

GRACE to You!

Grace Evangelical Church

www.graceontheweb.org

March/April 2019

Evidence of the Resurrection

“But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect.” 1 Peter 3:15.

In this verse, the Greek word for “reason” is *apologia*. Which means to ‘offer factual evidence in favor of a claim.’ It is where we get our term “apologetics”, which means “reasoned arguments or writings in justification of something, typically a theory or religious doctrine.” Or simply put, defending our faith in Jesus Christ. In his second epistle, Peter states: “For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty (2 Peter 1:16).” The New Testament was NOT written to create or invent an event; Christianity is not based on a set of writings. There were thousands of Christians even before a single line of the New Testament was written. Acts 2:41 records that after Peter preached at Pentecost, “there were added that day about three thousand souls.” Christianity is not based on a set of writings trying to create an event. It’s the other way around! Christianity originated from an event, the Resurrection. The New Testament is recording factual, historical details.

But what factual evidence can we as Christians give in defense of the Resurrection?

Dr. Frank Turek (American Christian author and apologist) gives six E’s of testimony for the reliability and historicity of the New Testament. And if the New Testament was written to record an event, this also defends the event in which it records. I will expound on his six lines of testimony:

Early Testimony

There is good reason to believe that all of the New Testament was written prior to AD 70. In response to Jewish rebellion, the Romans destroyed the Temple in Jerusalem in AD 70. The Temple was the center of Jewish culture and society for almost a thousand years (and the Tabernacle before that). But, not ONE New Testament writer mentions this historic event; all who were Jewish except for Luke.

Also, we know that Paul was beheaded in Rome in AD 67. The book of Acts details the ministry of Paul, which ends with him in Rome on house-arrest. Why did Luke not record the death of Paul? At the time of writing, Paul was still alive. Luke would not have left out the culmination of Paul’s life and ministry. The book of Acts is part two of a series Luke wrote, the first part being the Gospel of Luke. So, the Gospel of Luke had to have been written before the book of Acts, scholars believe around AD 58-59. The Gospel of Matthew or Mark are considered the first Gospels written, as early as AD 45; which is at most 15 years after the Resurrection.

Eyewitness Testimony

The New Testament was written very close to the actual events it records. This also prohibits the possibility of myth and legend to creep its way into the narratives, skewing the historical facts. How? If the New Testament recorded anything that did not correspond with reality, there were hundreds of eyewitness (still alive at the time of writing) that could have condemned the author’s authenticity. In the beginning of his Gospel, Luke informs Theophilus that he took his information about the life and ministry of Jesus from eyewitnesses. “...Just as those who from the beginning were *eyewitnesses* and ministers of the word have delivered them to us (Acts 1:3).” There have been over 140 details in the Gospel of John and the book of Acts that have been identified as eyewitness details, or details that only someone present at that moment could know.

Also, this next point provides both early and eyewitness testimony: The Gospels were written after almost all the letters of Paul, whose writing ministry probably began in the late 40’s. Most of Paul’s major letters

appeared during the 50's. Were the early Christians convinced of the Resurrection of Jesus? One of the most important creeds seen in Scripture is 1 Corinthians 15. If Jesus was crucified as early as AD 30, Paul's conversion was around two years later (AD 32). Immediately from his conversion on the road to Damascus, Paul met with a Christian named Ananias and some other disciples. His first meeting with the apostles in Jerusalem would have been around AD 35. At some point along this short time line, Paul was given this creed, which had already been formulated and was being used in the early church. (See Acts 9 and Galatians 1). Further, even one of the criteria for New Testament canonicity is if the book was written or approved by an apostle. Every New Testament book was approved by eyewitnesses to the life, ministry, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Excruiciating Testimony

All of the disciples died brutal deaths due to their faith in Jesus Christ. Scripture does record such persecution; Stephen (not one of the apostles) was stoned to death in Acts 7. James (John's brother) the son of Zebedee, was executed by Herod about 44 AD (Acts 12:2).

Peter and Paul were both martyred in Rome about AD 66, during the persecution under Emperor Nero. Paul was beheaded. Peter was crucified, upside down at his request, since he did not feel he was worthy to die in the same manner as his Lord.

Andrew went to the "land of the man-eaters," in what is now the Soviet Union. Christians there claim him as the first to bring the Gospel to their land. He also preached in Asia Minor, modern-day Turkey, and in Greece, where he is said to have been crucified.

Thomas was probably most active in the area east of Syria. Tradition has him preaching as far east as India. They claim that he died there when pierced through with the spears of four soldiers.

Philip possibly had a powerful ministry in Carthage in North Africa and then in Asia Minor, where he converted the wife of a Roman proconsul. In retaliation the proconsul had Philip arrested and cruelly put to death.

Matthew the tax collector and writer of a Gospel, ministered in Persia and Ethiopia. Some of the oldest reports say he was not martyred, while others say he was stabbed to death in Ethiopia.

Bartholomew had widespread missionary travels attributed to him by tradition: to India with Thomas, back to Armenia, and also to Ethiopia and Southern Arabia. There are various accounts of how he met his death as a martyr for the gospel.

