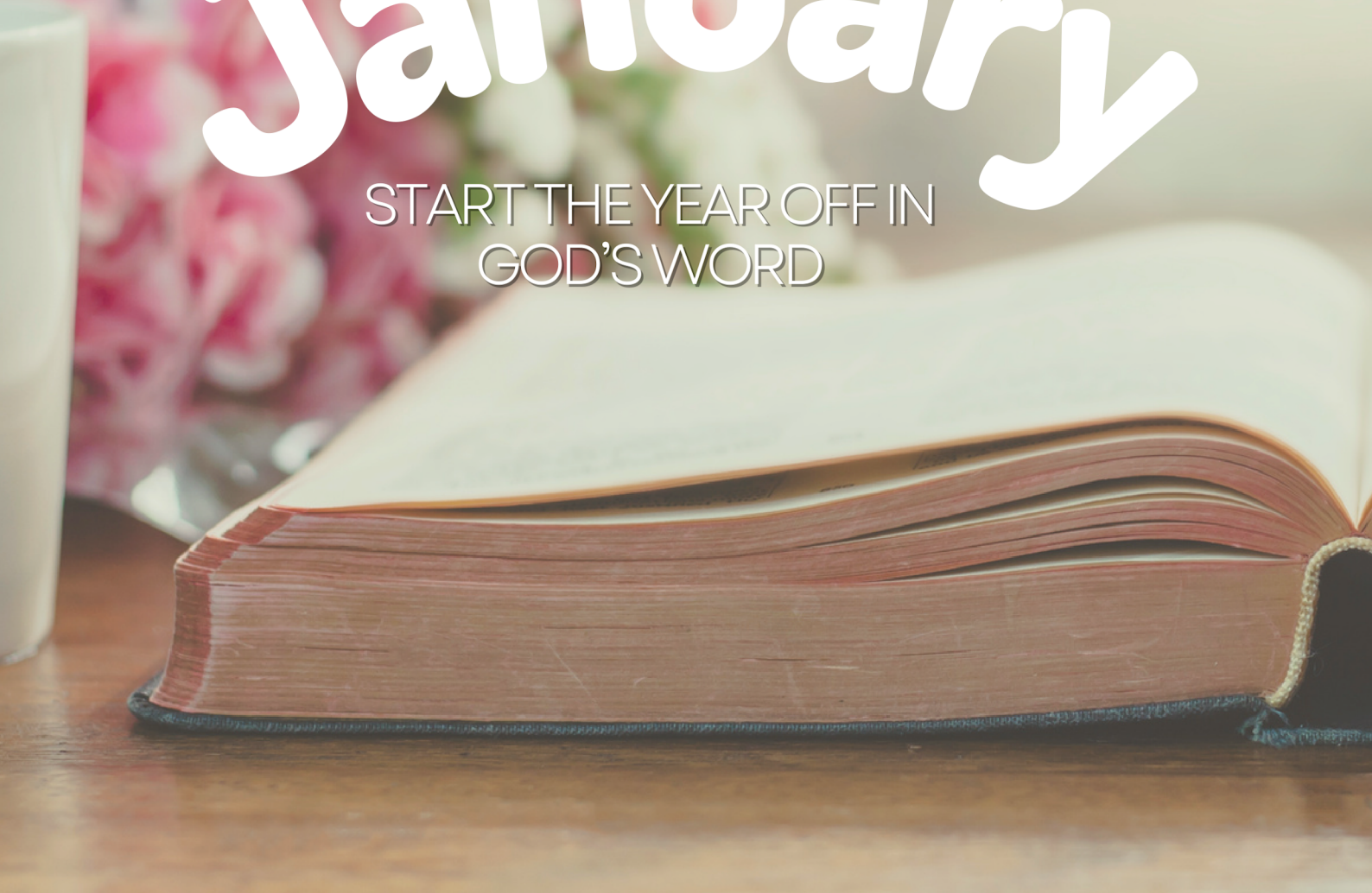


January 2024

GRACE FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

Hello
January

START THE YEAR OFF IN
GOD'S WORD



IN THE LOOP

Stay up to date with us!

