



Grace Life –December 2014

Monthly Newsletter of Grace Bible Fellowship Church, Wallingford, PA

... And The World Will Never Be The Same

Pastor Taylor

“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.” (Isaiah 9:2)

“Don’t let the light go out, it’s lasted for so many years
Don’t let the light go out,
let it shine through our love and our tears.”

The words of “Light One Candle” are from an often heard Christmas song recorded by Peter, Paul and Mary. You may need to be a child of the 1960s like me to remember. The song is based on Jewish history, the resistance to Roman oppression by a Maccabean led revolt. They had a light source that would provide light for a day but lasted for eight days. For them, the light was like a miracle showing the presence of God. Jews celebrate Hanukkah in remembrance.

The song, like many others of the time, tapped into the uncertainties of a changing world. It was a call to peace and hope. But in the 1960s, it was a cry of fear, not of faith.

“Don’t let the light go out” seems to be appropriate again. The darkness presses in. Beheadings, ebola, governmental paralysis and growing secularism make it seem like the darkness is gaining ground. “Don’t let the light go out” – fear or faith?

The coming of Jesus was light coming into darkness. The world was dark when He came. He brought God’s light. But, some are wondering, will His light go out?

Christmas is a celebration of the light that Jesus brought into the world. Sin is forgiven. Lives are changed. Hope is forever. Will His light go out or will God do what He promised?

We celebrate Christmas because we know the light that Jesus brought into this world will never go out. The sovereign Lord of all history, who is alpha and omega, sent Jesus to bring the light. The darkness of this world will never overcome His light. **Jesus came ... and the world will never be the same.**

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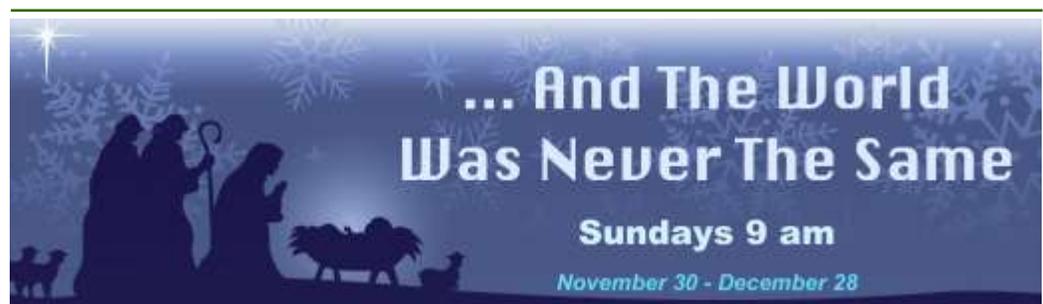
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November 30 **Darkness is changed to Light**

December 7 **Despair is changed to Hope**

December 14 **Disobedience is changed to Confidence**

December 21 **Fear is changed to Joy**

December 28 **Glory is changed to Glory**

Invitations are available in the Lobby to invite friends and family



Sunday Bible Classes

10:45 am - Noon

Nov. 23 - Dec. 28, 2014

The Gospel Saves Lives: How To Share The Good News

Learn how to share the message of the Gospel with your friends - Room 103-104

- Nov. 23 What Must I Do To Be Saved?
- Nov. 30 How Do I Share The Good News?
- Dec. 7 How Do I Share My Story?
- Dec. 14 *Congregational Meeting*
- Dec. 21 Why Should Anyone Care About God?
- Dec. 28 Answering Tough Questions

The Gospel Changes Lives: How To Live The Good News

Share the transformative power of the Gospel with your friends - Room 204-206

- Nov. 23 The Gospel Brings Truth
- Nov. 30 The Gospel Gives Hope
- Dec. 7 The Gospel Transforms Lives
- Dec. 14 *Congregational Meeting*
- Dec. 21 The Gospel Redefines Relationships
- Dec. 28 Answering Tough Questions

The Gospel According to John - A Room 6 Discussion

Explore who Christ is through this ongoing discussion of John's eyewitness account - Room 6

Christmas Eve

Family Celebration - 6 pm

Candlelight Service - 11 pm



Family Celebration - 6 pm - And the world was never the same after that night in Bethlehem when Jesus was born. We invite you to come out on Christmas Eve and celebrate the change Jesus made in our world. The children will be singing and others will be performing all in celebration of God's greatest gift. Bring your family, friends and neighbors to celebrate with us. Jesus' birth changed everything. Has He changed YOU?

