



2023 - 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

THRIVING TOGETHER

WHEN THE WOLF'S AWAY



There was a side benefit to my sabbatical (May-June 2024) that I did not expect.

I had prayed for renewal of my energy and spirit (and I know many of you prayed for this, too) – and God graciously provided. I anticipated progress on home projects and extra time with family – which God graciously blessed. I prayed that I might learn from the Lord specific lessons applying to this season in my life – and God graciously answered.

What I did not expect when I returned was such a great report about how the other pastors and staff did such an amazing job. Don't get me wrong, I wasn't expecting a bad report, and I wasn't at all surprised that they handled things well in my absence. I just didn't expect the reports that they did SO well.

I almost wondered if I should go away another few months!

But seriously, it warmed my heart to know that the life of Grace Point didn't miss a beat while I was out – in fact in many ways it picked up momentum and thrived! This indicates to me that GP is a healthy reflection of the Body of Christ, with all the parts working together, just as Paul teaches in 1 Corinthians 12:

But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as He chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, yet one body. (1 Corinthians 12:18-20)

Just in case anyone had this misperception before, it should be erased now: this church is not about me...it's not about our elder chair...it's not about any staff member or any one of us: it's all about Jesus Christ our Head, and we accomplish His work together as we each serve our unique role.

On a related note, Sherri and I visited a different church every week during our time away, and I must tell you that the net effect of those visits was a sincere desire to be back here with the faith community at Grace Point. There's nothing on earth like the local church when it's functioning well, and if our visiting experiences are any indication, ours is doing better than average. We missed worshipping with you, we missed celebrating and grieving life events, and we missed your encouragement.

But if you twist my arm, I might be persuaded to take a few more months off. (Just kidding!)

Glad to be back with you,

Dave

The background of the entire slide is a photograph of a vast, golden field of tall grass, possibly wildflowers or reeds, swaying in the wind. In the background, there are dark silhouettes of tall evergreen trees and rolling hills under a warm, hazy sky with soft clouds. The overall color palette is dominated by warm, golden-yellow and brown tones, creating a peaceful and natural atmosphere.

OUR VISION

OUTREACH FOCUS

OUR MISSION



Building bridges for
life change through CHRIST

Connecting families for
life change through CHRIST

Helping more people becoming fully
committed followers of JESUS CHRIST

DONATION DRIVE



Over the last few years, Grace Point has established a monthly community-focused donation drive alongside of Good Stuff Thrift Store. 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 team of amazing volunteers planned to greet the donors, help them unload their donations, and hand out information regarding the ministries of Grace Point and Good Stuff.

As each Saturday morning started, the cars full of donations rolled up to the large donation boxes outside Grace Point’s front entrance. Each “drive” allows us the opportunity to show Christ’s kindness, share conversations, and talk about various GP ministries with community members who may have never stepped foot into the GP building.

As always, God provides amazing opportunities to show the love of Christ and welcome our community while they “unload!”

Thank you to the many volunteers and ministries that have hosted our Monthly Donation Drives! You are appreciated!



Every year, Good Stuff Thrift recycles...
1,500,000 lbs of clothing,
250,00 lbs of books, and
150,00 lbs of metal!





ONE WINTER NIGHT 2023

What an amazing night! God provided beautiful December weather, safety on our property, an enthusiastic crowd of community guests, and a tremendous group of volunteers. **Praise the Lord!**

There were over 200 Grace Point people who served before, during and after **One Winter Night**, from baking cookies to cleaning up! Some of those volunteers had never attended **One Winter Night** but chose to serve the community in numerous ways. Thank you to all who gave their time and resources to sponsor **One Winter Night**.

It was great to have all the guest groups and performers at this special event—in the *Children's Wing*, the *Coffee House*, and on the main stage in *The Commons*. Not only were these special guests thrilled to perform, but many said how delighted they were to attend **One Winter Night!** We were certainly glad to have them come! It was wonderful to have returning performers as well as new groups that night.

One area that had a big change was the Living Nativity. Everyone loved the interactive format of the Christmas story! What a joy and privilege to offer this free gift to our community and to share the Good News of God's free gift to all of us!

There were approximately 2,000 people who enjoyed all the activities inside and outside of our building. Many of the guests from our community come to Grace Point every year as part of their family tradition to kick off the holiday season with the fun festivities at **One Winter Night**.

This year, for the first time, we heard of many families and individuals who returned to Grace Point after **One Winter Night!** Welcome to all of you who are now part of the Grace Point family!

A huge thank you to EVERYONE who prayed for and participated in helping **One Winter Night** to be such a big success. **To God be the glory!**



CARE MINISTRY 2023 REPORT

20...21...16 are key numbers when relating to Grace Point's Care Ministry.

Twenty years ago, Grace Point established a caregiving ministry to serve the body of Christ at Grace Point and to supplement the care given by the pastoral staff. Currently, there are 21 trained, committed and compassionate men and women who are active care ministers serving in 16 various ministry areas.