BIRTHDAYS

Ashlie Miller	01/01
Danny Bell	01/02
Brittaney Roth	01/04
Amber Rhodes	01/07
Luke Miller	01/10
Carrie Human	01/13
Lisa Brondyke	01/19
James Cox	01/20
Kim Crabill	01/21
Carolyn Danson	01/25
Joyce Daniel	01/25
Dee Piekielek	01/25
Paula Moore	01/27
Barbara Twilley	01/30
Steven Brondyke	01/30
Steve Whitcomb	01/31
Randy Scott	01/31

ANNIVERSARIES

John & Amber Rhodes	01/01
Tom & Gail Lynn	01/13
Bobby & Jean Phillips	01/16

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CHURCH OFFICE
CLOSED 12/25
-
01/01
THIS WEEK!

**WEARS VALLEY
MISSION TRIP**

**MAY 6-MAY 10
CONTACT CLAY COOK AT
TKEEGANCO@BELLSOUTH.NET
OR
(770) 408-8842**

**MISSION TO THE
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
JUNE 12-19, 2024
CONTACT
AMY FERMAN
FOR MORE INFO
(770) 605-5741 OR
ABUGA19@AOL.COM**



HIGHLIGHTS

READING THE BIBLE IN 2024

READING THE BIBLE IN 2024

MANY OF US MAKE RESOLUTIONS FOR THE NEW YEAR, AND ONE OF THE MOST PROFOUND COMMITMENTS WE CAN MAKE IS TO READ GOD'S WORD DAILY. THE PROBLEM IS OFTEN WHERE WE START WITH SUCH A COMMITMENT. THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT THERE ARE A VARIETY OF WAYS YOU CAN CHOOSE TO READ THE BIBLE. THE KEY IS TO MAKE A COMMITMENT AND STICK TO IT!

FOLLOW THIS LINK TO SOME OPTIONS YOU MIGHT FIND HELPFUL -

[HTTPS://JIMMYLONG.NET/2023/11/30/A-PLAN-TO-READ-THROUGH-THE-BIBLE/](https://jimmylong.net/2023/11/30/a-plan-to-read-through-the-bible/)

LARGE GROUP

MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL AGES, BRING A FRIEND!

9AM

SUNDAY MORNINGS | GAME ROOM

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Abbey Hospice is seeking volunteers in your area! Retired individuals who have backgrounds in education, psychology, chaplaincy, social work, nursing and related fields are often great Hospice Volunteers. Individuals who know how Hospice helps patients and their families are vital to our organization. If you have a heartfelt desire to serve, you are a great volunteer candidate.

For more information, contact Jennifer Muller Volunteer Coordinator at 770-464-5858 or fill out the short interest [Volunteer Opportunities | Abbey Hospice](#). To find out more about Abbey Hospice and the services it provides, please go to our website www.abbeyhospice.com

GRACE @ HOME

GRACE @ HOME BOOK GIVEAWAY

Dear Church Family,

Grace @ Home Ministries consistently aims to equip and empower our church community to grow in faith beyond Sunday worship, and right in the middle of your daily life.

As part of our dedication to nurturing spiritual growth, we are excited to announce a special book giveaway this New Year. The selected book is "Reading the Bible Better" by biblical scholar George H. Guthrie. This selected reading is perfect for believers at all stages of their faith journey, offering practical strategies and insights on how to effectively study and apply the teachings of the Scripture.

