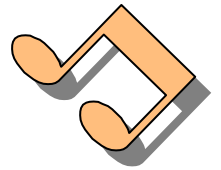


# GRACE NOTES



**Grace Baptist Church of Blue Bell**  
Skippack Pike & Lewis Lane, P.O. Box 122 Blue Bell, PA 19422  
Volume XXXI, Number 2 February 2012 Newsletter

*Grace Baptist  
Church of Blue  
Bell is a  
Christ-centered  
community  
sharing God's  
love with the  
world.*

#### Schedule

9:30am Sunday School

10:45am Worship

#### Office Hours

Monday 9:00am-12:00pm

Tuesday-Friday

9:00am-1:00pm

#### Church Staff

**George Hawthorne**

Minister

ghawthorne@gbcbb.org

**Casey Stauffer**

Director of Children &

Family Ministries

cstauffer@gbcbb.org

**Barbara Green**

Director of Music/

Organist

**Trish Simpson**

Administrative Assistant

staff@gbcbb.org

## Renewal and Strategic Planning

I returned yesterday (January 29) from attending the Americana Baptist Renewal Conference in Orlando, FL called "Go to a New Land – Journeying Toward God". This four-day gathering was highlighted by some outstanding speakers, meaningful worship services and helpful workshops.

Another highlight of the week was catching up with old friends and colleagues from around the country. I even got to spend a little time with Abbie Huff who is serving as the Minister to Adults at the Wilshire Baptist Church of Dallas, TX. She sends her love and best wishes to everyone here at Grace. At the time of our meeting she was also looking forward to attending *The Wizarding World of Harry Potter* at Universal Studios at conference end!

Thank you for allowing me this wonderful time away. Both the conference and the weather (82 degrees and sunny most days) were indeed very renewing, and I look forward to sharing some of what I learned and experienced in the days ahead.

Speaking of renewal, I want to use this opportunity to highlight the new Strategic Plan for Grace Baptist. Renewal is a big part of what this plan is about. It's probably not a perfect plan, but it's the committee's best effort to develop a strategy that will bring new life and purpose to the work, fellowship and ministry of our church.

The committee will finalize our presentation of the new Strategic Plan in the coming weeks. Committee members are Mike Froman, Jeanne Hanna, Betty Helpa, Jill Rhea, Marjorie Scharpf, and myself. As of today, the plan is still not completely finished...and it won't be until we receive your input, your observations and your suggestions.

The Bible says that "Without a vision, the people perish." When completed, this strategic plan will represent our vision for the future of Grace Baptist. Of course, the success of any plan or vision depends on follow-through and accountability. The Strategic Planning Committee will make every effort to ensure that these functions are built into the plan. But ultimately, the outcome will depend on the leadership of Grace Baptist and every member getting on board to do whatever is necessary to move our church forward.

I look forward to helping the committee present the plan to you, and I am anxious to hear your comments and suggestions. **Please plan to attend one of the three congregational meetings. Each will take place here at Grace.**

- ♦ **Tuesday, February 28 at 7:00 P.M.**
- ♦ **Sunday, March 4 during the Sunday School hour at 9:30 A.M.**
- ♦ **Thursday, March 8 at 7:00 P.M.**

Hope to see you there!

Pastor George



**Sunday, February 5**  
Service of Communion  
“Togetherness” - John 17: 20-21

**Sunday, February 12**  
Retired Ministers & Missionaries Offering received  
Mission Moment  
“Radiate Love” - Hebrews 13: 1-25

**Sunday, February 19**  
“The Secret of Greatness” - Mark 10: 35-45

**Sunday, February 26**  
**First Sunday of Lent**  
**Lenten Series: The Vigil of Darkness**  
“Surely Not I!” - Matthew 26: 20-50  
Commissioning of Hospitality Network Volunteers

Pastor Hawthorne will preach  
each Sunday in February.

## CRUSADER CLASS FOR FEBRUARY



All adults are welcome to join us in Room B on Sunday mornings at 9:30 A.M. for a time of Bible study and discussion led by Doug Hargis.

