



GRACE

HAPPENINGS

A WORD FROM PASTOR STEVE:

Do you have a favorite picture that you could look at for hours? Some hold family pictures as treasured pieces and they are. There is nothing like looking back at family pictures seeing how the children have grown and changed. There are sweet times of looking at family pictures and remembering those who are no longer with us and we remember them with a smile, a laugh or possibly a tear or two. Maybe some have that special family painting that has been passed down through the generations. And regardless of its monetary value, it is a cherished and treasured heirloom that speaks loudly of family heritage and legacy. The pictures on the walls in our homes each hold their own special reason to hang in their place of honor and whether its family, a favorite artist or a family heirloom, each picture shares its own message and memory with us and gives us the opportunity to share those things with others.

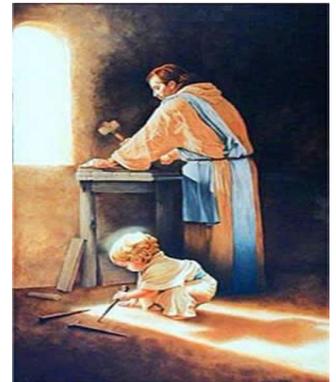
One wall of our home shares the message of the cross in pictures. I don't think we deliberately set out to do that, but it happened. There's nothing chronological or sequential about the pictures that are there. There are pictures painted by a couple of our favorite artists. There are gifts given by special friends and there are those pictures that spoke so loudly to us when we saw them that we purchased them. And each of them shares a story about Jesus; from a picture painted by Stephen Sawyer of Jesus holding a lamb to another one painted by him of the face of Jesus as He wore the crown of thorns.

My favorite picture is on that wall. It is one that I've spent quite a bit of time looking at and it gives me pause each time I look at it.

We've just celebrated Christmas, the birth of Jesus into a sin cursed world for the redemption of that world. "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth" (John 1:14). Jesus; in a womb, born into this

world covered in vernix, crying to take in his first breath of air, fingers and toes counted by Joseph and Mary, quickly cleaned up and cuddled by His mom, soft words spoken as He is held close, and certainly thanks given by Mary and Joseph as they knew better than anyone who knew them or would meet them that as Mark Lowry has so eloquently penned, "and when you kiss your little baby, you have kissed the face of God."

Look at the picture. That baby grew into a toddler who probably followed his earthly dad, Joseph, around the carpenter shop. He probably played with the wood scraps and tried to build things like Joseph did. He probably pounded a few nails as He toddled around the shop. Most likely, He missed on occasion and hit His fingers with that hammer, or was cut by the sharp edge of the nails Joseph may have used and would have been consoled and cared for by Mary.



Look at the picture. That toddler grew into a man who "increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men" (Luke 2:52). That toddler grew into a man who would know what it was to live life just like us. He would experience hunger and thirst. He would work and sweat. He would experience the death of one friend and the betrayal of another. He would see the devastation of sin in people and families. He would experience the hypocrisy of those who claimed to love God and help the hopeless to meet God. He would know the sting of false accusations and the adoration of those who loved Him.

Look at the picture. It's far too easy to keep Jesus in Bethlehem. When we do that we keep the picture clean and

Building Together

JANUARY 2020

"and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more, as you see the day drawing near."

Hebrews 10:24-25

calm, and isn't that how we like things? It's a nice setting we use to decorate our homes each year; a nativity scene with Mary, Joseph, the baby Jesus, some shepherds, an angel, some animals, and yes, (even though not biblically correct) the wise men.

Look at the picture. The shadow is a cross and there are three spikes lying on the floor. "Call Him Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." Joseph and Mary received the news and were obedient, but did they know what lie ahead for their baby born in Bethlehem? Did Joseph even have a hint that the sound of the nails he pounded in his work shop would one day be the same sound of nails being driven into his "Son's" hands and feet? Could Mary, when patching up a cut that Jesus received in Joseph's workshop, even begin to imagine one day watching Jesus suffer wounds that she couldn't bandage? Could either imagine that wood and nails, which now brought them an income, would one day be the tools used to crucify their beloved Jesus?

Look at the picture.

Three spikes.
A cross.
A Savior.

REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS

Wilma Davidson
Jack and Julie Lindsey
Rita Brewer

Carol Sarver
Russ Hearton
John Klock

2020 GBC SANDWICH SALE TO SUPPORT MISSION TRIPS/ PROJECTS

Enjoy a Stuffed Sub or Pretzel Sandwich for only \$4.50 (wow, what a bargain!)—a variety of meats and cheeses available

Orders Due: Sunday, January 5

Pick Up: Wednesday, January 15

Your order form is in your Mailbox

Extra Forms available at Downstairs Usher Stand and Upstairs table in back of sanctuary

BUILDING TOGETHER CAMPAIGN

The Building Together Campaign Committee wants to say thank you again to everyone who has given. Your generosity is contagious and encourages others to give. Since the start of the Building Together Campaign, we have still been meeting the general fund needs, exceeded our Thank You Lord Sunday goal of \$15,000, have continued to give to the deacon's fund (over \$10,000 distributed in 2019), and have given when a free will offering is announced. We are truly Building Together for God's Kingdom. We can't do it alone, so again we say thank you for your generosity.

What is happening now?