In October 2023, six individuals completed the two-session Orientation Training. The information, tips, support and guidelines they received prepared the trainees to serve, as they decided, in any of the following ministry areas:

- | | |
|--|---|
|  Baptism Support |  Grief Share |
|  Card Ministry |  Extra Grief Support |
|  Encouragement Notes |  Meals |
|  Coffee Café |  Separation/Divorce |
|  Communion to Homebound |  Transportation Team |
|  Funeral/Memorial Support |  Visitation |

The Leadership Team is hopeful to offer a more comprehensive six-session Training in early 2025 to prepare new caregivers to serve in Confidential Care Relationships, Prayer Partnering and Mental Health Ministry.

Our meeting schedule in 2023 incorporated ZOOM format for the first time along with the usual in-person gatherings. Winter weather and night driving are no longer factors determining being able to meet. In addition to encouraging each other in our care relationships, updates from each ministry area are presented. On occasion, salvation testimonies were shared, and Pastor Jason attended to meet the Team and get acquainted with the Care Ministry.

Two significant ministries launched in 2023: **Mental Health Ministry** and **Special Needs Support**. The **Mental Health Ministry** seeks to support families touched by mental health issues. This is a strong initiative led by trained folks who have or are walking the "Mental Health path." The other new ministry is **Special Needs**. Two care ministers have partnered with the Grace Point Children's Ministry to support families with a special needs child. Although very new, both of these ministries have a solid beginning and are developing comprehensive programs.

Over these 20 years, the GP Care Ministry continually seeks God's direction as to how to best serve the Grace Point community. We are delighted to witness the Lord working and to be His agents-of-care in the lives of individuals. **"We are the caregiver; God is the curegiver."**

*"Carry
one another's
burdens, and
so fulfill the
law of Christ."*

Galatians 6:2



WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Women's Ministry was blessed to have several hundred women in all seasons of life attending various Bible studies and discussion groups offered throughout the year, including the study of Elizabeth's life in the Summer of 2023. Our Bible studies are the heartbeat of our ministry, and we are so thankful for those who commit their time to gather and grow in the Lord and His Word.

Our Quilters Ministry continues to meet on the third Saturday of each month and donates the quilts they make in Christ's name to various ministries in our area to bless children who are ill or in need. Women's Outreach & Fellowship creates crafts and blankets to share the kindness and Gospel of Christ to children in need in Philadelphia and beyond.

We hosted our first annual *SerenDIPity ~ Celebrating Dips, Faith & Friendship* in November 2023. It was a fun evening of fellowship, dips, friendship, and light-hearted competition. This will become an annual event.

The Women's *Christmas Tea* in December 2023 featured a wonderful speaker – Julie Henning, who shared her testimony of growing up in Asia and being adopted by Pearl Buck here in Bucks County, Pennsylvania. About 200 women attended the tea, and many invited friends who heard the Gospel through Julie's message.

The Women's Retreat in April 2024 was called *Christ Incomparable*, and the women were refreshed, encouraged and challenged with teaching from God's Word on the seven *I Am* statements of Christ in the book of John. Our teachers were Grace Point's very own Lynn Ely and Mindy Benjamin. The weekend was also filled with sweet fellowship, yummy meals, rest, games, walks on the beach, and beautiful sunsets!

We give God the glory for all the wonderful things He is doing in the hearts and lives of our women! ***"I delight in Your decrees; I will not neglect Your Word."*** (Psalm 119:16)

SHARON SLOAN | DIRECTOR OF WOMEN'S MINISTRY



STUDENT MINISTRY

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness. "The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in Him." (Lamentations 3:22-24)

Great is God's Faithfulness... It has been a joy to serve at GP Students over the last four plus years. I've seen God move in incredible ways in the hearts of our young people. It's a joy to highlight the steadfast love of the Lord.

God has done some incredible work in the lives of our young people over the last four years. In first couple of years, we were running a combined youth group averaging around 20-30 students in attendance. It was encouraging to see them grow in their faith and love for Christ. As time went on, these students started to get excited about inviting their friends, and we began to see new students and new faces enter the ministry. As God provided a harvest of students, our Student Center was overflowing, and we needed a solution. Our team decided to provide a High School and Middle School Youth Group. The Lord blessed us with additional youth leaders to shepherd the ministry. As a result, our number of students started to increase rapidly.

Currently, we average around 30-40 middle schoolers and 30-40 high schoolers each Sunday night, **with many of the weekly-attending students coming from unchurched families**. The Gospel is impacting their lives, and we pray these students take the Gospel home with them. We currently have 130 students who have entered our doors throughout the

ministry year. Over the last two years, a handful of students have put their faith in Christ and 15 students were baptized, with an additional 5-10 asking about getting baptized. The Lord is working on our student's hearts. Each week God provides opportunities to meet our students in the trials of life and point them to the hope of Christ. Pray for our youth leaders as they walk with students through significant struggles. Pray that our students cling to Jesus.

