

# GLANCING BACK | LOOKING AHEAD





### It's Driver Training 101:

Spend the majority of your time looking at what's in front of you and only occasionally glance in the rearview mirror. Those backward glances are important because they give us context. And sometimes it's appropriate even to stop the car, pause the journey, and get our bearings for the ongoing journey.

September 2021, Grace Point celebrates 120 years of God's faithfulness. I doubt that anyone in September 1901 could have imagined that First Baptist Church of Newtown would have a new name and a new location, nor could they have imagined the world as we know it today. But neither can we look ahead and imagine the world of 2141 in another 120 years – if Christ should tarry that long!

But what we can do is pause for a moment and glance back so that we can learn from the past in a similar way that we learn from the spiritual legacy recorded in Scripture:

*For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope. (Romans 15:4)*

### Here are two lessons we learn as we glance back:

Change and challenge are not new to our generation. As we find ourselves in a season of transitions, we're tempted to think there's so much change happening that we may be dealing with something out of the ordinary. But we learn from history that seasons of change and challenge are nothing new. Our forebearers saw tremendous changes in transportation, communication, and technology in the twentieth century. They faced the challenges of world wars and ongoing conflict, both globally and at home. While our changes bring unfamiliar new realities to us, change has been happening since Grace Point was founded in 1901 and before.

### The other lesson helps us accept the first:

God is faithful through every change and challenge: we can always trust Him. As we glance back, we gain encouragement from seeing God's faithfulness to keep every promise He has made. We celebrate God's power in continuing to help more people become fully-committed followers of Christ through the ministry of Grace Point. Christ is our anchor through all the change – as He has been, so shall He ever be:

*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. (Hebrews 13:8)*

As we pause this year to glance back, may we continue to celebrate God's faithfulness to advance His Kingdom purpose of spreading the saving gospel of Jesus Christ, so that those who come after us may have much to celebrate as well.

In Christ,

# GLANCING BACK LOOKING AHEAD





# OUR

**BUILDING BRIDGES FOR LIFE CHANGE THROUGH CHRIST**

# VISION

# OUR

**HELPING MORE PEOPLE BECOME FULLY COMMITTED FOLLOWERS OF JESUS CHRIST**

# MISSION



May 12, 1901 **REV. E. C. ROMINE** began to hold services in Langhorne and Newtown Hall, and it was decided among those gathered that they should organize a Baptist church and call a council of recognition. **Sept 22, 1901** After Rev. E. C. Romine had preached in Newtown Hall, a business meeting for the purpose of organizing a church was held with Rev. Romine as moderator. The 13 charter members proceeded to organize and officially move forward with the naming of the church as **"THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF NEWTOWN"**. **Nov 1901** **REV. C. W. TEASDALE** was chosen as the new pastor, as Rev. E.C. Romine had been the organizer and charter member but did not consider himself as the pastor of the church. **1903** The church procured the **"GAS HOUSE LOT"** for \$500 and plans were solicited to build on the property. **Sept 25, 1905** **THE OFFICIAL GROUNDBREAKING OF THE FIRST PERMANENT LOCATION** for First Baptist Church of Newtown located at 29 N. State



Street. The stone and stained glass were all donated by the generosity of the church members. **May 1906** **DEDICATION SERVICE** for the new N. State Street location. **Apr 1912** Despite a membership of only

51, the church was **"STEPPING OUT ON THE PROMISES"** and the neighboring property was purchased for church expansion for \$2,050. **June 14, 1914** **"TO GET AN EXPRESSION OF THE OPINION OF THE MEMBERS AS TO WHETHER THEY WISH THE LORD'S WORK TO BE CONTINUED IN NEWTOWN IN THE BAPTIST CHURCH OR WHETHER THEY ARE UNINTERESTED IN IT, AND CARE NOT WHETHER THE BAPTIST CHURCH BE OPEN OR CLOSED."** To this pathetic appeal only 16 members responded by their presence at this special meeting, but they somehow received a burst of vision or a new



baptism of faith..." **Nov 29, 1920** Ordination of Rev. William A Gallagher **1932** **"A PROMISING CHOIR OF 22 MEMBERS WAS ORGANIZED."** **1935** A Hammond electric organ was installed in the church costing \$1,400. **1945** **A BUILDING COMMITTEE WAS APPOINTED** and a recommendation was made to expand the building. But because these were war years, the building program could not get under construction. However, in 1946 a new concrete walk was laid in front of both the church and the parsonage property. **Feb 1950** Never



has a congregation been more excited than was ours when ground was broken for the new addition. **Sept 1950** During the morning worship service, a formal dedication service was held. At the evening service the new baptistry was used for the first time with seven candidates following Christ in the waters of baptism. **"THIS WAS THE HISTORY OF AN EVER-IMPROVING CHURCH."** **1954** A Sunday School bus was purchased

and began its ministry on Rally Day, picking up children for Sunday school.

