



# GRACE HAPPENINGS

## A WORD FROM PASTOR STEVE –



Paul wrote in Philippians that he doesn't regard himself as having laid hold of it yet, but one thing he does, forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, he presses on for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Here we are entering into the eighteenth year of the twenty-first century and God isn't finished with us yet so we press on being about the Father's business.

Our 2017 theme at Grace Baptist Church is "Here am I. Send me!" taken from Isaiah 6:8 – Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?" Then I said, "Here am I. Send me!" This attitude of an available willingness to the Father should be the attitude of each of His children. Lord, here am I, send me!



Our goals for 2017 are few and simplistic, so let's do all things well for the glory of God as we fulfill His command to go and make disciples. The goals for 2017 are as follows:

- Move forward with the building project at GBC
- Establish and actively participate in an inner city church partnership
  - This goal is presently moving forward as a few of our men are meeting with a new city church once a week and establishing relationships. As relationships are formed and trust built, more opportunities will be made available to more individuals to participate. This will be a long-term and slow process as this church is in its infancy and many are new believers.
- Canvass local neighborhoods (5000 door knockers to be handed out)
- 400 regular attendees with facilities and leadership to provide care
- 25 salvations
- 25 baptisms
- 25 new member
- Website improvement (as of this writing, this goal has been accomplished!)

Finally, the vision for Grace Baptist Church moving into 2017 and beyond includes the following:

- to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with the thousands of residents surrounding Grace Baptist Church
- to make Grace Baptist Church known to our neighbors

January 2017

## Here am I. Send me!

Isaiah 6:8 – Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?"  
Then I said, "Here am I. Send me!"

- to be a place where the hurting, depressed, frustrated and confused find Christ, love, acceptance, help, hope, forgiveness, guidance and encouragement
- to welcome 500 members into the fellowship of our church; loving, learning, living and serving the Lord together
- to develop spiritually mature believers through worship services, Sunday School, small group meetings, retreats and special events
- to equip every believer for ministry by helping them to discover the gifts and talents with which God has blessed them
- to send out pastors, missionaries and church workers all around the world—it is the dream of sending out our own members on short term mission projects to every continent
- to build adequate facilities to accommodate those 500 members to include a sanctuary comfortably seating over 250 people; classrooms for Sunday School, Wednesday evening programs and youth programs; and a recreation area to accommodate a growing and vibrant youth ministry as well as whole church events

### **REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS**

Pray for our shut-ins, send a card, make a phone call, pay a visit (call first), make a meal and deliver it or stay and eat with them, pick up groceries / medicines. Addresses and phone numbers are in the directory or put cards of encouragement in the box above the mailboxes in the library and they will be delivered on a regular basis.

Wilma Davidson  
Julie Lindsey  
Gerry Kline  
Russ Hearton  
Jack Goeke

Carol Sarver  
John Gay  
Nina Johnson  
Gerry Gladfelter  
Wanda Buttrey

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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

let us pray for  
a year full of new opportunities  
an abundance of  
warm people among us  
a life with God in our midst

New Year's Day Services  
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
Combined Worship Service 10:45 a.m.



### **PURCHASE SUBS OR PRETZEL SANDWICHES**

Help Support Future Mission Trips/Projects  
Orders Due Sunday, January 8  
Pick up or have delivered Wednesday, January 18  
Additional order sheets are available on the table in back of  
the sanctuary and the downstairs usher stand

### **MISSIONARY VISIT**

Stephen and Emily Hunt,  
Our Missionaries to Brazil,  
sharing a ministry update  
Sunday, January 8  
6:30 p.m.



### **MEETING FOR ALL INTERESTED IN TRAVELING NEXT SUMMER TO HONDURAS, THE NEXT GBC MISSION TRIP**

Thursday, January 12, at 7:00 p.m.

### **COMMUNION SERVICE**

Sunday, January 15  
6:30 p.m.

### **A LETTER TO MY GBC SISTERS IN 2017**

Your life is quite an adventure in the realm of servitude: To the Lord, your children, husband, other family, friends, at work and even strangers. Quite often we see Jesus in you.

Don't allow drudgery to infiltrate any of this blessed position in Christ. Ps. 33:20 "...He is our help and our shield."

I envy your position in a deeply spiritual way. Having had been more active, I now miss it. For this reason, among many others, I find a marvelous blessing in my very responsible assignment of praying for you (and yours).

I yearn to write a thesis, based on women like you and how important you are to the foundation of the Church of Jesus Christ; especially here at GBC. You certainly inspire. (Proverbs 31: 10-31)

Please continue to serve Him as He has served us. Let your light shine without a flicker throughout 2017 and beyond. Your actions smiles and kind words are encouraging to others.

Keep your feet on solid ground and cast all your cares on Him. (1 Peter 5:7) Thank you very much for all you do. Your efforts are appreciated.

Have a blessed year in His service,  
A GBC Brother in Christ



A Few Words From  
Pastor Jon:

*Matthew 10:1-4- Jesus called His twelve disciples to Him and gave them authority to drive out impure spirits and to heal every disease and*

*sickness. These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon (who is called Peter) and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed Him.*

When Jesus sent out “the twelve” to spread His Good News, He focused intently on equipping His disciples to go out and make disciples, and those disciples would then in-turn go and make other disciples, and so on. That’s how Christianity revolutionized the world!

