



THANK THE LORD FOR CHILDREN!

(Also, an Important Notice about Children's Ministries)



Gerald Stigall
Senior Pastor

It's been said that babies are the Lord's opinion that the world should continue. Many of our families in recent and coming days through adoption and birth are experiencing first-hand God's bright hope for the future. As a church family, we celebrate with each of these families.



Scot Hintermeyer
Pastor of Worship
and the Arts

As a church we are thankful for the many ministries which seek to live out the Great Commission by making disciples of children and youth. I believe that the spiritual vitality of a church and the spiritual fitness of a person can be assessed by observing the commitment to children. John Piper comments that children are the litmus paper to expose the presence of pride (Mt. 18:2-4) and the level of receptivity to Jesus (Mt. 18:5). Do you remember when Jesus saw that his disciples were arguing over which of them was the greatest? He sat down and called the twelve. He took a child and put him in the midst of them and said, "Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me, receives not me but him who sent me" (Mark 9:34-37).



Pam Olsen
Director of
Children's
Ministries

Did you catch the force of that passage? By receiving children, we receive Jesus! Therefore how we deal with children is a signal of our fellowship with God.



Kristel Peters
Director of
Connections

Think through the ways that Jesus related to children and youth. Let's ponder these passages and allow them to stir within us a resolve to reach out to children all around us and in doing so to receive Christ in fresh ways:

1. Jesus was a child (Isaiah 9:6).
2. Jesus took children in his arms and blessed them (Mark 10:14-16).
3. Jesus healed a child of a foreign woman (Matthew 15:28).
4. Jesus cast a demon out of a child (Matthew 17:18).

5. Jesus raised a child from the dead (Mark 5:41-42).
6. Jesus used a child's loaves and fish to feed five thousand people (John 6:9-10).
7. Jesus said you should become like a child (Mt. 18:3-4).
8. When Jesus came, children cried "Hosanna!" to the Son of David (Mt. 21:15).
9. Jesus predicted the terrible days when fathers would give their children up to death (Mark 13:12).
10. Jesus said that if you receive a child in his name, you receive him and the one who sent him (Mark 9:37).

These passages underscore that serving in the nursery, teaching Sunday School, Awana and Vacation Bible School, coaching and reffing through Upward, and leading in the youth group all "in the name of Christ" is no *small* wonder. We celebrate the many of you whom God is using to transform lives in the Name of Jesus.

Speaking of one who God especially uses in this transformation process...we surely celebrate the leadership of **Pam Olsen** who for the past ten years has directed our Children's Ministries on the staff team. She consistently is there with her ready smile, can-do spirit, and Christlike presence. While she's been there for us and our children, she also desires to be there for her mom who now contends with cancer. Consequently she is taking a leave of absence. Even though no one can fill Pam's shoes, we purpose to ensure that the key ministries will continue for the glory of Jesus. Our goal is not simply to cover the bases and tread water, but rather that we strategically advance and deepen our commitment to the children whom God has entrusted to us. Also, as we are resolute in securing gifted leadership for the children, we also are focused in identifying our new pastor of youth and young adults. Please pray.

Blessings,
Pastor Gerald



Jordan Seiffert
Ministry Intern



The Mystery Meet

Are you missing out on meeting people on Sunday mornings? Need an excuse to get out and have some fun? Here is an opportunity for you to gather for an evening of dinner and fellowship the weekend of March 19th & 20th. Your mystery host will contact you with the details of the evening. All you need to do is sign up and show up and find out who you'll be dining with!

Sign up for an evening you can attend at the Welcome Center and let the mystery begin!

Baptism

If you are interested in being baptized on Easter Sunday, April 4, please contact the church office or Pastor Gerald at 763-784-7199.

Pastor's Class

Saturdays March 13 - 27 at 10:00 am
Room: to be determined

A Pastor's Class is scheduled for children on Saturday mornings, beginning March 13 in preparation for the *Baptism Service* on Easter Sunday. Those interested in participating in this three part class should contact the office or Pastor Gerald at 763-784-7199 by March 11.

