Grace Family News

July - August 2011

Special Points of Interest:

- Surge - West Branch July 1
- Food Pantry July 2, 17, Aug 6, 21
- B/J/K Flock Group Independence Bash July 3
- Winging' It July 7 and Aug 4
- JIF (Just In Fun) July 10 and Aug 14
- Hartley/Ralston/Harris Flock Group July 10
- Men's Softball July 11, 18, 25
- Surge - Canoeing July16
- B/J/K Flock - Aeros July 19
- Surge - Cleve Zoo July 22
- VBS July 24-28
- VBS Closing Program July 31
- Cross-Over Munroe Falls July 30
- Surge - Laser Quest Aug 5
- B/J/K Flock Picnic Aug 6
- B/J/K Movie Night Aug 19

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Pastor's Pen

Experiencing Joy

James 1:2-3; [2]Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, [3]for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.

When we first read this passage our thoughts go to past and/or future personal trials. We say that there is no way to have joy at a time like this. Though hard, it is at this time we must focus and remember that God is with us at all times. We focus by: prayer, studying His word, seeking council, encouragement from others, sharing with others, recalling past and future blessings, spiritual songs and hymns, etc.

In the midst of trials, when we are alone, is the most challenging. Our mind wanders, rationalizes, and due to our sin nature, we can get way out of line with Scripture.

It is during these times I am reminded of the following verse and hymn:

1 Thessalonians 5:18; Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Count Your Blessings "Count your blessings, name them one by one, Count your many blessings, see what God hath done!"

When I am struggling and finally get focused on God, I begin to name blessings I have received from the Lord. They typically start with minor, selfish items then quickly change into more meaningful God-focused items. And the next thing I know, I am praising God as I should have done initially. I see the joy that is rooted deeply in my Savior, Jesus Christ. As Jesus is with us always so is joy.

Terry Harris

Missions Moment Highlight

The Yoshida's to Japan

David and Melody Yoshida are our missionary link to the Chiba Prefecture in Japan. ("Prefecture" is like our "state"). Chiba-Ken is located east of Tokyo and south of the tsunami and nuclear disasters of the Fukushima Prefecture. Due to high radiation levels the Yoshidas evacuated Japan on March 18, 2011. They were able to spend time with their daughter in Michigan during the evacuation. On April 19 they returned to the Chiba Prefecture.

Their ministry has changed since many of the 70,000 people normally living where they minister have left. They have asked for prayer as they reach out to those in the devastated areas. This presents a unique opportunity to present the Gospel and share God's love with those who are in desperate need. Lord willing it will open people's hearts to develop into a Christian community who reach others for the Gospel, also.

We at Grace Church will be taking a special offering to help offset their evacuation and return expenses that reached about $10,000 due to the disaster. The special offering for the Yoshidas will be taken on July 17, 2011. Please pray for the Yoshidas, their ministry to a hurting area, and how we can give to help with their emergency financial need.

The Yoshidas

Church Planting Ministry in

Japan

Serving with Baptist Mid-Missions

AWANA WRAPS UP ANOTHER GREAT YEAR!

On May 15, 2011, the AWANA ministry at Grace Church ended another busy and challenging year with their annual awards ceremony. The following youth received and award for completing at least one book:

Cubbies

Lydia Bubar	Rachel Knarr
Cayden Coffey	Hannah Orris
Payton Currall	Sarah-Joy Orris
Brooklyn Daugherty	MacKenzie Thompson
William Forsyth	Rose Wilhelm
Ben Hoff	MacKenzie Wolfe
Lizzie Hoff	

Sparks

Jenna Billock	Grace Longstreth
Kaylee Billock	Reann Maino
Madeline Billock	Maranda Mortimer
Hunter Burdett	Caleb Orris
Baylei Daugherty	Rocky Stephenson
Jacob Germann	Cole Thompson
David Knarr	John Wilhelm
Meghan Knarr	

Truth & Training

Nick Hopkins	Zachary Jackson
Abbey Housley	Mary Mallett
Lauren Housley	Michaela Orris

Zachary Jackson also received the Timothy Award for completing all four of the Truth & Training books. To complete a book each student must memorize several Bible verses.

