00 Worship	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 7:00 Addictions Victorious	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 10:00 Worship  5:00 pm Prayer	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>				

## Vacation Bible School Praise

We are so thankful for God's blessing on our VBS this year. We had a wonderful time in Covenant Kingdom as we learned about King Jesus. A total of 31 children came through our doors, with an average daily attendance of 24. We started the week off with 21 children and peaked on Friday with 30. Pray for God's continued work in their lives. We are so thankful for the many hands who participated in so many ways, with many people doing multiple tasks. Twenty-six of us had a wonderful time of working together in the exercise of various gifts to the glory of God. We had an excellent turnout of 49 people for the VBS picnic on Saturday, including children, extended family, and staff. Quite a few lingered and visited for over an hour. Continue with us in prayer for the long-term impact of the week in the lives of the children and their families, in the lives of those who participated, and in our community.

Heartfelt thanks to the following people:

**Chavaleh Kirkman:** kindergarten teacher  
**Ally Poulton:** kindergarten classroom aide  
**Jessica Logsdon:** primary co-teacher  
**Betty DeNoble:** primary co-teacher  
**Betty Barbour:** junior teacher/musician/  
photographer  
**Ian Bridgman:** junior teacher/musician  
**David Fairfield:** skit  
**Seyvon Kouao:** skit/classroom aide  
**Elder Bob Kirkman:** recreation  
**Brenda Wright:** craft coordinator  
**Hunter Parks:** craft assistant/ recreation  
**Linda Poulton:** registration  
**Jean Porter :** registration/memory checker/  
scribe

**Ruth Kirkman:** floater, decorator  
**JoAnn Kulberg:** floater  
**Cheryl Lanoue:** royal kitchen  
**Eunice Ross:** royal kitchen  
**Margaret McBurney:** royal kitchen  
**Louise Carron:** royal kitchen  
**Toby Logsdon:** royal grillmaster  
**Elder Tom Lanoue:** picnic/publicity  
**Daniel Kouao:** picnic/transportation  
**Ashley Parks:** face painter  
**Julie Ross:** gift bag assembler  
**Pastor Tom Bridgman:** set-up, go-fer, and  
encourager to...  
**Charleen Bridgman:** VBS Director

*But Jesus called them to him , saying, "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Luke 18:16*



## **LEARNING AND ARRIVING: Knowledge Is Insight**

*by Doug Rose, July 2012*

*Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser;  
teach a righteous man, and he will increase in learning.  
The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom,  
and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight. (Proverbs 9:9-10).*

Although we have a dozen or so weeks' respite from the rigors of Sunday school instruction, we should each and all be mindful to continue in our daily study of God's word in Scripture and exposition of Scripture, commentary, hermeneutics, apologetics, and Christian literature. Among our tasks as Christians stands our obligation to use our God-given minds to cultivate Christlikeness in both heart and action. To bring this fruit to bear, we must pursue learning the knowledge God freely offers and gaining the wisdom He graciously teaches.

*I will meditate on Your precepts  
and fix my eyes on Your ways.  
I will delight in Your statutes;  
I will not forget Your word. (Psalm 119:15-16)*

Over the Summer months, take the opportunity to read for the enhancement your Christian wisdom, to meditate on the word of God as revealed to us in Scripture, and to delight in the related meditations and personal revelations of Christian authors. While our classes will not be convening and our instructors (or "facilitators" as this teacher sometimes self-refers) not weekly passing on the gifts of grace in Christian reformation given by the Holy Spirit, "[i]f the Holy Spirit is our first and foremost teacher, there is a sense in which we ourselves, in our very dependence on the Spirit, must also teach ourselves."<sup>1</sup> If we continue to fix our eyes on the Bible and the array of divine wisdom which has previously been revealed from the depths of the Bible's pages, we will not forget His word.

We approach our learning life in the Holy Spirit prayerfully and joyfully, as did our Savior:

*In that same hour He rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children ... (Luke 10:21a)*

How many are the wise and understanding of this secular, post-modern age, who in their strife to acquire worldliness, overlook the very Godliness of the simple Gospel message by grace so clearly revealed to His children?

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<sup>1</sup> Stott, John R. W., *Understanding the Bible* (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan, 1999), p.181.