Maundy Thursday Service

April 1 at 7:00 pm

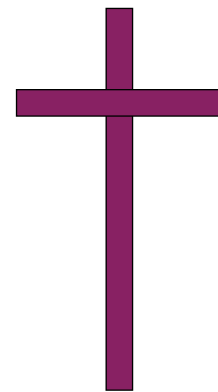
... the day of the Lord's Last Supper.

Thursday of Holy Week, commemorates the night of the Last Supper. Jesus celebrated the Passover with His disciples and then took bread and broke it and said ... our practice of communion was born.

Come and join us as we worship together and remember how the one and only Holy God has intervened into the lives of men and women, all humanity, and provided the way of salvation for all who believe.

Encounter at the Cross *12 Hours of Prayer*

Saturday, April 3, 2010
7:00 am to 7:00 pm



Easter Sunday, April 4, 2010

8:00 am - Easter Worship Celebration
led by the youth

9:00 am - Easter Breakfast Buffet is served

10:30 am - Easter Worship Celebration

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



UPWARD Celebration Night is March 22

Doors open at 6:30pm and the program begins at 7pm

Besides coaches, players, cheerleaders and friends and family, we want to invite anyone from Grace to attend. We will have prizes, team recognition, video clips, the long awaited surprise award, snacks and a gospel presentation by a special guest. All in less than an hour!



All prayer warriors are especially invited to attend and meet in the library for prayer from 6:30-7:00 pm. We thank you so much for your prayers. We have at least 10 families with no listed church home and out of 180 players and cheerleaders, only 27 are from Grace!!!

We want our "Grace" people to bring the snacks for the night...please bring 2 pans of any type of bar, pre-cut, to the kitchen at 6:30 pm on Monday night the 22nd. We need each coach and each players' family to help us with this.

Remember that we will host an UPWARD Conference August 6 and 7. You will not want to miss this conference if you are interested in reaching kids and families in our area. No basketball skills required! The UPWARD organization will take care of everything except the food. We will be catering for them, so if you are interested in helping in that way, let Judi Meier know.



AWANA Grand Prix Sunday, March 7th, 12:30 pm

NEW-Saturday, March 6-MANDATORY Car check-in - 11:30 am - 1:30 pm

Fellowship Hall (all cars MUST be checked in at this time!!)

OLD-Potluck right after March 7th 10:30am service-we provide the corn

dogs, you bring salads, sides and sweets!

- Grand Prix starts at 12:30pm (on time because of new pre-registration!)
- Bring your family and friends for the race of the year!

NURSERY

Don't forget about the babies! We have a new "crop" this spring!! We are still looking for someone else to share the nursery coordinator position with Amber. Talk to Amber (763-571-9196) for more information on this position.

SUMMER MINISTRIES

I'll be taking a leave of absence from the Children's Ministries Summer Programs, because of my mom's health situation. I am so thankful that I can take this time off, but I will miss being a part of all the special summer ministries.

The person (or persons) replacing me will need extra support as they transition into taking over all the planning involved, so check your summer calendars and be ready to help out in VBS, sports camp, and summer Sunday School, nursery and preschool church. Thanks, Pam

June 14-18 VBS

July ??? Soccer Camp

August ??? Basketball Camp

Sundays- Nursery and Preschool both hours/Sunday School for K-Elementary at 10:30 am



It was one of those events that will be memorable for quite some time. From the massive preparation effort (*transforming the gym to a banquet hall in a little less than two hours*) to having more music than was probably needed, to a full house of appreciative guests ... everyone will remember something about the evening. Yes! **The Valentine Banquet of 2010** seemed to bless performer and guest alike.