The key verse for AWANA is 2 Timothy 2:15:

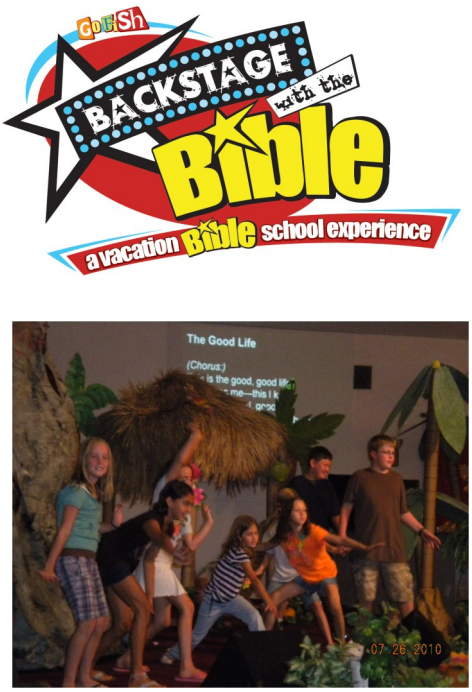
> Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman who needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

In addition to plenty of studying this year, AWANA club members enjoyed games, council-time, store, quizzing, the grand prix and a number of other activities throughout the year.

Our AWANA ministry could not function without the adults who are involved. A special thanks is given to each and every volunteer who helped in any way to make this year a success. Everyone who helped is appreciated for "training these children in the way they should go." If you desire to be challenged, to be encouraged and to experience real enthusiasm for God's teachings, volunteer next year for AWANA. You will be glad you did.

Paul Jackson

Vacation Bible School



We are so excited about our VBS this year! We are doing "Backstage with the Bible" by the Go Fish Guys. If you have enjoyed the music we have done in the past, you will really enjoy this year.

This Vacation Bible School really gets the kids into their Bibles. We look forward to seeing how God will work in the lives our children this year in Bible school. The dates are Sunday, July 24 - Thursday, July 28, from 6:30 - 9:00 p.m. Ages 4 years - 6th grade. We will have a Celebration for kids and their families on Sunday, July 31 at 6:30 pm.

If you are willing to serve this year, please contact Kim Jackson or Cathy Wilhelm.

To see a preview of our Bible school curriculum go to gofishguys.com for a sneak peak.

Kim Jackson

Meet the Daughertys...

Bernie and Lisa grew up in Akron, in the same neighborhood, but didn't meet until in junior high. Roller skating, bowling, baseball and softball were their favorite past-times.

Both attended Kenmore High although Bernie's family moved to Doylestown during his senior year where he graduated from Chippewa High. They were married in 1980, right out of high school, at a little church where Lisa attended as a child.

Bernie is a truck driver by profession and loves "driving a big rig". He hauls salt for a company called Rose Cartage and has hauled gas and diesel, freight and also driven smaller delivery trucks. Lisa has been a secretary and/or a bookkeeper since graduating high school.

They now have three grandchildren, Baylei, Brooklyn and Braxton, who monopolize most of their spare time. They love to take the kids camping and to the zoo. You very rarely will see "Gammy and Papa" alone on weekends!!

Bernie and Lisa both grew up going to church but had fallen away as teens. After their first child, B.J., was born, Lisa began attending church regularly, but it took a few more years and the birth of their second child, Elizabeth, for the Lord to finally bring Bernie around. He did attend church fairly regularly but he wasn't "walking the walk". When he did make that commitment to the Lord, he plunged in head first!

Bernie has worked in the nursery, taught children's Sunday school, worked with the youth group, taken a custodial position, sang in the choir and been a trustee and a deacon. Lisa has taught all ages, worked in the nursery, with the youth, sang in the choir, worked in women's ministries and is now the church secretary. Both love serving the Lord in whatever way He leads.

Take time today to say hello and get to know the Daughertys.

2011 Community Picnic Highlights

Here are some of the highlights of the Grace Church Community Picnic on June 18. If you were unable to make it, you missed a B-E-A-utiful day and lots of fun...

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Family road trip lifesaver! Instead of wishing you could dunk your children on your next vacation, try "Dunk the Cows" and other car games. Go to www.thrivingfamily.com, click on "Features" and then "Games and Activities for Road Trips." Also, on the right-hand side of this website you can download a free episode of "Adventures in Odyssey."