For example, let’s look at the “persecuted Church” today (especially the Middle East). They meet in dark, secret places; sometimes even underground. They give their lives to make disciples and *all they have is the Spirit of God, the Word of God, and each other. Did you catch that? All they have is the Spirit of God, the Word of God, and each other.*

As followers/disciples of Christ, no matter where we are in the world and regardless of our conditions, we should have a like passion to know Him and see Him known. Let us be inspired by the “persecuted Church” and beg the Lord to light that fire within us.

It is so imperative that we get this. It is the individual believers that make up the Church of Jesus Christ. Sometimes in the west, we rely too heavily on programming, events, leaders, or the usual 10% of the body to do the work. Realize that Christ has commanded us **all** to be His hands and feet. Jesus did not make this optional for His followers. Additionally, this is not just a command—it is our calling, our purpose, our mission. Nothing is better than glorifying our Master and making much of Him with our lives!

Has He not given **all** believers His very Spirit to dwell within? As followers of Christ, we have to come to Him on HIS terms, not ours. If you ever hear anyone say that there is “nothing special about their testimony” what they are saying is (intentionally or unintentionally) that Jesus taking the sin of the world upon His shoulders was no big deal. However, THIS is the BIGGEST deal. EVERY testimony is a miracle and gift of God by His grace and one for which Jesus endured the cross and wrath of the Father.

Sometimes in the western Church, we get caught up and so busy in the “stuff” of the Church, that we neglect to magnify our mission and purpose as believers. The Biblical role of Church leaders is to shepherd and equip the saints to go out and multiply. As a result, the saints are to partner in this purpose. There should be **no one** on the sidelines. There should be **no “pew-huggers”** in the Church. I don’t know when it became popular to “pop in and out” on a Sunday morning and leave it at that. This is truly tragic and has become an epidemic.

What are you and I doing in between Sundays? Do we come to church simply to receive, or do we come to be equipped to go out into our neighborhoods, workplaces, places we hang out, to share what we’ve learned and build relationships? As Jesus so perfectly illustrated, relationships are the channel through how the gospel spreads to a lost world.

Please don’t miss this. As Christ-followers, our purpose is to give ourselves for the sake and glory of Christ. As long as we have breath God has us on mission. We are to die to ourselves and live for Him as He lives through us. It only takes a little spark to start a fire. Let’s rekindle afresh our mission in Christ. If we **all** do this together as a body, watch out for what will happen! Onward Christian soldiers!

#### Upcoming youth event:

Against the Flow will be attending the Winter Retreat at High Point Camp on February 24-26

Be in prayer for this extraordinary youth weekend



Sunday, January 15

Susan Keeny from Human Life Services will be sharing in both morning services – 8:15 and 10:45

#### “When does life begin?”

Scientific advances enable us to know the moment an egg is fertilized, when the embryo attaches to the lining of the uterus, and when a baby’s heart first beats in its mother’s womb. All the genetic information you and I possess existed at the moment of conception. All we will become is present from

the first instant that the mother's egg is fertilized by the father's sperm. This includes personality, body size, color of eyes and hair, basic intellect, etc. Science indicates that the baby's brain begins functioning enough to generate measurable brain waves (electroencephalographic [EEG] impulses) at 40 days. Additionally, the baby's facial muscles move, even appearing to form "smiles" as early as 12 weeks.

Leaders on both sides of the political debate acknowledge that science has uncovered many amazing things about human life, but science alone cannot settle the ultimate questions about the sanctity of life.

**Scripture Holds the Key to Understanding the Sanctity of Life**—Scripture undergirds the scientific data. As we look to God's Word, the ultimate source of truth, we see that God, the Creator of life, tells us when personhood begins. He also makes clear who holds the reins of life and death.

~Tony Perkins, Answers in Genesis

**Evangelism was the primary purpose for which Jesus called the apostles and it remains the central mission for His people today!**

**"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." Mark 1:17 (NIV)**

## **AND LOOKING AHEAD TO THE NEW YEAR. . .**

Sunday, February 5

Souper Bowl Luncheon following the 10:45 service  
Bring a crockpot of your favorite soup and a dessert

Sign-up sheets coming soon

A time of worship will be held following the luncheon  
No evening service/activities

Tuesday, February 21 - 12:00 noon

OWLS Valentine Luncheon

Meadow Hill Family Restaurant

Watch your church mailbox for an invitation

Saturday, March 4 - 9:00 a.m.

5<sup>th</sup> Annual Men's Resurrection Breakfast

Lou Enoff, Speaker

More information for men to attend this event  
and ladies to prepare breakfast  
will soon be available

Tuesday, May 16

Older, Wiser, Loving, Seniors

Van Trip to Bird-in-Hand Dinner Theater

Enjoy a buffet lunch and the new musical,  
"Mennonite Girls Can Cook"

All OWLS and all others who would enjoy a day with this  
fun-loving group are invited!

## **MAIL OR EMAIL A BIRTHDAY OR ANNIVERSARY CARD TO OUR MISSIONARIES**

Maria Noyes (1/1)  
144 Longmeadow Lane  
State College, PA 16801  
maria.noyes@dm.org

Marvin & Denise Robinson (1/4 Anniv)  
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Gloria Arnold (1/11)  
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Peter Teague (1/15)  
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