The theme for the month is God’s redemption. We will be in the New Testament studying Paul’s letter to the churches of south central Turkey (the book of Galatians). The themes are:

- ♦ *justification by faith* (Galatians 2: 15-21)
- ♦ *the place of ultimate trust* (Galatians 3: 1-14)
- ♦ *heirs to the promise* (Galatians 3: 15-18 and 4:1-7) and
- ♦ *the fruits of redemption* (Galatians 5: 22-6: 10).

In preparation for these lessons, it would be helpful for students to read the letter of Galatians completely. It’s a fairly short letter and it is suggested that one read it entirely in one sitting as Paul intended when he wrote the letter.

Our crusade through life includes God’s redemption and Paul’s letter is as relevant to us today as it was to those early Christians to whom Paul originally wrote.

## ***GRACE BAPTIST TO HOST HOSPITALITY NETWORK***

Beginning **Thursday, March 1**, Grace Baptist will house guests from the Inter-Faith Hospitality Network. For the month of March, our church will be “home” to two families, up to 12 people. The people that come to us are homeless as a result of spousal abuse, loss of job, or similar difficulty.

On Sunday, February 26 there will be a commissioning service during worship for Grace Baptist’s Hospitality Network volunteers.

Many people are needed to help in the following areas during the month: meals, supplies, overnight hosts, child care, laundry, transportation (weekdays & weekends). **Please consider how you can help. Watch for the sign-up boards in the narthex beginning Sunday, February 5.**

Please pray for our guests, our volunteers, and this special ministry to our community!



# The Retired Ministers And Missionaries Offering (RMMO)

For the LORD is good; his steadfast love  
endures forever, and his faithfulness to  
all generations.

Psalm 100:5



## Does Your Gift Make a Difference?

Yes, it does! In 2010, Sophia Stephenson, along with more than 3,000 other retired ministers and missionaries or their widowed spouses, received a “Thank You” check from the Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering (RMMO).

“Thank you so much for the ‘Thank You’ check! It was a Godsend to help with the many medical bills this year.”

## Your Gift to the RMMO—Connecting the Generations

“I am very grateful for my ‘thank You’ check, which came at a needy time. I am 79 years old and as the years go by, I appreciate your support more and more.”

—Betty Faul, Dallas, OR

Let God’s love flow through you by contributing to the Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering on **Sunday, February 12**. Our church goal is **\$2,500**. An envelope is attached to this page for your convenience—extra envelopes will be available in sanctuary chair backs and at the Welcome Center.

Sincerely,

Ken Green  
Chair, Board of Missions

**REMEMBER** with **LOVE**  
**GIVE** with **GRATITUDE**

## NEWS FROM ZAMBIA



### Dreaming Anew: Theological Training

A friend in California suggested conducting short seminars for pastors and wives in various places throughout Zambia, equipping them for ministry. In Zambia the place of the wife is crucial to the pastoral ministry of her husband. She must be supportive in the ministry of counseling and teaching and serving as advisor to her husband to a degree not expected or desired in most pastoral/church contracts in the United States. Makes sense in a denomination where 95% of 600 churches have leaders with no formal training whatsoever. The vacuum in training is gargantuan, and the ways to deliver it must be varied and creative, costs effective and relevant to the contextual needs.

With extremely high unemployment and underemployment whether in rural or urban settings, with poverty and idleness and desperation abounding, I find the Zambian people resilient and hopeful nevertheless. I suspect their Christian faith, if such is the case, is responsible for what optimism there may be. Yet the gnawing question of the “absence of an uncaring god” haunts the soul daily. “Where is he in my pain?” One of my workers two days ago lost his seven-month-old son after only three days of illness. While sudden death can happen in any country on earth, it is endemic here, as are funerals.

So how do you preach and teach the love of God in an ocean of despair? Try doing it in a place like Zambia where, by U.S. standards, life is grinding and often bitter. Alice Helen’s suggestion for short seminars to pastors and wives should be placed alongside other models for equipping our people for leadership to minister effectively before the second coming of Christ our Lord.

Our college faculty at ZITC traveled to Lusaka the first week of December 2011 to meet with the faculty of the Baptist Theological Seminary of Zambia (BTSZ) to discuss ways we might cooperate in training leaders for our churches.

Our ZITC faculty have discussed establishing satellite teaching centers in various cities throughout Zambia. This must be done at several levels depending on the educational qualifications of the people coming for study. We have also nourished the idea of distant, non-residential theological studies. I plan to meet with the principal of a school in Luanshya next week that is doing just this with materials that we may be able to use.

