

2nd Quarter Business Meeting Agenda
July 27, 2025

1. Call to Order & Prayer – David Torbert
2. Financial Report – Melvin Rhodes; Mike Moore
3. Elder Report – Randy Scott
4. Membership Report – Jonnie Ghetti
5. Benevolence Report – David Torbert
6. Any Other Ministry Reports - TBD
7. Discipleship Pastor Report – Joey Wood
8. Worship Pastor Report – Matt MacLeod
9. Senior Pastor Report – Jimmy Long
10. Other Business – David Torbert
11. Closing Prayer – Jimmy Long

GRACE FELLOWSHIP FINANCIAL UPDATE

2nd Quarter Results (Through June 30, 2025)			
	Budget	Actual	Variance
FAITHFUL GIVING AND OFFERINGS	\$ 498,996	\$ 488,294	\$ (10,702)
GEORGIA BAPTIST FOUNDATION OFFERINGS		\$ 22,286	\$ 22,286
NET OTHER INCOME		\$ 233	\$ 233
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 498,996	\$ 510,813	\$ 11,817
MISSIONS	\$ 93,513	\$ 89,769	\$ (3,744)
GENERAL PERSONNEL	\$ 253,005	\$ 238,144	\$ (14,861)
CHURCH GROWTH	\$ 50,399	\$ 32,785	\$ (17,614)
OPERATIONS	\$ 128,806	\$ 120,015	\$ (8,791)
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 525,723	\$ 480,713	\$ (45,010)
COMMENTS			
YTD Tithes/ Offerings are 97% of annual budget and are 21k above last year.			
YTD Expenses are 91% of budget and \$32K below last year spending.			
Avg Weekly Giving thru June	\$ 18,780		
Weekly Giving needed to achieve budget	\$ 19,192		
ADJUSTED RESERVE FUNDS (ARF)	\$ Amount	# of Months	
ARF as of 6/30/2025	\$ 325,591	3.84	

Grace Fellowship Financial Update

2nd Quarter Results (Jan. 1st – Jun. 30th)

INCOME

	Budget	Actual	Variance
Tithes and Offerings	\$498,996	\$488,294	\$10,702
Georgia Baptist Foundation Offerings		\$22,286	\$22,286
Net Other Income		\$233	\$233
Total Income		\$510,813	\$11,817

Comments:

YTD Tithes/Offerings are 97% of annual budget and 21K above last year

Avg. Weekly Giving thru June - \$18,780

Weekly Giving needed to achieve budget - \$19,192

Grace Fellowship Financial Update

2nd Quarter Results (Jan. 1st – Jun. 2nd)

EXPENSES

	Budget	Actual	Variance
Missions	\$93,513	\$89,769	\$3,744
General Personnel	\$253,005	\$238,144	\$14,861
Church Growth	\$50,399	\$32,785	\$17,614
Operations	\$128,806	\$120,015	\$8,791
Total Expenses	\$525,723	\$480,713	\$45,010

Comments:

YTD Expenses are 91% of budget and \$32k below last year spending

ADJUSTED RESERVE FUNDS (ARF) \$Amount # of Months
· ARF as of 6/30/2025. \$325,591 3.84

Elder Council Quarterly Summary

Quarter: April – June 2025

The Elder Council begins each meeting with prayer and encouragement from God's Word. We believe it is essential to faithful leadership that we are seeking the Lord's wisdom and guidance in all the decisions that are being made. As part of our prayer time, we focus on the needs within the congregation as we pray for our members and regular attendees each month. Please let us know how we can best pray for you.

A major area of focus each month is the health of our church finances. We want to ensure that Grace Fellowship remains strong spiritually and financially, and that we continue to provide ministry to our members, our community, and even beyond our area to impact the world. In other words, our finances are part of helping us fulfill our mission of glorifying God by bringing people into a life-changing relationship with Jesus Christ.

In this light, the Elders appointed a work group consisting of Mike Moore, Randy Scott, Nolan Callaway, and Pastor Jimmy. This group brainstormed ideas for better communication of our financial status and ways to encourage giving among our members and regular attendees. As we have worked to control spending, we have also seen our giving move in a positive direction. Thank you for your faithfulness and commitment.

The Elders are also responsible to approve any changes to church policies. The Child and Youth Safety Team has requested some revisions to make our safety policy more effective. These revisions are being considered by the Elder Council and scheduled for a vote in our upcoming meeting.

The Elder Council endorsed a proposal from the Missions Team to hold "Kickin' for the Kingdom," a kickball tournament in September to raise funds for mission trips. The location will be the Greene County Recreation Department, and the beneficiaries will be our missions to Wears Valley Ranch, Big Hope (Dominican Republic), and Global Samaritans (Zambia). We look forward to being a part of this fundraising event.