**1960** **"ROADSIDE SIGNS WERE PLACED ON THE ROADS LEADING INTO TOWN."**

**1969** The church trustees negotiated the purchase of a new parsonage (421 Merion Drive, Newtown) for \$26,000.



**1972** Mr. & Mrs. Creed Palmer were Youth Advisors, and during the summer Larry Sherbondy assisted in various ways! **1976** After a thorough study of the Conservative Baptist Association, the Board of Deacons recommended that the church sever its relationship with the American Baptist Churches. It was voted on and adopted by the congregation. **1978** The church obtained an agreement to purchase land in Newtown Township in anticipation of breaking ground for a new facility in the spring or early summer of 1979. **1980** Because of cost and scheduling problems, an idea of relocating to



property on Route 532 was dropped. Instead, plans were made to expand the existing church facility.

**1982** Construction on the new sanctuary and fellowship hall were completed and portions of the old building we renovated. **1984**

After many years of ministry, Pastor Wambaugh resigned, which culminated

in a search to eventually call Rev. Dave Ridder to be Senior Pastor. **1987** **THE CHURCH'S FIRST ELDER BOARD WAS FORMED**, with Ted Benna, David Lewis, Bob Marquardt, Creed Palmer and Bill Suk serving as elders. **1989** During the summer, **THE CHURCH SENT OUT ITS FIRST SUMMER YOUTH MISSIONS TEAM** on a work project in the Dominican Republic. **May 1992** The purchase of the 25-acre tract on Route 532 at Stoopville Road was completed.

**May 1998** The Building Committee was reconstituted to refine a proposed building concept which had been shelved for several years. The **"GOD IS MOVING US"** stewardship

campaign was launched in the fall to raise funds that would allow us to move to a new facility, now known as Grace Point.

**2001** The highlight of the year was holding a Centennial Celebration service on the new Route 532 property, followed by a picnic. A Children's Ministry mid-week club program was reinstituted using the AWANA program and curriculum. A new worship service format was established, now offering "blended" and "contemporary" worship styles. **2003** **CONSTRUCTION WAS FINALLY**



**ABLE TO BEGIN** on the new Route 532 and Stoopville location. **Jan 2004** On a cold and rainy day, the church celebrated the official groundbreaking for the new facility. **Aug 2004** After much angst, the treasured building permit was acquired and in 48 hours the church moved everything from the State Street location to the new building, eventually named Grace Point. **Oct 2015** Grace Point launched its first church plant in Levittown named Restoration Church.





# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF NEWTOWN (GRACE POINT)

## SENIOR / LEAD PASTORS

**E.C. Romine** helped plant the church, yet was never considered the full-time pastor. He was a church planter active in the Philadelphia and New Jersey area in the late 1800’s and early 1900’s. He first came to Newtown in 1888 and preached what appears to be the first sermon that gave rise to FBCN at Newtown Hall on September 22, 1901. It was after this service that a meeting was convened to establish a Baptist church in Newtown.

### 1900-1909

#### C.W. TEASDALE

was called to lead the church in November 1901 and served until April 1903, about 1-1/2 years

#### GEORGE T. SCHOOLS

was called and served from April 1903 to July 1903, less than 3 months

#### O. C. MALTBY

October 1903 to sometime in 1906

#### A.C. DRUMMOND

July 1906 to June 1907

#### SAMUEL C. MEAD

August 1907 to June 1908

#### W. SCOTT DUNLOP

October 1908 to April 1909



### 1909-1919

#### THOMAS T. LAKE

November 1909 to May 1911

#### HENRY PROTHEROE

June 1911 to September 1911  
(this appears to be an interim Pastor)

#### D. ALVIN WILSON

April 1912 to August 1913

**1914** THEN ALMOST A YEAR WITHOUT A PASTOR, ‘DARK DAYS’—ALMOST CLOSED

#### J.A. SMITH

June 1914 to May 1916

#### W.P. WHEELER

August 1916 to September 1917

#### HENRY PATRICIAN

September 1918 to July 1919

**1919** FINANCES UNHEALTHY, PARSONAGE SOLD

### 1919-1944

#### WILLIAM GALLAGHER

began serving sometime between July 1919 and November 1920 and died while serving. His funeral was held on his 6th anniversary as Pastor.