James the son of Alphaeus, is one of at least three James referred to in the New Testament. This James is reckoned to have ministered in Syria. The Jewish historian Josephus reported that he was stoned and then clubbed to death.

Simon the Zealot, tradition goes, ministered in Persia and was killed after refusing to sacrifice to the sun god.

Matthias was the apostle chosen to replace Judas Iscariot (Acts 1:26). Tradition sends him to Syria with Andrew and to death by burning.

John is the only one of the company generally thought to have died a natural death from old age. He was the leader of the church in the Ephesus area and is said to have taken care of Mary the mother of Jesus in his home. During Domitian's persecution in the middle 90's, he was exiled to the island of Patmos. There he is credited with writing the last book of the New Testament—Revelation. An early Latin tradition has him escaping unharmed after being cast into boiling oil at Rome. Why would these men die for a lie? Or did they truly see the risen Savior?

Expected Testimony

In his book "The New Evidence That Demands A Verdict", Josh McDowell says: "The Old Testament contains over three hundred references to the Messiah that were fulfilled in Jesus." If one searches out the various Messianic currents in the Old Testament, and compares the resulting picture with the life and work of Christ; the ancient predictions point to Jesus and the kingdom which He established. Socrates had no one to foretell his birth. Buddha had no one to pre-announce him and his message or tell the day when he would sit under the tree. Confucius did not have the name of his mother and his birthplace recorded, nor were they given to men centu-

ries before he arrived so that when he did come, men would know he was a messenger from God. But, with Christ it was different. Because of the Old Testament prophecies, His coming was not unexpected.

Prophecies from OT: The Messiah would be resurrected (Psalm 16:8-11), The Messiah would bring in a new covenant (Jeremiah 31:31), The Messiah would be forsaken and pierced, but vindicated (Psalm 22:1-31; Zechariah 12:10), The Messiah would be the rejected cornerstone (Psalm 118:22-24), The Messiah would be born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14), The Suffering Servant (Isaiah 52:13-53:12), The Messiah would be preceded by Elijah the prophet (Malachi 4:5-6), The Messiah would come riding on a donkey (Zechariah 9:9), The Messiah would be called out of Egypt (Hosea 11:1), The Messiah would be betrayed for thirty pieces of silver (Zechariah 11:12-13), The Messiah would be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2), The Messiah would be called a Nazarene (Isaiah 11:1, 53:3), The Messiah would perform signs of healing (Isaiah 35:5-6).

Embarrassing Testimony

Authors claiming to write history are unlikely to invent embarrassing details about themselves or their heroes. Since the New Testament documents are filled with embarrassing details, we can be reasonably certain that they are telling the truth.

Notice that the disciples frequently depict themselves as dim wits. They fail to understand what Jesus is saying several times, and don't understand what His mission is about until after the Resurrection. Their thick-headedness even earns their leader, Peter, the sternest rebuke from Jesus, "Get behind me Satan!" (Matthew 16:23)"

After Jesus asks them to stay up and pray with Him during His greatest hour of need, the disciples fall asleep on Jesus not once, but twice! Then, after pledging to be faithful to the end, Peter denies Christ three times, and all but one of them run away; but the women are the ones who were at the cross (Matthew 27:55-56).

The scared, skeptical disciples make no effort to give Jesus a proper burial. Instead they say a member of the Jewish ruling body that sentenced Jesus to die is the noble one—Joseph of Arimathea buries Jesus in a Jewish tomb (which would have been easy for the Jews to refute if it wasn't true). Two days later, while the men are still hiding, the women go down and discover the empty tomb and the risen Jesus.

Who wrote all that down? Men—some of the men who were characters in the story. Now if you were part of a group of men trying to pass off a false resurrection story as the truth, would you depict yourselves like this? Or were they recording the truth? Finally, anyone trying to pass off a false resurrection story as the truth would never say the women were the first witnesses at the tomb. In the first century, a woman's testimony was not considered on par with that of a man. An invented story would say that the men had discovered the empty tomb. Yet all four Gospels say the women were the first witnesses.

Extra-Biblical Testimony

Lastly, we have 10 ancient documents by non-Christian authors that date within 150 years of Jesus, that give a story line congruent with the New Testament. I won't spend a lot of time here, but just to say—if the New Testament and the Resurrection narrative is false and made-up, why would non-Christian historians deem it necessary to record it? Other sources that mention Jesus outside of the Bible include: Josephus (Jewish historian), the Roman historian Cornelius Tacitus (c. AD 55–120), Gaius Suetonius (AD 69–died after 122) the chief secretary of the Roman Emperor Hadrian (who reigned AD 117–138), and Pliny the Younger (AD 61/62–c. 113) a Roman author and administrator. Also, not only does the Jewish Talmud mention Jesus, it mentions His crucifixion and the Jewish leadership's desire to stone Jesus (compare with John 8:58–59, 10:31–33, 39). And notice that it even says Jesus was put to death at the time of the Passover—the very time the New Testament says the crucifixion occurred (John 18:28)!

So, what do we do with all this information? Just what Peter told us to do: honor Jesus Christ the Lord in our hearts, and always be ready to make a defense to anyone who asks us for a reason for the hope we have in Him, and in the promise of the Resurrection.

