

From Pastor Marc

Dear Grace Family,

What does it look like for a church to dream a God-sized dream together? I've been thinking about this lately as I reflect on where we've been and where we're headed as a congregation. If you've been around Grace for the past few months, you've heard about the need for many more healthy churches in the Rochester area. You see the needs in our communities and watch the news at night and know that Christ's church has the highest motivation and the greatest gift to give a city so desperately in need of grace. You know our desire is not to be a big church but to be a multiplying church, to be used by God to advance his gospel through the planting of many churches in our communities that will faithfully bear witness to Jesus Christ in word and deed. This is a God-sized dream!

But how should we proceed? To be sure, any dreaming we do must begin with the word of God, lest our desire and ambition be for our name and our "kingdom" rather than *his* Name and *his* Kingdom. And all our dreaming must continue to be shaped by Scripture, for while our plans may be many and

good, it is only the purpose of the Lord that will ultimately stand (Proverbs 19:21).

But other than the clear necessity of allowing God to initiate and direct our dreams as a church, what else can we say about dreaming a God-sized dream?



Two things stand out to me. One is our dreaming (and doing) must happen together. When we gathered for an evening of prayer and praise some weeks ago, and as our Growth Groups continued in Kingdom-prayer in the weeks since, it was dreaming and doing that happened in community. When our building search committee was expanded to draw in more members with key experience, it reflected the fact that God works in and through his *church* – the community of

called-out people, bound together by grace. And as (by God's grace) we begin to see conversions to Christ, the care and nurture of those new Christians will happen not only as they participate in the church's programs, but (most influentially) as they are loved through the relationships they will find at Grace.

The other thing that strikes me about dreaming a God-sized dream together is simply this: it will stretch us! If, after all, it is a *God*-sized dream, it will be a dream that only he can accomplish. Our vision must not be limited by what we could imagine ourselves doing for God, but rather must extend to the horizon of what God is capable of doing through a church that's devoted to him.

I can't wait to see what he'll do through us!

Only by grace,
Pastor Marc

"God loves to manifest his presence and pour out his Spirit with power on those who will dare to align radically their purposes with his." - Steve Childers

Women's Ministry

This is an exciting time for the women at Grace Church! A Women's Ministry Team has been formed and a ministry plan has been written and approved by the Session. Our purpose statement reads: "Under the oversight of the session, the women's ministry exists to help women of all ages find life in Jesus Christ and through biblical teaching, prayer, and compassionate support to become mature women of faith equipped to serve in our families, church, and the world."

We are brainstorming ways to practically implement these goals. Current plans include adding more Bible study groups, holding quarterly social events for all the women of the church, formalizing options for peer and mentoring relationships, offering tangible

service opportunities, and eventually establishing a women's retreat.



At present the Women's Ministry is offering:

Changing Hearts Changing Lives, a study led by Roberta Smith meets Saturday mornings from 10 – 11:30 at Roberta's house: 126 Thorncliff Drive, Irondequoit. Please contact Roberta if you have any questions: 544-6322, robsmith58@msn.com.

Moms and Kids Playgroup, an informal gathering of moms with

little ones meets once a month at various homes from 9:30 – 11:30am. Please contact Bethany Ensign if you have any questions: 338-9845, blensign@hotmail.com.

In the spring we plan to unveil more options for women at Grace. Our "launch" event will provide a forum for discussion of current and future plans, as well as an opportunity to fellowship. Our next Women's Ministry Team meeting will be held on March 2nd at 6:30pm at the church office. If you have questions or would like to offer your ideas or services, please contact Alicia Holdridge: 451-6673, teamholdridge@hotmail.com

--submitted by Carole McNamara

Outreach Beechwood Neighborhood Initiative

We've had a busy couple of months and God is good to give us a continued vision for His work in the Beechwood Neighborhood and how to be a part of it.

Last month, we were able to meet with Darryl Porter, the Director of Faith Based Initiatives and the Office of Real Estate for the City of Rochester to explore the possibility of gaining possession of a house slated for demo on Grand Avenue. Our hopes were to be able to use this property as a base for ongoing ministry in the future. We were discouraged to find that zoning regulations in Beechwood prevent this kind of use for residential structures. But we learned a lot and got some good "face time" at City Hall. Keep praying that Grace Church finds favor there!