**1919** WITHOUT A PASTOR

#### T.R. WAGGENER

July 1926 to July 1930

#### W.A. HAWLEY

November 1930 to December 1936

#### HENRY J. BAKER

June 1937 to July 1943  
(as Senior Pastor, continued to serve Sunday mornings until August 1944)

#### PAUL KEIRSTEAD

called to assist Pastor Baker from October 1943 to April 1944



### 1944-1962

#### EDWARD STADY

December 1944 to June 1952

#### WILLIAM POWERS

served as interim Pastor from June 1952 to January 1953

**1933** GIVING DROPPED, MEMBERSHIP LOW, EMERGENCY PLAN FOR REDUCING SALARIES

#### GEORGE HEADLEY

January 1953 to approx June 1955

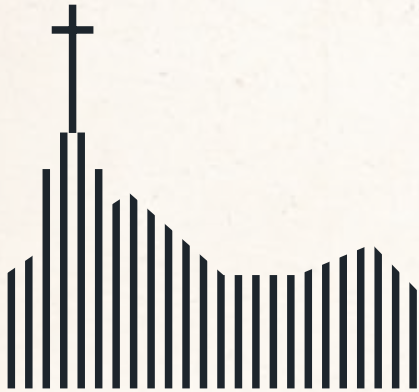
**1955** WITHOUT A PASTOR

#### NORMAN MURING

served as interim Pastor from January 1956 to May 1956

#### THOMAS MCINNES

May 1956 to January 1962  
In November 1956 he contracted polio but was healed; in January 1962 he was called to active duty to serve in Vietnam as a Chaplain.



### 1962-1984

#### NELSON BAKER

served as interim Pastor from January 1962 to August 1962

#### VICTOR JOCHEN

August 1962 to March 1973

**1963** LACK OF FUNDS  
**1970** PEOPLE LEFT, GIVING DOWN  
**1973** WITHOUT A PASTOR

#### J. WESLEY INGLES

served as interim Pastor March 1973 to December 1973

#### DAVID U. RHINEHART

February 1974 to sometime in 1977

**1976** SEVERED TIES WITH AMERICAN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

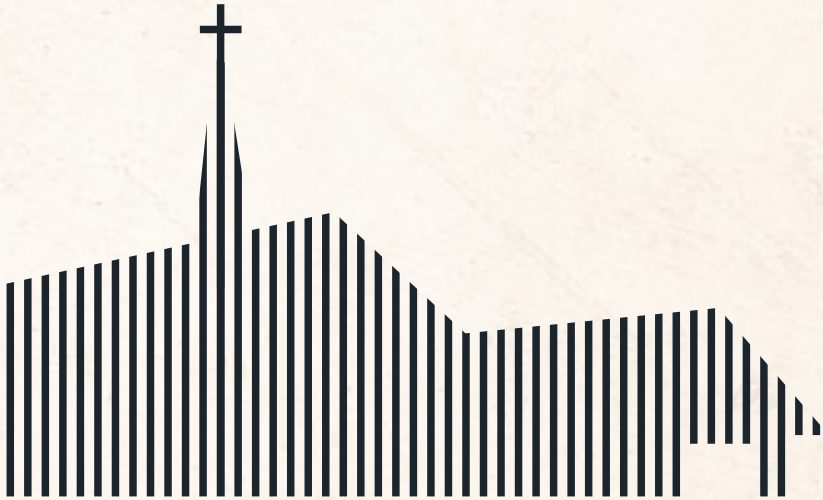
#### LYLE HOAG

1978 to March 1980

#### DAVID WAMBAUGH

September 1980 to March 1984

**1983** DEFICIT, MORTGAGE LOOMING  
**1984** DIFFICULT TIME FOR THE CHURCH, PASTOR RESIGNATION



### 1984-present

#### DAVE RIDDER\*

December 1984 to August 2007

**1995** NEW ERA ISSUE  
**1996** YEAR OF SIGNIFICANT TRANSITIONS, HAD TO PAUSE THE RELOCATION PROGRAM  
**1999** SIGNIFICANT LOSS OF DAVE ROBINSON  
**2000** DREAM TO BUILD ON NEW LOCATION HAD TO BE DEFERRED  
PASTOR RIDDER’S DECISION TO GO PART-TIME WAS ‘AGONIZING’ FOR THE CHURCH.