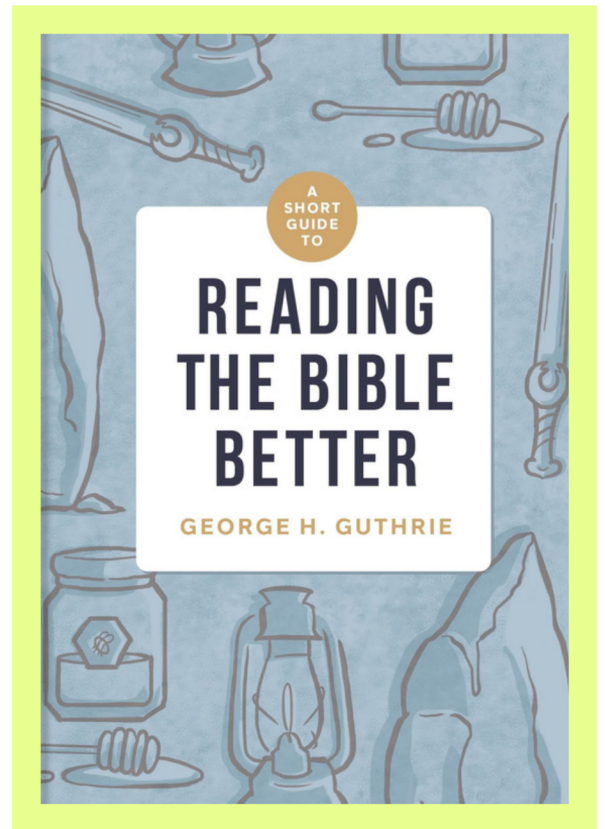
Guthrie's book is a treasure-trove of wisdom that simplifies the complex, leading readers to a greater understanding and appreciation of God's Word. If you've ever found yourself wondering about the cultural or historical context of a biblical passage or found certain texts challenging to comprehend, "Reading the Bible Better" is an invaluable tool to have in your reading repertoire.

The book not only helps deepen an understanding of the Holy Bible but will undoubtedly enhance your daily devotions, leading to stronger connections with Scripture and, ultimately, with God. In the spirit of Acts 17:11, "Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true," we hope that you will seize this opportunity and see this book as an instrument to further cultivate their biblical knowledge and to grow in faith. We encourage you to benefit from this giveaway via Grace @ Home. Whether for your personal growth or a loved one, this book is a helpful resource to unlock further layers of understanding and enrich your spiritual journey.

Looking forward to seeing you deepen your relationship with God's Word!

Blessings,

Pastor Joey



MINISTRY UPDATES



SMALL GROUPS

JOIN AND GROW WITH A SMALL GROUP THIS YEAR!

The New Testament, particularly the book of Acts, paints a compelling picture of the early church: believers dedicated to teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayer, often gathering in homes. Acts 2:46-47 states, "Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people."

Our faith journey is intended to be shared in the companionship of fellow believers. The dynamics of a Small Group are designed to emulate this model of fellowship, nurturing a sense of belonging, while helping us grow spiritually through shared experiences, learning, and mutual encouragement. Hebrews 10:24-25 says, "And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near." It is within these groups that we can build bonds of fellowship, improving not only our spiritual lives but also strengthening our community as a whole.

Starting or joining a Small Group is an opportunity to experience this transformative dynamic firsthand. If you've been contemplating deeper engagement with your church family, we invite you to consider participating in a Small Group. Likewise, if you feel a calling to shepherd others on their journey, starting a new group could be an ideal fit.

God's family is intended to function as a community, as Romans 12:5 notes, "So in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others." It is through establishing and fostering these intimate connections that we often find the greatest personal and spiritual growth.

Whether you're new to our church family or have been a part for many years, know this: there is a place for you in our Small Groups, and you have unique experiences and perspectives to share. So we invite you to join or start a Small Group today – your spiritual family is waiting to welcome, grow, and journey with you. Please visit our website for more information on the Small Groups we have to offer here at Grace Fellowship, or you can email me at joey@gracefellowship.ws

In Christ,
Pastor Joey

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

It's a joy and an honor to serve and teach your children each week. They have hungry minds and it's amazing to watch them learn and grow in the Lord. We need you! If you are interested in becoming a volunteer in the children's ministry, please contact Cassidy Callaway at children@gracefellowship.ws to get plugged in or to ask any questions.

