

2018 Church Office Report

Births

January 13 Kayra Grace Eby, daughter of Nate & Krystal Eby
January 25 Lucy Judith Hackett, daughter of Kevin & Catherine Hackett
February 23 Violet Jean Smucker, daughter of Eric & Sabrina Smucker
June 6 Chase Levi Stoltzfus, son of Cameron & Ramona Stoltzfus
July 5 Addison Nicole Gehman, daughter of Travis & Tonya Gehman
October 12 Carter Jay Meck, son of Joel & Alicia Meck
October 25 Anna Lillian Tyrrell, daughter of Peter & Abby Tyrrell
November 26 Eva Joy Zook, daughter of Toby & Melissa Zook
December 28 Winston Gray Beiler, son of Connor & Kristy Beiler

Deaths

January 31 Jolene Moyer
August 25 Paul Reitz

Baptism

August 19 Kyle Ebersol, Meghan Ebersol, Jasmine VanSant, Colin Beiler, Jackson Neff, Leah Weaver, Taylor Crooks, Deena Stoltzfus & Shania Stoltzfus

New Members

Chris & Amanda Crooks, Chris & Kim Mann, Matt & Michele Pierce, Daryl & Kim Stoltzfus
Jake & Jasmine VanSant

Marriages

June 30 Katie Stoltzfus & Steve Nissly
August 17 Colton Neff & Karissa Kaemingk

Average Church Attendance for 2018 - 237

Highest Attendance - 293

Lowest Attendance - 167

Notes of Interest

January 7 - Appreciation Breakfast

February 4 - Pizza with a Pastor

February 23 - Work as Worship Retreat at GPC

February 25 - GPC 101

March 25 - Communion Service

March 31 - GPC Family Rollerskating Party at Overlook

April 5 - Vision Meeting

April 14 - GPC Basement Sale

June 3 - Communion Service

June 16 - Run Ride Walk

July 13, 20 & 27 - Friday Night Picnics in the Park

July 15-19 - Vacation Bible School

August 5 - Communion Service

August 19 - Immersion baptism service at the home of James & Corrie Eby

October 7 - Communion Service

October 26 - Fall Fun Fest

November 1 - Vision Meeting

December 2 - Communion Service/Coffee & Conversation, 9 am in Pastor Tim's office

December 16 - Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast

December 23 - Annual Kids Christmas Program

Adult Education

In 2018, Pastors Tim Rogers, Kevin Hackett and Greg Petersheim identified five catalyst growth areas for discipleship at GPC. Recognizing that spiritual growth is a dynamic relationship, driven by the desire of the participant, not achieved by checking off a list of attributes. Therefore, our mission for Adult Education, is to provide relational environments and resources in each identified catalyst area, that foster personal spiritual growth.

The five growth areas are HEART:

Habits (participating, journaling, solitude, giving, praying, reading the bible, fasting, confessing, sharing faith)

Experiences (school years, baptism, singleness, marriage, parenting, career, golden years, crisis, life transitions)

Activities (volunteering at GPC and within our community, mission trips, leading teams)

Relationships (large, medium, small groups and intimate friendships)

Teaching (large, medium, small groups, personal and influencing others)

Each Sunday during the 9:00 hour, the coffee bar was open for people to connect to each other. There also were elective classes to choose from as well as regular traditional Sunday School classes that met periodically.

Greg Petersheim

- Executive Pastor of Discipleship

Elders

The Elder Board meets on a monthly basis or as needed along with many e-mails and phone calls between us. Our purpose is to shepherd God's flock at GPC in a manner consistent with Christ's servant leadership.

Some notable events of 2018 include:

- Worked on developing a job description and compensation package for the Executive Pastor of Discipleship position
- Continued to pray for the prayer requests received from the congregation through the communication cards
- Supported the Deacon of Administration and Treasurer in updating our budget process, as well as updating procedures to bring us into compliance with the IRS codes
- Worked with Pastor Tim in the development of a short term support plan for The Factory Ministries during their leadership transition
- Ongoing discussion on what's next for our church as we continue to grow and step further into our community and the Together Initiative Network.

