



Grace Community  
Chapel's Newsletter

# GRACE IN ACTION

## Welcome!

Welcome to the 1st Edition of Grace Community Chapel's Newsletter, - "Grace in Action". The purpose of this newsletter is to communicate information concerning life within the body of Christ, both at Grace and the community at-large. Our goal is to inform, encourage and inspire others to step out and use their God-given gifts and talents in areas presented, or ignite other areas of ministry. This newsletter is a collaborative effort and we invite all of our readers to offer ideas for features; submit humorous pieces for our enjoyment; or share original works for our edification. We will publish quarterly to start, with the eventual hope of a monthly newsletter.

### Special points of interest:

- The Pastor's Picks
- SoulView Speaks—pg 3
- AWANA Outreach—pg 4
- Sunday School—pg 4
- Refining Rabbits—pg 5
- Men's Ministry—pg 5
- "Revive" Youth Group—pg 6
- Deacon's Bench—pg 9 & 10
- Elder's Wisdom—pg 10
- Grace Christian Academy News—pg 11

### Inside This Issue: Special Features

National Day of Prayer Prayer Summit	2
Teen Devotional—Teamwork	6
Entertainment Section	7&8
Why Christian School	11
Church Information	12

## The Pastor's Picks

When I was in training at New Brunswick Bible Institute I picked up a habit (well I picked up many, but this is one of them). When one of the teachers or chapel speakers would make reference to a book I would write down the title on a piece of paper. Later, when I had a little "book money" this would be a reference that I would turn to. It was tremendous help to a young Christian. I was lead to many fine books this way.

I would like to offer this favor to you. Let's just call this "The Pastor's Picks". I will suggest a few good books to read and you can take it from there. Now it is understood that the Word of God, the Book of books is the first and most important book to read. Some others in no specific order would be:

**"The Pursuit of God" by A.W. Tozer**

Any book by Tozer is profitable reading but, "The Pursuit of

God" is a must read for the Christian. Tozer's biographer said "Tozer literally wrote 'The Pursuit of God' on his knees. Perhaps that explains its power and the blessing that has rested on it."

**"The Bondage Breaker" by Neil Anderson**

From Freedom in Christ Ministries.

A book that will help you understand spiritual warfare, conflict and oppression. Anderson will inform you and then take you through steps to freedom in Christ. This book helps to free us from our past.

**"Hudson Taylor's Spiritual Secret" by Dr. and Mrs Howard Taylor**

The biography of the founder of the China Inland Mission. The story of a man full of the Holy Spirit and faith, surrendered to God and His call. A man of prayer who trusted and depended on God to provide for

an international faith mission.

**"The Holiness of God" by R.C. Sproul**

John MacArthur writes "The foundation of all Christian belief and behavior is the holiness of God. If the church doesn't understand this most basic of all issues, its perspective in every other area will be adversely affected. In this important study, R.C. Sproul gives clear biblical insight with refreshing and infectious enthusiasm."

**"The Light and the Glory" by Peter Marshall and David Manuel**

"America, America, God shed His grace on thee....."

Did God have a plan for America? History is really His story. Here is a look at our nation's history from God's point of view.

There are two more books that follow this one: "From Sea to Shining Sea" and "Sounding forth the Trumpet".

Just a few good books out of many. Thanks, Pastor Lin.

## National Day of Prayer (NDP) Prayer Summit

I'm in awe of what the Lord is doing in my life. How about you? I attended the NDP "Prayer Summit—October 09" with Kathy Todd. Kathy is a prayer warrior and one of the most Godly women I've ever had the opportunity to meet. Maine is blessed to have her as State Coordinator.

The Prayer Summit was at the Focus on the Family campus in Colorado Springs, Colorado. **Prayer...America's Hope** was the theme.

Psalm 33:22 "May your unfailing love rest upon us. O Lord, even as we put our hope in you" was the verse of "2009".

The Focus on the Family campus was a magnificent place, but it was nothing compared to the beautiful mountains. What a perfect place for prayer. God's majesty surrounded me and I was so grateful to be there.

I attended workshops with people from all across the USA who believed in the **power of prayer!** Their prayers were powerful. I've never been among so many prayer warriors. When we prayed in our groups you had no doubt the Holy Spirit was with His people.

I was moved when all of us came together and prayed for the State of Maine to pass the bill to keep marriage between a man and a woman. We know how God answered that prayer. Praise the Lord!

We prayed for the 7 points of prayer: government, media, business, church, military, family and education. I felt privileged to be one of the prayer warriors praying for Pastor Lin, leadership and all who attend Grace Community Chapel.

The Convey of Hope Ministry Leader told us that two weeks prior to attending the Summit he was called into the Treasury Department. He wasn't sure what was going to happen and he couldn't believe what did. The workers had collected money to give him for his ministry.

