



Immersed IN GRACE

2022 - 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Immersed IN GRACE



When we are immersed in something, we are plunged into it, surrounded, and covered by it. Immersed is the perfect word to capture the fantastically great blessings communicated to us in the book of Romans: God has made it possible for us to no longer be separated from Him, but rather, to be permanently and irrevocably “in Christ!”

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

(Romans 6:3-4)

Several deep thinkers I consulted regarding this passage agree that what is spoken of here is not less than water baptism, but it is more. This text communicates the amazing reality that in some spiritual manner, our old sinful selves have been absorbed into the death of Christ, and we are now resurrected to be alive with Him, never again to be subject to death (just as He is not) and never again to be separated from Him for all eternity! Can I get an Amen!?

All of this is an indescribable gift of God – not in response to anything we have done or deserve, but completely out of the benevolence of His heart. This is what it means to be “immersed in grace.” We are not sprinkled with grace – we are saturated in it. Not dribbled but drenched. Not teased but fully satisfied.

I have been super encouraged to watch what I can only describe as a movement of God's Spirit among our church family this year as we have immersed ourselves in Paul's letter to the Romans. In my time at Grace Point, I've never seen such deep engagement in a sermon series, such enthusiasm for the truths that are surfacing, such moving evidence that people are putting their faith into action.

As you read this annual report, let's celebrate together what GOD is graciously doing in our church family! I'm so glad our first name as a faith community is "Grace." May we never lose sight of the incredible, undeserved good which God has poured out on us, and may we not dabble but drench ourselves in the riches He has made available as we learn to live "in Christ!"

Grateful to be immersed,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dave Why". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Our Vision

Building bridges for life change through Christ

Our Vision for Community Outreach

Connecting Families for Life Change Through Christ

Our Mission

To help more people become fully committed followers of Jesus Christ

Newtown Welcome Day

As part of our vision for Building Bridges for Life Change Through Christ, Grace Point participated in Newtown Welcome Day 2023. It was an exciting and enjoyable day on Newtown's Sycamore Street, connecting with our local community while engaging in the many festivities for all ages. Newtown Welcome Day celebrates the vibrant spirit of the Newtown community and the many businesses in our beloved town.

Many thanks to the volunteers who coordinated and served to make this great day a success! We pray that the connections made will bear much fruit!



MEN'S MINISTRY

At the March Madness event, our men experienced a vibrant gathering fostering camaraderie and wholesome competition within our community. Set against a backdrop of spirited games and genuine fellowship, the event was a testament to the bonds formed through shared interests and the joy of coming together.

Amidst laughter and good-natured competition, participants engaged in a range of friendly contests, from the high-energy corn hole tournament to the thrilling intensity of the basketball matchups. These activities served as catalysts for connection, creating an atmosphere where friendships flourished and new connections were forged.

The highlight of the evening, beyond the exhilarating games, was the delectable spread that awaited attendees. The menu featured exquisite culinary delights, complemented by a delightful array of desserts that added a sweet touch to the gathering. It was a testament to the power of community and the strength found in coming together, united by faith and a shared sense of purpose.



Family Fun Fest



WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Women's Ministry had the unique blessing of having two retreats in our last ministry and fiscal year! Waiting for pandemic concerns to subside, we postponed our 2020 and 2021 traditional April spring retreats at Harvey Cedars Bible Conference on Long Beach Island, NJ.

We were then blessed to host an autumn retreat on November 11-13, 2022, titled "Reflecting Christ ~ Living Out Authentic Faith (A Study of the Book of James)" at Harvey Cedars. Dr. Sheryl Vasso was our teacher, and 35 women came together to grow in our love for God, His Word, and each other. We also enjoyed worship, prayer, beautiful sunsets, walks on the beach, rest, games, meals and sweet fellowship. "*But the one who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the Word, this one will be blessed in what he does.*" (James 1:25)

On April 21-23, 2023, we resumed our usual April spring retreat at Harvey Cedars with "Contentment in Christ ~ Trusting His Faithfulness, Sovereignty and Mercy" being our scriptural foundation for the weekend. Susie M. Weber was our guest speaker, and 50 women gathered at the shore to learn and grow in God's Word together. Times of sweet worship, fellowship, prayer,

snacking, games and fun were enjoyed by all. Current friendships were nourished, and new friendships were formed. "*I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content.*" (Philippians 4:11)

I am thankful for every woman who attended the retreats and for all the women who served at the retreats (teaching, leading worship, sound and A/V, prayer team, decorations, gift bags, etc.). I am very thankful for Michelle Piccioni, our Women's Retreat Co-Coordinator, who beautifully served alongside me to bring two retreats together in one year! Praise the Lord, and glory to Him!