Thank you to all the performers who spent hours and hours in rehearsal. Thank you to the kitchen crew who prepared the marvelous meal. Thank you to the serving team who helped the guests feel special. Thank you to the many people who came out Saturday night to transform the gym into a banquet hall. And a very big thank you to the few who stayed after the banquet to dismantle everything and make it ready for Upward Basketball the next day.

Pastor Gerald presented a clear Gospel message so if there were people who needed to meet Jesus and enter into a personal relationship with the Savior,

they had the opportunity. This is of course the reason we go to all this work ... that Jesus Christ might be glorified and that people would come to know Him as Lord and Savior.

As musicians we had a lot of fun. There is just something about Big Band, Jazz and Swing music that gets everyone's toes tapping and brings joy to the heart.

If you were there you know what we are talking about.

If you weren't there ... well, you missed it! Plan now to get your reservation in early for the next one. You will be glad you did.

Soli Deo Gloria!
(To God alone be the glory)





Do you ever wonder why time doesn't ever seem to go slower only faster? I know I do. The month of March causes us to conjure images of sunny days, snow melting, and yes, summer. Perhaps this is why time goes so fast – we're already thinking about summer! But alas, let us finish this winter with a bang!

The bitter cold and snow has forced us to stay holed up inside on Wednesday evenings, but we've passed the time with dodgeball, singing, hanging out, and downing loads of sugar. This past month our focus has been based on disciple-

ship – what it means to follow Jesus and how it looks in our relationships with those around us. In the book of James, we read how the tongue may seem small but it has great power. Just as a small rudder steers a large ship, so also our tongue steers each one of us. Out of our mouth come praising and cursing, but this is not what we were intended for. As the students of Grace have considered ways to lift each other up, let us all consider how, though actions may speak louder than words, our words do not go unnoticed. As the author of Hebrews writes in the tenth chapter, "let us spur one another on toward love and good deeds."

How many times have you turned on the television and heard that we are in "uncertain" times? We may not know what lies ahead for our country, but of one thing we can be sure: Christ is Lord! It is reassuring to have certainty in a time when many of us have lost hope in worldly things. It may seem like winter will not end, but we can have hope in the coming warmth!

Since time doesn't seem to be slowing down, we will embrace the days we spend together now. Continue to pray for great things in the church and in REMIX for this semester. May God bless you in your life today and tomorrow.

By His grace alone,
Jordan Seiffert
Ministry Intern GEFC



UPCOMING YOUTH FUND RAISER - A fund raiser that won't cost you anything, but will help you clean out your closets. Garage sale is at Patti Jacobson's home at 13001 Fillmore St. NE on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, May 6, 7, 8. There will be collection boxes by the main entrances of the church.

Patti Jacobson is collecting household items: clothes, dishes, pots and pans, home decor items, tools, furniture, tables, chairs, beds, lamps, small electronics, small appliances; anything you can think of that would sell at a garage sale. If you have big items please give me a call at 763-755-0981 and I can arrange to pick it up either from church or from your house. If you need help cleaning out your closets, let me know, I have some perfect people to assist you. I start collecting now because I am the coordinator for our neighborhood garage sale and I need time to ticket all your donations along with getting the neighborhood registrations ready and a map made for the website. <http://blainegaragesales.freeservers.com> If you have any questions give Patti a call.

Missionary News

Latvia Green Camp July 1-11 Our sister church, Bethany Baptist in Riga, Latvia, is asking for our help with their summer outreach to young teens. They would like several sport trainer/leaders for soccer, volleyball and baseball for an "in-city" Day Camp. After handing out invitations on Saturday and Sunday, the camp would run July 5-10, with a special youth church service on July 11. Ask God to show you if He wants you as part of the team.

Faith Promise and Prayer

Faith Promise brochures are available at the information desk. Our 2010 goal of \$80,000.00 will support 32 missionaries and ministries, our Sister Church in Riga, Latvia, the Good Samaritan Society partnership in Fiditi, Nigeria, plus short-term mission trips including our teachers at the Nehemiah Leadership Institute in Nigeria.