Be honest, be prayerful, forgiving, study the Word! Pastor Nick



HOLY WEEK Events

Maundy Thursday, April 18

7:00PM Communion Service

Communion served at tables set in remembrance of
Jesus' last supper with His disciples.

Good Friday, April 19

12:00PM Lunchtime Program,

"Walking Through the Last Days of Jesus,"

presented by Dr. Jimmy Albright.

Sandwich lunch served at **11:45am.**

Lunch tickets are \$5 and will be sold through April 14.

Resurrection Sunday, April 21

Morning Worship Services held at:

8:00AM, 9:30AM, & 11:00AM

NO Sunday School Classes

Children's Ministry and Nursery

will be offered at normal service times

8:00AM, 9:30AM, 11:00AM

In memory of loved ones we will place lilies on the alter on Resurrection Sunday. If you would like to honor a loved one with the purchase of a lily, please fill out the envelope in the seat back pocket. Instructions are on the envelope and you can place your payment, \$9 per plant, in the envelope and drop it in the offering. Orders will start Sunday, March 31 and you can take your lily home after the last service on Sunday.



Men's Ministry Retreat

Mark your calendars for May 16th - 19th. We will be heading to Keystone, South Dakota for our annual men's retreat. We will be in the Black Hills/Mount Rushmore area. Cost is \$130 per person, \$100 if you have kids at home, \$100 for you and \$100 for any unchurched friend you invite to attend. Any questions contact Matt – men@graceontheweb.org. Sign up available at the information desk.



WOMEN'S MINISTRY

I am so excited to see where God is going to lead Grace Women's ministry in 2019! We have been covering this ministry in prayer and ask you to join us as we ask for guidance and for the Holy Spirit to pour out wisdom on all the decisions that we make as we move forward! What a great time of spiritual growth at our first event, the IF: Gathering that we had in February! I know I took away several things that I will apply to my day to day life! I was challenged and encouraged by the different speakers and the worship was so fitting!

As we prepare to move into 2019 we are looking at several ideas, from a women's camp out and discipleship to some really neat and different ideas! I want to encourage all the women of Grace, no matter your age to be a part of the different things we are a doing. If you have an idea, come to one of our planning meetings or share it with me. Our next planning meeting is March 25th at 5:30pm in room 202. You can also reach me (Dyann Duncan) at Grace at 279-2090 or via email, dyann@graceontheweb.org.



Hello Reset Students and Parents

Two BIG things I want to make sure are on your radar:

1. Beyond Sunday Student Conference

Beyond Sunday Student Conference is April 5, 2019 from 6pm to Midnight. Worship by Sean Lea of Calvary Chapel KC, multiple youth pastors from our community will be speaking, and food will be provided. As always, this is a totally FREE event! No need to sign up, just show up! Please see me if you'd like to help serve in any capacity!

2. MS Summer Camp & HS Summer Experience

Registrations are now available for HS Summer Experience and MS Summer Camp!

HS Summer Experience is June 10-14
@Lake of the Ozarks. \$150 a student.

MS Summer Camp is June 23-27
@Miracle Hills Ranch, Bethany, MO.
\$100 a student.

Registrations are at the information booth or in the Reset Room.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me. Thanks!!

In Christ alone...

Nicholas Pierce

Youth Pastor // Grace Evangelical Church



March

- 6 - Renewal Mid-week 7:30pm @Grace
- 9 - Main Event leaving at 3pm
\$20 if signed up before March 6th
- 13 - Renewal Mid-week 7:30pm @ Grace
- 20 - Renewal Mid-week 6pm @ Grace
- 23 - Movie night at the Killin's 6pm
- 27 - Renewal Mid-week 7:30pm @ Grace



April

- 3 - Renewal Mid-week 7:30pm @ Grace
- 10 - Renewal Mid-week 7:30pm @ Grace
- 13 - Comedy City □ See Sean for details
- 17 - Renewal Mid-week 7:30pm @ Grace
- 18 - Maundy Thursday Service 7pm @ Grace
- 19 - Movie night at the Killin's 6pm
- 24 - Renewal Mid-week 7:30pm @ Grace
- 26 - Secret Church 6pm-12am @ Grace

SOFTBALL SIGN UPS

We are working on the details for the sign ups and the dates of the games. Watch your bulletin for more details.

GRACE FAMILY CAMPOUT

Join us **Friday, March 15th** at Wallace State Park. For the first of three family campouts this year. Cost is \$12 per tent site. We will provide desert Friday evening (fruit cobbler and s'mores) and breakfast at the campsite (eggs, bacon, toast). Sign up at the information desk and you will receive an email with more info.



Kids Registration

In the coming months we will be phasing in an additional level of security for children and their families within our check in and check out process. More information will be provided to all families as we move forward with our goal of providing a safe and fun learning environment for kids.

Mission Possible: 5th & 6th Grade Experience

This year we are planning a special event for children in the 5th and 6th grade that will take place May 29th -31st. The goal of which is to provide a fun meaningful experience unique for the 5th and 6th graders that will challenge their faith in God. Special activities are being planned to help kids learn and apply their faith in the local community. More information will be coming soon.

