

Grace Notes

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | FEBRUARY 2017
GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH



Pastor's Notes Pastor Mark Elkins

We live in a culture that is increasingly skeptical of the concept of membership. Whether we are talking about aligning ourselves with a particular political party or just joining the local gym, in yet another attempt to fulfill a New Year's Resolution, we are becoming more and more hesitant to make a commitment. This trend is even beginning to affect the church of Jesus Christ. Over the last 50 years, Christians have begun to stray from the Bible's clear teaching on the necessity of church membership and instead wind up drifting from church to church in what has been called "church shopping".

There is not enough space here to show you how the Bible teaches that Christians are supposed to be committed members of one specific, local church. So I encourage you to read your Bible with a discerning eye. I believe you will find that although there is no use of the modern term membership, there is definitely a clear understanding that Believers are expected to be a part of a local church, for example, "the church in Jerusalem" (Acts 8:1) or "the church in Smyrna" (Rev. 2:8). The reality is that, in the Bible, once someone was saved, they were

immediately incorporated into a local church. There is simply no serious discussion of Believers operating outside of a local expression of Christ's church.

And if you think about it, God's plan really makes a great deal of sense. Who would think it is right to leave a newborn baby all alone without a family? No one! That would be cruel and disastrous! God's plan from the very beginning of time has always been for the family to be the place where newborn babies grow and learn how to be children, then teenagers, then adults and then parents themselves.

And this model of the family is the same one that God uses for His church. Every individual church is a separate branch on God's family tree. Each one is tasked to function as His family here on earth until Jesus' return. Each one is to take in both "newborn" Believers and Believers of all spiritual ages and then love them, protect them, feed them, teach them, discipline them, and give them opportunities to use their gifts to serve, to be blessed and to be a blessing.

This is why it has always been God's plan for His children to be grafted into a local branch of His family tree. It is only there that a Believer can truly experience the healthy spiritual life that he or she was redeemed to enjoy. I pray that you will find that experience of family and joy here at Grace Baptist Church.

Events

Feb 4
Saturday Morning Men's Ministry

Feb 5
Missions Meeting

Feb 12
Baby Bottle Boomerang Collection Ends

Mar 12
Daylight Savings Time Begins

Apr 9-16
Annie Armstrong Week of Prayer

Apr 16
Easter Sunday
Annie Armstrong Easter Offering



Nursery Schedule

Feb 05 – Laurie Salser & Chris Howell

Feb 12 – Nadine & Rusty Smith

Feb 19 – Marcia Jones & Erin Carroll

Feb 26 – Dawn Gregory & Candi Hylton

Children's Church

Feb 05 – Leisa LeFew & Sandee Davis

Feb 12 – Maura Elkins & Barry Jones

Feb 19 – Linda Daumen & Peyton Elkins

Feb 26 – Dale & Shelley Hollandsworth

AWANA Theme Nights

Feb 01 – Superbowl Night

Feb 08 – "Heart of Christ"

Feb 15 – "What is Love?"

Feb 22 – NASCAR/ Teddy
Bear Night

Announcements

We will be having our first **Saturday Morning Men's Ministry** meeting of 2017 at **8:30am** on **Saturday, February 4th**, in the **Fellowship Hall**. This is a **free** event for any **men** in the church and community **aged 15 and up**. Please contact Pastor Mark, if you have any questions.

There is going to be a **Missions Meeting** in the Fellowship Hall on **Sunday February 5th**, directly following the service. We will be discussing Local, Regional, and International mission plans for 2017 and beyond. If you are interested in learning more or feel led to serve in one of these areas, please plan to attend.

We have the great privilege here at GBC to host our annual **Baby Bottle Boomerang going on right now!** Together, we will raise our prayers, raise awareness, and raise the funds necessary for the **Pregnancy Care Center of MHC** to help fulfill their mission of saving the lives of babies and caring for them and their parents, before and after they are safely brought into this world, all for the glory of Jesus Christ our Lord. You will find empty baby bottles at the front of the sanctuary for you to take home and fill with checks, dollar bills, and loose change. **Be sure to bring your bottle back by Sunday, February 12th.**

The New Year has arrived, and **we would like to arrange an updated, simple church directory** for Grace Baptist Church in 2017. **Please, see Casey Elkins after Sunday Service or during the week to confirm the accuracy of your contact information and that you would like to be included in our directory.** You may also email her at office@hisgraceforyou.org.

Fellowship Meals

Feb 01 – Prepared

Feb 08 – Potluck

Feb 15 – Prepared

Feb 22 – Prepared (Subs)

Prayer Deacons

Pat Groves – Feb 05

Lee Bryant – Feb 12

Chuck Buchanan – Feb 19

David Byrd – Feb 26



February 2017

Birthdays

Anniversaries

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 5:15pm Dinner (Prepared) 6pm AWANA 6:15pm Bells Bible Study AWANA Mamas 7:40pm Choir <u>Claire Spence</u> <u>Linda Daumen</u>	2	3	4 8:30am Saturday Morning Men's Ministry Breakfast <u>Mike Craig</u>
5 Missions Meeting after church <u>Hillary Holt</u> <u>Lena Howell</u>	6	7	8 5:15pm Dinner (Potluck) 6pm AWANA 6:15pm Bells Bible Study AWANA Mamas 7:40pm Choir	9	10	11
	<u>Marcia Jones</u>			<u>Christy Menear</u>	<u>Dyson Spence</u>	
12	13	14 <i>Valentine's Day</i>	15 5:15pm Dinner (Prepared) 6pm AWANA 6:15pm Bells Bible Study AWANA Mamas 7:40pm Choir <u>Carol Byrd</u>	16 10am Women of Grace	17	18
<u>Jay Vick</u>	<u>Candi Hylton</u>			<u>Will Morris</u>	<u>Maynee Meadows</u>	<i>Lee & Jane Bryant</i>
19	20 7pm Women on Mission	21	22 5:15pm Dinner (Prepared—Subs) 6pm AWANA 6:15pm Bells Bible Study AWANA Mamas 7:40pm Choir	23	24	25
	<u>Susan Holt</u>				<u>Matt Holt</u>	
26	27	28				
	<u>Cheyenne Hughes</u> <u>Rodney Matthews</u> <u>Josiah Spangler</u>	<u>Bill Salser</u>				