Prayer support is even more important. Please ADOPT one or two missionaries for your Adult Community, Sunday School class, small group or family to pray for this year.

Pavel Dzybanyuk is training and ministering in Siberia thru the end of March.

New Orleans - Urban Impact Ministries

John and Wendy Gerhardt ask for prayer about a New Ministry Center - A decision needs to be made soon about building on the existing property OR purchasing an existing property which includes a church, school, two large homes and a courtyard complete with a basketball court. **Mike, Mickey and Morgan Stevens** will be part of a housing renewal work team March 28 - April 3.

Farming in Mozambique

I love the agricultural analogies that are scattered throughout Scripture. Since moving to Mozambique, we have seen these analogies in a more vibrant way; since it is through farming that the vast majority of people are able to bring food into their homes. From the very beginning of God's story, as it is recorded in Genesis, where God Himself "...planted a garden..." on through to how Jesus refers to the "harvest being plentiful but the laborers are few."

I don't believe it was an accident that God chose the metaphor of farming. So much of the world that is living without the knowledge and love of Christ has embraced this profession. When I spend time talking to people here in Mozambique, it is evident that so many of them feel so worthless because of their profession of farming. On more than one occasion I have had the opportunity to show them how honorable a profession they occupy....showing them that God himself was the First Farmer. It is quite rewarding to see that shine of pride return to their eyes!

The harvest truly has been plentiful as we have witnessed during our four years here. Thank you so much for all you have done in partnership with us. We came to northern Mozambique to begin laying the foundation an international school. All continues to run on schedule for us to open in September, 2010, with a school of grades 1-9. Thank you.

The Church here recognizes that this call of "farmers into the harvest" was not just for the foreigners but for everyone....including the Mozambican Church. We have been asked to transition into this ministry (Equipping the Mozambique Church) for the cross-cultural work of taking the redemption story to people groups who have never heard.

We will be leaving Mozambique late spring to spend some time with many of you giving you a personal report of how your "farming strategies" have produced these past four years. Also, we look forward to be able to share with you what we will be involved in upon returning to Mozambique through the equipping of His Church here.

Stefan and Sharon Kern, Cohen, Christian and Wesley Grace

EFCA Response to Haiti

Pray - Updates at: www.efcacrisisresponse.blogspot.com

Give - www.touchglobal.org TouchGlobal 'Earthquake Relief #21709-3970

Mail donations: EFCA, 901 East 78th Street, Minneapolis, MN 55420-1300

Volunteer - crisisresponse@efca.org or call their office at (985) 893-0218 ext 7

Opening New Doors.....on the move for Feb. 2010

At the end of Feb. 2010, only 10 months will be remaining on the 38 month capital campaign at Grace Evangelical Free Church of Fridley called "Opening New Doors". I hope you are watching the weekly reports in the church bulletin. Many of you watch the stock market reports each day and others watch the "box scores" on the sports page of the local papers. Why do we watch? There is information that is important and fun. I hope you look at the Opening New Doors "box scores" every week. They are getting to be VERY interesting. If you are up-to-date, you know that we have given \$437,122.54 to date with one Sunday remaining. Our goal is \$647,700.00 by December 31, 2010. This number is the total we all promised we would give over and above our regular church giving. Personally, I think we have done great! We are at 67% of the way to reaching our goal.

Here are some markers for you to watch each week....

\$ 453,390 = 70%
 \$ 485,775 = 75%
 \$ 518,160 = 80%
 \$ 550,545 = 85%
 \$ 582,930 = 90%
 \$ 615,315 = 95%
 \$ 647,700 = 100%

New
Doors

When will we reach each mark? At this point, 74% of the time into the campaign has passed. I hope you are all sliding up on your easy chairs, couches and love-seats and saying...."WE CAN MAKE IT"! This is our final thrust. I hope the passion and commitment is still present. As we watch the Olympic athletes give their all for the possibility of a "medal", I hope we are giving our all to make this commitment that has eternal value. In victory or defeat those athletes say "We gave our very best!" I hope we can say "We have done our very best"! We are on the "home stretch" let's go for the top! If we do we will move the ministry at Grace EFC forward in a huge manner. Thank you all for your faithfulness.

