

Calendar

- Food Pantry
Sept 4, 19 and
Oct 2, 17
- Adult Bible Fellow-
ships—Worship
Center Sept 5
- Church Offices
Closed Sept 6
- MOPS begins
Sept 7
- AWANA begins
Sept 12
- JIF (Just in Fun)
Sept 12 and Oct 10
- Choir begins
Sept 15
- Men's Prayer
Breakfast
Sept 18 and Oct 16
- "Seasoned With
Grace" Picnic
Sept 19
- See You at
the Pole Sept 22
- Camp CHOF
Sept 24-26
- Quilt & Garden
Show Oct 2
- 4th & 5th Graders
Putt-Putt Oct 3
- IMPACT Leaf
Raking Oct 30

Inside this issue:

Camp CHOF	2
Meet the Mainos	2
"If Jesus Came to Your House"	2
Canton Gospel Community	3
Women of Grace	3
Quilt & Garden Show	3
Baptism	4
New Babies	4
Fall Ordered Learning	4
Unplugged and Unheard-Of	4

Grace Family News

September - October 2010

Pastor's Pen

Fence Post or Stradivarius?

For as long as I can remember, I have heard the plea of the human spirit for FREEDOM. This earnest cry is voiced in literature, song, politics, you name the media, and it has been there. Remember the motion picture Braveheart with Mel Gibson? The last words of his character, William Wallace the Irish Freedom Fighter, was the heartfelt scream F R E E D O M...just prior to his beheading. I suppose this is fitting with the 60's vocal group Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young as they preached;

"Find the cost of freedom
Buried in the ground
Mother Earth will swallow you
Lay your body down".

Once, people were denied the opportunity to worship the way they felt God wanted them to, so they left in small wooden, leaking ships on a dangerous journey to either 1) worship freely or 2) die. Thus the United States was born. The civil rights movement brought to the forefront the lack of balance in freedoms experienced between races in this country.

Jesus said, "You are a slave to whatever you serve". Climbing the corporate ladder brings greater financial reward while it also demands more time and an alliance to the *Corporate Culture's* way of thinking and behaving.

These things aren't necessarily wrong. However, this writer believes that our relationship with Jesus Christ and our reflective lifestyle must be guarded. Secular organizations however *good* they may seem to be are what they are....secular. Our faith will be challenged.

The Word of God says, "My ways are not your ways..." We may not fully understand His ways, right at first anyhow. Again, "My ways are much higher than your ways..." This is how I understand it; God's ways are so profound that they seem to contradict our human reasoning; therefore we have difficulty believing some of His astounding statements and promises.

Jesus said, "If the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed". His ways aren't our ways. As we submit to His leadership we soon find freedom from previously unrecognized enslavements. We freely submit to His will and He wills us His freedom....definitely not "our ways". As His will is shown to us *and as we obey*, we discover a freedom long coveted but never fully described or experienced.

A closing illustration: Take the finest timber and cut it down. Have a sawmill cut it into 4x4s and planks. Load it into a dump truck and dump it onto your lot. Now take that same timber and sawmill work. This time stack it neatly for seasoning in a barn. Once the wood is

stacked and spaced for air flow, strap it tightly with steel bands to restrict any movement. Wait three years. What's the first cut worth? How about the wood that had restrictions placed on it? The first is good for fence posts and maybe barn siding. The second fine furniture or even fine musical instruments all because it submitted to some restrictions. Now the second batch has the freedom to not only be fine and beautiful furniture, or even the best of musical instruments, but it could be used for a fence post if the master needed for it to be.

My conclusion: I want to be free indeed so I will 1) yield to His known will which will free me in amazing ways so that I will want to 2) seek His more specific will and 3) enjoy serving Him forever.

Hal Johnson





AGAPE

What is the best part about fall? Colorful leaves, apple cider, pumpkin pie? No, oh NO! The answer is the youth FALL RETREAT. Coming soon, look for three days packed full of awesome. Prepare yourself for extreme games, mad fun, late night excursions, heartfelt worship, engaging sessions on

living the Christian life, and an all-around really great time.

Every junior high and high school student is invited to attend!!

Once again, the retreat will be held at Camp CHOF on September 24, 25 and 26. Cost is \$49 per student. Pastor Ron will be teaching on **Agape**—loving God and loving others. In addition to the usual line-up

of events, look for other surprises, including a rumored return of *The Tangerines*. Bring your friends, bring your foes, bring any teenagers you find — it is, after all, the best part of fall!

Colleen Harris

Meet the Mainos...

Jeff and Anna Maino began attending Grace Church in January 2003. Jeff has been involved in short term missions, Bible studies, and is currently an usher and a deacon. Anna teaches children's church and helps in AWANA.