- We have had, and continue to have discussions on whether we as the leadership team at GPC have the right accountability structures in place to circumvent some of the very public issues experienced recently in other church bodies in regards to leadership abuse
- Discussion on how best to present an atmosphere where victims feel like they can be heard by church leadership
- Implemented steps to better stay connected with the Deacon Board
- Completed a book study entitled: The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People by Stephen McCovey.
- Amos Ebersol will serve as Elder Chair in 2019.
- Discussions on how best to present an atmosphere where victims feel like they can be heard by church leadership.
- Implemented steps to better stay connected with the deacon board.
- Completed a book study entitled: The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People by Stephen McCovey.
- Amos Ebersol will serve as Elder chair in 2019

We as an Elder Board thank you very much for your continued prayer support as we serve Him and you in the year to come.

Respectfully submitted,

- Amos Ebersol, Chair, Greg Petersheim, Marty Clemmer, Chris Slabaugh, Kevin Hackett, Tim Rogers

LBC Church Matching Scholarship Fund

The church matching scholarship is for the purpose of investing in, encouraging and facilitating a solid Biblical education for young men and women toward potential future ministry.

Lancaster Bible College will match a church scholarship dollar for dollar to a maximum match of \$500 per semester, per student enrolled full-time in the undergraduate or graduate program. Students must maintain a 2.0 GPA. GPC will contribute up to \$500 per student per semester and neither the student nor the parent will directly contribute to this amount. Applicants may invite family and friends to donate to the fund, but all monies given will be distributed evenly among approved applicants, at a maximum amount of \$500 per semester.

Applicants should demonstrate spiritual maturity and character and will have attended GPC for at least one year. Applicants will be approved by the Elder Board.

Any extra funds in the scholarship account at the end of the fiscal year will roll over into the new year. At the beginning of each fiscal year this fund will have a \$2,000 balance supplemented by the General Fund.

Cemetery Report

Beginning Balance - January 1, 2018

Checking Account \$ 8,409.01

Income

Interest \$ 26.29

Donations 100.00

Sale of Lots 2,800.00

Funerals 8,800.00

\$11,726.29

Total Income \$ 20,135.30

Expenses

Digging graves \$ 3,500.00

Maintenance 2,648.55

Caretaker 1,875.00

Total Expenses \$ 8,023.55

ENDING BALANCE \$12,111.75

Transferred to CD - 3,441.65

Ending Balance (checkbook) 12/31/18 \$ 8,670.10

Money for perpetual care of cemetery (cd at Bare Financial) \$ 110,964.64

Nevin Hershey, President

Richard Neff, Secretary

Ben Landis Jr., Treasurer

Children's Ministry

Sunday School

In 2018, the Children's Ministry included 68 children who were regularly attending Sunday School from infant through grade 5. This number increased about 50% from last year's attendance. An additional classroom in the nursery hallway was created for a Threes & Fours class, which split the current toddler classroom into two.

A new addition for both the 9am and 10am hours is an iPad check-in system. This procedure exists to have a structure in place for dropping off/picking up children, to serve as a safety procedure to observe who is picking up the child and ensuring the child is going with the right parent, and to provide a volunteer as an additional set of hands during the hour.

During the summer, a Children's Ministry Lead Team was created. This team consists of the Children's Ministry Director and five other people in GPC's congregation, each having experience with education and children. They meet every other month and talk about topics and ideas to help streamline the Children's Ministry.

A new Sunday school curriculum was implemented in August of 2018 which is called the Orange curriculum. It is a strategy that builds a connection between church (the light of the world) and home (the heart of the family). The structure of this curriculum is set up with small groups and large group. The students ages infant – kindergarten remain in their room all morning, whereas students in first – fifth grade meet with their small group leader, leave their classroom to go to the stage for a large group lesson (taught by a storyteller), and return to their small group for deeper study into the large group lesson.

Two trainings were held in 2018. In July, a training called "Guide and Engage" focused on behavior management and student engagement. About 10 volunteers came to this training. In the fall, a "Lead Small" book discussion was held for Children's Ministry through Senior High. All Sunday school volunteers received a Lead Small book for their own professional development on how to lead their group well. Only one volunteer from Children's Ministry attended this training because it was held during a BLAST night.