Currently, we are partnering with Parsells Community Church to host an "urban plunge" for RITs Intersarsity Club. They will be staying at the church and doing various service pro-

jects in the community.

We are also in the beginning stages of planning our Spring break youth trip, where Grace Church youth will be staying in and working in the Beechwood community for 1 week.

Also of note, Chris Holdridge will be attending training from March 9-13 in Orlando through the mission organization with which Jody Collinge serves. At this training, Chris will be studying a Community Health Evangelism (CHE) technique called Collaboration for Neighborhood Transformation (CNT), which aims to equip neighbors and neighborhoods to be stronger and healthier while equipping them spiritually through discipleship, prayer, and Bible Study. Pray that Chris will glean valuable ideas and skills to better help Grace Church serve the Beechwood neighborhood, and better yet, the Rochester community. Check out the website at:

<http://www.neighborhoodtransformation.net/aboutus.php>

Session Update

In December, we received as communicant members Janice and Jorge Cajiga, Laura and Nathan Davy and Judy and David Jansson. Praise God for these wonderful additions as we serve Him together.

They were, of course, included in our 2008 Annual Statistical Report to the PCA which we submitted in early February, containing the following highlights:

Total Communicant members on Dec. 31, 2007	106
Additions:	
Professions of Faith	10
Reaffirmation of Faith	17
Losses:	
Transfer of Letter	3
Removal from Roll	6
Total Communicant members on Dec. 31, 2008	124
Total Non-Communicant members	68
Total Membership	192
Total Family Units	61
Average Sunday School Attendance	40
Average Worship Attendance	132

If you have checked our website lately, you've seen that it is in an "austerity" mode, but with promise of a fuller site to come. The Session has authorized a Statement of Work for a Website Team under the leadership of the Outreach Team and headed by Craig McMullen to proceed on a new website design that will improve our website in the following five key areas:

- Ease of navigation
- Written content
- Aesthetic Beauty
- Search Engine Optimization
- Ease of maintenance and of future updating of content and function

The design and construction of the website is a major undertaking, and one we think has become increasingly important in this "Internet Age" as we reach out to Rochester. We expect the design phase to be substantially completed by the time of our Annual Meeting.

Speaking of which, **our Annual Meeting** has been scheduled to convene a few minutes after the close of the worship service on April 26. The meeting is called to elect officers, to present and discuss the annual budget (for our fiscal year beginning May 1) and to consider as needed matters relating to a relocation of our place of meeting. Officer training is now underway, and candidates for election will be announced to the congregation at least 30 days before the meeting.

Our Facility Search Team has been hard at work, with the help of a commercial realtor, identifying and evaluating possible locations that would accommodate our growth and our vision for Rochester outreach, as well as consolidate our office and worship locations. About a dozen possible facilities have been identified and evaluated, and at the time of this writing, the second floor of 100 College Avenue stands out. As we move forward, your prayers for this important move are coveted and your questions and comments to church officers or members of the Search Team will be welcomed.

—For the Session, Carl Schaufele, clerk

Suppers for Six

Praise god for a very encouraging response to supper for six - 28 couples and 8 singles!! You may have already had your first get-together when you read this. If not we encourage you to pursue hospitality throughout the next three months and may God bless this to the building up and encouragement of the body of Christ at Grace Church.

—submitted by Chris Mason



Building Search Committee

A realtor has been lining up several possible rental options for us to consider for the next phase in the life of Grace Church. Unfortunately, most of them have been dismissed because of cost or because of inadequate parking. There is one property that has potential for effective ministry use and will be scrutinized more closely even as we continue to pursue other leads.

The session of Grace Church met recently to discuss the progress of the building search and voted to appoint additional church members to the existing team in order to form a more robust Building Search Committee. These committee members will represent and bring

expertise to three key perspectives needed for our selection process:

1. Ministry Function – team members considering a facility from this perspective will be asking questions about how the building will suit our needs for Sunday morning worship and better enable us to accomplish our vision of church multiplication.
2. Finance and Real Estate – team members with experience and knowledge in this area will address questions that arise from a church budget and property lease or purchase perspective.
3. Facility Improvement and Maintenance – members with

expertise in construction and facility maintenance will provide insight from this perspective, helping us consider what will be needed to convert and maintain potential space for worship.