2011 SUMMER CAMP

Early on Sunday morning, June 12, forty people loaded up their luggage, piled into vans, and headed out to Cedar Lakes Conference Center located in beautiful Ripley, WV for the 2nd annual GCOR Youth Summer Camp. Sunday afternoon was spent relaxing, hiking, and swimming in the pool before the official evening kickoff. All participants were divided into two teams, the Jaguars and the Timber Wolves and given a mission: to hunt and capture the Golden Deer. Whichever team succeeded would win the honor of taking home the deer. Throughout the week the teams engaged in a number of competitions which required athletic stealth, Scripture memorizations, quick reflexes and wits, and team work. All of this culminated in the final competition on Thursday morning. This event, called the Ripley 1200, involved each team member playing a different part to complete all stages of the relay. The final stage, an eating contest, proved to be the breaking point for the Jaguars and the Timber Wolves snuck ahead to win the competition and claim the deer.

Each afternoon the youth were given a variety of activities from which to choose. Many enjoyed hiking behind the conference center. The trails were lined beautifully with large rocks, steep hills, ponds, trees and undergrowth. Most afternoons, many of the youth could be found at the pool perfecting their high dives and belly smackers, while others enjoyed fishing and sand volleyball.

This year, guest speaker Adam Laskos presented GOD'S Word to the group in a series of nine sessions which covered important topics including the gospel, what it means to be owned by GOD, authority and how to respond to it, the heart, the immutability of GOD, and learning how to live for GOD. Adam did a wonderful job getting to know everyone and relating his messages to our lives. We are very grateful to Adam for giving a week of his summer to spend with us and share GOD's Word.

There were certainly a number of fun activities and memorable moments throughout the week, but most significantly, everyone who attended summer camp was continually encouraged to examine their relationship with GOD. In small group discussion with leaders, kids discussed sharing their faith, understanding authority and obedience, loving GOD and others, and many other life issues. The entire week was topped off with a campfire on our last evening. Many shared how GOD had been working in their lives, some enjoyed singing praise songs together, while others thanked GOD by looking into the starry skies and praying. We returned to Rootstown on Friday morning, tired, but with many stories to tell and many truths to share.

Colleen Harris

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Women of Grace

Ladies,

In Psalm 119 there are over 80 references to the words of God and there are eight terms in the chapter that refer to the Scripture: commandments, judgments, law, ordinances, precepts, statutes, testimonies, and word. Probably the most popular verse is 11 ~ "Your word have I hid in my heart, that I might not sin against God."

We have been talking in the past few newsletters about meditating and desiring to study God's word. In Psalm 1 the psalmist's delight is in the law of the Lord and he chooses to mediate day and night. In Psalm 119 we see the word "delight" used nine times. I see a pattern here for how I should handle and crave the word of God. "The law …is better to me than…gold and silver…" (v.72).

When I used to work at the law firm and my boss went on vacation I would get a list of items "To Do" while he was away, i.e., who to contact, what to send out, etc. Recently my son went to camp and he left me a list titled, "Stuff to Find Out Every Day," five of the items were important enough, he believed, to warrant a call; i.e., "Call if Peyton Manning retires or anything." Important items! While my boss's list would ensure no "while the cat's away the mice will play"-time for me, and my son's list just makes me laugh, these lists started me thinking about a list to help me daily study His precepts. I challenge you, also, to create a list to see where your desires should be and how your life can be fulfilled by knowing, praying, and living God's precepts on a daily basis. We can keep our way pure by keeping His word (v.9).

Take a steno pad, divide it into sections (using the eight terms listed above) and begin with Psalm 119:1. Write each verse under its pertinent column; i.e., verse 1 would fall under "LAW," If you find recurring phrases, begin a page for those phrases; such as "I" phrases: "I shall keep…," "I shall delight…," "I cling…."

You will soon see how easy it is to meditate on the Word day and night. How else can we pray Psalm 19:14 in true honesty if His words are not hidden in our heart? "Father, may the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight. You, LORD, are my rock and my Redeemer." Amen.

Go forth, dear friends, as women desiring His precepts.

In Christ,

LeAnna Burdett