KIDS COVE

WE HOPE YOUR FAMILY HAD A GREAT CHRISTMAS! OUR JANUARY UNIT FOR KIDS COVE IS 'THE MISSING PAPER CAPER'. WE'VE GOT A REAL MYSTERY ON OUR HANDS — OUR PICTURE PAPERS HAVE DISAPPEARED AND SO HAVE THE BIBLE STORY PICTURES THAT WERE ON THEM. THAT'S DOUBLE TROUBLE! NOT TO WORRY, THOUGH! THE PRESCHOOL SUPER SLEUTHS ARE ON IT. TOGETHER, THEY'LL FIND THE LOST PAPERS AND USE THEIR SUPER SLEUTH FLASHLIGHT TO RECOVER THE MISSING PICTURES. THROUGHOUT THE CAPER, KIDS WILL LEARN THAT JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD AND THEY CAN DO WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS. WE WILL BE SPENDING THIS MONTH LEARNING ABOUT JESUS FROM THE BOOK OF MATTHEW. PARENTS, ASK YOUR KIDS TO TELL YOU ABOUT THE WEEK'S LESSON! YOU CAN ALSO CHECK OUT WHAT THEY ARE WORKING ON EACH WEEK AT THE BULLETIN BOARD BY CHECK IN, AND FROM THEIR TAKE-HOME SHEETS.



KIDS @ GRACE WELCOME BACK!!!

WELCOME BACK 1ST-4TH GRADERS! WE HOPE YOU HAD A GREAT CHRISTMAS! WE WILL RESUME OUR CLASS WITH MALACHI'S PROPHECY OF JESUS. WE WILL NOT GET TO THE BIRTH OF THE MESSIAH UNTIL FEBRUARY, AND AFTER THAT WE WILL BE CAMPING OUT IN THE NEW TESTAMENT TO FOLLOW THE LIFE OF JESUS! AFTER SPENDING THE YEAR IN THE OLD TESTAMENT, THE CHILDREN WILL BE ABLE TO LOOK BACK AT HOW IT ALL POINTED TO JESUS. IF YOU HAVE A CHILD IN 1ST -3RD GRADE WHO IS NOT YET PLUGGED INTO KIDS@GRACE, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO COME WITH THEM TO CLASS AT THE DISMISSAL ANNOUNCEMENT NEXT MONTH! YOU CAN ALSO CONTACT CASSIDY CALLAWAY AT CHILDREN@GRACEFELLOWSHIP.WS TO GET THEM SET UP AND ASK ANY QUESTIONS. REMINDER: KIDS@GRACE OFFERS A SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS AS WELL, FROM 9- 10AM. IF YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR CHILD TO BE IN THIS CLASS, STOP BY AT THE KID'S CHECK-IN DESK FOR MORE INFO!



STUDENT

MINISTRIES

**YOUTH
20**

**TOTAL
SURRENDER**

**CAMP
24**

We are thrilled to announce that registrations for Generate Youth Camp 2024 are open now through this January, 24th! This annual gathering provides an incredible opportunity for all youth members from 7th grade to 12th grade to delve deeper into their relationship with God, fellowship with peers, and create unforgettable memories.

This year, our camp revolves around a powerful theme - "Surrender." As followers of Christ, we understand that the journey of faith requires a heart fully committed and wholly surrendered to the Lord. As Jesus says in Luke 9:23, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me." This year at Generate Youth Camp, we're going to explore that foundational principle: the total surrender of one's life to Christ.

At the camp, we will be inviting our youth to unpack what surrender truly means – to let go of self-direction and instead, continuously seek God's guidance, wisdom, and enduring love. Through interactive sessions, biblical teaching, worship, small group activities, and outdoor adventures, we aim to foster an environment that allows our campers to experience God's grace and power in profound and life-changing ways.

This is not just a typical summer camp! It's a transformative experience designed to deepen your relationship with Christ in a fun-filled, supportive, and Christ-Centered environment. We know that the experiences, friendships, and spiritual growth that take place at Generate Youth Camp will enrich the lives of our youth long after the camp has ended.

