



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.

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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.

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 it's 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, it's 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.

In Christ's Love, Brian Perkins

Christian Education Opportunities at Grace Community Chapel

Approved

Workmen

Are

Not

Ashamed

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.gchapel.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

