



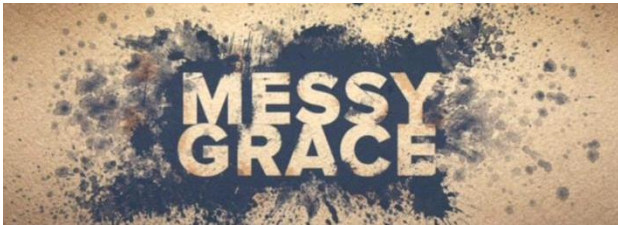
GRACE

HAPPENINGS

A WORD FROM PASTOR STEVE:

I know we're programmed to see the disciples as saints with halos and contemplative faces. But they were a rough bunch. These guys were more like prisoners than pastors, and few of them would have been let inside our churches today.

Take Peter, for instance. Peter walked with Jesus for three years, witnessing miracle after miracle, sermon after sermon. Still, on the night before Jesus's death, a servant girl asked Peter if he knew Jesus. "I do not know the man!" Peter responded. And he even invoked a curse on himself to prove he wasn't lying (Matthew 26:74). Can you imagine if your pastor did that? "Good morning, church. I just want to say that I don't even know who Jesus is!" We have a hard time forgiving pastors who commit adultery. I don't think we'd know how to handle a pastor who had a public bout with doubt.



Then there's James and John, whom Jesus nicknames "sons of thunder." Apparently, they never made it through an anger management seminar. On one occasion, these two hotheads wanted to nuke an entire village because they wouldn't let them spend the night (Luke 9:51-56). The whole village—women and children. Jesus stepped in to prevent the destruction. These two holy disciples would have been better fit as bouncers outside an expensive casino in Vegas owned by a mobster than preachers of the gospel of love.

Then there's Simon the "Zealot" and Matthew the tax-collector. How did those two thugs get along?

Matthew's vocation was nothing less than political and religious treason. Tax-collectors were Jewish agents of Rome,

who mediated pagan oppression through taking money from innocent people. Imagine if you found out that your childhood friend was making a living off funneling money to ISIS. Would you use him to plant a church? Apparently, Jesus did.

Tax-collectors were more than extortionists. They were known for living excessively immoral lives and hanging out with all the wrong people. Religious Jews, in fact, believed that tax-collectors were past the point of repentance. Matthew didn't have a moral bone in his body. But of course, after becoming a Christian, he immediately stopped sinning and never used bad language ever again.

Yeah right.

Simon, as a "Zealot," probably grew up on the other side of the tracks. The "Zealots" were named such not because they were prayer warriors. They were just warriors—Jewish jihadists. The "Zealots" were known for killing their Roman oppressors or other Jews who were sell-outs. They were aggressive, violent, and they did anything but love their enemies. Had Simon met Matthew on the streets, there's a good chance one of them would have been found lying in chalk.

To build His Kingdom, Jesus handpicks men we would probably think twice about letting into our homes. I doubt anyone closed their eyes at that first prayer meeting.

You cannot sanitize grace. You can't stuff it into a blue blazer and make it wear khakis. Grace is messy and offensive. To expect God to pump prefabricated plastic moral people out of a religious factory is to neuter grace and chain it inside a gated community. If God's scandalous relationship with these twelve thugs means anything, then we should expect a variegated spectrum of righteousness and be patient—or repentant—when such sanctification doesn't meet our expectations. God meets us in our mess and pushes holiness out the other side.

Building Together

APRIL 2019

"....then they said, 'Let us arise and build.' So they put their hands to the good work." Nehemiah 2:18

Not anti-mixed-bathing holiness. But the real stuff. The holiness that serves the poor, prays without ceasing, loves our enemies, elevates community above corporate success, and preaches the life-giving Gospel of a crucified and risen Lamb in season and out.

“Amazing grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but now am found – was blind, but now I see.”

Yes. Grace is sometimes messy, but it is always amazing!

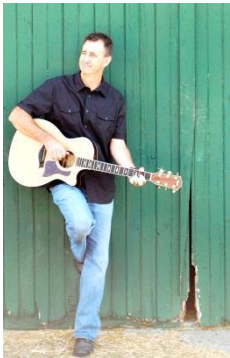
REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS

Pray for our shut-ins, send a card, make a phone call, pay a visit (call first), pick up groceries / medicines. Addresses and phone numbers are in the church directory

Wilma Davidson
Julie Lindsey
Gerry Gladfelter

Carol Sarver
Russ Hearnton
Rita Brewer

The Great Date Night With Mark Cable



*A fun and encouraging evening
of music and laughter for
married couples!!*

Saturday, April 13 / 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
\$25/couple for the concert and dessert
Free Childcare Available

RSVP forms, which are due April 7,
are in your church mailbox, in library
and table in back of sanctuary.

Mark Cable has been ministering full-time through music since 1981. His 80-100 yearly engagements take him to churches and conference centers throughout the Eastern United States. He also leads worship and speaks for various family camps and Men's' Retreats throughout the year. Over the years he has had the opportunity to share the stage at conference events with musicians and speakers such as DC Talk, The David Crowder Band, Randy Stonehill, Louie Giglio, Duffy Robbins, Twila Paris, Greg Speck, David Burke and Walt Mueller.

An accomplished acoustic guitarist and songwriter, Mark has released 22 CDs and has received radio airplay on Christian stations across the U.S. He and his wife, Dodi, live in York, PA and have six children, ranging in age from 13-30. Mark is a licensed minister of the Gospel and has served as an elder in his local church. He has also coached youth and Jr. High basketball for over 20 years and helped start and lead a *Fellowship of Christian Athletes* chapter in his local high school.

