



SEPTEMBER 2016

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				7:00 PM Marriage Builders 1	2	3
9:00 AM Sunday School 4 10:30 AM Worship Service/Communion 6:00 PM Outdoor Worship Tailgate BBQ 	LABOR DAY Church Closed 5 	6	6:55 PM  6:30 PM Jr. High, Sr. High  7:00 PM Choir 7:30 PM Prayer Meeting	7:00 PM Marriage Builders 8	9	8:30 AM Biblical Counseling 10
9:00 AM Sunday School 11 10:30 AM Worship Service 12:15 PM Awana Training Luncheon 6:00 PM >Worship Service >Children's Declare!	6:15 AM Ladies' Prayer Group 12	9:15 AM Ladies' Bible Study 13 7:00 PM Ladies' Bible Study	5:00 PM Elder's Meeting 14 6:55 PM  6:30 PM Jr. High, Sr. High 7:00 PM Choir 7:30 PM Prayer Meeting	7:00 PM Marriage Builders 15	16	7:00 AM Great Doctrines 17 7:45 AM Flag Football 8:30 AM Biblical Counseling 
9:00 AM Sunday School 18 9:15 AM CPP Training 10:30 AM Worship Service 1:00 PM Church Picnic!  4:00 PM Financial Peace University 6:00 PM No Service	6:15 AM Ladies' Prayer Group 19	9:15 AM Ladies' Bible Study 20 7:00 PM Ladies' Bible Study	6:55 PM  6:30 PM Jr. High, Sr. High 7:00 PM Choir 7:30 PM Prayer Meeting	7:00 PM Marriage Builders 22	23	7:00 AM Men's Breakfast 24 7:45 AM Flag Football 8:30 AM >Church Workday >Biblical Counseling 
9:00 AM Sunday School 25 9:15 AM CPP Training 10:30 AM Worship Service 4:00 PM Financial Peace University 6:00 PM >Worship Service >Children's Declare!	6:15 AM Ladies' Prayer Group 26 7:00 PM Wedding Shower for Chelsea Peterson at the home of Pat Vedra 	9:15 AM Ladies' Bible Study 27 7:00 PM Ladies' Bible Study	5:00 PM Elder's Meeting 28 6:55 PM  6:30 PM Jr. High, Sr. High 7:00 PM Choir 7:30 PM Prayer Meeting	7:00 PM Marriage Builders 29	30	7:00 AM Great Doctrines 1 7:45 AM Flag Football 8:30 AM Biblical Counseling

Seeing and Experiencing THE GOSPEL

by Nick Conner

A few months back, I was at the pulpit leading us through the “Gospel Welcome” portion of our Sunday service. As I listed off the ministry opportunities from the back of the bulletin, I came to an announcement about a class that we were offering titled, “How People Change.” I remember pausing in the midst of the announcement to say something like, “Wow, I could sure use a class like that!” Looking back, I realize my comment might have come across either as a sales pitch or a moment of unguarded honesty - and perhaps it was a bit of both. I am genuinely drawn to the idea of how people change. Part of this interest is due to my own desire for life change, while another part is due to a longing for change in the lives of the students at Grace Church.

Being a youth minister who wants to be used by God to change the hearts of our youth, I realize that I have to be brutally honest with myself about what works and what doesn't. This past year has shown that my natural inclination is to spend hours in my office, preparing lessons for Wednesday nights and Sunday mornings. As I assess this time usage, I am wondering if these teaching times alone are enough to evoke change in the lives of our students.

Now don't get me wrong - I see tremendous value in teaching gospel centered messages out of God's Word! After all, the gospel is the power for salvation to everyone who believes (Romans 1:16), and all Scripture is profitable for training in righteousness (2 Tim. 3:16). Additionally, we know that faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the Word of Christ (Romans 10:17). So my question is not “Should we spend time teaching our students,” but rather, what more is needed? How can I address the glazed eyes and the drool stained shirts that I occasionally encounter or even evoke on Sunday mornings?

My thoughts go back to “How People Change”. There is great power in hearing the gospel, but for some, true life change only comes when they see the gospel lived out - especially when it is lived out towards

them in such a way that they experience the grace contained in the gospel.

A recent conversation with a brother at Grace Church helped me further define the answer. This brother spoke of a student from our congregation who is struggling and the comment was made, “He needs to see and experience the grace of the gospel.”

So how can we as a church help our students to see and experience the gospel?

Begin by considering the following scenarios:

- You arrive to church on a snowy Sunday morning to a sixteen-year-old doing donuts in the parking lot.
- You find a student alone and crying in the bathroom on a Wednesday night.
- You notice a giggling group of middle school boys ascending the staircase to the church roof.
- You happen to notice a young man looking at a pornographic image on his phone.
- You overhear a group of girls insulting another one behind her back.
- You get hit with a water balloon that was intended for the youth minister.
- You get hit with a water balloon that was thrown by the youth minister.
- Your ears are assaulted by music in the youth room which sounds to you like a heard of elephants operating jackhammers in the middle of I-294 during rush hour.

Each of these scenarios is an opportunity for us, as a church, to help our students to see and experience the gospel, and it is going to come from the way we respond to them.

Will we respond in love? Will we respond with grace?

Will we leave room for clarification or apology?

Will we extend forgiveness?

Or will we chastise, criticize, and contact the closest authority?

If we want to be a church where people change to be more like Christ, we must be willing to live out the gospel toward one another. When it comes to working with students, it means loving them and being gracious toward them when they make poor decisions rather than condemning them. When this happens, lives will be changed – and it won't only be the life of the student.