Please pray that God would provide a facility for Grace Church that will be a means to the end of advancing his kingdom in Monroe County, through the multiplication of Christ-centered churches.



Greetings from the Deacons!

One of the questions we deacons get asked pretty frequently is, "What exactly do deacons do?" Great question! Thank you for asking. Having just developed our ministry plan we, the deacons, can now answer that question a whole lot more consistently. In the next few issues of Grace Notes we'll be highlighting the four main missions with which the deacons are concerned. First up: Mercy.

One of our chief goals is to meet physical / economic needs inside and outside of the congregation. This will include such ministry as visiting the sick, the poor, the elderly, and single-parent fami-

lies; helping families in emergencies; and coordinating meals for families with newborns or suffering severe illness.

Now, you probably don't want the deacons cooking you dinner. Do not be alarmed. We have engaged the help of suitably gifted members of the congregation and your dinner is safe with them. That said, this is an example of how the deacons aim to not only perform acts of mercy, but to encourage and support them in the congregation and the community. If you'd like to get involved with the Meals Ministry, give Judy Graham a call at 338.2163.

Another example of mercy in action is the Nursing Home Ministry. This team ministers

to residents at 3 local nursing homes who are unable to get out for worship or fellowship. Each week team members give the gifts of time and kindness to many people who are lonely and dejected. If you would like to be involved in encouraging these folks with Christ's words of life, call Bob Berray at 377.9463.

Finally, if you have a need for physical assistance or you have a desire to serve those with such needs, please contact one of us. We would love to serve you, or find a place where you can serve with us.

—Submitted by Brian Fletcher on behalf of the Deacons

Welcome Team Ministry

"Welcome to Grace Church! We're so glad you've chosen to worship with us this morning. Please stay for refreshments after the service and chat with some of us. We'd like to get to know you and answer any questions you might have like... 'do you ever heat this facility' or 'tell me about Sunday School.'" Hopefully that is the type of reception a new face who comes to worship with us hears 😊.

The Welcome Team continues to be blessed with friendly individuals coming forward to serve in rotation to greet Grace members and its visitors. While our mission is to provide a warm and welcoming environment, especially in Winter, we cannot accomplish that objective without the help of everyone who attends. Long-time members and first-time visitors all appreciate folks introducing themselves and showing an interest. Thank you for reaching out to those around you!

The Welcome Table continues to display Grace Church and PCA general information, missionary letters and service schedules as well as bulletins and nametags. Those nametags are to encourage us to get to know each other by name

A second table has recently been established. The Communication Table is located across from the gym entrance. It not only has the white church and lost and found on it, but any communication from the office to be distributed to specific individuals. If you are expecting teaching tools or mail that was delivered to the office, the Communication Table is where you should find those materials. If you choose to recycle any bulletin inserts that can be used in future bulletins, you will find a small card box on that table for that purpose.

Thank you for helping Grace Church extend the love of God to everyone who chooses to worship with us. If you have any questions about the Welcome Team Ministry, please direct them to Marcia Gault.

Web Site Update

A new web site for Grace Church

The internet may be the greatest distraction that people in America have ever encountered. But the fact that thousands of our community members spend so many hours on the web makes it an incredible opportunity for us at Grace.



Over the next several months, we will be working on a major overhaul of the Grace Church web site. Our goal is to make it function better for our members, but also do a better job of reaching out to people for Christ. This new web site will contain an

extensive new section for people who are uncertain about Christianity. It will tackle questions like "Why does a loving God let bad things happen?" and "Shouldn't we just accept all religions equally?," helping people to see Grace as a place that can help them find the answers.

Creation of our new site will be undertaken by a whole team of Grace Church members, including people with experience in project management, programming, graphics and writing. We're right at the beginning of the process, having created an outline for the site and a wire frame that shows the site's basic functionality. The heavy lifting comes next: Creating a new look for the site, writ-

ing the content and doing the programming.

This new site is sure to help us in another important way: In helping support any new churches we plant. By creating a site that is designed to attract new members, we will be able to help new churches grow as we also draw people to Grace.