Jeff moved here from California where he attended Ganesha High School and Anna attended Hoban High and Kent State University. They met at a Bible study at Jeff's house in Cuyahoga Falls, got married and built a house in

Southington where Rachel was born and then moved to Rootstown where they were blessed with Reann coming into their lives. Jeff is a carpenter and Anna is a special education teacher.

The kids, Rachel (12) and Reann (7) are very involved here at Grace. They both are homeschooled. Rachel enjoys babysitting and wants to be a missionary, and Reann loves sports. Jeff's favorite past-times are reading and camping and Anna loves to fish.

As for food???

Anna and Jeff are all about Mexican cuisine, Rachel loves Chicken Tetrizzini and Reann would rather eat Pizza than just about anything!



We are blessed the Mainos are part of Grace Church! Take time today to say hello!

"If Jesus Came to Your House"

If Jesus came to your house to spend a day or two—

If He came unexpectedly, I wonder what you'd do.

Oh, I know you'd give your nicest room to such an honored Guest,

And all the food you'd serve to Him would be the very best.

And you would keep assuring Him you're glad to have Him there—

That serving Him in your own home is joy beyond compare.

But—when you saw Him coming, would you meet Him at the door

With arms outstretched in welcome to your heavenly Visitor?

Or would you have to change your clothes before you let Him in?

Or hide some magazines and put the Bible where they'd been?

Would you turn off the radio and hope He hadn't heard?

And wish you hadn't uttered that last, loud, hasty word?

Would you hide your worldly music and put some hymn books out?

Could you let Jesus walk right in, or would you rush about?

And I wonder—if the Savior spent a day or two with you,

Would you go right on doing the things you always do?

Would you go right on saying the things you always say?

Would life for you continue as it does from day to day?

Would your family conversation keep up its usual pace?

And would you find it hard each meal to say a table grace?

Would you sing the songs you

always sing, and read the books you read,

And let Him know the things on which your mind and spirit feed?

Would you take Jesus with you everywhere you'd planned to go?

Or would you, maybe, change your plans for just a day or so?

Would you be glad to have Him meet your very closest friends?

Or would you hope they'd stay away until His visit ends?

Would you be glad to have Him stay forever on and on?

Or would you sigh with great relief when He at last was gone?

It might be interesting to know the things that you would do

If Jesus Christ in person came to spend some time with you.

Lois Blanchard Eades



Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Matthew 5:6

Canton Gospel Community

As most of you probably know by now, a small group of people from Grace Church started meeting earlier this summer in Canton, with the intentions of eventually planting a new church.

Over the summer, our group focused on becoming unified in its vision to reach unbelievers in the Canton area through a relational, informal community of Christians. During this time we met in each other's homes, shared weekly meals, worked on

building relationships within the group, and studied "Gospel Centered Church" by Steve Timmis. We also focused on introducing our unbelieving friends to members of the community so they could begin to see the gospel lived out through the lives of our group.

As the summer ends, we're starting to make a transition from being inwardly focused to a mindset of outreach. We're confident our

group has caught the vision, and soon we'll be opening up our homes and meetings to unbelievers as we begin to intentionally share our lives and the Gospel of Christ.

We appreciate your continued prayers as we begin this process. It's an exciting time, and we look forward to the work God is doing – both in and through us.

Justin Metz

{ Women of Grace }

In my kitchen windowsill I have Daniel 6:4-5 typed on a piece of paper; it reminds me to daily live a life of integrity in front of my husband, my boys, and everyone with whom I come in contact that day. The definition of integrity is a "steadfast adherence to a strict moral or ethical code." Integrity is hard to find these days in the home, in the workforce, in politics. The problem with integrity is that we desire others to live with it yet we fail to live up to the same standard.

Let's dive into the Old Testament for a few examples of those who lived a life of integrity. *Joseph* – Joseph fled from evil to uphold his integrity (read Genesis 39 – 47). *Job* – Job's wife said, "Do you still hold fast your integrity? Curse God and die." (Job 2:9) Job responded in Chapter 27 by proclaiming, "Till I die I will not put away my

integrity from men." These men are great examples of how to live a life of integrity, but in my opinion the best Old Testament example of integrity is Daniel.

You know the story of Daniel; I challenge you to re-read it looking at the life of Daniel. In Chapter 6 we see King Darius had placed many in leadership, yet King Darius desired to appoint Daniel "over the entire kingdom." (v.3). The other leaders were not pleased and wanted Daniel removed from power. They were perplexed as to how he should be removed and they "began trying to find a ground of accusation against Daniel in regard to government affairs; but they could find no ground of accusation or evidence of corruption, ***inasmuch as he was faithful, and no negligence or corruption was to be found in him.***" (v.4, *emphasis added*) The commissioners and satraps decided that

they would "not find any ground of accusation against this Daniel" unless they found it "against him with regard to the law of his God." (v.5) They knew the only way to trip up Daniel was to go by way of his God, whom he would not fail.