TAKE COURAGE! I AM. DO NOT BE AFRAID
- MARK 6:50, TLV -

REFRESHED BY JESUS - 11 AUGUST

Honoring God with Our Vote

by Pastor Daryle Worley

Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare. —Jeremiah 29:7

Now that the political primaries are completed, the race for President of the United States has come to the stage where we choose between the two candidates left standing. This stage reliably confuses Christians. How do we honor God with our vote? Recognizing that neither candidate embodies the characteristics Scripture identifies for a God-honoring leader, who should receive our support? Are we forced to choose between “the lesser of two evils,” or should we search for a “worthy” candidate and write-in a name if necessary? This question befuddles us every election season.

I want to suggest two questions that could help us cut through the fog and cast our vote in a manner worthy of God. They could help us not to waste our vote and thus fail to “seek the welfare” of our nation. (I’m tying these questions to the presidential selection process, but I believe similar principles could also be helpful on other levels.)

The first question applies to Primary elections. *From this large field of aspiring candidates, which one would I prayerfully prefer to become President?* This is the stage where our voting options range widest. We can consider everyone who remains on the ballot, and everyone

who doesn’t! We can identify our favorite—the person who best embodies what we would like to see in a President—and vote to get that name on the November ballot. In Illinois we can select a Republican or Democrat ballot. We can write-in a name without wasting a vote because who knows whether a prospective candidate may enter the process late, drawn in by a groundswell of support?

The second question applies to General elections. *From these two major-Party candidates, which one do I prayerfully believe would be the better President?* This is the point where we become most confused. Increasingly as time progresses in this world that is advancing toward God’s appointed end, presidential elections seem to come down to a choice between two candidates neither of whom we can support in good conscience. We wrestle mightily to know how to honor God in the voting booth. We labor to resolve our dissatisfaction with the integrity, wisdom, and morality we see in each candidate. And we need an answer to this frustrating dilemma!

I believe we can find that answer only by reshaping our question. So, again, *prayerfully, which of these two would make the better President?* Granted, neither may embody our ideals, thus our struggle! But in God’s sovereign providence, these are the options He has presented us. And if we Christians are “(seeking) the welfare” of this nation where we live in exile from our truest Homeland, we honor Him best by helping them put into office not “the lesser of two evils,” but the better of two candidates He has appointed.



(ALL MEN 15+)

MEN'S RETREAT

SPEAKER: Randy Smith
Pastor of Grace Bible Church in New Jersey

\$80
NOV 4/5
SAVE THE DATE

Come for: worship, fellowship, discipleship, teaching, encouragement! Optional activities include: gymnasium, obstacle course, football, rope bridge, and laser tag. **MANDATORY** - you must have fun!

REGISTRATION INFORMATION COMING SOON!

MEN'S BREAKFAST

SAT SEPT 24
7AM

"THE WHAT, WHY & HOW OF DISCIPLESHIP"



CATERED BY
SWEET POTATO CAFE - \$6

TEACHING GOD'S WAYS OF HANDLING MONEY
DAVE RAMSEY'S

FINANCIAL Peace

UNIVERSITY

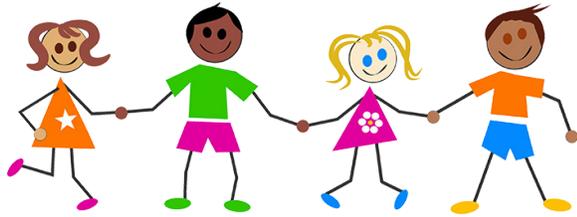
REGISTER

SUNDAYS, SEPT. 18 - NOV 13 AT 4:00PM

Child Protection Policy (CPP) Training

If you are serving in the Nursery, Children's, or Youth Ministry, please plan to attend one of the following sessions located in the Fireside Room:

Sun., Sept. 18, 9:15am, Sun. Sept. 25, 9:15am or 5:00pm



CHURCH PICNIC

SEPTEMBER 18

1:00 PM

BBQ beef brisket, corn on the cob,
rolls and sides

PLEASE BRING A PIE TO SHARE!

LADIES BIBLE STUDY

TUESDAYS

SEPT. 13 - NOV 13

Mornings 9:15 am (childcare)
evenings 7:00 PM (no childcare)

HOSEA

A 12-WEEK STUDY

Lydia Brownback

The story of Hosea and Gomer parallels the relationship between God and ancient Israel, helping readers understand the extent of God's redeeming love for his people.

This accessible study walks readers through the biographical and symbolic elements of the book of Hosea, revealing God's desire to lovingly restore his people to a right relationship with him through Jesus Christ.

REGISTER

Or visit the women's ministry table
through September 11

Questions, please contact
Andrea Ruppel andrea@gracedupage.org

Awana begins

Wednesday, September 7

Are you a

participant or volunteer?



Please contact Janice Gilmour to learn more about how to be a part of this outreach to our children!
janice@gracedupage.org

ALL AWANA VOLUNTEERS

GATHER FOR LUNCH AND
FELLOWSHIP, FOLLOWED BY
GROUP TRAINING

AND

INDIVIDUAL GROUP TIME

SUN. SEPT. 11, / 12:15PM

Biblical Counseling Course

Instruments in the Redeemer's Hands

Saturday mornings at 8:30am
beginning Sept 10

12-week course / \$15 for the study guide

For more information, please contact

Ray Glinski ray@gracedupage.org

or

Ed Poole epoolefamily@yahoo.com

Men's Equippers

Great Doctrines Class

Saturday mornings at 7:00am
beginning Sept 17

Topics of study: The Church and End Times

For more information please contact

Ray Glinski ray@gracedupage.org