Our current web site has served us well. Please pray that this new site will do an even better job of serving our members and reaching out to the lost of the world.

—submitted by Jim LaHue

Christian Education Update-Adult Classes

GRACE CHURCH ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL Spring Quarter 2009

The following three Adult Sunday School classes will begin on March 1, 2009. Children's and Youth classes from Pre-school through High School will continue, and Nursery will be provided. All classes start at 9:15 A.M.

Building a Christian Conscience

taught by Travis Prinzi Room #3



It is impossible not to notice that we live in a morally and ethically confused age – not only in the secular culture, but also in the Church. If the Church is to proclaim God's word to God's world, we must wrestle with the ethical principles of Scripture. We need to distinguish between ethical absolutes in God's word and cultural taboos; to navigate between legalism and antinomianism; to declare the relationship between God's eternal law, natural law and the positive laws of man. This course, consisting of video lectures by R.C. Sproul along with bible study and discussion, aims to teach us to think biblically on these matters. Topics we will study include: Dealing with Gray Areas, The Legalist Distortion, The Distortion of Lawlessness, Degrees of Sin, Creation Ordinances and the Question of Conscience.

Major Profits from the Minor Prophets - II

taught by Peter Mason Room #26

Amidst an accelerating decline in morality the church cannot be distinguished from the world. More and more corrupt politicians are oppressing

the people. There are looming threats from other countries, cultures and religions. What does this describe? Our world, but also the world of the Minor Prophets. These prophets were men consumed with a passion for God and His righteousness in an age of indifference, inflation, injustice and imminent disaster. They are minor only in the length of their prophecies, not their significance. Jesus and the apostles frequently referred to these prophecies. *'The just shall live by faith'* is just one instance, there are many others that may surprise you. These prophecies are among the most relevant parts of the scriptures to our modern world, yet they are unfamiliar to many of us. In Part 1 of this series we are looking at the last prophets of Israel before the nation was taken into captivity. In Part 2, we plan to look at the last prophets to Judah, including Joel, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi. Our focus will be on understanding their messages in context, and then applying them to our lives in the 21st century.

Getting Acquainted with Grace

taught by Marc Swan Room #15

This course is designed for those who are interested in learning more about Grace Church – her beliefs, organization and structure and the meaning of membership. All interested persons are invited, whether or not they seek membership at this time. The course will consist of six classes taught by Pastor Marc. Advance notice to the church office of your intent to participate is appreciated, but not required.

Contact Carl Schauffele for further Sunday School information.

Children's Scripture Memory Program

Coming soon: A Grace Church Scripture Memorization Program. A subcommittee of the Christian Education Team is working to develop a proposal for a comprehensive scripture memory program, applicable to all ages, that is aimed primarily for our Sunday School, but will be useful also for individual use throughout the church. We are interested in your input and will take into consideration any suggestions. Please contact Janice Allnatt at 683-0922 or by e-mail at janicelalnatt74@mac.com. Hope to hear from you.

The Carnivorous Moose

Founded by the members of the Grace Church Youth Group, in memory of our mythological friend.

Sunday, 22 February, 2009

www.thecarnivorousmoose.com

Free Newsstand

Special Issue: Grace Church Youth Group Winter Retreat 2009

IHOPP

International House of
Purple Pancakes



At the International House of Purple Pancakes, we are all about your happiness. Come enjoy endless mountains of sausage capped with the creamiest, whitest, whipped cream in all the North East, and adorned with deliciously seasoned scrambled eggs. And don't forget our famous purple pancakes with optional chocolate chips and whipped cream. You will have the time of your life!

Fear vs. Perfect Love:

Whose voice will you listen to?

"There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear." 1 John 4:18

Each retreat, our mornings and evenings include a simple but thought-provoking study. Traditionally, these studies have been led by youth leader, Chris Holdridge. This year, however, Mr. Jon Graca stepped up to the plate and led the studies. The central theme of our studies was fear, in the context of a verse from 1John, which reads, "There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear..." Throughout the sessions, Jon challenged us to consider fear in the context of believing that God has not loved us sufficiently. We often say that "God loves us perfectly," but if we truly believe this than why are we afraid that He will neglect to bless us and act in our best interests? As we learned from the stories of Adam and Eve, who believed that God was withholding important knowledge, as well as from that of Jesus and the disciples on the boat, who believed that He would let them drown in the storm, if you don't trust that God loves you perfectly, then you open yourself up to fear. We closed our weekend with a time of private prayer and reflection, where we were able to consider the various areas in our lives in which we have allowed fear to convince us of God's "neglect" to perfectly love and provide for us, and then refute those false whisperers with scriptures that further confirm our assurance of God's perfect love.