Exciting upcoming opportunities... We have been building a relationship with **Hope Rescue Mission** in Reading, PA, to jumpstart our missions' opportunities for students. One of our youth leaders traveled to Panama with a Grace Point team to investigate specific opportunities for our students. We also are excited for our upcoming Winter Retreat at Camp Orchard Hill on February 14-16, 2025, and Summer Retreats at Harvey Cedars during the last two weeks of July. There are many other events going on including weekly Bible studies, youth groups, Yes! Day With PJ, Harvest Party, Christmas Party and so much more. Students are welcome to join us anytime.

Please pray for us as we partner with parents as they disciple their children. Pray for our students as they face an onslaught of struggles this world throws at them. Trust that they would cling to the new mercies God provides every morning. Thank you to all who have supported the ministry. We are grateful and humbled to carry out the work of the Lord amongst the teens in our community.

JEREMY DAVIS | PASTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY





Operation Christmas Child

75+
VOLUNTEERS

250+
BOXES PACKED

1
SUPER FUN NIGHT!



FAMILY FUN FEST 2024



Our Annual Family Fun Fest on the first Friday in June brought over a thousand people from our community to Grace Point! This free event was filled with fun activities, including carnival games, bountiful prizes, a car show, petting zoo, dunk tank, face painting, crafts, a bounce house, a photo spot, and more! Free popcorn, cotton candy and bottles of cold water were enjoyed by our guests.

Food trucks from Chic-Fil-A in Oxford Valley and Goodnoe's Ice Cream in Newtown provided delicious options for food for purchase.

A highlight of the evening was the K-9 demonstration given by officers from the Upper Makefield Police Department. The Newtown Fire Department participated in the Touch-a-Truck for the kids. We are very thankful for all of our local first responders.

Well over a hundred volunteers from Grace Point served in various areas to bring Family Fun Fest to fruition. Our volunteers served in planning, set up, parking, greeting, hosting carnival booths, serving refreshments, showing hospitality in our food truck eating area, and in many other ways! From our youth, to families, to our women and our men, and to our prime timers – we were blessed with churchwide participation and the joy of serving shoulder to shoulder.

We were delighted that many people returned to Grace Point after Family Fun Fest for our Sunday morning services or our Vacation Bible School. We pray the Lord bears much fruit from Family Fun Fest and all of the events at Grace Point for His eternal purposes!

Family Fun Fest has become a yearly event to which we look forward as we build bridges for life change in Christ with our community! Glory to God!

MICHELLE PICCIONI | FAMILY FUN FEST VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR





OUR CHURCH

Dave Wolf, Lead Pastor

- **Praise:** Praise the Lord for a staff who communicates and relates well, as we continue to receive valuable training from the GiANT team building material.
- **Prayer Request:** Pray for our LEAD Team as we work to define a discipleship pathway that helps more people to intentionally become fully committed followers of Christ.

MISSIONS & DISCIPLESHIP

Jason Guynes, Director of Missions & Discipleship

- **Praise:** We praise God for deepened connections in missions and discipleship this year, from impactful local and global partnerships to strengthened small groups and a renewed passion for relational ministry.
- **Prayer Request:** Please pray for continued growth in outreach and discipleship, that God would open doors for lasting partnerships and equip our church community to live out their faith boldly.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Sharon Sloan, Director of Women's Ministry & Administration

- **Praise:** Praise the Lord for all He is doing through our staff and in Women's Ministry as we build bridges for life change through Christ.
- **Prayer Request:** For the Lord, who goes ahead of us, to provide for all we need to continue to serve Him and His people lovingly and full of care, and for His protection, shield of favor, grace and mercy over the staff and their families as we desire for His name to be honored and glorified at Grace Point and for His Word to be exalted.

CARE MINISTRY

Eileen Hemming, Care Coordinator

- **Praise:** Praise for all the new people who have shown interest in serving in the Care Ministry and those who are attending the orientation—that each person would get plugged in and serve with joy.
- **Prayer Request:** Please pray that the needs of the congregation will be met in meaningful ways—that we will be aware of the needs and meet them effectively. Please pray for the expansion of the Transportation Ministry—that people would utilize this service.

CONNECTIONS & VOLUNTEERS

Joan Zeberlein, Director of Connections & Volunteer Engagement

- **Praise:** Praise for the opportunity to serve in the newly established role of Director of Connections & Volunteer Engagement where my passions and gifting align!
- **Prayer Request:** Pray for the development of streamlined processes to help connect people with group life and serving opportunities at Grace Point more effectively.

CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRY

Jeremy Davis, Pastor of Student Ministry

- **Praise:** The Lord has been continuing to bless our Student Ministry with many students. God is doing great work in the hearts of our students. Over the course of the year, we've been able to minister to over 150 students!
- **Prayer Request:** Please pray for continued growth in outreach and discipleship, that God would open doors for lasting partnerships and equip our church community to live out their faith boldly.

Sophie Allers, Director of Children's Ministry

- **Praise:** The number of kids we have is increasing! It is such a blessing to show more kids the love of Christ and see the kids who have been in the ministry for some time grow in their walk with God.
- **Prayer Request:** The Special Needs Ministry is up and running! These families often need extra support. Pray that Grace Point can come alongside them and provide deep community that only the body of Christ can.

Praises & Prayer Requests

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2023-2024

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