God is still in control and never ceases to amaze me. How about you? We were challenged to get out of the church and onto the streets?

Some of the speakers were Tony Perkins, Will Franklin Graham, Michelle Malkin, Dr. Dobson and his wife Shirley and ministry leaders from Prayer Force.

I was pleasantly surprised that there was no political agenda present during "Summit 09". The speakers were ordinary people concerned about their families and our nation. They were genuine in their love for the Lord. They encouraged us to be in the Word daily, with a repentant heart full of prayer.

The world is a fearful place at this point in time and when they see us as Christians secure in the peace of God, we should be ready to share our source of hope—Jesus Christ.

We were challenged to be "Watchmen". Be always on watch and pray (Luke 21:36), devote yourself to prayer being watchful and thankful (Col. 4:2).

I have been to many conferences, but I can honestly say the "Prayer Summit" has been the most challenging and life changing one that I've ever attended. I need to become more diligent in my prayer life. We have a direct line to our Heavenly Father...it's prayer. What a blessing! God desires to hear and answer our prayers. My challenge to you, if you have put your trust in the Lord Jesus Christ, **don't neglect prayer.** It will change your life and can move those mountains. I'm sure I've haven't done my experience at "Summit" justice. It was so much more than I've described. I would need to write a book to tell all that I experienced, not a newsletter article.

If you are interested in being part of the National Day of Prayer Team at Grace Community Chapel or want to know more about the National Day of Prayer coming in May, contact Cheryl Shank at 740-2626 or email me at [cherylshank74@gmail.com](mailto:cherylshank74@gmail.com).

**National Day of Prayer is not a day it's a discipline!**

By: Cheryl Shank, NDP Prayer Coordinator and church greeter

## GCC's Music Ministry—SoulView Speaks...

Worship: It's not just the period of the service before the pastor preaches. It's not just the part where music is played and the congregation sings. Worship is a one-word description for a multi-faceted set of activities. Indeed, it is typically a period of time prior to the pastor delivering his message. Also, the congregation usually sings worship songs during this time—and yes, we do call that worship. But its so much more. Worship is our devotion to the Lord and how we bestow that devotion. It is a 24/7 lifestyle. Let's narrow the focus again, however, and concentrate on the aspect of worship through music.

Grace Community Chapel has a "Worship/Praise Team (known outside the church walls as SoulView)." They have a ministry and a mission every week, and it extends beyond the walls of the church as well. Music has an amazing power to unite people and to communicate. That said, let me show you SoulView's Vision and Mission Statement.

*"We believe that all people are given their talents to glorify God, and we believe that we are called by Him to lead the congregation of Grace Community Chapel in praise and worship during each worship service.*

*It is our desire, goal and responsibility to present the Gospel, to usher the congregation into the presence of God, and to assist in making a meaningful connection with Jesus Christ, through song and testimony.*

*The Praise Team operates according to the Scriptural principal found in Ephesians 5:18&19 '...be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord.' We want to invite Him wherever we go and help others seek His presence in their lives, using the common language of music.*

*We insist on excellence (Colossians 3:23: 'Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men.'). We understand that we will miss the mark on occasion. We understand that our mode of worship is not for everyone. Only God can be all things to all people. However, our*

*ministry has a purpose and an eternal impact, and we are joyfully committed to giving our very best to our Lord and to our congregation (Psalm 33:3: 'Sing to Him a new song; Play skillfully with a shout of joy.')*

*We envision the Praise Team as an evangelistic arm of Grace Community Chapel. Our desire is to bring our music ministry to the larger community. We want to lead many to Jesus and others to a renewed commitment to Him.*

*We seek the Lord's counsel in what we do and where we go. We seek to glorify Him, and we desire to unite others with His holy presence.*

"What should I expect to see in this column?" you might ask. Primarily, you will find updates on SoulView and the entire music ministry of Grace, but hopefully you will get a glimpse of what drives us and what makes music such an important and powerful worship and outreach tool. So, why don't I catch you up on what's been going on with us over the past year.

2009 found us going through a number of changes to weather, and the grace of God has seen us through. We were able to bring ministry of encouragement to other believers and we laid the foundation for a project that we hope to complete very soon. Here are the highlights:

- \* In April, we began laying down tracks for a CD of original songs. Kent was able to complete all of his parts prior to his deployment, and some of the other parts were recorded, but the project stalled as members' schedules got busier and other projects became higher priorities. Please pray for us as we try to pick this project back up and complete it for a 2010 release.
- \* In June we played a concert to wish Kent well before he deployed for 6 months; it was dubbed the "Kick Out Kent Concert".
- \* Also in June the Grace Gospel Quartet hosted the annual building paydown

concert and BBQ.