Candlelight Service - 11 pm - You are invited to join us for this quiet service of reflection and meditation which focuses on the wondrous birth of the Savior. This year's readings and music will center on: What Child Is This?. If you are thinking about bringing someone along with you, remember that this is a great opportunity to hear the Good News clearly shared that each one might come to know and appreciate the One who is truly the reason for the season.

Wednesday

Family Night

**Fall Programs
end December 17**

**Spring Programs
begin January 14**

Congregational Meeting - Sunday, December 14, 10:45 am

- 2014 Staff, Elder and Deacon Reports
- Elect Elders and Deacons (bios of each candidate available at the Information Center)
Nominees for Elder: Richard Hartzell, Dick McIntyre, Mike Plourde, Sam Shiels, Scott Simmons
Nominees for Deacon: Dan McLean, Vince Urbano, Clayton Wilt
- Approve 2015 Budget (budget will be available Nov. 30 in the church lobby)
- Pray with Elders

Couples Christmas Party

All couples are invited to join us for our annual Christmas Party where there will be lots of food, fun and warm fellowship. We meet **December 5** in the home of Chris & Kelli Yacono at 7pm and hope to see you for this special evening. Feel free to invite another couple to join you! For information about what you can bring and other details, contact Kelli at 610.543.4870 or kellido@gmail.com.

Young At Heart Christmas Dinner

Young At Heart will hold our annual Christmas Dinner on Tuesday **December 9** at noon at Concordville Inn. Advanced reservations are required. Contact Jack or Joyce Bromley.



Pastoral Search

The committee has met twice since forming and has begun work on the first of the tasks the elders have designated to them—the formation of a job description. Once completed, the elders will review, edit if necessary, and then approve the job description. At that point, the committee will be given the mandate to search for and find a pastor who best fits the criteria of the job description. It is the goal of the search committee to complete this first phase of their task as quickly as possible and then to begin the actual search process early in the New Year. We will be giving you a monthly report of our progress in our GraceLife time at the end of worship and/or in the GraceLife Newsletter. Please pray for us in regard to this awesome responsibility.



VeggieTales Movie Night
December 7th - 6 pm

Winter Blast
January 30-February 1
Elementary Children ages 8-12
Weekend retreat at Victory Valley
Brochures at Information Center



Lunches for the Homeless

Three minutes is all it takes to give out 120 lunches. Thanks to all who donated lunch items, helped us on prayer partner day to make the lunches, and those who prayed for our service to the homeless in Philadelphia. Our time might have been short with the homeless in Philly, but the High School is thankful for the opportunity to serve.

December 6th

The Middle School has their annual Rake, Bake and Shake. *Do you have a neighbor or know of a family or maybe even yourself who needs some yard work and fall clean up done?* The middle school kids do an excellent job with this project. Let Beth know if you need any leaves raked.

The kids have a great time serving and we look forward to seeing how God will use them this year.

Sno Glo is Coming...

Sno Glo is our winter weekend for the HS and MS teens. We join other teens from our denomination at Pinebrook Bible Conference for worship, learning, sport tournaments, tubing games, and lots of other fun things. The cost is \$122 per teen. A \$25 deposit is due on December 14 if your teen is going to attend. The balance of \$97 will be due on the day of the trip.

Middle School Weekend is January 9-11, 2015 High School Weekend is January 23-25, 2015



Youth Events in December

December 6 MS Rake, Bake and Shake 1-6pm , \$4

December 7 Super Sunday, Pancakes in youth room

December 17 Youth Group Christmas Party

December 24 & 31 No Youth Group

See Children and Youth Ministry pages on church website for calendar of events and details.