The church campus and facilities require continual maintenance, upgrades, and repairs to provide a safe, attractive, and functional facility for worship and ministry. A refresh of our playground surface was completed in April. Two classrooms were painted on the C Hallway. New sweeps were placed on some of our exterior doors. And we will receive bids on the replacement of some or all of our windows due to the beginning signs of rot to the wood framing on some windows.

Pastor Jimmy is renewing the Membership Restoration Team with new members to reach out to inactive members to discover problems and encourage re-engagement in attendance. Changes to their membership status will be reported to the Elders. If there is need for the church to remove members, a motion will be brought by the Elders to the church during a regular quarterly conference for consideration and action.

Thank you for your trust in us.

Your Grace Fellowship Elder Council

(presented by Randy Scott, Elder Vice-Chairman)

2025 2nd Quarter Membership Report

Membership Changes in 2nd Quarter

Total Membership end of 1 st Quarter 2025		385
New Members	10	
Members Deceased	1	
Members Transferred	3	
Members Removed since last meeting		
Total Change for Quarter	6	
Total Membership end of 2 nd Quarter		391

2nd Quarter Candidates for Membership

Profession of Faith	4
Statement of Faith	6
By Letter	0
Total	10

Total number of candidates for membership: 10

2nd Quarter Membership Breakdown

Active Members	250
Inactive Members	141
Total	391

Benevolence Ministry Report					
YTD 2025					
			1st QTR	2nd QTR	June YTD
Number of Benevolence Requests			5	38	43
Beginning Balance			\$23,521	\$25,962	\$23,521
Contributions - 1st Qtr			\$5,722	\$1,580	\$7,302
Assistance Provided:					
	Lodging		\$534	\$2,847	\$3,381
	Utilities		\$408	\$663	\$1,071
	Transportation			\$1,416	\$1,416
	Food		\$50	\$200	\$250
	Other			\$1,025	\$1,025
	GCCO		<u>\$2,289</u>	<u>\$646</u>	<u>\$2,935</u>
			\$3,281	\$6,797	\$10,078
Contributions minus expenses			\$2,441	-\$5,217	\$2,776
Balance of Fund			\$25,962	\$20,745	\$20,745

Prayer Ministry Report
August 4, 2025

On Thursday, May 1, at 12:00-12:30 our church hosted a National Day of Prayer service. Immediately following, a quick lunch of sandwiches, chips and dessert was served. Approximately 50 people attended, 35 stayed for lunch, and 13 came for prayer in our Prayer Tent.

For the month leading up to this year's VBS, members of our team prayed daily for a list of requests supplied by Cassidy. Each day of VBS before the children arrived, we actually prayed on-site inside and outside the church.

We continue praying over the chairs each Sunday before the service begins so that everyone attending will have received a prayer. We also continue having Prayer Partners upfront available to anyone requesting prayer.

Susan Paradise

Children's Ministry Director Report

Cassidy Callaway

During the month of April, we held our Easter 'Journey to the Cross' event and hosted about 90 attendees. Most of these attendees were our own families, though we did see some unfamiliar faces and steps were taken to connect with them. The event itself went well and the stations along the 'walk' were performed by our youth. We discussed making this an annual event and building off of it for next year. Kids Cove attendance averaged 15 and Kids@Grace averaged 8.3.

In May VBS preparations went into full swing with big pushes for volunteer registration. The children's safety team met to discuss some pressing issues, many of which will result in modifications to policy. Some of these issues are already written into policy, but we discussed them in order to all be on the same page, or we needed clarification from Brotherhood Mutual. These issues included making a distinction between youth and adult children's volunteers and their onboarding, married couples volunteering together, and unauthorized persons in the children's areas during ministry activities. Kids Cove attendance averaged 14.25 and Kids@Grace averaged 11.6.

Lots of behind-the-scenes VBS preparations happened in June. I learned from last year that half of VBS directing is administrative, and the other half is decorating. I'm grateful to Lisa Cronin for stepping in as the VBS decorating coordinator this year! We held a baby dedication that included 5 of our church families. Lastly, I used the holiday National Children's Day to 'take over' our social media for the week to post content related to this ministry. I believe social media is an indispensable outreach tool today and the post insights from that week showed double the views/interactions of our normal posts. Kids Cove attendance averaged 13.2 and Kids@Grace averaged 15.

Wednesday Night Ministry:

Wednesday nights have been super sweet. In April and May, we had a mini-series on the book of Esther, celebrated Mother's Day and we finished up our first year's curriculum with KidzLife studying the book of Matthew.