- \* The Blackwood Brothers Southern Gospel Quartet paid us a visit in the summer. This proved to be a resounding success and a truly uplifting evening.
- \* In July and August, we had two amazing times of worship at More to Life Campground in Winthrop. This Christian Campground is a great place for family R&R, and the people are just the best to play to and worship with!
- \* In September, we hosted Canadian recording artist Stephanie Isaacson, and SoulView was thankful to open for her. What a great night! Keep an eye on this up-and-coming singer.
- \* In October, we were pleased to have the opportunity to bring our testimony to the Birches Campground in Litchfield/Monmouth. Over 30 people attended, and we were welcomed with open arms. In fact, its quite possible that we will be invited back—please be in prayer for this opportunity.
- \* Also in October, Grace hosted the first annual Kennebec County Christian Conference, entitled "The Name Above All Names," and SoulView was pleased to be the worship team. In 2010, we may expand that role to other teams as well, you can be in prayer for that, if you please.
- \* In the very beginning of January 2010, we headed south to Seacoast Chapel and played at their Agape coffeehouse. These people gave us a warm welcome, and they worshipped with us wholeheartedly. It was a truly uplifting time! We are scheduled to return there in November.

SoulView is looking forward to what the Lord has for us in 2010, and I hope you will continue to pray for our ministry. For future events or information concerning SoulView stay tuned to upcoming issues of this newsletter or check out Grace Community Chapel's website at [www.gccchapel.com](http://www.gccchapel.com).

In Christ's Love, Brian Perkins

## Christian Education Opportunities at Grace Community Chapel

**A**pproved

**W**orkmen

**A**re

**N**ot

**A**shamed

2 Timothy 2:15

AWANA, what does it mean? Well for those who were there for AWANA Sunday, you might have a good understanding or maybe not. The word is an acronym for "Approved Workmen Are Not Ashamed" which is derived from the passage in 2 Timothy 2:15. So what does it mean—well for some, a lot of work; others, a lot of fun; or, maybe an opportunity to interact with kids, use their gifts or just stay involved and serve. To me, it is all of those things and much more.

So far, this has been an interesting and exciting ministry to be involved with. This is my first year ministering in AWANA, as well as my first year as the Commander. While children's ministry is not new to me; when asked if I would consider this position, my first reaction was—it was more than I wanted or thought I could do. Quite frankly I did not think I could match my brother's enthusiasm for the ministry. I decided to seek God's will for this appointment and my wife and I joined together in prayer. God gave Pam and I an assurance to step out and gladly accept this opportunity.

As you might imagine, even though brothers, Rick and I have different styles of leadership. But we have one common denominator, our love for service. The AWANA Program has seen some changes this year;

the Junior Varsity and Varsity portion have been combined, with those in grades 7th–9th staying in the structured curriculum and those in grades 10th–12th encouraged to join the LIT (Leaders-In-Training) Program. The older teens can still opt to stay in the structured JV/V Club, the LIT Program is not mandatory. We now have five LIT's serving as leaders in Cubbies, Sparks and T&Ts.

Along with maintaining the regular dues and adopt-a-club, we have also done ongoing fundraisers to help support our AWANA missionaries, Jeff and Melanie Davis. For the first half of the year, we held an ongoing bottle drive called "Race to Redemption", which had the clubs competing against one another. They raised over \$500 and a check was sent to our missionaries just before Christmas. If you want to know which club won, see the plaque on the wall in the AWANA game room. We are currently promoting a quarter drive, called "Vote for Victory" which you can see on the wall as you come into the large gathering area (AWANA game room). Clubbers are always looking for sponsors or assistance. The winning club will receive points to be redeemed at the AWANA Store.

There are many things to share, but I will share more in upcoming news-

letters. We have some interesting events coming up:

Magic Show—March 26th

Talent Show—April 16

Going Out With A Bang—May 21st

I would encourage you to come by yourself and enjoy, or bring a child with you who has never attended.

I would also ask that you pray for each and every person who is involved with the children at AWANA. With the success of any ministry, there are always spiritual attacks. As people, we are not perfect. Interaction at any level can bring forth conflict both with adults and the children we minister to. Pray for unity of Spirit and effectiveness in our ministry.

I am glad I accepted the opportunity to serve in this very exciting and impacting ministry. Our AWANA Program hosts wise and experienced club directors and volunteer leaders, as well as, enthusiastic and loving LIT's.

Above all else, I thank God that he has given me a chance to share God's Word with a wonderful group of children who are the future of our church and our communities. May God Richly Bless all of those involved with the AWANA Ministry.