Sports

Frisbee

Showdown

On Saturday, February 21, the youth group organized an intense game of ultimate frisbee, snowy-style. The game took place on an open field covered in freshly fallen snow. This added element, combined with the general use of clunky snow boots and slick gloves, made for a rather difficult, but fun, competition. One team, supposedly called the "Lemurs", claimed victory over the nameless team, after being the first to score three points.



British Bulldog In addition to the aforementioned game of frisbee, the group was introduced to a new version of "Sharks and Minnows", called "British Bulldog". In this game, one person was designated the "British Bulldog". His purpose was to acquire more "bulldogs" by catching fellow groupers running by, and lifting them completely off the ground. The new game was eagerly embraced by the entire group, and it received grand reviews by all.

Reported Dead Animal Terrorizes Youth Grouper

Senior member, Randal Sanchez, responded irrationally to an off-hand comment made by fellow group member on Saturday, February 21. The comment was made jokingly, in reference to a "dead animal smell" emanating from the boys' bedroom. Fearing the presence of a decomposing organism, Sanchez frantically searched his bedroom, hoping to find nothing more than his dirty socks and gray sweat suit. "I looked in my drawers, I looked under the bed, I checked under the sheets," says Sanchez, "but I didn't find *anything*."

A Touch of Elegance

Every year, the gentlemen of the youth group set aside their Saturday evening to prepare a delicious dinner for the ladies of the group. Traditionally, they have prepared a simple but delicious pasta dinner, complete with garlic bread and salad. This year, however, they exceeded all expectations by preparing an extraordinary lasagna dish, under the guidance of our great chef, Ahmad English. The men spent some three hours toiling in the kitchen, chopping carrots, draining noodles, and stirring tomato sauce. In the end, their efforts were received with much gratitude and appreciation from the ladies.

THE ARTS

Tony & Ahmad: A Satire

On Saturday night, the group enjoyed a moving cultural experience, put on by the gifted Grace Girls, Whitney Holmes, Samantha Choma, Christy Burgess, Elisabeth Kennedy, and Rachel Staver. In their performance, the quintet poked fun at leaders Tony Cajiga and Ahmad English, portraying them as humorous midgets. From cheerleading and guitar playing, to flying sausages and whipped cream, the performance evoked waves of roaring laughter among the audience. Rated 9 out of 10, the show was a grand success.

This article submitted by Samantha, Eva, and Olivia Choma

Nursery Ministry Update

We feel blessed to be part of a church family that is growing so rapidly! When our Toddler's Worship program was developed in September 2007 to meet the needs of children old enough to benefit from scripture teaching during the worship service, but too young to keep up with 1st and 2nd graders, we had approximately 5-7 children regularly attending. At last count, our Toddler's Worship program shepherds an average of 12 two to five-year-olds each week.

One of the results of this growth is that our drop-off system is showing its inefficiency. Parents must re-enter the gymnasium well into the sermon as a result of long queues while waiting to check their children in with the teacher and get a tag.

In an effort to retain the security offered by the child-tag/parent-wristband process while speeding up check-in, the Children's Ministries Team will offer parents the option of a

simpler method. Parents of Toddler's Worship participants will be allowed to sign up for a permanent nametag for their child, which will list the child's name and the individuals that are authorized to pick their child up. Nametags will be hung outside the door, and parents will simply clip the nametag to



their child's clothing and send the child into class. Then at the end of class, the teacher will release the child to any individual authorized on the child's nametag, without having to keep track of a wristband. The wristbands will still be used for any child who does not have a nametag, offering consistent security to newcomers and to regulars who prefer the wrist-

band system.

A restructuring of the order of worship is also planned, allowing parents to reenter the worship service during a song rather than during the sermon. We hope that these measures will both reduce the time out of the worship service for parents and also reduce the disruption to the rest of the congregation.