The month of June brought much fun as we kicked off Water Wednesdays, which included a very large slip-n-slide and water games each week, along with a devotion highlighting teamwork, unity, and fellowship with believers.

We had a wonderful response to our call for more volunteers and many spots were filled, and church members have remained committed even throughout the summer.

We still have a need for 4 more monthly volunteers. Please join us in praying for the Lord to meet our needs.

April averaged 12.6 children, May averaged 11.25, and June averaged 16.

All for Jesus,

LisaMarie

Gal 5:1

Discipleship Report
July Quarterly Business Meeting

As we reach the midpoint of the year, I am excited to share the progress and developments in our discipleship programs. Our journey began at the start of the year with a dedicated focus on disciple-making. We took a team of 12 members to the Impact Disciple Making Conference, an experience that has influenced our focus on disciple-making and contributed to significant growth over the past months.

Our strategic focus for the year has been the implementation and expansion of Impact Groups. These small yet dynamic groups, targeted at both men and women in gender specific groups, meet throughout the week. The core aim is to cultivate disciples who will, in turn, create and lead their own groups, perpetuating a cycle of discipleship. Each group, limited to four members and gender-specific, commits to a period of 1.5 to 2 years of deep, transformative discipleship. For those interested in joining or making an Impact Group, please feel free to contact me directly.

Additionally, the Junior Discipleship Team successfully led our annual Vacation Bible School and our first-ever Jerusalem Walk, which brought to life the events of Christ's crucifixion and resurrection. The commitment and growth of this team have been inspiring, and they have become integral to our collective leadership. We have continued monthly leadership training focused on unifying our ministry purposes under the umbrella of discipleship.

Looking ahead, we are preparing to extend our outreach into the Dell Webb Community, where we currently lack small group presence. This area, just within a critical radius where church attendance and gospel familiarity drop significantly, presents a unique opportunity for local evangelism and engagement. For the Dell Webb community, we believe the best way to reach a neighbor, is by a neighbor.

Our Wednesday attendance has remained robust, averaging around 65 in attendance across various age groups and study sessions. Despite a seasonal "summer dip" in numbers, we are optimistic about reaching our target of 100 attendees by year-end, a reachable goal.

It's been a dynamic and productive half-year at Grace Fellowship. Thank you for your continued support and involvement in these enriching programs. Let us look forward to another six months of fruitful ministry and kingdom building.

In Christ,

Joey Wood
Discipleship Pastor

Worship / Community Pastor Report: July 2025 2nd Quarter (April – June)

The second quarter of our ministry year continued where the first quarter ended. With Easter to look forward to we continued our *Looking to the Cross* series during the first couple weeks of April and had a wonderful weekend of worship including: Good Friday, Sunrise service, and our full Easter service. In each month of the quarter, we had the opportunity to commission a mission team (Zambia, Wears Valley, and Dominican Republic), and we look forward to hearing about those trips in a combined service on August 31. We gathered at the table of Remembrance as a part of our Good Friday service, Sunrise service, and at the start of May. For the 2nd year in a row, we had 5 families participate in a child dedication, and we also recognized our graduating seniors. With a desire to increase our attention to giving as a part of our worship we have resumed passing the offering baskets.

Our missions spotlights these past few months included: Our annual Annie Armstrong emphasis, the First Call Pregnancy Center (which launched our annual baby bottle drive), and the Penfield Addictions ministries.

Our 2nd quarter attendance averaged around 200. This is up a little from the 1st quarter (197) and was a fairly significant increase to last year's 2nd quarter (181).

Additional areas of ministry engagement in the 2nd quarter include: Wears Valley trip, VBS prep, Message prep (for Sunday, July 6), Database management

Looking ahead: We are planning a missions celebration service for the end of August, there is some attention being given to add new team members in the booth and band ministry, and preparations for the holiday season are just beginning.

Administrator Report 2nd Quarter 2025

April

Began working with Jimmy on the transition required for Text2Give which must be completed by no later than June 2. Mobile carriers have updated their regulations, discontinuing support for shared short codes and requiring additional security for text-based donations. Shared short codes allowed multiple organizations to send messages from the same number which led to spam complaints, misuse by bad actors and reduced SMS deliverability.

8 benevolence contacts were made in April, all non-members

May

Child/Youth Safety Team met to:

- define the distinctions between children's groups,
- clarify the children's worker selection process,
- document the requirements of adult volunteers, and
- clarify the main restroom policies

in the Children's Ministry Policies

Continued to collaborate with Jimmy to introduce a revision for giving by Text2Give that will become effective June 2, 2025.