Vantage Point

In the last quarters newsletter, I wrote about the importance of living in the present. Focusing on the benefit of fully experiencing the day we are given. When considering the “Goings-on” of the present day to day events it can at times become alarming or plain stressful.

Many articles have been written about stress and its ability to contribute to various health problems. Left unchecked it can lead to a host of mental and physical health conditions such as depression, anxiety, high blood pressure, and heart disease to name but just a few. Stress is a small word in the English vocabulary with only six letters to its name. Stress however is no underdog when comes to its ability to wage war within the hearts and minds of people. It is a real contender for our joy in our Christian journey. An Achille’s heal to our spiritual walk with Christ.

Vantage points offer unique perspectives. God’s living word is filled with truth that provides us the proper vantage point for all of life’s experiences. The role of parenting in and of itself requires dependence upon God to navigate life’s choices, provide proper perspective on situations, and manage stress.

In Philippians 4:6-7 God’s word states the following:

⁶Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

The Christian life is filled choices that may compromise one’s growth. A relationship with God built on his word and prayer helps us to live in the present with the proper perspective.

Thanks be to our Lord and savior for the vantage point that he provides us. A vantage point from a loving God that guards our hearts and minds for the present age and times to come.

New Curriculum

I wanted to take a few moments of your time to share about our new curriculum that we will be implementing in High Five this quarter. Effort was made this past year to look at a variety of curriculums for children’s ministry.

The Crosswalk Kid’s church environment offers a unique opportunity to provide instruction in a variety of ways, using different teaching methods and experiences. We have modified our teaching time/structure over the course of this past year. Our goal is to reach children with the Gospel at their age level. We are and always will be a “Work in Progress” when it comes to serving children and families.

In the transition time leading up to the new curriculum we have modified our rotation structure to help kids connect in smaller group settings with their peers. In addition, we have implemented a progressive instructional time so that kids advance their learning of our weekly point through rotations and begun incorporating the learning of Bible memory verses.

New Curriculum continued

Our future goal is to increase our teaching roster so that children can experience the following every Sunday:

- Corporate Worship & Prayer
- Small Group Time that may create and foster connections
- Facilitate unique learning/exploration time in God's word
- Introduce key scripture verses for application within the context of each week's lesson.
- Provide a weekly challenge to children to respond to what they have learned

The Curriculum we have selected is called D6 from Randall House. You can look up their website at <https://d6family.com/d6curriculum/> regarding their values and doctrinal statement. It is called D6 as a reference from Deuteronomy 6:5-9 where it talks about parents being the primary spiritual leaders of their home. There are many avenues that will help us partner with parents in this role. If you visit the D6 website, you will see the available resources to help accomplish this. Over the course of this year we plan to implement strategies that will best utilize the tools available for the mission at hand.

Our goal will be to navigate and apply the new curriculum and resources in a timely fashion that is practical. We have always enjoyed the partnership and support in ministry that exists among parents/volunteers. Your feedback and implementation of ideas is always a benefit and strength of ministry.

Thank you once again for your support in ministry. It is truly a privilege and honor to serve with you...

"Noyes Home for Children" Bible Program

Recently we have been afforded the privilege to conduct a weekly bible study with kids at the Noyes Home for Children located here in St Joseph. Noyes Home for Children was established as an orphanage in 1894 as a means of providing shelter for youth in need. Children from birth to age 18 are eligible to receive services. The Noyes Home for Children strives to empower children, youth and families. We have an exciting opportunity to serve children by sharing the Love of God with them and helping celebrate their unique role in God's plan. We ask you to prayerfully consider how you might have role in teaming with us on this wonderful journey together.

Kingdom Seekers: The Search for Pharaoh's Throne

Things are gearing up for this year's Kingdom Seekers: the Search for Pharaoh's Throne Vacation Bible School. This year's Vacation Bible School adventure will take place nightly June 24th through 28th. More details will be coming soon.

*Please feel free to contact Pastor Dan
regarding any information listed above either in person,
by phone at 816.279.2090 or email dan@graceontheweb.org.*

MOVERS AND SHAKERS OF GRACE (over 50)

Once a month, usually on the second Monday, this group of mature (well, mostly) folks gather for a potluck supper, like the ones you grew up with in church. The meal is fantastic, but the friendships are even better. What a great time to renew acquaintances, greet each other, laugh together and catch up with the latest in our lives and families. Presentations of interest and sometimes challenging follow the supper. Here's what is coming up in the next two months:

March 11: It's Baked Potato Bar time! You will be able to load up on toppings, and all you need to bring are sides and desserts. Marshall White, retired reporter from News-Press, will share St Joseph history through old St Joe Postcards from the past. He is a great speaker, and the topic will be fascinating!

April 8: Resurrection Sunday happens this month, where we celebrate Jesus' victory over sin and death. You will see the Seder meal unfold before your eyes, which the Jews use to celebrate the Exodus. And we will hear and see its fullest realization in Jesus, our Passover Lamb. Janiece Clark will guide us through this beautiful experience.



FOCUS ON MISSIONS

Below is a list of the missionaries we help, stateside and overseas. Please be in prayer for their ministries and their families. God called them to serve, and they obeyed. Your gifts to missions supports all the work they do. Thank you for being faithful to help spread the gospel through them.