At this point, the Nursery and Children's Worship programs are not planning a move to a nametag system, but such a transition may be considered in the future.

If you have any concerns about the Toddler's Worship nametag process, or questions about its implementation, please contact Emily Fletcher (brf4@cornell.edu, 377-1026).

Finance Team Update

The Lord continues to demonstrate His faithfulness to Grace through His provision of the financial resources to carry out the works He has prepared for us to do. As we closed the financial books at the end of January, our check book balance of \$61,600 is almost a three month expense buffer. Our year-to-date expenses totaled \$184,200 (\$4,500 under budget) and our year-to-date offerings totaled \$193,900, exceeding expenses by \$9,700! In addition, our Building Fund has grown to \$38,900.

We are now entering the planning time for our new fiscal year budget. The ministry teams are currently being asked to prepare their budget requests. The proposed budget and a review of the current year budget performance will be presented at the congregational meeting in April.

**And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.
(Philippians 4:19)**

Worship Ministry Update



Currently, the Worship team is actively working on implementing the following criteria for worship music approved by the Session:

Are the lyrics doctrinally sound? Do the lyrics distinctively and accurately reflect Biblical language or ideas? Do they contain Scripture and/ or scripturally inspired thoughts? Do the lyrics reflect sound theology and Christian practice? Do they elevate or trivialize the message? Is there continuity with the historic orthodox doctrines of the faith?

Are the lyrics Christ-centered? Do the lyrics stimulate spiritual reflection and contemplation of the redemption God offers in Jesus Christ? Do they induce genuine praise, thanksgiving, contrition and joy that is God-directed and gospel-motivated? Do they leave one delighting in God's character and deeds or focused upon ourselves and/ or worldly values? *Worship must glorify God.*

Are the lyrics edifying and instructive? Do the lyrics enhance one's understanding of truth? Do they bring helpful words of encouragement, admonishment, exhortation and instruction to godly Christian living? *Worship must edify believers.*

Are the lyrics clear and understandable? Do the lyrics clearly communicate the message in an understandable way? Is the message obscured by outdated language or overly popular language that will soon be outdated? Is the language "in the vernacular" or is religious terminology explained? Is there an enduring quality to the words chosen? *Worship must be comprehensible to non-Christian seekers.*

Are the lyrics addressed to the heart and mind? Do the lyrics address the heart as well as the mind (i.e. songs that provoke proper affections of the heart as well as godly intellectual reflection)? Is there a balance between songs that are weighty and thought provoking (i.e. songs that focus on deep truths) as well as those that are simple (but not trivial)?

Are the lyrics marked by variety? Do the lyrics reflect songs addressing God directly (first & second person) as well as those which speak about God (third person)? Do they focus on God's character as well as His deeds? Do they reflect doctrine and theology (what we believe) as well as experience and practice (what we do)? Do they emphasize a corporate dimension (the church) as well as a personal dimension? Do they reflect the wide variety of responses of worship (i.e. contrition, thankfulness, joy, praise, peace, celebration, reflection, exaltation, etc...)?

Is the music wholesome? Can the musical style be distinctively identified with historic standards of artistic truth, dignity and beauty?

Is the music excellent and creative? Does the music have a well crafted form with good melody, harmony and rhythm? Negatively, is the message obscured by outdated music, or overly popular music that will soon be outdated?

Is the music memorable and singable? Does the song have a memorable tune? Does the song lend itself to the average person in our congregation to learn and sing, or can it be adapted for such?

Is the music compatible? Does the music fit the lyrics? Do the two go well together as an appropriate expression of the message or meaning of the song? Does the music fit the theme of the service?

Is the music stylistically balanced? Is there a balance between historic hymns in their original tunes, historic hymns with updated tunes, and modern hymns and choruses in contemporary musical styles?

At this stage we have identified approximately 50 songs, which will be used during the worship services for the next 3-4 months. Approximately each quarter we hope to identify a new set of approved songs.

The Session and Worship team are very interested in getting more members to participate in the worship ministry as scripture readers, musicians, and singers. To facilitate this, we are working to formalize a process, which will include the completion of a short application, and an audition to ascertain ability and countenance ("stage presence").