Don't miss out on this opportunity! Surrender to Christ, embrace faith, and create lasting memories with us at Generate Youth Camp 2024!

Email Pastor Joey for more info on how to sign up!

Joey@gracefellowship.ws

ELDER UPDATE

Elder Communication for the January 2024 Newsletter

The regular Elder meeting was held on Tuesday, December 12th. David Torbert led the devotion, and this was followed by the approval of both the minutes of the November meeting and the report from the Finance Team. As we do each month, the elders then entered a time of discussion for the known prayer needs of our membership as well as the needs of each elder.

Treasurer Melvin Rhodes and Finance Team Chair Larry Choate were in attendance at the meeting to answer any questions about the draft 2024 budget. There was a lot of productive discussion, and we appreciate the work of the ministry teams, Finance Teams, staff, and Treasurer in putting this budget together. The Elder Council will finalize this budget and share it with the church in mid-January in preparation for our vote on the budget in our Annual Meeting on January 28. Prior to this, the Elders and Finance Team will provide a Q&A session the week prior to that Annual Meeting.

Pastor Jimmy reported on the ongoing work of the Master Planning Team that is currently at work helping us develop the actions steps to move Grace Fellowship forward. The plan is to have a draft plan to submit to the Elder Council in the first quarter of 2024. In addition, staff goals for the coming year are being set based on the strategic plan, however these goals may need to be adjusted once the Master Plan is completed and approved.

Our Children's Ministry Director Cassidy Callaway presented a report on the updates the nursery and children's hall. The children's rooms were all painted the week before Thanksgiving. New decorations have been purchased, and each room has a unique theme. All the children's curriculum has been reviewed and revisions have been made. Please continue to be in prayer for this vital ministry.

Pastor Joey reported on several important Discipleship events that occurred over the past month. We successfully launched our first Impact group, and plan to develop disciples who make disciples. We also introduced a prototype for an "in-home affinity group" with a strategic plan to evolve it into a "HOST" home, specifically targeting non-church attenders. The initial response to this indicates potential for meaningful community outreach. Six families from around the area have made commitments to this, and this will move forward in January.

ELDER UPDATE

Pastor Joey has begun recording and editing video-based lessons for Right Now Media to enhance the quality and accessibility of discipleship materials, as well as, produce our very own material specifically for Grace Fellowship. Finally, the Youth Ministry reported they have successfully completed "Section 1: Creation" of the Youth curriculum and transitioned into the new "Section 2: Fall." The continuity in curriculum development ensures a comprehensive and cohesive learning experience for our Youth.

Pastor Matt reported that weekly choir rehearsals are back underway and noted that if anyone is interested in participating in our choir to contact him. In addition, with Christmas Eve falling on Sunday this year, the church staff determined the best schedule for that day would be to cancel Sunday morning Small Groups, have our fellowship time at 10:00 a.m. and the worship service at the regular 10:30 a.m. time. This year we will have only one Christmas Eve Candlelight service at 5:00 p.m. We look forward to celebrating the birth of our Savior together this year in both our morning worship and our Candlelight service!

The Elder Council and Pastor Jimmy are working on finalized plans for Pastor Jimmy's sabbatical, which is scheduled for August-October of next year. This time will be in part to rest, reflect, and restore, but also to prepare for the 2025 sermon series. This will include personal study, commentary study, and at least one conference, in addition to some time for rest and refreshment. Sabbaticals are provided to pastoral staff who have served for at least 7 years at Grace Fellowship.

Lastly, we are happy to report that we will be presenting 4 candidates to begin a new 3-year term as elder beginning in January. Candidate testimonies will begin December 31st and continuing into January, with a vote to affirm in our conference on January 28th. Please be in prayer for these men as they begin this important service. The candidates to be presented are Stuart Harris, Tom Lynn, Mac Manley, and Mike Moore.

We would like to thank Luke Miller and Bobby Thomas for their service to Grace Fellowship as they rotate off. Their final meeting will be in January.