Abu Saada, Tass Hope - for Ishmael - Jericho; AFE – Trash Mountain Project - Honduras
 Bodenhause, Brandon and Kelli - Project 3:10 - Missouri; Bowen, Andy and Lizet - WGM - Paraguay
 Bryant, Michael and Whitney - Navigators - Chicago; Butler, Nancy - WGM - Arizona
 Camel Corp Corporation - Far Reaching Ministry - Sudan; Campus Ministry - Cru - MWSU ;
 Campus Ministry - Cru - NWMSU ; Cann, Esther - OMS - Indiana;
 Chamberlain, Montana and Sarah - Christar - Chicago; Cherene, Alfonso and Debee - YWAM - Spain
 Christian Campus House - CCH - MU; Christian Prison Ministry - CPMM - Missouri
 Coleman, Mark and Julie - Operation Mobilization - Lebanon ; Cosby, David and Carol – OMS - Venezuela
 Davis, Crystal - Wycliffe - New Guinea; Dayspring International; Ebenezer, Samuel - Serve India - India
 Eddy, Bill and Marie - Grace Covenant - Spain; Erwin, Mike and Jane – Erwin Family Ministries - Arkansas
 Filter of Hope - Alabama; Garver, Mike - International Foundation - Washington D.C.; GO International
 Hagemeyer, Steve and Alesha - Pioneer Bible - West Africa; Haupt, Michelle - Wycliffe - Tanzania
 Haupt, Nicholle - Wycliffe - Tanzania; Hayslip, Joel and Heidi - Go to Nations - Oklahoma
 Honduras Dump - AFE - Honduras; Houpp, Ron and Kathy - GO - Kentucky;
 Hurley, Jolene - Avant - Slovenia; India Ministry - Brother Henry - Good Shephard Ministry - India
 Kingsley, Jonathan and Lindsay – Navigators - KU; Madsen, Paul and Ellie - RCE - Hungary
 Manchester, Steve and Theresa - WGM - Kenya; Matthews, Mike and Ruth – Global Breakthrough
 Maxey, Jim and Connie - Giving Hope Ministry -Missouri; Montgomery, Eric and Pauline - Avant - India
 Montgomery Tim and Rebeka – Ardeo Global - Ecuador; Moroni, Allan and Stephy - YWAM - Spain
 Morton, Jonathon - Red Nueva Vida - (OMS) México; Moxen, John and Jo - Project Evangelism - Ireland
 Neibling, Ed and Judy - Cru - Florida; Nold, Shelby and Sheree - MOA, Inc. - Missouri
 Open Door - World Wide – Persecuted Church; Orellana, Guido and Kimberley - OMS - Ecuador
 Pearce, Fran - WGM - Arizona; Pridey, Rick and Kindra - Cru - South Dakota
 Reeves, Ryan and Monica - Cru - KSU; Schmidt, Nathan and Amy - WGM - Bolivia
 Schockey, Nolan and Marie - Servant Senders - Mexico;
 Shaw, Sam and Silvana - Presbyterian Evangelism Fellowship - Ireland
 Show Me Christian Youth Home - Missouri; Stevens, David and Jody - CMDA - Tennessee
 Summer, Linda - Agape Puppets - Georgia; Tressler, Devin and Casey - Cru - Missouri
 Wagner, Ryan and Jamie Cru - Film Project - Florida; Zingkhai, Jonathan and Khan - City Team - California

With Appreciation

Dear Grace Church Family,

We wanted to send you a note to let you know how much we appreciate your support of us and the ministry. We have seen doors open to us that only the Lord could open! May the Lord continue to bless you also.

In His service,

Nolan and Marie Schockey

Servant Senders

Thank you church for your thoughts and prayers along with the beautiful bouquet.
Gene and Lois Lyon and family

To Grace,
Thank you for the beautiful flowers in memory of Tim. Also, the delicious meal after the service was wonderful.
Tim Pollard Family

Thank you so much for the lovely plant that you sent in remembrance of my mother, Gayle Wigglesworth. I want to say a heartfelt thank you for each of you that prayed for our family during this difficult time. May God bless you back in the form of your need and multiply it 10 times over.
Connie Berten and family

Dear Church family,
Thank you so very much for the beautiful flowers. They took my breath away. The love that pours from Grace is amazing, and we are so blessed to be part of this fellowship. Thank you all again.
*In His love and in gratitude,
Janiece, Terry, Andrea and Debby Clark*

Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers for my dad. What a difficult year this has been with mom passing and now my dad. He was also a Christian and a faithful servant of Jesus, so we know he awoke in heaven. Your prayers and concern have sustained us.
*God bless you,
Karen Butts and family*

Grace Evangelical Family,
I want to thank everyone for your prayers during my stay in the hospital. A special thank you to Pastor Dave for his visits and prayers.
*Always in Chris,
Becky Hardin*

The family of Norman Hrenchir (Linda Jennings, father) sends a big thank you for your thoughts to us, and arrangements for the family and Linda. Your support and kindness to our family is much appreciated, in the past, present and future.
*Regards,
The Hrenchir Family*