#### CHRIS MCCLOSKEY

September 2007 to May 2014

#### JAY BUTTON

served as interim Pastor June 2014 to January 2016

#### DAVE WOLF

January 2016 to present



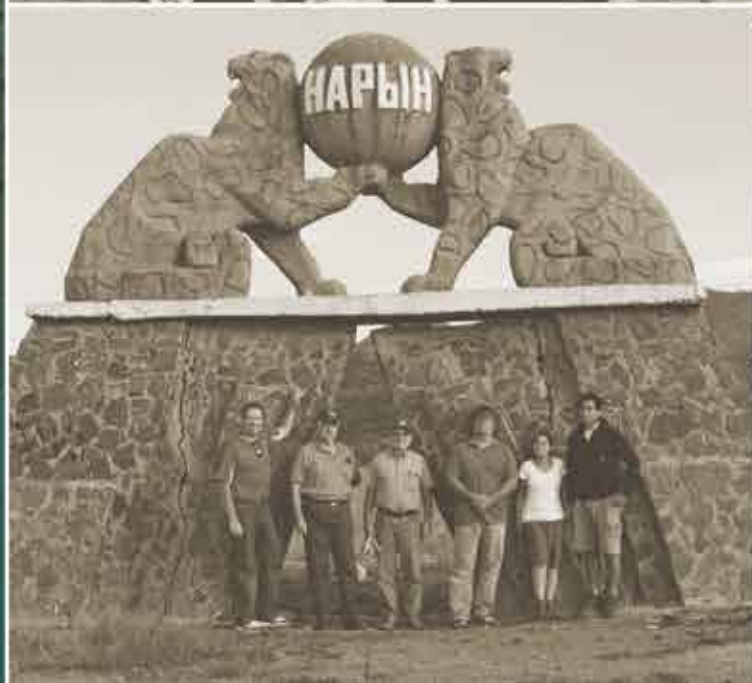
\* **Dave Ridder 2000 Update in Church History** ‘Year of quiet faithfulness and deferred dreams’ | ‘Not a year packed with exciting new flashy developments’ | ‘People of God going about ministry in a faithful and excellent way’ | ‘Had hoped for big things, turned into a year of overcoming obstacles’

**Staffing changes (2):** Dave Ridder’s decision to split time in teaching and preaching was an agonizing decision. This resulted in more significant staffing transitions and changes in responsibilities. They ended the year on a ‘collective low’ and hoped things would improve.

**2001 ‘Year of Pruning’:** Significant decline in attendance resulting from disagreement with Dave Ridder’s decision, slowness of relocation efforts (planned for many years), changes in worship music style | ‘Sense of uncertainty’ | Elders and Pastors engaged in ‘foundational repair work’ | ‘We are eager to see what God will do as we move together into our second century of ministry’