Ladies, can that be said of us, that the only way to try to bring us down is to attack our relationship with Jesus Christ? Yet, little did they know that's where Daniel drew his strength, and ladies, that's where we must draw our strength. We must be women of integrity and not women of the world. There are several Proverbs you can read about integrity: Proverbs 2:7, 2:21, 10:9, 11:3, 19:1, 20:7, 28:6, and 28:18. In the months to come we will continue down the path of integrity and consciously seek ways to be Women of Integrity.

LeAnna Burdett

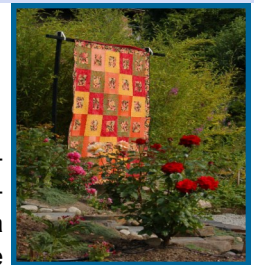
Quilt & Garden Show

Join us **October 2** here at Grace Church for an exciting community outreach. We will have gardening seminars at 11, 12 & 1 o'clock by master gardener, Elaine Regas. There will be beautiful quilt displays from 10-2 in our hallways. We will have a free café where you can bring your friends and neighbors for a muffin and hot drink. We will have giveaways of seeds, dried herbs, bulbs, and other garden items. There will also be door prize drawings for sewing and gardening baskets.

HOW CAN YOU HELP? See Betty Harris between September 7 and 30 if you have items you would like to display. Invite your friends and neighbors. Save extra seedlings, seeds, dried herbs and extra bulbs. Bake some muffins or quick breads for our café. Volunteer to be a hostess for an hour or two to introduce Grace Church to our community. Share a smile or some conversation in our café with someone who might need a word of encouragement. Help us set up on Thursday or Friday

night, September 30 or October 1. Take a flyer from the Welcome Center to invite your friends or clubs.

We will have a short meeting on September 12 after the morning service. Please attend and let us know what you can do that day. This is too exciting not to participate! See Elaine Regas, Carol Bauman, or Betty Harris if you have any questions.





P. O. Box 208
4808 Tallmadge Rd.
Rootstown, OH 44272
330-325-7174
www.GraceChurchRootstown.com

Baptism



We had two baptisms this past month here at Grace. Jacob Leitch and Hannah Morgan followed the Lord in baptism on Sunday, August 29, during our evening Praise/Baptism/Communion Service.

Jacob and Hannah are both part of our high school IMPACT group and both attended this summer's camp in West Virginia. They will tell you that youth camp is an eye *and* heart opening experience and we pray that they continue to follow the Lord's will in their lives.

Please take time to congratulate and encourage Jacob and Hannah for taking this step in their Christian walk!

New Baby!!!!

Jack Calvin Lubbers
9 lbs 12 oz, 21-3/4"
Born July 29, 2010



Grace Church of Rootstown Fall Ordered Learning Classes Beginning September 12, 2010

Sundays

Sunday Morning (9:30 - 10:30 a.m.)
The Gospel of John - Fellowship Hall
Enjoying Your Relationship With God
(First Principles of Marriage) - Conf Room 1
New Believers Class
"Red Book" - Conf Room 2
Young Adult Class - "Total Church" - Room 1
Sunday Evening (6:00 - 7:30 p.m.)
Men's Bible Study - "Fathered By God"
Conf Room 1
Women's Bible Study -
"Respectable Sins" - Room 6
First Principles Study - Room 1

Wednesdays

Wednesday Evening (7:00 - 8:30 p.m.)
Sermon Discussion & Prayer - Conf Room 1
Mom's Prayer Group - Conf Room 2
Leadership Development Class
(for new participants) "Unfolding the
Great Commission" - Room 1

Thursdays

Thursday Evening (7:00 - 8:30 p.m.)
Women's Bible Study -
"Experiencing God" - Conf Room 2
Leadership Development (for continuing
participants) "Spiritual Disciplines" -
Conf Room 1

Unplugged and Unheard-Of

Whoa-ho-whoa! High Schoolers, look out! Starting September 12, Grace Church will kick off a new Sunday night gathering. This is designed as a time for you to gather with your friends to sing and learn in a relaxed environment. We will be trying out some new music, with worship led by David Harris, unplugged, but rocking out on the acoustic guitar. Don Rose will be leading a heartfelt time of learning as we explore issues you face. We know it's unheard-of, but we ask you to come as you are...and bring your friends too. We want your input and your spirit. "Unplugged and Unheard-of" will meet during AWANA (for those of you who do not serve in AWANA) from 6:00-7:30 p.m. in the youth room. Unconventional, we know — but give it a try!



Colleen Harris