Dear Grace Family,
Happy New Year! Thank you for the donation. What a blessing your church is to the children in our community that need our services. Your of our almost 125 year mission means so much.
*With gratitude
Jennie Sommers
LUBA President, The Noyes Home*

A huge shout out and THANK YOU to Mike and Lori Dragoo's G3 group for loving on our Through the Roof Sunday School class. Their group consisting of Mike and LeeAnn Smiley, Jason, Tracy and Raven Miller, Greg and Jena Williamson, Hal and Michelle Cox, Rod Fry and Rita Houston provided both a fall harvest party and a New Year's party for our friends! We enjoyed a hay ride, pumpkin decorating, photo booth and a hot dog roast at the fall party and fun karaoke and games at our party kicking off the new year. They provided a delicious meal both times and welcomed each person as we all got to know each other better. You all are the greatest, and your kindness and generosity is much appreciated!
Glynda King

SECRET CHURCH™

KNOW HIS WORD. KNOW HIS PERSECUTED.

The object of Secret Church is not just to come and learn for one night but to take what we've learned and pass it along to others. We also want to recognize the great need to pray and come alongside our brothers and sisters who live in places around the world where there is little to no gospel witness is met with resistance. We want to use what we've learned during this gathering to make disciples of

Christ, both locally and globally. We will have a live simulcast here at Grace on Friday, April 26th in the chapel. Doors open at 5:30pm and the simulcast starts at 6:00pm.



STORM CHOIR PRACTICE

The fully integrated STORM choir is beginning their spring session and we welcome all to join the fun! Practices start Tuesday, February 19th from 5:30-7:00pm at Grace, with the spring concert scheduled for May 10th. The choir has been a dream come true for many in our Through the Roof Sunday School class and is designed to give those with different abilities the chance to shine in the spotlight! The opportunity to sing in this fun-loving choir is open to anyone in the community, please spread the word to anyone you may know who might be interested. We are also looking for additional volunteers who would like to help in various ways. Contact Glynda King, for more information.

“Hands of Grace”

Here are some updates on the many activities we have participated in as a church family.

Pregnancy Resource Clinic - With your generous donations (\$6,628) during the baby bottle drive we held at Grace in February, you have helped fund a great organization that reaches out to women in our community. You truly show the love of Jesus when you help us support agencies in St Joseph.

Night to Shine - Thanks to all who participated in this special event it was a huge success. Every time we ask you to participate in an event, you go above and beyond. A special thanks to Glynda King for what she does year round to minister to adults with special needs in the Through the Roof Sunday School.

InterServe - We collected over 200 cans of soup on Souper Bowl Sunday. It is truly a blessing to come along agencies that have a heart for people in their community.

Pivotal Point Transitional Housing - The pantry drive was a huge success. Thanks to everyone who donated much needed items for their pantry. You can continue to help by shopping or volunteering at the Pivotal Point Thrift Store.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Annual Mark A Pease Blood Drive. We will have opportunities to volunteer and give blood on Monday, April 8 from noon until 6:00pm at Grace. Watch the bulletin for sign ups. If you are a regular donor, you can also register on the Community Blood Center website.

CANCER CARE MINISTRY

Right now, we have caring people from Grace willing to come alongside those impacted by cancer, so we can minister to those from our church and community. This comes on many forms, the first includes supportive visits, sending cards, taking meals, giving gift cards, driving to appointments and occasionally taking the person or caregiver to lunch. Several have already been touched by this ministry, praise God! See Pastor Dave to get involved. The second is to minister at the Cancer Care Center at Mosaic. We have 14 volunteers that serve at their convenience, various times Monday through Friday during the hours of 9:00am - 3:00pm. Our volunteers help serve lunch, visit patients, tidy up waiting areas, restock snacks, refill blanket warmer and much more. We have a group event once a month, which is usually planned around a celebration or holiday in that month. These events give us an opportunity to visit and bring a smile to faces that may not have a reason to smile that day. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer at the Cancer Center, you can apply online at www.mymc.com (Ambassador Online Orientation) or you can contact Brenda Lineback at blineback7@gmail.com.

³⁴ *Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: ³⁵for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; ³⁶I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.'* ³⁷ *"Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? ³⁸When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You?' ³⁹Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' ⁴⁰And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'*

Matthew 25:34-40

SUNDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY & PRAYER

Almost every Sunday night, we conclude the Lord's day with the renewing of our minds in God's Word, for the purpose of being transformed into fruitful agents of the will of God. We continue to journey through the meaningful Old Testament book of Deuteronomy. Jesus quoted from and used this book more than any other book of the Bible. The goal is not simply the acquiring of more knowledge, but as Deuteronomy 5:1 urges: to (not only) "hear and learn" the Word, but to "do" what God commands. This is just a great spiritual preparation at the beginning of each week. We close our time by seeking the Lord in prayer, as we praise and petition Him. We would love to have you join us, 6:00pm in the library.

REPURPOSED (over 40 singles)

You know, we have all done some living. Been through great times, endured the not-so-wonderful. But no matter what, if we are willing, God can give us new purpose, despite the past. That is what this vibrant group of singles is all about. Making new and deep friendships, finding Christian fellowship, laughing and yes, sometimes shedding a tear together. We need each other. So, we gather together each month, and for special occasions, to reconnect with a great group of folks. And, be watching for details about our annual retreat, held in the fall.