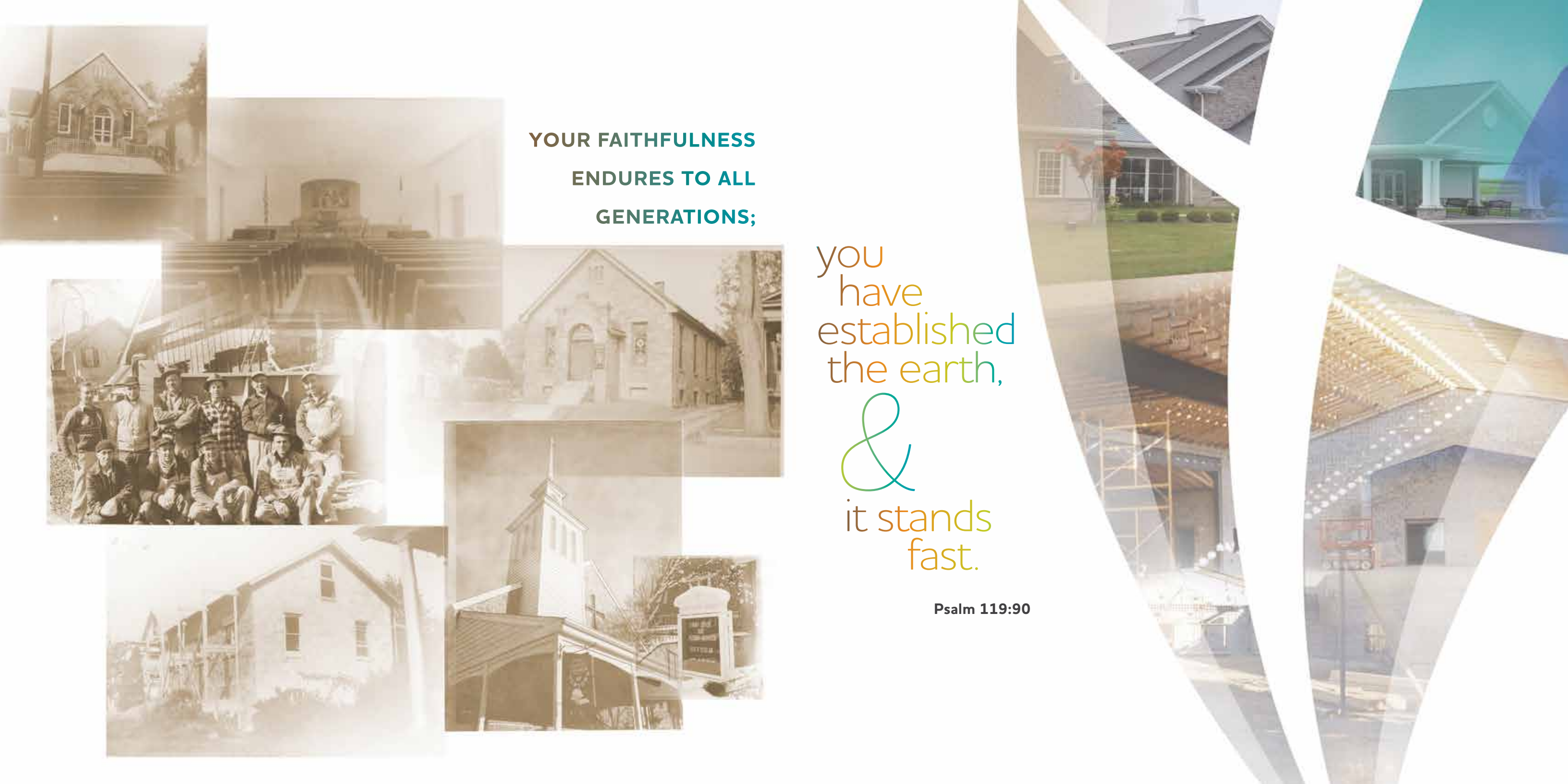


Dominican Republic \ 1989  
 Miami \ 1990  
 Venezuela \ 1990  
 Hungary \ 1991  
 Netherlands \ 1992  
 Kentucky \ 1992  
 Kensington (Phila.) \ 1993  
 Bahamas \ 1993  
 Kensington (Phila.) \ 1994  
 Netherlands \ 1995  
 Vermont \ 1995  
 Germany, Austria, Iceland \ 1995  
 Kensington (Phila.) \ 1995  
 Poland \ 1996  
 Germany \ 1996  
 Mexico \ 1996  
 Sunderlandville, PA \ 1996  
 Kensington (Phila.) \ 1996  
 France \ 1997  
 Kensington (Phila.) \ 1997  
 Yemen \ 1997  
 Japan \ 1998  
 Netherlands \ 1998  
 Mexico \ 1998  
 SEMP (Chicago) \ 1998  
 Japan \ 1999  
 Mexico \ 1999  
 Philippines, Japan \ 1999  
 SEMP/Kensington (Phila.) \ 1999  
 Japan (3 trips) \ 1999  
 France \ 1999  
 Italy (2 trips) \ 1999  
 Luxembourg \ 2000  
 Kensington (Phila.) \ 2000  
 Japan \ 2000  
 SEMP \ 2000  
 Netherlands \ 2001  
 Japan (2 trips) \ 2001  
 Kensington (Phila.) \ 2001  
 France \ 2001  
 Mexico \ 2001  
 Italy \ 2002  
 Czech Republic \ 2002  
 Kentucky \ 2002  
 Utah \ 2002



2002 \ Kensington (Phila.)  
 2002 \ Japan  
 2003 \ Japan (3 trips)  
 2003 \ Canada  
 2003 \ France  
 2003 \ Italy (3 trips)  
 2004 \ Japan  
 2004 \ Kensington (Phila.)  
 2004 \ France  
 2005 \ Japan (2 trips)  
 2005 \ Canada  
 2005 \ Italy  
 2005 \ Mississippi  
 2005 \ France  
 2006 \ Italy  
 2006 \ Slidell, LA  
 2006 \ Italy  
 2007 \ Slidell, LA  
 2007 \ Italy  
 2007 \ Bridesburg, PA  
 2008 \ Bridesburg, PA  
 2008 \ Italy  
 2008 \ Kyrgyzstan  
 2009 \ Kyrgyzstan  
 2009 \ Nepal  
 2009 \ Romania  
 2010 \ Bridesburg, PA  
 2011 \ Bridesburg, PA  
 2012 \ Bridesburg, PA  
 2012 \ Kyrgyzstan  
 2011 \ Kenya  
 2013 \ China  
 2013 \ Bolivia  
 2013 \ Bridesburg, PA  
 2014 \ Bridesburg, PA  
 2014 \ China  
 2014 \ Italy  
 2015 \ China  
 2015 \ Bridesburg, PA  
 2016 \ Bridesburg, PA  
 2018 \ Bolivia  
 2018 \ Lebanon  
 2019 \ Italy  
 2019 \ Lebanon  
 2019 \ Navajo Nation





**YOUR FAITHFULNESS  
ENDURES TO ALL  
GENERATIONS;**

you  
have  
established  
the earth,  
&  
it stands  
fast.

