

GRACE GAZETTE

WEEKLY COMMUNICATION FROM THE OFFICE OF GRACE BIBLE CHURCH
1200 Coalfield Road, Midlothian, VA 23114 804.378.6722

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PREPARING OUR HEARTS FOR EMMANUEL

Sunday Service Preview

Read over and prepare your heart to receive the Word on **Sunday, December 3** when Pastor-Teacher Rick Zaman will exposit the text [Genesis 27:41-28:22](#), with the title “**The Power and Promise of His Presence.**” Please pray for Rick as he teaches this Sunday. Pray for each one present that hears and applies the truths of God’s Word. Come ready to observe the Lord’s Table that will complete the Sunday services. Here at GBC, the Lord’s Table is open to all those who repent from sin, profess Christ as Lord of their life, and trust in Him alone for salvation. (see 1 Corinthians 11:23-32) “For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” (Isaiah 9:6 ESV)

Grace Bible Church Anniversary ~ 28 Years

The first Sunday in December is marked as the **anniversary date of Grace Bible Church**, because on December 3, 1989, the first Grace Bible Sunday meeting occurred at a day care center at Stony Point, with approximately 75 attending, and 25 on the following Sunday. **Praise God for His abundant blessings to this local body of believers as we celebrate 28 years of serving Him this month.** We are humbled and thankful and rejoice in His faithfulness as we continue to gather around Christ and the exposition of His Word.

THIS WEEK AT GRACE – DECEMBER 1, 2017

High School Leaf Raking Fun Times ~ More of You are Needed!

All high school ages – come on out and help serve the Lord at a Leaf Rake **tomorrow, Saturday, December 2**, both morning and afternoon – with lunch in between. All of the details are [HERE](#): please be sure to register your students (or yourself) **this morning**. As many students as possible are needed, along with parents willing to drive everyone around. Event *may* go as late as 6 PM at the Boom home. For any questions, contact Stephen Boom at sboom@gracebiberichmond.org.

Congratulations and Prayers for Bride and Groom

Our prayers and congratulations are with **Abbey Booker and Tyson Clary** who will wed tomorrow, Saturday, December 2, in Manquin, Virginia. Abbey is the daughter of **Noel and Amanda Booker** and was part of the Grace family here for a number of years. The Clarys will continue to live and work in the Richmond area. Please keep them in prayer as they begin their new life together.

Early Morning Prayer Time

You are invited and encouraged to gather to seek the Lord in prayer corporately on the first Sunday morning of each month at the **GBC building, 7:30 a.m. in Room 109**. The next opportunity is **Sunday, December 3**. Come join us! (Child care is not available during this time.) Contact is: Jordan at jordan.minnick@gmail.com. “You also must help us by prayer, so that many will give thanks on our behalf for the blessing granted us through the prayers of many.” (2 Corinthians 1:11)

Middle and High School Youth Group – Last This Year

Hey Everybody: Combined GBC Youth Group (Middle and High School ages) will meet **Sunday, December 3, 6:00- 8:30 p.m.** at the GBC building – the last YG for this year. Our purpose at Youth Group is to teach the truth of God’s Word, worship the Lord, have fun, and care for one another. For questions, see Andrew Townshend (MS) or Stephen Boom (HS). Come on out and join us!

Fellowship during Youth Group – ALL LADIES WELCOME

All ladies at Grace: You are welcome to join us to fellowship together at the GBC building during the Middle and High School Youth Group evenings. We will meet in the classroom hallway (probably Room 109) on **Sunday, December 3, 6:00 p.m.** -- to have fun and meet other women in our Grace family. We are unable to accommodate *any* children during this time. Any questions about this ladies’ time, contact Natalie Wood at bjuleedgrad@hotmail.com. **NOTE:** Ladies can serve by volunteering for YG Leader children during the evening. If you are GBC background checked, you are encouraged to serve in this way --volunteer [HERE](#).

All Youth Group Parents – Meet with Us After December 3 Youth Group

All parents (of youth group participants): please join us at **7:45 p.m. in the auditorium on Sunday, December 3** for a brief update on the Middle and High School youth ministries. We will apprise you on our teaching, upcoming plans, and ways you can engage and support this ministry. Additionally, in light of the building project, we will share details on changes to youth group for 2018. Please join us if you can!