Contact Beth Wiegand, wigg52@gmail.com

Grace Community Bulletin Board



What are you doing to reach your neighbors with the Gospel? What are you doing to love people around the world? We were challenged at our Global **Outreach Conference to “Do Something”**. Not sure what to do? Pick up a list of opportunities from the Outreach Bulletin Board at church, there are lots of very practical ideas for you! Did you miss any of the talks last weekend? You can listen to them on our website. The time is short. If not now, then when will we get the opportunity again? Today is the day of salvation. So whatever you do, do something today!



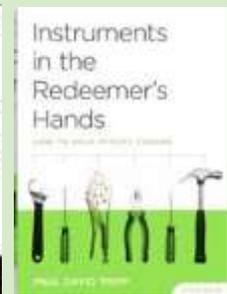
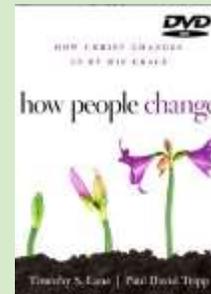
*More Photos
in hallway
and online
Gracebfc.org*



Welcome New Members!

NEW COURSE Helping People Change

Would you like to know how to encourage change in your life and in the lives of others? We are considering offering a 15 week class that would meet Wednesday nights starting in January, Please contact Mark Bickel by Dec. 30 for details and to order materials.



Reaching Out - Grace BFC Missions and Outreach



Duane, Joetta, & Amanda Moyer

Duane is the Director of the Bible Fellowship Church Board of Missions. He has 2 main areas of responsibility. The first is to promote interest and strategic involvement among Bible Fellowship Churches in world-wide missions. The second is to care for our 170 missionaries and to be their advocate before their supporting churches as well as before their sending agencies. His day-to-day activities include reading and evaluating reports and letters from our missionaries, responding, advising, encouraging, and challenging them as needed. When missionaries are in the area on furlough, he meets with them in person. He writes weekly articles for Friday Prayer, and he provides direction, encourages, and oversees the work of his staff. On weekends, he speaks in churches and meets potential missionary candidates and supporters. Duane also advises Elder Boards who are interviewing potential missionaries, and he makes sure they receive timely news from their envoys as it becomes available to him.

Joetta has found many ways to serve through the ministries of Grace Bible Fellowship Church in Quakertown. She helps teach the weekly Women's Bible Study. She is one of the leaders of a newly formed group for young mothers, and she serves in Awana. God has blessed them with a house of their own a half-mile from Duane's parents' home in Perkasie, and Joetta visits them several times a week and helps with housework. She also takes their daughter, Amanda, to and from Bucks County Community College.

Amanda just started college this year and is considering a major in Accounting. Justin, their oldest son, is a chemical engineer at Merck in West Point. He and his wife Sara have a son, Tristan, Duane and Joetta's first grandchild, born in March 2014. Caleb, their second son, lives in Harrisburg and works as a design engineer at TE connectivity while going to school at Penn State.

In Duane's words, "God has blessed us through this change in life and ministry. We realize that He was preparing us for this and putting everything in place long before we knew what was coming. I am very grateful for the opportunity to invest what we learned through 35 years of service in Guadeloupe into the lives of missionaries who are on the field right now."

Prayer Requests for the Moyers:

- 1.) "One of the blessings of my new position is that we can be closer to our kids and encourage them as they walk through some of the significant events of life. Justin and Sara are learning to be parents. Caleb is developing a network of friends and establishing close connection with his church (Grace BFC, Harrisburg). Amanda is beginning her college career and choosing a career track."
- 2.) "My responsibilities at the Board of Missions include not only shepherding the missionaries but also defining a vision and providing guidance to churches that want to have a strategic missions involvement. Pray that the Lord will guide us into the most effective use of the resources He has entrusted to us in the accomplishment of His mission."
- 3.) "Pray that the Lord will use the letters and articles I write to encourage and build up both the missionary family and the supporters."
- 4.) "Pray for wisdom in guiding potential new missionaries through the process of discerning the Lord's leading and acquiring the necessary qualifications and support to pursue His call."

Missionary Birthdays & Anniversaries

Grace Ort - Kara Ort -
Jeff and Emmy Ort - Anniversary:

Opportunities with Partner Organizations

You can find more details and links to organization web pages on our website.

On the new Gracebfc.org site look under Current Events for the "Partner Events" tab.