On March 23rd, we are going bowling! First, we will go out to eat around 4:00pm, and then let's see how many gutter-balls we can throw at the Belt Bowl, at 5:30pm.

In April, you are invited to Board Game night. Just so you won't be "board", expect several surprises. Again, we will eat before we head to the church.

Watch the bulletin for more details on these events.

COUNCIL MEETING

Pastors: *Darrell Jones, Dennis Jennings, Ken Maxey, Dan Blakely, Chris Olson, Nick Pierce, Dave Ernst*

Elders: *Tony Bryan, Joe Huber, Rick Lipira, Ted Myers, Frank Stanley*

Deacons: *Taylor Haupt, Mark McMMain, Gary Reynolds, Matt Wieners, Mike Yuille*

From the Minutes: 1-20-19 Council Meeting

Member Absent: *Frank Stanley*

- Meeting opened with prayer.
- Motion passed to accept the Consent Agenda as presented with the following items approved:
 1. Minutes of November and December 2018 meetings and Email Votes;
 2. November 2018 Finance Reports for General Fund Account and November and December 2018 Finance Reports for Storehouse Account, Special Projects Money Market Account, and Investment Account;
 3. Benevolence Committee Reports, November and December 2018;
 4. Missions Committee Report, January 2019.
- Motion passed to elect the following Corporate Officers for 2019:
Chairman—Sr. Pastor Darrell Jones;
Vice Chairman—Joe Huber
Secretary—Administrative Pastor Chris Olson
Treasurer—Finance Director Elder Rick Lipira
- Motion passed to reappoint members of the 2018 Security Team to serve in 2019.
- Motion passed to appoint the following members to serve on the Scholarship Committee for 2019:
 1. Christian Education Director—Ken Maxey
 2. Appointed Pastor—Nick Pierce
 3. Appointed members at large—Susan Hall, Stephanie Bishop, with Mishael Barton, alternate.
- Motion passed to appoint the following members to serve on the Benevolence Committee for 2019:
Susan Hall, Chris Olson, Rick Lipira, Tony Bryan,

Scott Burnham, and Mike Dragoo.

- Motion passed to approve the Scholarship Committee's recommendations and award a \$250 scholarship to each of 11 students who applied for the Grace Memorial Fund Scholarships for the Spring 2019 semester.
- Motion passed to celebrate Grace's 35TH Anniversary with a community event on Friday, August 16TH, at the Missouri Theater.
- Motion passed to amend the General Fund Budget and add \$105 to the Nursery Capital Outlay line item for the replacement of a broken changing table.
- Meeting adjourned; Next meeting, February 19.

2-06-19 Email Vote

Councilmen were contacted via email and asked to approve up to \$500 in travel expenses for a 5-member investment committee to travel to Springfield, MO, to gather information from a church and credit union regarding a program they have in place that assists with the cancellation of pay-day loans. Motion was seconded and passed by all ten council members who responded.

From the Minutes: 2-19-19 Council Meeting

Members Absent: *Mark McMMain, Ted Myers*

- Meeting opened with prayer.
- Motion passed to accept the Consent Agenda as presented with the following items approved:
 1. Minutes of January 2019 meetings and Email Votes;
 2. December 2018 Finance Reports for General Fund Account and January 2019 Finance Reports for Storehouse Account, Special Projects Money Market Account, and Investment Account;
 3. Benevolence Committee Reports, January 2019;
 4. Missions Committee Report, February 2019.
- Motion passed to proceed with closing the 2018 financial Records by taking the following actions:
 1. Apply \$260,406.17 in General Fund Designated Gifts and Reimbursements to corresponding 2018 General Fund Expenses;
 2. Carry over \$47,814.49 in excess Designated Fund balances to 2019;

3. Amend 2018 General Fund Budget to Reflect Actual Net Expenses.
 4. Close books for 2018 following Year-end Adjustments..
- Motion passes to promote the *40 Days for Life* event and purchase devotional materials from the Ministry Resources budget for those participating.
 - Motion passed to provide a Sunday breakfast for Memorial Day Weekend on May 26 with details to be worked out later.
 - Motion passed to allocate up to \$80 from the Media Stage Lighting Budget for the purchase of transient lights to be used when Sunday services are recorded and livestreamed from a remote location due to inclement weather.
 - Motion passes to allocate up to \$260 from the Building Fund to sound insulate Pastor Dennis' office with rock wool insulation. Rick Lipira was asked to research this product and application for sound insulating the remaining offices and bring a recommendation to the next meeting.
 - Meeting adjourned with prayer.