During the Christmas season, the Children's Christmas Program, titled "*O Come and Worship the Humble King*", was directed by Suzanne Fisher and Karla Neff and held on December 23rd. Students in preschool through 5th grade participated. GPC did another Operation Christmas Child drive and 73 boxes were collected to serve kids around the world.

Children's Church

Children's Church was held during the Worship Hour on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month. Children age 5 through grade 3 were invited to participate. Teachers used music, stories, skits and various activities to present the lesson. During the fall, this time was used to prepare for the annual Christmas program.

Thank you to all volunteers who serve to make this ministry possible!

Katie Beiler
- Literacy Liaison/Children's Ministry Director

Deacon Board

The purpose of the Deacon Board at Grace Point Church is to assist the Elders in the work of the ministry. Consequently, they are accountable to and serve under the direction of the Elder Board.

I want to thank the deacons for all of their work this past. year:

Deacon of Administration	Cliff Mast
Deacon of Property	Kevin Beiler (John King, 2019)
Deacon of Support	Todd Zimmerman (Austin Beiler, 2019)
Deacon of Hospitality	Randy Kunkel
Deacon of Caregiving	Sheri Yoder

We met as a group 4 times this year, once a quarter. Our discussion and decision making revolved around tending to the physical, material and practical needs both of the building, congregation and the community.

Here are several big events of the past year -

1. The church started and completed a renovation project for the upstairs and children's wing.
2. Leon Beiler retired as our Treasurer after 30+ years. Joyce Slabaugh stepped into his role and has done a fine job.
3. A capital campaign was run for 2 months to finish paying off the renovations from earlier in the year.
4. The air handler in the west end foyer was replaced.
5. Our budget for 2019 was proposed to be one budget instead of two separate.
6. Sheri Yoder and Tim Rogers provided much needed benevolence through out the year.
7. Our rental property at 2076 Lincoln Highway was completely renovated.

We appreciate your support as we strive to provide the proper oversight and support of the various functions of the church and to be of assistance to the Elders.

Cliff Mast
- Deacon of Administration

Flower Committee

Fresh flower arrangements were placed at the welcome center when they were available.

The two large pots at the west entrance were filled with seasonal plants in the spring, summer, fall and winter.

- Adrienne Neff & Corrie Eby

Food Service Committee

Committee - Katie King, Lynne Huenink, Alesia Yoder, Sheryl Gehman, Kim Mann, Heidi Kunkel

Kitchen Co-managers: Linda Beiler, Helen Lehman

We had three funerals this year:

- Paul Reitz, served 100 people
- Jolene Moyer, served 125 people
- Rose Mast, served 285 people

We served at these events as well:

- Picnic in the park, served 165 people
- Fellowship meal, served 154 people
- Appreciation breakfasts (two) served 225 and 195 people

The committee helped with a potluck for the baptism at the Eby's but only provided the paper products, lemonade and water.

- Lynne Huenink & Katie King

2018 Small Groups

Small group options are one of the identified spiritual growth areas of HEART. This environment encourages relationships to go deeper than medium groups can and also allow for longer discussions if needed, as they happen in the homes of participants. There are currently four groups meeting with 44 adults and children involved.

Smoker Small Group led by Vernon & Deb Smoker

Smucker Small Group led by Eric & Sabrina Smucker

Martin Small Group led by Fred & Mim Martin

Beiler/Stoltzfus Small Group led by Austin & Katie Beiler, and Cameron & Ramona Stoltzfus

Greg Petersheim

- Executive Pastor of Discipleship

Missions Committee

2018 was another encouraging year for GPC missions as we continued to help expand the impact of the Together Initiative Network.

We came together again in 2018 and accomplished the following projects:

- Held community picnics and games every Fri night in July at Paradise & Salisbury Park
- Provided additional programming and meals for Pequea Valley summer school
- Sponsored workshops through The Factory Ministries

The 7th annual Paradise Run Ride Walk took place on June 16, 2018. We again partnered with Intercourse Heritage Days for this event. We had our highest participation with over 200 registered for the run, walk and bike rides.