Project Christmas Angel



Once again this year, we will be collecting gifts for the children of Chester in partnership with CityTeam. Just like last year, we will have requests for clothing and toys to distribute to all who wish to be involved. When you see the Christmas tree in the lobby, take one (or more) of the request cards off the tree and go shopping! Bring back your gift (unwrapped) along with the card by Dec. 12 and you're a Christmas Angel! Thanks in advance for your generosity. Contact Mike Norquist.

**2014
YOU'RE INVITED!**

The Philadelphia Boys Choir Christmas Concert
To Fund Three Major Children's Projects in Liberia & Uganda

WHEN: Sunday, November 30th, 2014, at 6pm; Doors open at 5
WHERE: Brandywine Valley Baptist Church (7 Mount Lebanon Rd., Wilmington, DE)
TICKETS: Prior Ticket Purchase: \$20/adult; \$15/student; \$10/child under 12
Tickets at the Door: \$25/adult; \$20/student; \$15/child under 12

What Else? Come early to do some Christmas shopping! Browse African handcrafts and ancient bead jewelry, try Cup of Compassion coffee and learn about our unique, alternative gifts!

Purchase Tickets Early for Discount
www.ChristmasWithCompassion.com

Sponsored by:  **COMPASSION|CORPS**

CHRISTMAS AT 
December 13

BANQUET & CONCERT

Purchase tickets on-line or call 570-424-1212. Tickets: \$25; Table of 8—\$175; Table of 9—\$196.

Banquet will include...
HOT HORS D'OEUVRES CARVING STATION DESSERT BAR

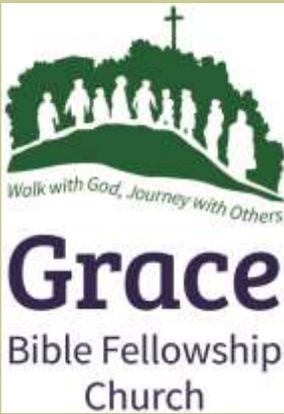
Concert to follow featuring ...
NEW FELLOWSHIP TRIO Southern Gospel Men's Trio
LUCY RITTER Opera **JOYCE TICKER** Music
BRUCE HEFFNER Organ Organ Here Ministry

Doors open at 3:00 PM

Overnight accommodations available—
\$50/room/Double Occ./night includes Continental breakfast.

www.pinebrook.org OFFERING RECEIVED

**CELEBRATE THE
BIRTH OF CHRIST!**



Grace BFC Office:
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We're On the Web!
GraceBFC.org

Grace Life
is published the last
Sunday of each month.
Submit upcoming
events and articles to
Barb by the 15th of
the month before
publication. Send to:
office@gracebfc.org

Questions can be sent
to Pastor Mark Bickel
mbickel@gracebfc.org

Find out more about our church at
our website: GraceBFC.org

- Church Calendar
- Monthly Newsletter and Weekly Bulletin
- Weekly Sermon Audio, as well as sermon outline and podcast
- Information about many of our ministries within the church, to the community, and to the world
- Bios and contact information for our leadership team
- Directions to our church
- **And much more ...**

We are also on Facebook as
Grace Bible Fellowship Church

Upcoming Events

December

- Dec. 6 - Stewardship Saturday
- Dec. 7 - Family Christmas Carol Sing
- Dec. 7 - VeggiTales Movie Night
- Dec. 14 - Congregational Meeting
- Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve Services
- Dec. 38 - Communion Service

Mark Your Calendar

Feb. 27-28, 2015 - **Women's Retreat**

Complete Calendar online:
GraceBFC.org



Stewardship Saturday

December 6, 8am - Noon

We're looking for a few good men and women to come out to church for the next Stewardship Saturday on December 6. Come out anytime between 8:00am and noon; we can use you for one hour, two hours or the whole four hours! Bring your kids and, of course, bring your toolbox **Here's a partial** list of what we expect to accomplish :

- Decorate the church for the holidays
- Install door latches (Bring a drill!)
- Repair a door (Bring a screwdriver!)
- Move things from basement to gym storage
- Replace ceiling tiles in some classrooms
- AND MUCH, MUCH MORE!!!!**