- Next Council Meeting Date: Tuesday, March 19.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Olson
 Council Secretary



SUNDAY, MARCH 10TH

Finance Report

December 2018 Receipts

| | |
|---------------------|--------------|
| General Fund | \$218,962.53 |
| Missions Fund | \$ 48,821.26 |
| Building Fund | \$ 80.00 |
| Specials/Reimbursed | \$ 14,257.30 |

January 2019 Receipts

| | |
|---------------------|--------------|
| General Fund | \$115,160.66 |
| Missions Fund | \$ 15,873.53 |
| Building Fund | \$ 82.00 |
| Specials/Reimbursed | \$ 5,547.50 |

February Recpts. (thru 2-24-19)

| | |
|---------------------|--------------|
| General Fund | \$116,285.61 |
| Missions Fund | \$ 14,021.00 |
| Building Fund | \$ 0.00 |
| Specials/Reimbursed | \$ 2,792.05 |

**Monthly General Fund Need to meet
 Current 2019 Budget is \$139,451.59**

**2018 Monthly Undesignated General Fund
 Giving through December Averaged
 \$154,553.40.**

**2019 Undesignated General Fund
 Giving in January Totaled \$115,160.66.**

January 2019 Month-End Balances:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| General Fund | \$ 332,012.10 |
| Storehouse Account | \$ 74,617.78 |
| Missions Fund Account | \$ 55,521.74 |
| Investment Account | \$ 955,953.40 |
| General Reserve Fund | \$ 1,526.23 |
| Building Fund | \$ 112,354.09 |
| Reserved Church Plant Fund | \$155,554.32 |

Three Month Calendar Of Events

MARCH

- 1-3 - Focus on Mission Week Events
- 3 - Honduras Mission Team Recap
- 4 - Open Door Food Kitchen
- 7 - Day of Prayer and Fasting
- 10 - Daylight Savings Time Begins
- 10 - Mission Committee Meeting at Grace
- 11 - MSG Dinner Meeting
- 15 - Grace Family Campout at Wallace St Park
- 23 - Repurposed Dinner and Bowling
- 24 - Hands of Grace Meeting at Grace
- 25 - Valley Community Food Kitchen

APRIL

- 1 - Open Door Food Kitchen
- 4 - Day of Prayer and Fasting
- 5 - Beyond Sunday
- 7 - Mission Committee Meeting
- 8 - Mark A Pease Blood Drive
- 18 - Maundy Thursday
- 19 - Good Friday with Dr Jimmy Albright
- 20 - Men's Fellowship Breakfast at Grace
- 21 - Resurrection Sunday
- 22 - Valley Community Food Kitchen
- 26 - Secret Church
- 28 - Hands of Grace Meeting at Grace

MAY

- 2 - Mayor's Prayer Breakfast
- 2 - Day of Prayer and Fasting
- 4 - Church Work Day at Grace
- 5 - Open Door Food Kitchen
- 5 - Mission Committee Meeting
- 12 - Mother's Day Baby Dedication
- 13 - MSG Dinner Meeting
- 16-19 - Men's Retreat to South Dakota
- 24-31 - Renewal to Honduras
- 26 - Hands of Grace Meeting at Grace
- 26 - All Church Breakfast at Grace
- 26 - Memorial Day Campout
- 27 - Valley Community Food Kitchen
- 29-31 - High 5 Day Camp (5th & 6th grade)

| March 2019 | | | | | | |
|------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
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| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 31 | | | | | | |

| April 2019 | | | | | | |
|------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | | | | |

| May 2019 | | | | | | |
|----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | |



Save the date:

Thursday, May 2 - National Day of Prayer:

This year, Dave Harvey, President of Cowboys for Christ, will be the guest speaker at the annual breakfast at the Civic Arena. The main focus of Cowboy For Christ is to share the GOSPEL to Cowboys and Cowgirls and to those that are drawn by the cowboy image and the cowboy way of life. Cowboys For Christ is one of the very oldest livestock industry ministries and for over forty-two years we have been a leader in proclaiming JESUS CHRIST to the lost wherever they work, play and live. We are a "go to them" ministry that reach out to all aspects of the cowboy world at every opportunity to reflect GOD'S LOVE and reveal HIS wonderful plan of eternal salvation.

Saturday, May 4 - All church work day.

Sunday, May 12 - Mother's Day baby dedication, watch the bulletin for sign ups to meet with a pastor.



Weekly Events

Sundays

7:30am

Pre-Service Prayer in Room 206

8:00am, 9:30am, & 11:00am

Sunday Worship Services in the Sanctuary

9:40 & -10:55am

Sunday School Classes

6:00pm

Bible Study & Prayer in Library

Wednesdays

6:30-8:00pm

Midweek Ministries at the church for

Children's High 5; Youth Reset;

Adult Groups during Growth Group Sessions

7:30pm

RENEWAL meets for

College Students & Young Adults

Thursdays

12:00-1:00pm

All-Church Prayer Meeting in Library

Fridays

6:00-7:00am

Early Morning Prayer Meeting in Lobby

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GRACE

EVANGELICAL CHURCH



5103 South 50th (FF Hwy.)
St. Joseph, MO 64507

816-279-2090

www.graceontheweb.org
grace@graceontheweb.org

*Our Purpose:
Grace Evangelical Church
exists for the purpose of reaching the lost and hurting
of our community and world in the love of Christ,
involving them in the word, worship, and service of God.*

Join us for Sunday Worship Services

Morning Worship: 8:00AM • 9:30AM • 11:00AM
Sunday School: 9:40-10:40AM • 10:55-11:55AM
Evening Bible Study: 6:00PM

Need Prayer?
24-Hour Prayer Chain Number
816-244-9868
For Urgent Requests