Commander Paul Pottle

## Sunday School Program at Grace Community Chapel

GCC's Sunday School Program is hosting a contest which started February 14th and is ongoing for the next 12 weeks. This year's themes are prayer and community service. Students ages 2–18 will be learning the fundamentals of prayer and the importance of performing community service. Questions such as "Why do we pray?", "Who do we pray to?" "Who can pray?" will be answered and scripture will be hidden in the students' hearts. Points will be given for attendance, bringing their bible to class and class partici-

pation, as well as memorization of key scripture. Students who complete this contest will win a \$100 scholarship to Christian Camp or \$25 gift certificates to the Bible Bookstore or CBD. Participants have the option to volunteer 2 hours of their time per week to community service and journal their experience in lieu of the unit on prayer. Each are vitally important to the growth of our children, young and older. Parents, encourage your children to participate in this contest and help them with their progress.

Attention—Adults 18 & older !!!

The Adult Sunday School class is doing an in-depth study of the Book of Revelation. It started in September, but its never to late to join in. In preparing for each class, the teacher is delving into several commentaries and the information presented provides a clearer understanding of the many symbols and imagery contained in this wondrous Book of Prophecy. You will greatly benefit from being part of this detailed study.

## Refining Rubies—Ladies' Ministry

The "Ladies" Ministry here at Grace is alive and well and seeking more Ladies to join us in this "Grand Adventure".

This past year saw the beginnings of some great ideas that we are in hopes of continuing.

One of the events that was held was (what I call) a "Morning of Blessings". It took place on a Saturday morning. We had a mini conference. There was fun, fellowship around the Word of God, special music, and a brief message on "Touching Jesus' Garment". Anita Renfoe was there - via DVD. We are in hopes of having our 2nd annual "Morning" soon.

The year saw some changes in our Wednesday night Ladies' group. We were "Captivating" with Stacey Eldridge and took on a "Grand New

Day" with Sheila Walsh. Currently we are having a "Group Fellowship" time where we meet and "talk" over issues that concern, enlighten, encourage and challenge us as women of faith and daughters of the King. We are also trying to answer questions about the things of God and of life that concern us.

We would like to encourage all the women of the church 18 years and older to join us on Wednesday nights right after the Bible Study with Pastor Lin. A nursery is available for children 0-4 during the bible study and small group time (that's us), there is a time of prayer and fun for children 5-12 and a "teen time" with Brenda Grant and Amy Libby for those 13-17—both during small group time. There is also a Men's Group and a Prayer Group going on at the same time.

One of our favorite yearly events is the

"Women of Faith" conference that we attend. We have been to Boston, Hartford and this year maybe Philadelphia or Washington D.C. We charter a bus and are whisked away never to return the same. God is good—all the time! The bus that we charter is owned and driven by a Christian man. His wife and daughters travel with us. MaryLou is our "travel guide" and does all the hard work for us. If you would like to go with us this year she is the "go to Lady". We will make known the dates and location as soon as possible.

We are seeking and praying about having a once a month "just being together and doing something" time. If you have ideas or would like to be included please see Becky Libby or Brenda Grant. If you have any ideas about what you would like to see us doing as a group of women please share your thoughts with us.

We are looking forward to another great year in the service of the King.

To quote Mr. Blackaby: "Find where God is working and join Him there. We firmly believe God is at Work in our midst and we invite you to join us as we join Him."

LOOKING, (Titus 2:13)

Becky Libby

## GCC's Men's Ministry

### MENS RETREAT

The 3rd Annual "Men of Iron" Men's retreat will take place on Friday, July 9 & Saturday, July 10. We will be staying at a rustic camp owned by Jim Brann that is about 10 miles North of Jackman and then 20 miles East off the paved road. Vehicle accessible. Plenty of room to sleep inside the camp or bring your own tent.

As in the past there will be a devotion time Friday night and after breakfast and lunch on Saturday. There are activities for everyone: fishing, 4 wheeling, canoeing, hiking and target shooting.

What a great time we had in July 2009. We had 14 men attend. Awesome time of devotions and men on their knees in prayer. Awesome time of recreational activities. This Band of Brothers came away closer to God and each other.

This will be a time to renew old friendships and begin new ones. A time to hear God's Word in the Wilderness. A time of Freedom for men who are Wild At Heart. We hope to see you there.

We usually caravan to the camp Friday morning. Now is the time to add this date to your vacation time. Older male teens (with their Dad) welcome as well. For more info see Isaac Libby or watch for details on the website: [www.gzchapel.com](http://www.gzchapel.com).

### Men's Wednesday Night Book Study

The men at Grace Community Chapel are currently reading a book entitled "Walking with God" written by John Eldridge. They read a portion of the book on their own during the week and during Book Study night they view an accompanying video clip followed by a question and answer discussion time. Men, ages 18 and older, are invited to attend.