Commitment 2020: Our first goal of raising \$200,000 will be continuing in 2020. This \$200,000 is acting like a down payment to reduce our monthly payment if and when we go to the bank for a loan. In order to receive a loan from the bank, we must have monthly commitment letters from individuals/families. The bank needs to know that we can afford the loan, and since we don't have a line item in our budget for building, we must secure commitment letters showing that we have the funds to pay the bank back. Using our numbers since September 15, 2019, we are giving an average of \$22,000 per month, not including the Thank You Lord Sunday giving. The Building Together Campaign is still looking to raise the initial \$200,000 and to then secure commitments totaling \$6,000/month. This would bring our new goal to \$272,000 by the end of 2020. We are so pleased to report that we already have over \$3,500/month committed for 2020. If you believe that God is leading you to join us in our financial goals for next year, please fill out your 2020 commitment form and place it in the Gaidos' mailbox.

Prayer Cards: Prayer cards have been distributed, are available to anyone, and can be found throughout the church. Place one on your refrigerator, mirror, dresser, or anywhere you look to remind you of Grace Baptist's vision. Please take one with you when you visit a shut-in or send one to someone who is closely connected to GBC that can't attend regularly. Thank you to our prayer partners who are specifically praying for our building and campaign committees.

Yard Sale: Brenda Apple has formed a solid yard sale committee. Please read the article in this newsletter for more information.

Building for you: Jayne Warner has assembled a team to create and design a large display to show people who enter our doors but are not currently GBC family that we are building a place for them: a place where they can connect, a place they can worship, a place where they can find hope. Our prayer is that this building will help us to more effectively reach our community.

Online giving: Online giving with designations is now available. If you want to automate your Building Together giving, please go online to our website and click on the secure giving link.

As a reminder, it is the vision of GBC—to biblically evangelize and disciple families in our area and incorporate them into Grace Baptist Church (Acts 2:37-41)—that is guiding us as we navigate this campaign, and we pray that both the campaign efforts and building construction support that vision.

We continue to be excited to see what God will do as we continue to **build together!**

Building Together Campaign Committee

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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

Pastor

SPECIAL BUSINESS MEETING SUNDAY, JANUARY 5 6:30 P.M.

Sanctity of Human Life
Sunday

January 19

Lisa Hildebrand, Human Life
Services York, will be sharing
during both morning services



Genesis 9:6:
Whoever sheds man's blood,
By man his blood shall be shed,
For in the image of God
He made man.



Contact Pastor Steve if you
want to be baptized

SPRING YARD SALE BEING PLANNED

After the holidays is a great time to clean out closets, cabinets, the basement, the garage, and other areas of the house where unused items accumulate. All can be donated to the church to sell at a spring yard sale to benefit the building fund. A committee has been established consisting of Brenda Apple, Shelly Grove, Stephanie Porta, Barb Rumsey and Tammy Tyson who will be meeting to plan and schedule the yard sale. Below are some details that can be shared now, but be watching the bulletin and future newsletters for other information as the plans develop.

1. The committee will be looking at possible Saturday dates from the end of April to the middle of May to hold the yard sale. If anyone knows of any other area events that may help or hinder the yard sale during that time period, please let a committee member know.
2. Clothing, housewares/decor items, furniture, electronics, tools, toys, etc. will be able to be donated starting the end of January (watch for the date). Any electronics or mechanized items should have a manual or a card with as many specifications as possible (i.e. lawn mower...engine size, mowing swath, starter needs to be held for at least 5 seconds, etc.) ***Do not donate anything that needs laundering, mending or fixing in any way. If items like these are donated, they will be discarded.***
3. Sign-up sheets for people to help organize donations, price items, set-up for the yard sale, help at the yard sale, and clean up after the event will be posted and announced, so be thinking now of how you can be of assistance in this fantastic and fun event.
4. Things to save that will be needed and can be donated:
 - a. Hangers (wire or plastic/ adult or children size)
 - b. Plastic grocery or shopping store bags
 - c. Price labels – the Dollar Store usually has them
 - d. Boxes of various sizes
5. Racks or bars to hang clothing and shelving/tables to display items will also be needed. If able to donate any of these for use, please be sure to label with a name clearly and securely so they can be returned to the owner after the yard sale.

If anyone prefers to set up and sell their own items, spaces will be available for rent with a request that a minimum of 10% of the proceeds be given to the building fund. Likewise, if anyone would like to have a yard sale at their home or elsewhere and would like to commit to donating a percentage of the profits to the building fund, that is also another way to be involved and helping.

Be looking for more information and be anticipating a fun service and outreach to the community that will introduce people to GBC and what we have to offer them.

Dear Jesus, I pray that this upcoming year be filled with You. That You are my focus and that You help me be the person You want me to be. Please protect me and guide me. Amen!

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2020

Men's Resurrection Breakfast

Saturday, March 7, at 9:00 a.m.

Kelby Moul, Keynote Speaker, has a tremendous testimony

Sign-up sheets coming soon

Ladies – you are also invited—help prepare and serve food

Men's Retreat at New Life Bible Camp, Buffalo Mills, PA

March 27 – 28

OWLS (Older, Wising, Loving Seniors) / Ladies Lunch Bunch

Sponsoring several Van Trips including

Sight & Sound to see "Queen Esther"

June 16

Vacation Bible School

June 22 – 26

Children/Teens Are Earning Points to Attend High Point

Junior (grades 3-7) or Teen (grades 7-12) Camp

this Summer

Dates and registration info coming soon

Child Evangelism Fellowship Day Camp at GBC

July 27 – August 1

Women's Retreat

September 18 – 20

and for Against the Flow, youth group of GBC (grades 7-12):

Winter Camp at High Point

February 21 – 23

30 Hour Famine

April 24 – 25

Creation

June 24 - 27