In September, a group of 25 cyclists rode from Paradise Elementary School to Atlanta, GA to raise awareness and money for the Together Initiative Network. Once in Atlanta, members of the Together Initiative Network presented the work of the Initiative at a national conference on poverty put on by the Aha! Process.

In 2018, GPC sent several mission teams. We sent a team to Monson, Maine for one week to partner with Daryl & Mary Witmer on a work project. Another team traveled to Western Asia to do a work project with Nate & Krystal Eby. Lastly, we sent a team to the Dominican Republic to partner with the Lehrs and Makarios by running VBS and sports camps.

The missions team also helped plan the annual Fall Fun Fest in October which was another great success.

For the third year we had the opportunity to devote the entire final offering from 2018 to support local ministries and our missionaries. The offering was divided between The Factory Ministries, Open Door Development in Burkina Faso, Makarios in the Dominican Republic, Daryl & Mary Witmer, Love in Christ International and the Pequea Valley Education Foundation.

We supported the following missionaries in 2018: a family in Western Asia, Bobby & Michelle Law, Don & Tabitha Nguyen, Heather Albrecht, Matt & Julie Walsh, Daryl & Mary Witmer and Kevin & Christine Lehr.

The 2018 missions team members were: Cameron Stoltzfus, Tim Rogers, Dale Gehman, Marty Clemmer, Lloyd Eby, Cliff Mast and Joyce Slabaugh. Thank you for your participation and support throughout the year! We thank God for the ways He used GPC in 2018.

Tim Rogers
- Missions Committee Chairman

**Necessary Steps
in preparation for Short Term or Career Mission Service
as a member of
GRACE POINT CHURCH OF PARADISE**

Jesus Christ instructed us to "... go into all the world and preach the Gospel to all creation." (Mark 16:15) Certainly we need not leave our home community to do that...and we don't become a missionary by crossing water or leaving home. There are missionary opportunities all around us...at school, work, or in our daily routine of meeting and interacting with those around us.

However, there are times in our lives when God may ask us to "go" to a particular place as an answer to His call to us individually, or He may call us to be part of a group who will engage in missionary work of some nature...stateside or in a foreign country.

If you sense a call from God, through His Holy Spirit speaking to you, here is what you should do, in the order listed:

1. Arrange to talk with Pastors or the Missions Committee chairman, in order to receive help in discerning your call and area of interest.
2. As a part of above consultation, you will receive help to think about the most appropriate mission agency to which you should apply, and the church will assist you in this, in order that you know you have the full backing of your congregation as you move ahead.

Financial Considerations:

1. Particularly in the case of short-term missions, it is necessary to raise support. The Missions Committee will be quite helpful in this process if you are working with us from the beginning.
2. Fund raising activities are encouraged, in keeping with those methods approved by the church.
3. Modest grants are available to qualified persons from the Etta and Mel Beiler Trust Fund, with consideration given regarding length of service, availability of funds, etc. These funds are administered by the Missions Committee.
4. Members may designate support for missionaries in the offering envelope system. However, contributions must be to agencies and not directly to the candidate, otherwise they would not be tax deductible.
Commissioning services are usually scheduled for persons serving for one month or more.

Junior High Student Group

Our Jr High group consists of 6th, 7th, and 8th graders. We average around 25 youth at our events. We meet the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month for Bible Study, plan one other activity each month, and do outreach opportunities throughout the year. The following is an overview of our year:

January	Winter Retreat at Camp Hebron with Sr High
February	Parent Valentine's Meal & Laser Dome
March	Amazing Race
April	Together Day of Caring
May	Philadelphia Zoo
June	Kick-off Bible studies at Paradise Park (June - Aug) Girls - cookie bake/game night, Boys - mini-golfing
July	VBS - students volunteer, cabin weekend at Megan & Chris Beiler's
August	Pool Party, Youth Ministry kick-ball kick-off with Sr High
September	Movie night at GPC
October	GAIN (we ended up canceling this activity due to no availability through GAIN)
November	"Games in the Dark" night at GPC
December	Kitchen Kettle Live Nativity, Christmas caroling to Factory members

Bible Study

Bible study consists of a short lesson followed by small group time. There is also a game played, snack time, and free time. Once a quarter we will have pizza night and birthday bash to celebrate those birthdays that happened within that quarter.