If you are interested in participating in the worship ministry, please contact Pastor Marc, Cheri France, Dan Bajus, Evan Sahmel, or Leon France.

—submitted by Leon France

**Worship the Lord in the splendor of His holiness.
Psalm 96:9**



Church Plant Update

Church Planting from our Knees

Today (March 1) marks the close of a season of prayer in the life of Grace Church, in which we have corporately been calling out to God for his direction and provision as we seek to fulfill the Great Commission through the multiplication of churches in the greater Rochester area.

We began this period of prayer six weeks ago, and will close today, with an evening of prayer and praise in the gym at Rochester Christian School. In between our Growth Groups have been following the pattern of the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) by emphasizing one petition of the prayer each week they gathered. Along the way we have praised our heavenly Father for the wonder of his love for us in Christ and repented for our lack of love for him in response. We've asked God to make Grace Church a place where people hallow his name and long to see the knowledge of his glory cover the earth, even as the water covers the sea. We've petitioned him to provide a new building for our use, but more importantly – his power to accomplish his work through us. We've sought God for his grace to make us a humble and compassionate people, slow to anger and quick to reconcile with one another whenever we have conflict. Finally, we cried out to God for protection from our adversary and the wisdom to wage war with the armor our Lord provides.

While this particular season of prayer has come to a close, we know that the key to the advance of the gospel through church planting will be the ongoing, sustained, and persistent prayers of God's people. The basic outline used by the Growth Groups is included in this article for your continued use. Let's keep moving forward – on

our knees – and see what the Lord will do to make a name for himself in Rochester!

Petition: "Our *Father* in heaven..."

Focus: Sonship / Adoption

Key Verse: 1 John 3:1

Petition: "Our Father in heaven... *hallowed be your name*"

Focus: Worship

Key Verse: Psalm 86:8-10

Petition: "Our Father in heaven... *your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven*"

Focus: Kingdom Growth

Key Verses: 2 Chronicles 7:14; Matthew 16:18

Petition: "Our Father in heaven... *give us this day our daily bread.*"

Focus: Provision

Key Verses: Ephesians 5:20-21; Philippians 4:19

Petition: "Our Father in heaven... *forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.*"

Focus: Unity and Reconciliation

Key Verse: Colossians 3:12-15

Petition: "Our Father in heaven... *lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.*"

Focus: Spiritual warfare

Key Verse: Ephesians 6:10-18

—submitted by Pastor Marc

"...we know that the key to the advance of the gospel through church planting will be the ongoing, sustained, and persistent prayers of God's people. "

Nursing Home Ministry

Our ministry at Hill Haven Nursing Home continues to make solid progress; new things of interest continually pop up; such as, Activity Staff who are responsible for getting the residents back and forth to their rooms tell us we are the most dependable ministry team they have had. Our faithful service

is an inspiration not only for the residents, but also for staff who often stay for the duration of the ministry time. The number of residents attending is steadily increasing, as well as many new faces. We praise the Lord for all He is doing in this work.

—submitted by Bob Berray



Grace Notes and News Classifieds

From The Community Place of Greater Rochester

Dear Grace Church,

Once again, thank you for your support of The Community Place of Greater Rochester during the Holidays. Your contribution of gift and food baskets assisted us in providing a special holiday for over 200 families in our community. This was an especially difficult holiday season for many in the neighborhoods we serve and your gifts made a big difference.



We are proud to consider you a friend of The Community Place of Greater Rochester. On behalf of our consumers, staff and board of directors, I thank you for your support as we work together to strengthen our community one person, one family at a time.

Sincerely,

Linda Weissegger

Vice President for Development

From Jody Collinge, Our Missionary to Mexico

To the Members of Grace Church

¡Muchas gracias!

Many thanks for your generous Christmas gift. You have found many ways to encourage me, and I thank God for each one of you.



"In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now." Philippians 1:4-5

Thanks for being partners in the gospel.

Jody Collinge

This space exists to help Grace Church family and friends share resources by advertising needs and opportunities. It also is a space for you if you would like to provide any Grace family news or notes of thanks, appreciation, or announcements (i.e.: plays, performances, etc). Email Martha at the church office if you'd like something to be placed here: office@gracechurchpca.com

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