



# GRACE

# HAPPENINGS

## **A WORD FROM PASTOR STEVE:**

I know we're programmed to see the twelve apostles as saints with halos and contemplative faces. But actually, they were criminals. 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 evoked 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. Luckily, Jesus stepped in to prevent the destruction. These two holy apostles would have been better fit as bouncers outside an expensive casino in Vegas owned by a mobster, than preachers of the gospel of love.

My favorite pair is 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 what could be compared to the leader of the Black Panther party and the grand wizard of the KKK. 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, offensive, and it sometimes

misses church. 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 twelve thugs means anything, then we should expect a variegated spectrum of righteousness and be patient—or repentant—when such sanctification doesn't meet

## **Worship**

OCTOBER 2018

John 4:23 - "But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers."

our expectations. God meets us in our mess and pushes holiness out the other side.

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

### **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  
Rita Brewer

Carol Sarver  
Russ Hearton  
Wanda Buttrey

### **House of Hope "Adoptions" and Christmas Shopping Is Underway**

It's time again to "adopt" a child (or young adult) from House of Hope (HOH) in Haiti and then go Christmas shopping for that person. On Sunday, September 23, coordinator Melissa Henise announced how to participate by picking a child's picture from the boards in the back of the sanctuary and grabbing a large plastic bag to stuff full of fun and practical gifts. Missionary Jenny Reitz-Compere, provided very specific ideas of what items the kids have loved in the past and what they can use the most. The sheets with this information are also at the back of the sanctuary. Each family can adopt up to THREE children until Sunday, October 7. If there are still children who need adopted after that date, an extra child or two can be adopted.

After you are finished shopping, it is time to bring the Christmas goodies back to church. If you filled a bag for a child, write your adopted child's name and age group on the bag. Keep the photo of your child and commit to pray for him or her. Return your filled plastic bag to church and place it in the appropriate box in the downstairs hallway. There is also a box upstairs outside the sanctuary for anyone who cannot travel down the steps easily. A box or bin for extra items is also in the downstairs hallway. All gifts must be returned to church by Sunday, October 21. They will then be packed into heavy duty plastic bins, placed on pallets, shrink-wrapped, and sent by truck to Florida where they will be placed on a boat headed for Haiti.

If you have not adopted a child but still want to help, there are TWO ways you can help. FIRST you can donate some of the extra items to help with the needs of HOH. The list includes:

- New summer clothing (all ages and sizes) – HOH has a constant need for clothing all year round. Purchase end of summer discounted clothing now and donate them.
- Underwear/socks
- Sheets (crib and twin)

- Vaseline/bar soap/shampoo
- Q-tips/cotton balls/Band-aids/medical tape
- Toothpaste/toothbrushes
- Deodorant/lotions/perfumes(cheap scents are ok)
- Sanitary napkins
- Batteries (AA, C, D)
- Colored copy paper/ card-stock paper
- Construction paper
- Pens/pencils/crayons/colored pencils
- Combs/ barrettes/pony-tail holders/hair elastics
- Children's Tylenol--generic OK
- Shoes/sandals/flip-flops/sneakers
- Non-sterile medical gloves for their nurses
- Yellow/pink rubber gloves for cleaning (large size)

And, again this year, you can adopt a worker at HOH and donate \$10 to provide a present for that worker (Missy and Michelle will do the shopping for you so that the workers all get a similar Christmas item). See the boards in the back of the sanctuary, there are "adopt a worker" \$10 increments, where you can sign your name. Then take one of the provided envelopes to put your \$\$\$ in, and put it in the offering plate. Please note, as the envelope states, that any extra worker \$\$ will be put towards buying gifts for un-adopted "kids".

Please continue to pray for this special project. Contact Melissa Henise, Michelle Miller-Noll, or Barb Rumsey if you have any questions.



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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



## COMPLETE YOUR ORDER FORM *NOW* TO PURCHASE SANDWICHES

It's time again to buy some delicious, stuffed subs and/or pretzel sandwiches to support future mission trips/projects!!

Sandwiches are only \$4.50 each, with \$1.00 credit towards expenses for a Mission Trip

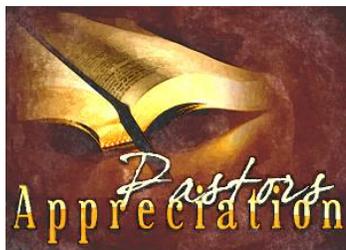
Order forms are in your mailbox, with additional forms at usher stands

Orders Due: October 7

Pick Up Sandwiches or have Delivered: October 17

Want to make a donation to a Mission Trip/Project, but not purchase a sandwich each month?

Donation Envelopes are also available at both church entrances for your donation



Jeremiah 3:15 - And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding.