Ladies’ Christmas Craft Night – Today is Registration Deadline

Ladies: please join us for an evening we are sure you will enjoy! **Christmas Craft Night** at the GBC building is **Tuesday, December 5, 7:00 p.m.** We will complete a simple yet versatile craft along with getting ideas on using re-purposed Mason jars. There will be time for fellowship, and a devotional from Evan Bisharat on “Everyday Worship.” Refreshments provided by *River City Chocolate*. Please RSVP TODAY [HERE](#). For questions, contact Donna Word at donnapword@gmail.com.

BOOK NOOK BITES

Christmas Gift Opportunities Right Here

Come visit the **Grace Book Nook** for your Christmas shopping! We have books for men, women, and children at lower-than-retail prices. Stop by to browse our edifying selection of God-honoring books. Don’t delay: note that the *Book Nook* will be **closed on Sunday, December 24**. Also, due to upcoming changes to the foyer, we aren’t sure how long the *Book Nook* will remain available.

LOST AND FOUND

Is this Gift Card Yours?

On **Sunday, November 19**, a gift card was found in the front parking lot near the plaza close to handicapped parking. If you think you may have lost a gift card here at GBC, please contact the Church Office with the store name and the approximate amount: info@gracebiblelrichmond.org.

BUILDING EXPANSION UPDATES

Change is in the Air!

At some point in time, very likely shortly after the holidays, “change is coming” to the existing GBC building – affecting spaces and some classes. The Elders have asked that we ALL BE FLEXIBLE, and share the following plans with you:

- the hope is to be in the new space by summer
- the demolition of walls in the existing building will begin the second week of January
- that demolition will affect the back of the Auditorium, the kitchen, the Church Office, Room 101-102 (ABC and WED room), Room 103 (high school and middle school) – thus affecting all those classes as well
- the Church Office and the supplies/cleaning closets will be temporarily relocated to Room 109 (9-10 classroom)
- 9-10 Bible class and Middle School Bible class will be “on hold” after December 31 until we are in the new building
- High School Bible class will temporarily meet in a home very close by.

If there are any questions about any of these changes, please contact an active Elder (not on sabbatical). Thank you to everyone for your patience as we work through these changes, and please continue to pray.

SERVING THE LORD HERE AT GRACE

Child Care Needed for Youth Workers

All ladies at Grace: Anyone who is background checked (GBC) is welcome to volunteer to provide care for the youth group leaders’ children during YG on December 3. Any questions about this effort, contact Natalie Wood at bjueledgrad@hotmail.com, or go directly [HERE](#) to volunteer. You are greatly needed – and will be greatly appreciated!

GBC Cleaning Ministry – Volunteer Need

The **GBC Cleaning Ministry** needs you – in service to the Lord through Grace Bible. The Coordinator of this Ministry (Marcos Silva) is seeking volunteers for this important ‘behind the scenes’ work at Grace – that requires a minimum amount of time. Recent ‘retirements’ and health issues have thinned the ranks. Prayerfully consider giving approximately 1.5 to 2.5 hours on a Friday or Saturday for cleaning a section of the facilities – every other month. If you have questions or would like to participate, contact Marcos today at 804.381.9611 or hiohsilva@gmail.com.

COMING SOON

High School Students – Save These Dates

All high school ages are invited to these two upcoming events: 1) Christmas Party, **Saturday, December 16, 6:00-9:30 p.m.**, Cross home at 15013 Cascade Ridge Lane, Midlothian – more details to come. 2) Annual Lock-In on **Friday-Saturday, December 29-30, 6:00 p.m.-8:00 a.m.** Registration and more details (Broomball!) to come later.

Christmas and New Year Service Schedule

Christmas Eve this year falls on a Sunday. That does not occur very often. **Everyone is welcome to join us for one corporate worship service at 9:00 a.m. on December 24.** Bible classes and childcare will be for 8 years old and younger. We will return that evening for **family Christmas Eve service, 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.**, as we refocus on the true reason why we celebrate this time of year – the birth of our *Savior, Jesus Christ, Immanuel (God with us)*. This is a time of worship for all ages so we encourage parents to bring the little ones into the service (no childcare offered). Services and classes on **New Year’s Eve, Sunday, December 31**, will all be on normal schedule.