## GCC's Youth Group—REVIVE

Hello my name is Chris Dodge, and I'm one of the youth leaders at Grace Community Chapel. There are three other leaders, my wife Sarah and Zack and Shelby Beaulieu. We meet every Monday night from 6:15 to 8:00 p.m. for teens 8th through 12th grade. Last year was the first start of Revive Youth Group. With a good steady group of kids we have been focusing on unity and building a family-like atmosphere. We have achieved this through the action and love we display to one another. In 2009 we had a few big events but by far the best one was the thirty hour famine which we used to raise money for world hunger. The kids were very excited as they all gave with cheerful hearts. This year, however, we are taking the focus to our community and trying to reach the lost. Our ultimate goal is to make our church like the rock thrown into the pond making a ripple effect through the local area. Through God all things are possible and that's what our sights are on. For more information please contact me, Chris Dodge, by phone 207/557-2012 or check us out on Facebook by searching Revive Youth Group.

Devotional excerpted from "Proverbs for Life for Teens"

### Teamwork

*"Anxiety weighs down the human heart, but a good word cheers it up." Proverbs 12:25 NRSV*

Kevin noticed that Greg seemed to be in a perpetual bad mood—except when he was playing basketball. Whether he was enduring a grueling practice or playing at the state playoffs, once Greg had the ball in his hands, he almost seemed to dance down the court. But Greg's smile ended with the sound of the final buzzer. In the locker room, he quickly returned to his sullen self.

"What's up with him?" Colin asked Kevin after a particularly sweet victory—and a temperamental hasty retreat by Greg.

Kevin had been Greg's friend since kindergarten, and he'd never known him to be so moody. Only a couple of months ago Greg had been joking and fooling around with his buddies after games. *Maybe he's got a problem I don't know about.*

"Beats me." Kevin said to Colin. Then he added, "Why don't we try and catch up with him? Maybe sharing a pizza might loosen him up—it couldn't hurt to ask."

\*\*\*Anxiety isn't always easy to spot. It can come across as anger, depression or apathy. It may even manifest itself as an eating disorder, a willingness to take unnecessary risks, or a pattern of getting involved in unhealthy relationships. Be sensitive to those around you. When you see someone who seems to be struggling with anxiety, don't just walk away and pretend that it's someone else's problem. Risk reaching out. Pray for that person regularly. And ask God what you can do to help.

\*\*\*TRY THIS: Share a good word with someone today. Write a letter, make a phone call, or just ask that person face-to-face, "How are you doing—really?" It could be a friend who's going through a hard time or just a person who's been on your mind. You never know You may just be the high point in that person's day.

Scriptures to Ponder:

Proverbs 10:21

Proverbs 10:32

## Creative Call

Please take the time to ponder the message of this poem as we enter the Easter Season.

*Many are living at Good Friday  
Lost, not able to find their way.  
Tortured, broken and left to die,  
So discouraged they can't even cry.*

*Take heart, our loving Lord doth say,*

*For in my love, I chose your way.  
Tortured, broken and left to die,  
Entombed in stone that could not lie.*

*But there is more you need to know  
Of God above, who loves you so,  
Through my death, redemption was birthed*

*For all mankind living on earth.*

*Good Friday, filled with pain and death*

*His loving Son drew His last breath,  
Lo, on the third day He arose.  
Death could not bring life to a close.*

*Victory won on Easter morn,  
Satan defeated, full of scorn.  
The same is ours, if we so choose:  
Life over death, we cannot lose.*

*Written by Pam Pottle*

This column invites original creations from our readers. These can take the form of poetry, stories, drawings, recipes, crafts, etc. Please submit them to Pam Pottle for inclusion in our newsletter



Children's Bible Trivia Question!! Ages 2-12

Q. What eight year old boy became King of Judah?

Teen Bible Trivia Question!! Ages 13-17

Q. What is the central chapter of the entire Bible (exactly the middle)?

Adult Bible Trivia Question!! 18 & Up

Q. Who had the only known case of halitosis in the Bible?

First right answer to Pam Pottle receives honorable mention along with answer in next newsletter.

### Subscribe Now by Just Plain



*A merry heart makes a cheerful countenance... Proverbs 15:13*

One of the characteristics that I cherished upon first attending Grace Community Chapel was the congregation's sense of humor and wit. I was pleasantly surprised to see the Pastor's ability to go with the flow and apply his own brand of humor to the mix. This newsletter would be remiss if it did not include a column reflecting that humor.