The Campaign Follow-thru Chr. "Pete"

CHURCH FINANCIAL UPDATE JANUARY 2010

January	Beginning Balance	Income	Expenses	Ending Balance	Net (+/-)	Budget
General Fund	\$ 8,980	\$ 48,895	\$ 52,849	\$ -5,026	\$ -3,954	\$ 42,154
Faith Promise	\$ 30,346	\$ 7,008	\$ 7,368	\$ 29,986	\$ -360	\$ 6,154
Year to Date	Beginning Balance	Income	Expenses	Ending Balance	Net (+/-)	Budget
General Fund	\$ 8,980	\$ 48,895	\$ 52,849	\$ -5,026	\$ -3,954	\$ 42,154
Faith Promise	\$ 30,346	\$ 7,008	\$ 7,368	\$ 29,986	\$ -360	\$ 6,154



Opening New Doors
 Capital Stewardship
 Campaign income:
 \$ 437,122.54

Grace Calendar

Weekly at Grace

Sundays:

- 8:30 am Prayer at the Communion Table
- 9:00 am Worship Service/Nursery/Preschool Church/Sunday School/Adult Communities
- 6:00 pm Quiz Practice

Mondays:

- 6:00 pm Alpha
- 6:00 pm Upward Basketball Practice
- 8:15 pm Adult Volleyball

Tuesdays:

- 10:00 am Staff Team Meeting
- 6:00 pm Upward Basketball Practice
- 7:00 pm Women's Lenten Bible Study

Wednesdays:

- 9:30 am Women's Bible Study
- 5:15 pm Kids' Choir
- 5:30 pm Family Meal
- 6:30 pm AWANA
- 6:30 pm Remix
- 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study
- 6:30 pm Men's Bible Study
- 8:00 pm Orchestra Rehearsal

Thursdays:

- 6:00 pm Upward Basketball Practice
- 6:30 pm Chorale Rehearsal
- 7:00 pm Upward Cheer Practice
- 8:00 pm Men's Basketball

Fridays:

- 7:00 am Prayer
- 8:00 am Bread Ministry

Saturdays:

- 7:00 am Prayer
- 7:00 am Men's Basketball
- 10:00 am Upward Basketball Games

Upcoming Grace Events

March 1

- 6:00 pm Student Ministries' Adult Leadership Meeting

March 2

- 6:00 pm Elder Board Prayer Meeting at the Seifferts home

March 6

- 9:00 am Worship Team Rehearsal
- 10:00 am Grand Prix car weigh in

March 7

- 11:45 am Awana all church potluck
- 12:30 pm Grand Prix

March 10

- 9:30 am Women's Bible Study Brunch

March 11

- 11:00 am Breakfast Brunch Bunch at IHOP by Northtown Mall

March 12

- 6:00 pm Food and Product Distribution

March 13

- 8:30 am CPR/AED Training

March 13 continued...

- 9:30 am Quiz Practice
- 10:00 am Pastor's Class

March 14

- Daylight Saving Begins
- 2:00 pm Quiz Meet

March 15

- 7:00 pm Food Distribution Training

March 16

- 7:00 pm Elder Board Meeting

March 19-20

- 7:00 pm Mystery Meet Dinner

March 20

- 10:00 am Pastor's Class

March 21

Communion Sunday

March 23

- 6:30 pm Administration Meeting

March 26-27

Quiz Tournament

March 27

- 10:00 am Pastor's Class

March 28

Palm Sunday

Food & Product Distributions are the second Friday of the month.

Don't forget to sign up.