Palm Sunday April 14

10:45 a.m. Service



Come, Touch the Robe
Easter Cantata by GBC Voices
of Praise Choir

8:15 a.m. Service Cancelled

6:30 p.m. Service Will be Held

Unique in concept, soaring in spirit, and with music, text, and narration by Pepper Choplin, *Come, Touch the Robe* allows us to encounter the Christ of healing, glory, authority, humility, and victory. This work uses the simple garment that Jesus wore as a thematic device to recount the interaction of those who were with Him during His last days on Earth. To a suffering woman, His robe conveyed divine healing. On the mountaintop, the robe shone and filled the disciples' eyes with His glory and authority. When Jesus laid His garment aside in the upper room, it displayed His humility as a servant. At the tomb, the grave clothes He left behind help us experience His resurrection and the victory over death. It is through these personal, touching moments that our hearts are fully prepared to meet Jesus in an intimate way, allowing us to experience the healing, the glory, and the power of Christ, and rejoice in the stirring celebration of the resurrection of the Lamb of God.

Good Friday Service April 19 at 7:00 p.m.

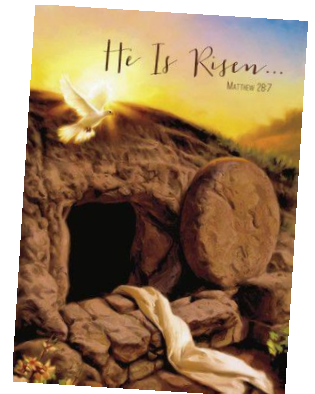
Easter Celebration April 21

A BRAND NEW DAY

7:00 a.m. - Easter Sunrise
Service

Outdoors in the Pavilion -
Weather Permitting

Breakfast - Sign-up sheets are
posted at church entrances



Children's Easter Egg Hunt (bring your own basket)
Plastic eggs are available at church entrances to fill for the
Children's Easter Egg Hunt and return by April 14

9:30 a.m. - Sunday School

10:45 a.m. - Worship Service with Communion and
Baptism (contact Pastor Steve to be baptized at this time)

No Evening Service / Activities

Grief to Joy

To love and to lose brings grief, sometimes so deep it feels joy will never return. In October 2005, a spunky black Labrador retriever came into my life as my servant dog. We didn't know much about each other, but would learn to conquer life's challenges together. Years slipped by, and our relationship deepened. We operated as one. Many times no words needed to be spoken for an action to be accomplished.

The day came when my partner started to slow down. I knew the day would come when our relationship would end, but I chose to ignore the signs. Not admitting what was happening didn't change the inevitable. Slowing down turned to inability. Turning away was no longer an option. She obediently walked into the room, never to walk out. My heart stayed in the room with her. She left, and grief rushed in. The happy, energetic partner would never be seen again.

Jesus came into twelve men's lives. They knew very little about this man, only each had an urging to follow Him. The longer they were together, the more the men's relationship with Jesus deepened. They didn't understand when He told them about leaving and returning. More and more signs became clear His time of departure was drawing near.

Jesus obediently walked to the cross. The disciples along with other men and women couldn't believe what was happening. Their hearts torn in two. As far as they thought, their relationship severed. Surrounded by grief, they huddled together for comfort.

Their grief turned to joy when Jesus came back and made his presence known to them and others.

Today, as Jesus followers, we have no reason to grieve. He is alive and waiting for us. Are you ready and eager to join him?
~Submitted by Joan Patterson

MEMORIES OF THE 2019 MEN'S RESURRECTION BREAKFAST



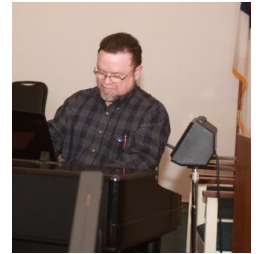
A great group of men—124 total—attended

Delicious breakfast—fruit, muffins, ham, eggs, potatoes—cooked and served by GBC ladies



MC, Paul Buser, reminding the men that "God is good all the time!"

Stirring music by Todd Brill



A point being made by speaker Dr. Tommy Mitchell from Answers in Genesis

All men of all ages are encouraged to start making plans now for the 2020 Men's Resurrection Breakfast the first Saturday of March.

A LADIES TEA FOR LADIES OF ALL AGES

**Celebrate
the
Sisterhood**

Saturday, May 4
1:00pm
\$7 each

Please make checks payable to GBC
and note "Ladies Tea"

*Sign up at either Church Entrance by April 24
Wear a fancy hat and bring your favorite tea cup*

Dads & Daughters, Moms & Sons
ENJOY THE JOURNEY!

**DATE DONE
 RIGHT NIGHT
 2019**

Saturday, May 18 4:00 - 8:00 pm
 \$25 per couple, \$10 each additional

Please make checks payable to GBC
 with DDRN noted on the memo line.

RSVP to Jayne Warner
 by Sunday, May 5
 717.495.5444
 jaynewarner37@gmail.com

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



THE THIEF ON THE CROSS NOW IN PARADISE
 Just minutes before his death, the thief on the cross repents and hears Jesus say "Today you will be with me in paradise." **Lk 23:39-43**

Grace Baptist Church
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 (717) 755-0091

gracebaptistyork@comcast.net
 www.gracebaptistyork.com

Sunday: 8:15 Contemporary Worship
 9:30 Sunday School
 10:45 Traditional Worship
 6:30 Against the Flow Youth
 6:30 Evening Worship Service

Wednesday: 7:00 Bible Study & Prayer for Adults /
 Pioneer Clubs / Against the Flow Youth

Rev. Steve Warner Senior Pastor
 Rev. Jon Barrett Assistant Pastor