Our Women's Ministry exists to nurture growing in the grace and knowledge of Christ our Savior, to delight and abide in His Word, to cherish and share the Gospel and to gather in fellowship and engage in service. We pray you will join us in our Bible studies; Mentoring Ministry; Women's Outreach & Fellowship; Quilting Ministry; Ministry for Single Moms, our new ministry for women who have lost their spouses; events and serving opportunities. "*I bow down toward Your holy temple and give thanks to Your name for Your steadfast love and Your faithfulness, for You have exalted above all things Your name and Your word.*" (Psalm 138:2)

SHARON SLOAN | DIRECTOR OF WOMEN'S MINISTRY



One
Winter
Night



STUDENT MINISTRY

It has been a joy to see God's kindness displayed throughout the Student Ministry here at Grace Point. God has been so kind in bringing many students through our doors over the last year. We have had more than 100 different souls enter our doors, all having the opportunity to hear the Gospel. We have witnessed an increase – spiritually and numerically – in our Student Ministry. We had the privilege of baptizing 12 students this year with more baptisms to come. We also celebrate the several students who recently put faith in Christ. We completed the New City Catechism curriculum, which blessed our young people with the foundations of the Christian faith. This summer we answered student-submitted questions, acknowledging that God's Word has answers to our deepest questions. We also launched a Middle School Sunday morning Bible study and added worship through song into our High School Youth

Group programming. We had the privilege of taking 42 students to Harvey Cedars this summer. Special thanks to those who helped to provide funds to students who had need. God is on the move here at GP Students and continues to be generous in supplying all of our needs. Please pray that God blesses us with additional youth leaders. Please pray that God works in the hearts of young people drawing them to Himself. Pray that GP Students always points people to Christ.

"Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen." (Ephesians 3:20-21)

JEREMY DAVIS | PASTOR OF STUDENT MINISTRY





A heart for one another...

It is a blessing to see so many in our congregation sharing a heart for families with special needs. Many people have expressed interest in serving in the ministry, partnering with a family, providing a meal, or the simple but profound act of praying for specific needs. It is a joy to see the love and passion for this often-overlooked group of people.

The **Special Needs Ministry** held a kickoff luncheon on Sunday, March 19, 2023. There were 10 families represented that shared about their loved one and gave advice and wisdom on how best this ministry could serve families in the future. The Advisory Team has been diligently working together on building a foundation for the ministry. The ministry is currently gearing up for family meetings that will begin pairing volunteers with those that need the extra care.

In addition to serving individuals with special needs, we also want to consider those who care for them and the unique struggles they face. Sheri Girgenti and Vicki Chandler have launched a support group for parents of kids with special needs, which meets monthly. The group provides a wonderful way for parents to share the joys and difficulties of parenting children with special needs, with parents who can truly understand what they are walking through. We hope in the future to provide respite care for these same families, to support them even further.

REBECCA HUTCHESON AND SOPHIE ALLERS

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

What a joy celebrating our Great King with a medieval theme and a focus on the armor of God during the 2023 Vacation Bible School! The last time Grace Point did VBS was in 2019. Because of the pandemic and changes in the leadership of Children's Ministry, we did not have a full VBS until this year. What an encouragement to see so many excited to be a part of it!

Throughout the week, we had 95 kids laughing, dancing, worshipping, learning, making crafts, and playing games. About 30% of the kids who attended do not currently attend Grace Point. However, several of them decided to join us for VBS after having a great time at Family Fun Fest. It was amazing to see kids thrilled each night to be a part of VBS. One of the most exciting portions of the evening was during our opening and closing ceremonies. We held a coin competition where teams raced to see who could bring the most coins to support School of Hope in Lebanon. We raised a total of \$574.71. We packed in the fun, as each evening kids participated in games, crafts, lesson time, and ended the night with a drama.

One thing that was really encouraging throughout the week was to see the way that kids responded to the lesson

time. Many had thoughtful comments and questions as they explored the Gospel, truth and the armor of God. It seemed that we could never have enough time, as kids always wanted to dive deeper into God's Word.