**Psalms 119:90**





# Trunk or Treat 2020

We had a special opportunity this past year to host our first ever Trunk or Treat event. GP Kids' families and friends joined together for a time of family fun, fellowship and treats. It was great to be together outside during the pandemic to reconnect with families and share love and joy in the crisp air. We had over 20 cars decorated with fun themes, and we saw a lot of our families out to partake in the festivities. We even had some trunks decorated by friends that were new to Grace Point. Trunk or Treat 2020 was truly a memorable and meaningful time of connection that was much needed in the midst of the pandemic! **CASSANDRA DEWITT**



## 2020 Grace Point Men's Retreat



The 2020 Grace Point Men's Retreat at Black Rock Retreat Center was the second time I attended the retreat. The first time I attended in 2019 I knew very few people, and I was skeptical and nervous about going. But God had a plan for me. God wanted me to go outside my comfort zone and meet new Christian men, many of which have since become like brothers to me. After attending the first time I was very eager and excited to attend again this past year. ■ The speaker, Michael Suderman, was captivating, and he challenged us to look at the world from a different lens. The testimonies, small group and large group sessions were nothing short of inspiring. The recreational activities and fellowship time gave us all a chance to unwind and be social again in what has been a very trying time for all of us during the pandemic. ■ But what captivated me the most and what brought me back a second time was the sense of brotherhood and bonding that I have not experienced anywhere else. I had a chance to meet and get to know other Christian men in a less formal setting, which allowed all of us to let our guard down for a few days and share our

life experiences in a comfortable and judgment free setting. ■ I have to admit I did not expect a group of men to openly share their life experiences with each other, and I surely did not intend to share my life experiences with others, but I am very glad I did. It was amazing to see so many men freely open up about their challenges in life and tell their story about how God has impacted them in amazing ways. It made me realize that we all face the same challenges, fears and stresses in life and that we all are very much alike. It reinforced the idea that as men we can lean on both God and each other to help us, inspire us and lead us through trying times. ■ The sense of brotherhood that I experienced at both retreats has carried over throughout the year as I have begun to build some strong Christian friendships that will last a lifetime. If you are uncertain, skeptical or nervous about attending the next retreat like I was, I assure you that it will both inspire you and challenge you to be a better Christian man. It will make a positive and lasting impression on your life. **RON MOSER**







**FOR SEVERAL YEARS** our Children's Ministry has partnered with Samaritan's Purse in Operation Christmas Child as an outreach opportunity. In November 2020 we received communications from Samaritan's Purse, President and CEO, Franklin Graham, stating that because of the COVID-19 Pandemic, "Now, more than ever, children need hope!" That was all the encouragement we needed, and the planning began!

We set a goal to fill 650 shoe boxes, and we planned our first ever church-wide packing party where we determined we would fill 400 boxes. The items for the packing party were donated by our GP family and resulted in Amazon making many deliveries to Grace Point!

Perhaps our most inspiring story comes from the heart of Alexis Wright (Bill and Jodi Wright's 6-year-old daughter). She was so moved by compassion for children all over the world that she asked if she could host a lemonade stand with the goal of donating the proceeds to purchase items for the packing party. Her parents turned the lemonade stand idea into a surprise birthday drive-by parade (due to COVID) asking for donations in lieu of gifts! Classmates, teachers, neighbors and GP families participated in the fun. To say that the lemonade stand was a success would be an understatement! Alexis raised \$552 on a cold fall day in October, during a global pandemic, hosting a drive-thru lemonade stand. **Only God!**

Our packing party was a huge success, and our goal was met! 400 boxes were packed by 37 enthusiastic packers serving in two shifts. The GP Student Ministry provided great support before, during and after the event.

When it was all said it done, Grace Point provided 760 shoe boxes to Samaritan's Purse partnering with them *"In sending the Gospel to the ends of the earth, sharing God's Word with dozens of unreached people groups and going to hard-to-reach places to make His Name known. This has resulted in more than 2 million children making decisions for Christ and over 1,000 churches being started in one year!"* (Franklin Graham)

**Only God!**

JOAN ZEBERLEIN



# Christmas Eve

FIRST EVER OUTDOOR CANDLELIGHT SERVICE







IN JANUARY 2021, the GP Women's Ministry sponsored an all-church outreach "Showers of Blessings" benefitting one of our local ministry partners — ChoiceOne. The heart of this GP Women's Ministry sponsored outreach was to minister the Gospel and kindness of Christ to the young moms and babies of ChoiceOne through meeting practical needs and providing English and Spanish Bibles and devotionals. (This outreach served in tandem with our annual Baby Bottle fundraising campaign for ChoiceOne sponsored by our Local Missions Team.) The response of the church to this outreach was AMAZING!!! Generosity and care were expressed through many Bibles, devotionals, thousands of diapers and wipes, and the 15 diaper backpacks and 7 baby tubs that were filled to overflowing with baby bath items, diaper changing necessities, bottles, teething rings, thermometers, linens, pampering gifts for mom and much more! Each backpack and tub included the Gospel message and a hand-written note for the mom who would receive the gifts.