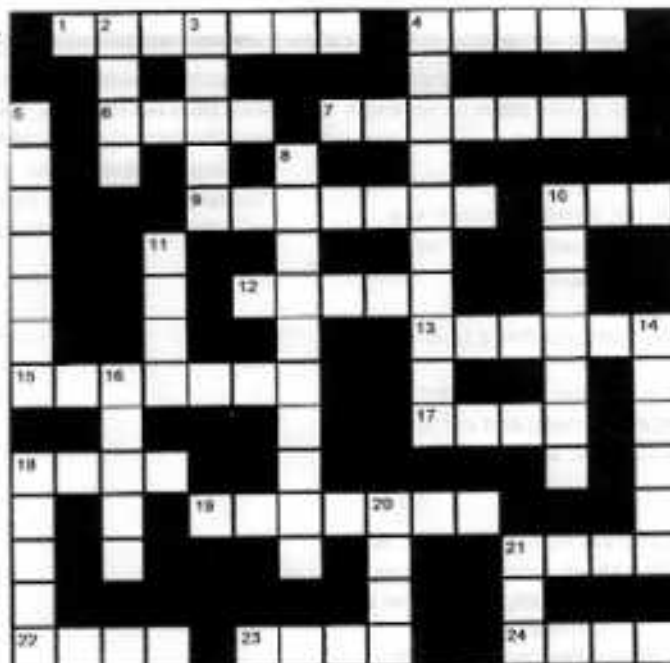
#### Contest—Name this Column

Anyone interested in submitting a name for this column please do so by May 15th. The winner will receive honorable mention in the June 2010 newsletter. Also any jokes, humorous stories, cartoons are welcomed. Please provide them to Pam Pottle for consideration and inclusion.

Taken from BibleStudyGuide.org—Basic Vocabulary Series I; Puzzle 1

**Across**

1. Saturday, the day on which the Jews were commanded to rest.
4. The instrument of crucifixion
6. This Syriac or Chaldee word is found three times in the New Testament  
(Mark 14:36; Romans 8:15; Gal. 4:6), and in each case is followed by its Greek equivalent, which is translated "father".)
7. The first book of the Bible
9. A major prophet
10. The name derived from the patriarch Judah
12. The Lord's name
13. "The salvation of Jehovah." One of the great (major) Prophets.
15. To make obeisance or do reverence to God.
17. The man who built the ark.
18. An apostle, the brother of James, the son of Zebedee (Matt. 4:21)
19. "To bubble forth, as from a fountain," hence "to utter", comp. Psalm 45:1.
21. The garden in which the first parents dwell.
22. Hairy, Rebekah's first-born twin son (Gen. 25:25).
23. The apostle who was originally named Saul.
24. Help. A priest among those that returned to Jerusalem under Zerubabel (Neh 12:1).



**Down**

2. The man God created.
3. The book of Scripture divided into the Old Testament and New Testament.
4. A statement based on inward conviction.
5. He was the son of Alphaeus, and was a publican or tax-gatherer at Capernaum.
8. The purchase back of something that had been lost, by the payment of a ransom.
10. The city where only Rahab "and her father's household, and all that she had", were preserved from destruction, according to the promise of the spies (Josh 2:14).
11. Last of the historical books of the New Testament.
14. The eternal dwelling place of God.
16. A harlot who lived in Jericho and was saved after hiding the Israelite spies.
18. He was the father of eight sons, the youngest of whom was David (1 Samuel 17:12).
20. The place of eternal punishment.
21. Adam's wife.

## DEACON'S BENCH

Since this is the first Grace newsletter, the Deacons have been asked to recap 2009 in addition to informing you of what's going on in 2010.

It is the responsibility of the Deacons to oversee the finances of the church and care for the physical buildings and grounds. Pastor Lin also serves on this board. The Deacon's have also taken on the scriptural role of reaching out to those in need, as well. Several of the Deacons also serve on the Safety Committee, Grace Christian Academy Committee and in other Church ministries.

Your Deacons in 2009 and 2010 are as follows:

Steve Doyle (serving since 2007, Chairman)  
 Ted Rolfe (serving since 2002)  
 Reggie Grant (serving since 2003)  
 Pat Polley (serving since 2009)  
 Isaac Libby (serving since 2009)

If you ever have a need to meet with the Deacons board, convey a need or have questions or issues about the building or finances, please contact Steve Doyle.

There were a number of events at the church in 2009. We thank those who attended but especially for those church members who served to make these events go off without a hitch.

National Day of Prayer at GCC - May 7  
 Kent Nelson Deployment Concert - June 27  
 Annual Mortgage Barbeque - June 28  
 Blackwood Bros. Concert - July 7  
 AWANA Ministry Conference - Oct. 3  
 Name Above All Names Conference - Oct. 23 & 24  
 Stephanie Israelson Concert - Nov 21  
 Relay Center for Operation Christmas Child - Nov.