This year we began using the Orange curriculum. This allowed us to combine Sunday and Wednesday studies and focus on a topic for a longer period of time. Some topics we studied this past year:

- Vital - God is our life line
- Rooted - Getting deeper into the word and having a foundation in God
- Says Who - Authority
- Deep - Going deeper in the word and being closer to God
- Link - Our prayer is what links us to God

This year we have worked on developing small groups and keeping the same leaders with the same group of students. This has allowed us to develop closer relationships with the students.

Jr High Student Group Leadership Team,

Austin & Katie Beiler
John & Steph King
Corinne Petersheim
Cameron & Ramona Stoltzfus

Senior High Student Group

Sunday School – This year we rolled out the Orange curriculum to provide continuity and age appropriate content for those from birth to Sr. High. The structure has been helpful and given opportunity to partner with parents to present timeless principles in relevant ways to our youth.

Sunday Night Group - This year we moved away from a Wednesday gathering to a Sunday evening student group time. As part of the shift we evaluated and adjusted the time to fit our overall discipleship structure for our students. This evening meeting has taken on a family feel and provides a non-threatening opportunity to guests to check out and engage with their friends who attend.

Over the summer we took to the homes of staff and students for what affectionately is known as “Home Invasions”. Additionally activities included pool parties, bocce ball, game nights, bonfires and good conversations.

Activities and Events – Here's what's been happening:

Super Bowl Party at the Clemmer's house, St Patrick's Day Scavenger Hunt, Ping-Pong Tournament (at GPC with official bracket), Father/Son canoe trip on the Delaware Water Gap, Jr High and Sr High combined kick-off event, archery tag, and an Ugly Sweater Christmas party to cap it off.

All activities are planned with the intention of creating environments where we can connect with God and each other while serving the greater good and pointing people to Jesus.

Staff – Adult staff this past year included Dylan Salyards, Kent Buohl, Zach Neff, Bethany Rudy, Kendra Neff, Karla Neff, and Lauren Petersheim.

Last note - It has been a privilege to serve in this pastoral capacity along with my wife and the other volunteer leaders. I am continually blessed in countless ways through the relationships with students, staff and their families.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Hackett

- Pastor of Student Ministries

Women of Grace

- A Ministry for Women at GPC -

The Women of Grace Ministry continues to thrive at GPC. We love seeing women connecting, walking along side and encouraging each other.

We continue to offer a time for women to come together for "Women of Grace" and discuss topics that women struggle with, support each other in prayer and enjoy fellowship. We offer both a morning and evening session twice a year.

"Coffee Shop Hop" continues to be a wonderful option for ladies to connect outside of church. We choose a different coffee shop each month and ladies come when it works for their schedule. These are great evenings of fellowship and encouragement.

Some other events that we hosted in 2018 were:

- Ladies day trip to Cape Henlopen State Park
- Summer and fall patio nights
- Fill a planter event at Hilltop Gardens

Lead Team

- Michelle Miller, Kim Stoltzfus, Corinne Groff, Corrie Eby, Suzanne Fisher, Christy Burke

Community Cooperative Programs

Meals on Wheels

Meals on Wheels is a community program designed to provide meals for residents who for various reason, would otherwise not be receiving proper nutrition.

The program is designed to provide one hot meal and one cold meal to participants five days a week. There is a nominal fee to cover the cost of the food. The preparation, the packaging, and the transporting of the food to the resident recipients is the result of volunteer service.

The cold meal and the packaging is done in the kitchen of the Leacock Presbyterian Church. Bird-in-Hand Restaurant prepares the hot meals. We serve about 24 meals a day.

It takes many volunteers to cover kitchen help and drivers for two routes to deliver meals. Volunteers from GPC Nevin & Ruth Hershey & Charlie & Glenda Neff. We are in need of more volunteers.