This outreach was also a wonderful opportunity to serve together for the women who volunteered and gathered to prepare the care packages. Three vehicles were loaded up with the care packages, boxes of diapers, a new bassinet and other items and transported to ChoiceOne.

Please be praying for the hearts and minds of the moms and babies who received the Bibles, devotionals and packages through ChoiceOne and that they would know Christ and walk wholeheartedly with Him; that God's truth, love, redemption, salvation and kindness touches these lives for eternity; for the leadership and staff of ChoiceOne to be strengthened and encouraged and to always yield to the leading of the Holy Spirit; for the volunteers of ChoiceOne as they minister the Gospel; that God is glorified, and His Name exalted through this outreach and in these precious lives.

We are so grateful to the Lord for the people of Grace Point!! Glory to His name! SHARON SLOAN

Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to Your name give glory,  
for the sake of Your steadfast love and Your faithfulness!"

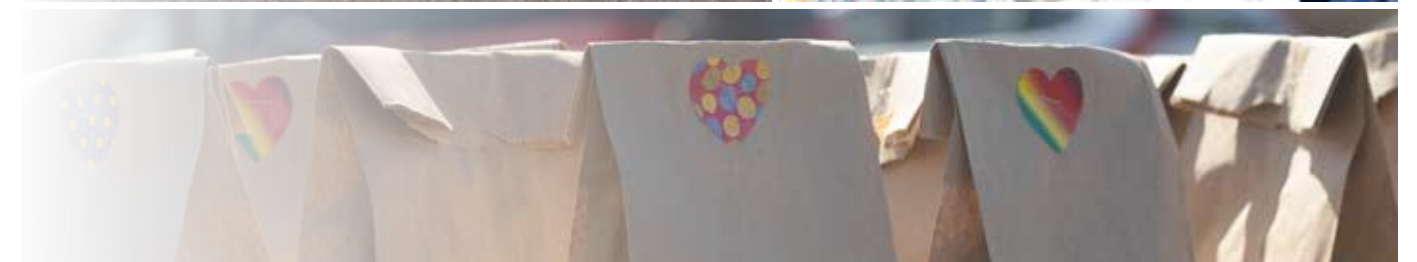
Psalms 115:1



## Easter Family Fun Day

On Saturday, April 4, about 20 families gathered in our back parking lot to celebrate Easter Family Fun Day. The socially distanced, tailgate-style event was a successful and fun way for families to reconnect after a long winter apart and celebrate Jesus' resurrection. We enjoyed bring-your-own picnic, lots of Easter-themed activities and most of all being together again. Big kids rode bikes and scooters around the lot and competed in a scavenger hunt, while the littles had a blast drawing with chalk, playing games and freeze dancing. Many families took advantage of the self-serve photo booth backdrop for some Easter-themed family photos.

Also, part of the celebration were several small in-person crafts for the children to decorate. Participants could also stop by the Middle East FOCUS Team's table to receive a take-home family craft that provided a visual reminder of Grace Point's Easter offering for Horizon International's School of Hope, along with prayer prompts to remind each family to pray for the Good News of the Resurrection to spread throughout Lebanon. Thank you to all the volunteers who contributed to a successful celebration! BRENNALUCZYSZYN







# Clothing & Houseware Drive

The Red Letter Challenge week that was devoted to SERVING spurred our small group. WHERE and HOW could we “serve others” during the COVID pandemic with so many restrictions?

After seeking possible ministry opportunities from various church leaders, we landed on serving the Clothing Drive sponsored by Grace Point. We were excited to work alongside of Good Stuff Thrift Store since their mission is “to operate the most efficient thrift store possible so that they can provide the highest level of funding for helping kids in need in our communities.” Our group planned to greet the donors, help them unload their donations and hand out information regarding the ministries of Grace Point and Good Stuff.

We were delighted to watch God work that morning. As soon as we started, the cars full of donations rolled up to the large donation boxes outside the Good Stuff Thrift truck. Within an hour of starting, it was clear that we would fill this truck quickly and another truck was requested. We were able to show kindness, share conversations, and talk about various GP ministries with community members who may have never stepped foot into the GP building. After discussing a donation from one woman, she mentioned that she ran a Quilting Club at her church. We took her inside the building to meet the GP Quilting Club that had gathered that very day. One gentleman took information on how to contact our Grief Share Program. These type of outreach opportunities were repeated throughout the drive.