The Deacons are responsible to provide financial support to the Missionaries that the Elders have asked us to support. The total combined monthly support to our missionaries in 2009 was \$950 per month. Our missionaries are as follows: Jim & Debbie Cartor in Uruguay, Hugh & Marty Tracey in Peru, Michael & Carolyn

Robinson in Colorado, Camp Berea in Maine, Jeff & Melanie Davis of AWANA New England and Jay & Linda Walker of Truckers For Christ. We also added 2 new missionaries this year: Abby Carter in Uruguay and Jake & Karen Adams in New York

The Deacon's were approached by the Missions Board in 2007, with the request to fund a Missions trip to Uruguay in 2009, to visit the Carter's who are missionaries we support. We began to set aside a percentage of the tithes and offerings in 2007 and 2008. In April 2009, we were able to pay for 5 of our teens and 3 adults to travel to Uruguay. We were also able to leave around \$4,000, with the Carter's to help in their missions outreach. The teens and adults were busy making repairs to the church in Uruguay and in an outreach to its people. Each teen raised \$800, of their own money toward the trip. As you know from their testimony, it had a huge impact on each one of the teens

The Deacons also began a new savings program for another Missions trip to Uruguay in 2011. See Elder Rick Pottle for more information on the trip itself.

Some of the building projects we completed in 2009, were as follows (thanks to those who assisted us in completing these projects):

1. Doubled the size of rear parking lot
2. Sanctuary carpet and pews steam cleaned
3. Completed a partition wall in the nursery
4. Prepped the building for GC Academy
5. Installed fire escape door for GC Academy
6. Installed wireless internet for GC Academy
7. Installed water fountain
8. re-shingling the entryway roof
9. Repairs to roof at Camp Berea

In 2009, the Deacons began an outreach to church members as we began to see some needs. With the aid of many church members we were able to accomplish some great things:

- 1) Sept. 2009 - cut, split and stacked 5 cords of wood for home heating at Jim & Mary-Lou's. We had about 15 church members help.

2) Oct. 25, 2009 - Cut down trees, sawed and stacked 3 cords of wood for Pastor Lin. We had about ten church members help.

3) Nov. 1, 2009 - Yard clean up and wood stacking at Kent & Gayle Nelson's while Kent was serving in Iraq. We had about 26 church members help.

4) Dec 2009 - firewood workday at Pat & Cathy Boudreau's

We should all be proud of the many teens who attend our church as many of them showed up to help at the various work events that we had.

Another Deacon's outreach is to meet some financial needs for those in our church family or community. We disbursed some funds as follows:

Donated \$500 to the Food Bank  
 Donated \$5,000 in scholarships to students at GC Academy  
 Donated 2 tickets to Women of Faith  
 Donated \$800 to church family in need  
 Donated \$500 to non-church family in need  
 Donated \$750 to church family in need for medical emergency.  
 Donated \$270 to non-church family in need to save her from being evicted. Other churches contributed in addition to our amount.  
 Donated 100 gallons of oil to a single working mom in need  
 Continue to fund the Love Fund as needed.

Deacon's News from January and February of 2010

1) Some of the Deacons, Elders and Pastor Lin shoveled the roof off at Camp Berea.

2) We donated \$500 to a Christian couple from Raymond, known by someone from our church, toward the expenses of adopting two children from Haiti. Their total cost to adopt was around \$20,000. This was a great way to invest in the Kingdom by bringing two children into a Christian home.

3) The church and school have agreed to jointly invest in a building sprinkler system

## Deacon's Bench—Cont'd.

at a cost of \$11,845, for the main Sanctuary building. This is less than half the amount of many of the quotes we have received over several years. This system is required by the Fire Marshal in order to have a school upstairs. The addition of this system will now allow the Christian Academy to grow in the ample space we have upstairs. It will protect both the kids from Church and the Academy in case of fire. Part of our building projects going forward will be to complete the upstairs finish work and flooring. Upstairs we have 4 small classrooms, two large classrooms and a room for the school administration.

### 2010 Deacon's Projects

1) We will complete some needed re-roofing in the area between the building entry and the Fellowship Hall.

2) Camp Berea has asked for labor assistance to help them re-roof their main building this Spring. This is a worthy cause to help as many of our Church teens return to Camp Berea year after year. More details to follow should you wish to donate your time or see Isaac Libby.

### 2010 Deacon's Outreach

The Deacon's will be expanding our outreach to those who are in need for projects like wood chopping, shoveling snow from roofs and etc. Isaac Libby will be the contact for both those needing work done and those who are willing to serve by helping. This is a great outreach to help serve those that can't physically perform these duties all by themselves. If you have attended one of these work crews in the past, you understand how truly blessed we are by the fellowship of the work crew and the blessing of serving someone in need.

## Elder Wisdom

Some have said jokingly I hope, that elder wisdom is an oxymoron. Though I believe that wisdom comes from the mouths of our elders, the comment should make all of us take heed. If any of us — elder, teacher or layperson, attempts to impart wisdom that is not from God, then it may not be wisdom at all.

In Unger's Bible Dictionary we read, "In men wisdom is not only practical understanding of matters relating to this life, but in the highest sense it is the theoretical and practical acceptance of divine revelation." So we may speak words that impart some wisdom, but to impart real wisdom we must go to the source of all wisdom and knowledge—God Himself. We will endeavor to make this newsletter column something enjoyable to read and something that points the reader to true wisdom.