Happy Hearts SS Class donates \$300 to help cover the cost. We thank each one that helped.

Ruth Hershey
- Board Member

Wednesday Night BLAST

We've again had another great year at Wednesday Night Blast. We closed our 2019 year in the winter with a celebration. The children and parents joined us for a dinner, crafts, scavenger hunt and lots of fun and fellowship. At the end of the evening we had a slideshow and Pastor Kevin spoke a few words and talked about if you were transitioning out of Blast, to consider the Jr High youth group at GPC. Gave out goodie bags at the dismissal and information about upcoming GPC events and feedback cards to parents.

A change in the time happened this year. It is 6:30 to 8:00 pm where as in the past for many years was 7:00 - 8:30 pm. This was a positive change for staff and parents.

Our fall session began in October, 2018. Blast is continuing to grow with many new registrations and also reading outside of the community. We had 18 kids for preschool and 72 kids kindergarten through grade 5. We also have 50 to 55 volunteers including substitutes to make this happen and are so very grateful for each of them.

For kindergarten through grade 5 we offer the children stations that rotate from bible, gym, snack & chat and interest groups. The interest groups we offered this year were Grossology and Arts & Crafts. Preschool has a room just for them and follow a different format.

As far as the leaders, we worked very well together and even though we faced a few challenges, we all learned and grew from them and strengthened as a team.

We are so thankful for the opportunity to minister to the children that come to Blast and remind them how deeply they are loved by God.

- Regan Rothenberger, Dani Smoker & Andrea Ebersol

Vacation Bible School - 2018

Shipwrecked: Rescued by Jesus

Curriculum

This year, once again, we used Group's most current curriculum, "Shipwrecked: Rescued by Jesus." Children, ranging from Pre-K through those who completed grade 5, spent the week discovering that Jesus cares about them personally and rescues in life's toughest circumstances.

Attendance

The average nightly attendance was 107 children. Approximately 115 volunteers helped throughout the course of the week, many of which served on a full-time basis. Of those 115 volunteers, 31 were teens. It was exciting to see everyone use their gifts to make this ministry happen!

Nightly Format

Each evening began with an assembly time in the sanctuary. The elementary children and preschoolers alike were treated to a short skit and song time. Following the assembly, each child, along with their crews, visited three different stations: Bible Teaching, Snacks and Games, and Imagination Station. For the elementary students the evening concluded with a short closing assembly. Pre-school crews ended their evening with a short circle time.

Crews

Crews were led by an adult crew leader and teenage crew assistant. There were six preschool crews, three K-1 crews, three 2nd-3rd grade crews, and two 4th-5th grade crews. An effort was made to keep crews smaller. Each crew contained approximately 5-8 children.

Missions Project

This year's project, "Mission Makarios" focused on raising funds to purchase school supplies for Colegio Makarios, a Christian school in the Dominican Republic. Our goal was to raise \$1,500. Once again, we exceeded our goal. A grand total of \$2,196.86 was raised for Makarios!

Music CDs

As in previous years, each family attending VBS was given a cd containing the Shipwrecked music. GPC families' CDs were placed in their church mailboxes in the Spring. Other families attending VBS received them at the registration table.

Advertising

Three main forms of advertisement were utilized this year to notify families in the community of GPC's VBS. Flyers advertising our VBS were available at the Welcome Center in early June for GPC children and families to hand out to friends, neighbors and classmates. During the last week of June and first full week of July, a color advertisement was placed in the Pequea Valley edition of the Penny Saver. Also in the beginning of July, an email invitation/flyer was sent out to all of the families of children who attended VBS or BLAST in the past two years.

Dinner

Dinner was provided for staff and their families before VBS Monday through Thursday. A donation basket at both the Welcome Center on Sundays and serving counter each evening of VBS helped cover the meal costs.

Closing Social

Thursday, the final evening, ended with a special closing assembly that parents and family members were invited to attend. The closing assembly included songs, a skit, and a slideshow highlighting the week's events. At the conclusion of the closing assembly, families were invited to the church parking lot for an ice cream treat and time of fellowship.

Directors: Abby Tyrrell and Kristen Gentzler