Although there were some donations from our GP family, most of the donations were from non-GP families. Many people had seen our advertisements on social media, community websites, and good old posters in grocery stores! Many donors expressed interest participating the next time that we run this event.

After filling the second truck, the donations were delivered to Good Stuff Thrift. It was very gratifying to learn that it was the largest single-day of donations in the history of their company.

As always, God gave us that joy we can only experience when you join with sisters and brothers to serve Him. We saw His fingerprints as He brought Bucks County residents to our church, and we could share His love with them. Our Small Group was strengthened by serving together. [JAN & LISA HAAS](#)



# Taste of Lebanon II

On Sunday, May 23, Grace Point enjoyed *Taste of Lebanon II*, a picnic-style and grab-and-go event designed to raise awareness and celebrate our Middle East FOCUS, as well as to provide fellowship and connection with our congregation. The event, which featured three meal selections (lamb, chicken and falafel), games and prizes for children, and Lebanese music and decorations, followed a message during the service from Pierre Houssney, from Horizons International.

The FOCUS Middle East Team was joined by the FOCUS community in setting up and distributing the meals. Each meal consisted of a main choice, rice, salad, pita bread, a baklava dessert and water, as well as our “Pray for Lebanon” placemat, which details our ministry with Lebanon, prayer requests, facts about Lebanon, and our ministry partners and friends. Members of the FOCUS Team were on hand and available to share with the congregation about what is happening in Lebanon. Over 150 meals were purchased with all proceeds going toward our Middle East FOCUS partners.

In addition, team members modeled the new Middle East FOCUS T-shirts, which will help to raise awareness of our FOCUS going forward. Taste of Lebanon II was our second dining event to support our partner church Amchit Baptist Church in Lebanon. [STEPHANIE MIGUELEZ & THE MIDDLE EAST FOCUS TEAM](#)



## 2020-2021 Middle East FOCUS Highlights and Accomplishments

Relationship and friendship building with Amchit Baptist Church and Horizons International

Strong team building and relationship within the Middle East FOCUS Team

Several opportunities for us to help in Lebanon  
~ COVID-19  
~ Explosion

Established a Pastoral connection between the GP Pastors and Pastor Joseph at Amchit Baptist Church

Taste of Lebanon II Event and strengthened a relationship with King of Falafel

Built congregational awareness and saw growth in the Middle East FOCUS Community

Established a weekly FOCUS prayer update

Developed a schedule for monthly FOCUS updates in service

Established and distributed 21 days of prayer

Coordinate prayer meeting—first of month missions

Scheduled a monthly elder prayer sent to Amchit Baptist Church

Established a Children's Ministry connection

Congregational generosity  
~ Easter offering  
~ Lebanon relief fund  
~ Generous ongoing offerings

Established regular communications with Pastor Joseph

Encouraged by Amchit's prayer support for us

Provided sponsorship of Jad's internship

Provided financial support for Amchit's rent for full year

Supported Amchit's media ministry



# OUR STAFF

2020-2021

## HOLLY AMES

Missions Secretary  
hames@gracepointpa.org

## CHUCK ARNOLD

Pastor of Congregational Care  
carnold@gracepointpa.org

## DARRELL BENJAMIN

Worship Coordinator  
dbenjamin@gracepointpa.org

## E. JAY BUTTON

Pastor of Connection  
jbutton@gracepointpa.org

## DAVID CRIST

Facilities & Grounds Supervisor  
dcrist@gracepointpa.org

## JEREMY DAVIS

Director of Student Ministry  
jdavis@gracepointpa.org

## JOSH DELEO

Sunday A/V Coordinator  
jdeleo@gracepointpa.org

## CASSANDRA DEWITT

Director of Children's Ministry  
cdewitt@gracepointpa.org

## LIZ REIM

Nursery Coordinator  
lreim@gracepointpa.org

## LAURA SCHLENKER

Bookkeeper  
lschlenker@gracepointpa.org

## SHARON SLOAN

Director of Administrative Team  
& Women's Ministry  
ssloan@gracepointpa.org

## STEVE WEIR

Pastor of Arts & Communications  
sweir@gracepointpa.org

## DAVE WOLF

Lead Pastor  
dwolf@gracepointpa.org

## BILL WRIGHT

Director of Finance & Operations  
bwright@gracepointpa.org

## JOAN ZEBERLEIN

Director of Missions & Hospitality  
jzeberlein@gracepointpa.org