If someone is looking for wisdom, the Old Testament book of Proverbs is a good place to start. In the first chapter (vs. 22) the author asks the question: "how long will fools hate knowledge?" The thought goes back to verse 7 where we read "the fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge." So, the fool will hate knowledge as long as he or she refuses to fear the LORD. These words were written specifically to the nation of Israel during the reign of Solomon. However, the principle can be applied to anyone who fails to listen or follow the words of eternal life (John 6:68). God goes on to say that He called and the people refused. He stretched out His hand and no one paid attention, and that they neglected all of His counsel and did not want His reproof. This is a harsh statement coming from God, and we need to guard against the same charge being applicable to us.

God goes on to say that since the people spurned His counsel and reproof that they will eat of the fruit of their own way, they will get what they asked for. He further says that the complacency of fools shall destroy them. Contrast this with the last verse in the chapter that promises us that "he who listens to God shall live securely, and shall be at ease from the dread of evil." This is not a promise that life will always be easy, because we live in a fallen world where bad things sometimes happen to good people. However, it is a promise that God is with those who trust in Him, and that we can have His peace in us, and that our dwelling, in Him, is secure. Add on to that the promise from James 1:5, "But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all men generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him. Lord, we ask, give us wisdom.

Respectfully submitted by Paul Follows, Elder GCC

All Scripture quotes from the New American Standard Version—NASB

## Why Christian School?

*"Subjects such as Language Arts, Math and Science prepare you for this world and are very important. However, studying God's Word prepares you for the next world and to me that is even more important."*

Should I send my child to public school, Christian school, or if possible—home school? This has been a debate in the hearts of many believers for years. I believe it is an individual decision and there is no globally definitive answer. Recently, I had the privilege of spending a day at Grace Christian Academy and for those who are still on the fence in their decision-making, I wanted to share some insights from my visit.

I visited the elementary portion of the school which encompasses students from 1st through 6th grades. Each of these students is working on curriculum at their level of understanding and is doing work at their own pace. There is a standard of effort required, so no one is allowed to not give their best. However, their best may not be the same as the person sitting next to them and its okay. There is a standard of excellence required in their behavior and Godly values such as respect, generosity, and thoughtfulness are taught on a daily basis.

The children were presenting their book reports on the day I visited and I was thrilled to see some choose God's Word as their resource. One child shared about the Book of Ruth and another the Book of Jonah. To have God's Word hidden in their heart as part of their daily school work was so encouraging to me. They are also required as part of the curriculum to memorize Scripture—one verse a week. A number of children hadn't completed this assignment and their teacher said something very profound... "Subjects such as Language Arts, Math and Science prepare you for this world and are very important. However, studying God's Word prepares you for the next world and to me that is even more important." Praise God for a school where children are encouraged to live their lives as followers of Christ.

Without sharing specifics, I saw God's forgiveness and mercy shown to a couple of students by the teacher in charge. What better way to teach our children "WWJD" than to have it mod-

eled daily in their school lives?

Teaching can be challenging in a classroom where all of the students are on the same page in their studies. At Grace Christian Academy the teachers are in a learning environment where each of the students is studying something different at various levels of understanding. At present, there is one teacher for the 1st to 6th grades and one teacher for the 7th to 9th grades. From my observations, they are doing a wonderful job, but volunteers are needed and would be greatly appreciated. If you have the time and the inclination to be part of an eternal ministry opportunity, please see Bruce Coffin, School Board President.

In closing, a Christian school may not be the answer for every child and as I stated previously, it is an individual decision. But if God has been speaking to your heart about an alternative for your child's education, please consider Grace Christian Academy. It may be the best investment you will make toward your children's future.

By: Pam Pottle

## Grace Christian Academy News

Grace Christian Academy is ready to grow exponentially for next fall. With the installation of the sprinkler system we will be able to accommodate up to 70 students upstairs, more than 5 times this year's enrollment! An individual has been approached to be Headmaster for next year while discussions have been held concerning the adding of more teachers.

March 18 will be the Annual Open House for GCA. People who have expressed an interest in the past will be receiving an

invitation along with many churches in the area. Parents will be able to look at the current school location as well as see where school will be in the fall. They will have the opportunity to speak with current students and their parents as well as the teachers and some School Committee members. In preparation for the Open House people can learn a little more about the school at the new website: [www.gracechristianacademy.com](http://www.gracechristianacademy.com).

We would like to thank all those at Grace Community Chapel who have been a part

of starting and sustaining GCA this year. Seeing young people get saved and growing in the Lord while making big strides in their academics, well, it doesn't get any better than that! Praise the Lord! Keep us in your prayers and if you would like to help in some way, don't hesitate to ask.