15 benevolence contacts were made in May, 3 members, 12 non-members

June

Child/Youth Safety Team presented above modifications to the Children's Ministry Policies to the Elder Council for review and comment. The elders approved the revisions but counseled the Team to document the training for youth volunteers (5th grade to age 18) which will be presented at a future Elder Council.

Transition to upgraded Text2Give effective June 2 was smooth and seamless.

Collaborated with bdManagedIT to:

- replace 3 Windows 10 computers that cannot be upgraded by October
- be made aware of significant cost changes of Microsoft 365 nonprofit licenses starting March 2026

Greene County Christian Outreach changes, effective week of July 7, include:

- no longer paying for temporary lodging, with possible exception if children are involved
- will continue to pay for rent as long as funds are available
- limit of \$350 per client (down from \$400)
- Monthly budget is \$4,000.

15 benevolence contacts were made in June, 1 member, 14 non-members

Senior Pastor Report for the July 27, 2025 Grace Fellowship Quarterly Business Meeting

I am grateful to serve as Senior Pastor of Grace Fellowship. We are a church fulfilling our mission of glorifying God by bringing people into a life-changing relationship with Jesus Christ. Each of you is a vital part of that mission as you pray, give, serve, and share Jesus! Thank you for allowing me to serve you.

One of the issues we continue to focus on as an Elder Council and staff is our financial status. An Elder workgroup began meeting to address and communicate the financial situation to the church and recommend options to move the giving trend in a positive direction. With the invaluable input of the Finance Team and Treasurer, we have worked to manage expenses and communicate clearly to the church both the needs and our steps toward addressing those needs. We have seen some positive movement, but we will continue to monitor the finances to ensure we can continue to pursue our mission. Our biggest aim is to grow our giving by growing our church.

Other actions I have been part of in the past quarter include:

- **Restarting the Membership Restoration Team to reach out to Inactive Members:** The purpose of this team is to contact all inactive members to determine their status, encourage their return to active membership, and suggest next steps to the staff and elders for further action. Actions could include asking the church to remove members from the roll if they are uncontactable or unwilling to re-engage. The goal is for members to reconnect with Grace Fellowship or another church family.

- **Re-establishing Section Captains:** With the support of the Elders, I want to re-establish our section captains in the Worship Center on Sunday mornings, and I am encouraging the Elders to be an active part of this initiative. The purpose is to assign section captains for the Worship Center to get to know members in their area better, welcome guests sitting nearby, and notice when members have been absent for more than two consecutive weeks. This is intended to improve member retention and encourage guests to return.

- **Sunday Morning Guest Follow-up:** Changes are being implemented to make follow-up with Sunday morning guests more personal. This includes sending handwritten notes and a copy of "We Want You Here" by Thom Rainer to local guests, making personal phone calls when numbers are provided, and sending an online survey to gather feedback for improving the Sunday morning experience.

Pastoral Activities and Future Preaching include:

- **Preaching Schedule:** The current series in Revelation is expected to conclude just before the Advent series begins. Our Advent emphasis will be "He Shall Be Called," taking a closer look at the messianic prophecies in Isaiah 9. The current plan is to begin preaching through 1 Samuel at the start of the new year.

- **Beginning with Grace Class:** Holding this class on Sunday mornings is proving to be successful.

Senior Pastor Report (continued)

- Men's Small Group: A new men's small group on Wednesday nights was launched earlier this year. I share teaching responsibilities with David Cronic along with a rotation of other class participants. This weekly study focuses on life lessons from heroes in the Bible.

- Children's Dedications: On Sunday, June 22, the church celebrated the dedications of five children: Calli Caamano, Ava Harrison, Pedon Hunt, Acree Rhodes, and Maggie Woods. Continue to keep these families in your prayers.

- Vacation Bible School (VBS): I was pleased to be part of this year's VBS teaching team with my wife Nancy. I am grateful for the leadership and hard work of our Children's Ministry Director Cassidy Callaway, our Wednesday Night Children's Ministry Leader Lisa Cronic, our Youth Ministry Director Jarvis Freeman, and for the staff and all the volunteers.

Missions and Ministry Involvement:

- Dominican Republic Mission Team: I was part of a team of 20 that completed a successful mission trip to the Dominican Republic from June 11-18, working at the Good Samaritan Clinic in Batey 7. Efforts included reorganizing medicines, minor building repairs, constructing a fence, distributing Bibles, and conducting VBS-style children's programs.

- Pastor Training in Zambia: While the Senior Pastor determined that being a part of the Sons of Jubal Mission in Cuba (November) was not workable in his schedule, an opportunity to offer pastor training through Global Samaritans in Zambia, Africa, next March is in the planning stages.