### **Pastors Appreciation Dinner** **Saturday, October 13** **5:30 p.m.**

Enjoy an evening sharing with our Pastors, letting them know how much we appreciate their ministry at GBC

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## **SPECIAL BUSINESS MEETING**

Sunday, October 14  
6:30 p.m.

All Members Encouraged to Attend  
Non-Members Welcome

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### **DEBORAH** **(JUDGES 4:1 - 5:31)**

Deborah was a prophet, judge, mother of Israel and a responsible, respected woman. She had a great heart of compassion when she knew of a need. She had leadership

ability and trusted God for her decisions. Deborah had a charitable spirit, was abundantly gifted, and a mighty servant of the Lord.

Only God knows how many of us have had Deborahs for mothers, sisters and grandmothers.

At Grace, many of us have Deborahs for friends. If you are a man or woman there are plenty of Deborahs to go around. You know who they are. Are they praying for you or your family daily? Probably. Are you praying for them every day? Hope so.

Please, everyone, keep our Sisters in Christ in prayer. Many are Deborahs!

Note: Credit for this article goes to "The Swindoll Study Bible", page 299 and the Noll-Stayer S.S. class on the Book of Judges.

### **Human Life Services** **Annual Fundraising Banquet**

Friday, October 19, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.  
Wyndham Garden Hotel (formerly Holiday Inn)  
2000 Loucks Road, York, near West Manchester Mall

Speaker: Mr. Thomas A. Glessner

For reservations contact Valerie at (717) 854-7615, ext. 29  
or [valeriew@humanlifeservices.org](mailto:valeriew@humanlifeservices.org)

### **GREAT SERVICE RACE -** **Taking Jesus to Our Neighbors**

Saturday, October 20  
Race - 9:00 - Noon  
Lunch & Prizes - Noon - 1:00



After sharing the story of the Good Samaritan, Jesus said "Go and do likewise." That is the mission of Samaritan's Purse—to follow the example of Christ by helping those in need and proclaiming the hope of the Gospel.

### **Pearland, TX, Rebuild Site**

Hurricane Harvey hit Rockport, Texas, as a Category 4 storm and caused considerable damage. Samaritan's Purse volunteers have been assisting homeowners in these areas since shortly after the storm hit, initially responding by

mudding out homes and clearing debris. Rebuild volunteers will continue the work by repairing homes and working on new home construction. Volunteers are repairing homes as well as doing new home construction.

GBC's Team will be at the Pearland, TX, Rebuild Site  
October 28 through November 3  
Be in prayer for those on the Team



**Sunday,  
OCTOBER 28**

at the Buser Farm  
immediately following Sunday School (9:30) and  
combined 10:45 service

8:15 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. services will not be held

Come for Sunday School and Worship service dressed in your "Fall Fest" clothes (favorite jeans, flannel shirt, cowboy boots)

Pig Roast and drink will be provided. Bring a side dish and dessert to share and donation toward cost of pig roast

**Enjoy the Hosanna Ringers Bell Choir**  
Representing the outreach ministry of Jessica &  
Friends Community



The Hosanna Ringers, featuring GBC's Jayme Janora, are a musical group that delights in "ringing" their praises to God. The Hosanna Ringers have performed at the Springettsbury Township "Sounds of Summer" concert series, Lancaster Bible College's Chapel Service and for numerous churches and retirement homes in the area, **including GBC's OWLS Ministry**. They perform with both handbells and chimes.

### Grace Women - 2018 Retreat!



"Tired but Joyful!"

Have you ever wondered 'what matters most' in life?  
Recently 27 women dedicated a weekend at Black Rock

Retreat to study Paul's joyful letter to the church of Philippi, as presented by author Karen Ehman. Paul's words of love and joy – written from his prison cell – challenged us to consider how to rise above past and current circumstances, and live in joyful relationship with the church who loves Jesus.

This time is a searching, connecting, worshipping, self-assessing moment for the Lord to quiet hearts away from the busyness of everyday responsibilities. As Paul outlines how to 'press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me,' he also admonishes us to ponder this, as 'all of us who are mature should take such a view of things.'

For women age 16 or older who would like to learn with us and were unable to attend the retreat, we will continue to meet every 3 months to study chapters 5-7 of the materials. Contact Jayne Warner to express your interest and obtain a study book. Dates for future sessions will be posted soon.

We are committed to live as 'citizens of heaven' – forgetting the past, pressing forward for Christ, and on temporary visa in this world! A word of caution – you may feel compelled to take the NO GRUMBLING pledge!

*Special thanks to Wendy Amspacher for her artistic lead with the music and photography.*

~Submitted by Terri Nuss