Possibly the biggest blessing was seeing how the church came together to help make VBS a reality. More than 70 people were involved in many different capacities. While an evening VBS is not always ideal, one thing was apparent: it allowed many more people to be involved in a variety of areas. Each night before VBS, Women's Ministry partnered with us to host a volunteer dinner, to help ease the transition from work to church. What a blessing to look around and see so many fellowshipping and preparing to serve!

The week wrapped up with a Celebration Service on Sunday morning. What a gift to be able to invite back families who were new to our church, as well as share with the entire congregation the blessing that VBS was for many! We will continue to celebrate and praise our Great King for the work He did in hearts during VBS 2023.

[SOPHIE ALLERS](#) | [DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRY](#)



Newtown Christmas Parade



PRAISES

DAVE WOLF | LEAD PASTOR

For congregational engagement and growth through the Romans sermon series: “Immersed in Grace.”

For the many staff who rallied to cover Steve Weir’s sabbatical and provide him with uninterrupted time to recharge spiritually.

For the record number of baptisms in 2023, particularly among our teens!

JOAN ZEBERLEIN | DIRECTOR OF MISSIONS & HOSPITALITY

Praise for a successful and meaningful “stay at home” missions trip this summer as we hosted Pastor Joseph and his wife Rhoda from Amchit Baptist Church and Pierre Housney from Horizons International.

Praise God for the new families who have joined us over this past ministry year.

EILEEN HEMMING | CARE COORDINATOR

The Care Ministry is going strong. In addition to one-on-one confidential care relationships, funeral support, coffee café, baptism support, grief follow-up, communion, shut-in visitation, Grief Share and Divorce Care, we were able to add a new Meals Ministry and Transportation Ministry.

Praise God that we are diligently working to meet the needs of those in the congregation. We also had Dave Eckert from Access Services come and offer Mental Health Awareness Training, which was well received. We hope to have Dave back to do subsequent trainings.

Many praises to God for making us aware of needs and enabling us to meet them.

SOPHIE ALLERS | DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN’S MINISTRY

Praise that we have so many dedicated volunteers to guide and disciple kids.

PRAYER REQUESTS

MISSION & VISION

- **Pray** for the new FUEL (Families Unite Engage and Learn) ministry to families – may Grace Point reach more unchurched and unbelievers in our community and may our GP families be discipled as more fully committed followers of Christ.
- **Pray** for God's financial provision for every aspect of His vision at Grace Point.

STAFFING

- **Pray** the Holy Spirit's leading as the search continues for the Pastor of Missions & Discipleship.

DISCIPLESHIP

- **Pray** for men, women, young adults, students, and children to enter transformative spiritual relationships focused on Christ.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

- **Pray** for wisdom, direction, and provision for Kids Club.
- **Pray** for the approximately 100 kids who attend GP regularly.
- **Pray** for the many new families who have gotten involved over the last year.
- **Pray** for families as they navigate parenting children during these challenging times.

HOSPITALITY

- **Pray** that we do a great job following up with our guests so that they are excited to return and are eager to engage in other ministries offered here at Grace Point.

CARE MINISTRY

- **Pray** for several new proposals for the Care Ministry.
- **Pray** that the Care Ministry would be open to new initiatives in meeting needs in the congregation.

MISSIONS

- **Pray** for hearts to be receptive to God's truth in relationships and ministries of our missionaries.
- **Pray** God's Word will spread rapidly and be honored wherever it goes.
- **Pray** for the spiritual, physical, and emotional health of our missionaries and their families.
- **Pray** for our missionaries to experience love, support, and encouragement from our Grace Point family.
- **Pray** for our ministry partner in Lebanon, Horizons International, to effectively serve and support churches and encourage unity between them.
- **Pray** for the School of Hope serving refugee families.
- **Pray** for our ministry partner in Lebanon, Amchit Baptist Church.
- **Pray** for Pastor Joseph and his wife Rhoda as they faithfully serve Amchit Baptist Church.
- **Pray** for the young adults at Amchit who serve the Lord boldly in their outreach ministry, Fadek for Free.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

- **Pray** for women of all ages to delight in God's Word and abide in His truth.
- **Pray** for God to be glorified and for His Spirit to bring forth valuable fruit.
- **Pray** for God's strengthening and wisdom for our Bible study leaders and the leaders of mentoring, quilting, widows, and Women's Outreach and Fellowship.

OUR STAFF

2022-2023

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