More and more of our faculty are being trained at higher levels. There are a few current ZITC students who God is calling for further studies in order to teach in Zambia in Bible Schools, satellite centers and residential and non-residential programs.

While the leadership struggles within the Baptist Convention of Zambia continue, we see that God is still in control and the problems will be resolved his way and in his time. We praise God for that. We will move forward with the training of men and women unabated.

Come join the dream.

Nelson Hayashida  
Principal, ZITC



*“Three things will last forever—faith, hope, and love—and the greatest of these is love.”  
1 Corinthians 13: 13*

CHURCH NEWS

# AROUND the CONGREGATION



**Casey Stauffer**, Director of Children and Family Ministries, received the Right Hand of Christian Fellowship on Sunday, January 15. Casey joined the church staff in October 2011. She is currently also employed at Changing Lanes Learning Center and she is transferring her church membership from Old Greenbrier Baptist Church in Alderson, WV. Casey enjoys music, working with children, movies, and spending time with her nieces and nephew. Her new member sponsor is Kristin Paluszka.

**Davis Rhea** and **Anna Yatsko** recently participated in the Shady Grove Elementary Winter Concert. Davis played in the band drum line and sang in the 5th grade chorus. Anna played a viola solo during the advanced strings performance.

**We extend Christian sympathy** to the following members of our congregation:

- ♦ **Carolyn Paullin** on the death of her father, Wilson Fields, on January 13, and her stepmother, Elizabeth Fields, on January 22, in New Jersey
- ♦ **June Marshall** on the death of her brother, Bill Brady, on January 24 in Wellington, Florida
- ♦ **Chris Close** on the death of her husband, **Ralph Close**, on February 1 at the age of 94.

**Doug Hargis** will serve as Interim Sexton while Steve Choyce recovers from major surgery. We are thankful that Steve is coming along well and that Doug is able to help with custodial duties for this six-week period.

**Game Nights** are scheduled for **February 8 and February 22, 7:00 P.M.**, at the home of Doug and Beth Hargis (103 W. North Lane, Conshohocken, 19428). All are welcome to enjoy card and board games, snacks and fellowship around the table. For information, contact Doug or Beth (610-828-1694, dhargis5@juno.com).

**A new church pictorial directory** will be printed soon. Please contact the church office with address, e-mail and phone changes. Also, please send updated photos of yourself or family group—some are very old—those kids just don't look the same any longer! Digital photos are preferred but we can also scan regular photos. They will be returned to you after scanning.

**Weather Cancellation Policy**—An announcement will be placed on the church answering machine by 7:00 A.M. if there is a change to our Sunday schedule.

**Address Change:**  
**Scott and Jessica Roy**  
43A W. Bluebell Lane, Mt. Laurel, NJ 08054  
Phone numbers unchanged

## “SUPER SATURDAY”

Saturday, February 11

9:30-11:30am

3 year olds—5th graders are invited for a morning of Valentine fun and games!

Leader: Debra Sharpe

Friends and neighbors are welcome!



# Grace Baptist Church of Blue Bell

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[www.gbcbb.org](http://www.gbcbb.org)  
E-mail: [staff@gbcbb.org](mailto:staff@gbcbb.org)



If you would prefer not to receive future mailings, call or email and let us know!  
The monthly newsletter is also available at the church website.

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## GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH OF BLUE BELL

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### February Birthdays

|    |                     |    |                  |
|----|---------------------|----|------------------|
| 2  | Darlene Davis       | 14 | Ryan Bocklet     |
| 4  | John Erik           | 18 | Harold Mathues   |
| 4  | Tim Burns           | 19 | Steve Scharf     |
| 5  | Leigh Foyle         | 21 | Sue Jenkins      |
| 5  | Amber Hulslander    | 21 | Roy Kim          |
| 5  | Erik Jensen         | 23 | Catherine Winner |
| 6  | Joe Shaw            | 24 | Amy Bocklet      |
| 9  | Richard Duncan, Sr. | 26 | Maddie Bates     |
| 10 | Irene Philips       | 27 | Helen Davis      |
|    |                     | 29 | Barbara Bolick   |

Love is patient, love is kind.

1 Corinthians 13:4

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