OUTREACH – LOCAL AND GLOBAL

From the Wittmer Family – They are Back!

Praise God that the **Wittmer family** has returned from almost three months of travels – arriving back on Monday evening. They traveled all over the east in a support-raising effort toward their desire to serve the people of Ireland. They write: “We praise God for the prayers of the GBC saints! We are convinced many were praying as all the flexible logistics of large family travel revealed the providence of God these past three months. We hope your faith was strengthened even as our faith was strengthened. How often I have lulled myself to believing I was trusting myself to our heavenly Father when instead I was simply trusting myself. Our heavenly Father provided for every need in super-tangible ways to grow our faith in the person of Jesus Christ. We are ecstatic to be home in person among previous friends for the Christmas season!” If you would like to hear directly from **Bill and Judy, (and Beth, Jerry, Mary, Grace, Benjamin, Jubilee, Sarah, Daniel, Mercy)** contact them at bwittmer@biblicalministries.org.

From Jose Carlos and Raquel Martinez

In a visit over Thanksgiving to California, Bill and Amy Cross were able to visit with **Jose Carlos and Raquel Martinez and family**, where Carlos continues his studies at TMS (The Master’s Seminary). They are doing well, in good spirits, and eagerly await the birth of their third child (in mid-December). **Jocabed** (almost 3) is excited about a new sibling, and **Elias** (19 mos) will also get to share the attention! They were gracious hosts and Raquel provided a great dinner. Carlos is teaching a Spanish Bible class each Wednesday evening at Grace Community Church. His studies are going well; he will complete the Masters this spring and then begin two more years for his D.Min. His visa will end, and he then plans to return to Neza to help lead an extension of the *Word of Grace Seminary* in Mexico City. Pray for their time management as they strive to care for each other, their children, and balance life as a student, employee, and teacher in the church.

From Jeremy and Jenny Pittsley in Kenya

“As the semester drew to a close [Bible school] we welcomed Dr. Steve Lawson to speak to us on the Reformation. I especially appreciated the way that Dr. Lawson used the lives of the reformers as a means to pointing to the gospel. These were deeply flawed men, but God used them to reawaken an awareness of the good news of justification by faith alone and a commitment to the authority of the Scriptures over the lives and consciences of Christ’s followers. We continue to pray that God would use our efforts to spark a similar fire of reformation here in Kenya and beyond. ... Let’s pray together that God’s Spirit would grant us all a sense of wonder at the incarnation of Christ, especially rejoicing in the success of the Son’s mission to earth and His victory over sin and death through the cross.” If you would like the Pittsley letters, contact the Church Office [HERE](#).

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays Approaching

Rejoice with us for these in the Grace family that have birthdates approaching: **Elizabeth Lewis, Charlie Snyder, Brandon Stites, Christian Wesner, Laura Arzate, Samuel Voiles, Randy Hummell, John Skinner, Matt Bjerck, Sujeet Alwin, Dustin Wakefield, and Hannah Skinner**. For each one - pray for a year of blessings and joy in life and in the service of the Lord.

Anniversaries Next Week

Joyful blessings to these who have wedding anniversaries soon: **Chance and Sallie Godwin**. Pray for strong marriages that honor God and are reflections of Christ and the Church.

GRACE FINANCIALS

| Grace Giving for November 26, 2017 | | | | |
|---|-----------|-----------|----------------|------------|
| | Actual | Budget | Better/(Worse) | Balance |
| General Fund | 7,352.10 | 13,270.22 | (5,918.12) | 132,512.77 |
| Missions Fund | 2,050.40 | 4,128.55 | (2,078.15) | 131,673.95 |
| Building Fund | 2,438.80 | | | 370,188.81 |
| November 2017 Month to Date | | | | |
| | Actual | Budget | Better/(Worse) | |
| General Fund | 46,467.57 | 53,080.88 | (6,613.31) | |
| Missions Fund | 12,772.85 | 16,514.18 | (3,741.33) | |
| Building Fund | 18,768.80 | | 18,768.80 | |

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Grace Bible Church ** 1200 Coalfield Road, Midlothian, VA 23114 ** 804.378.6722 **

gbcadmin@gracebiblechurch.org ** www.gracebiblechurch.org ** **UNSUBSCRIBE HERE** **