

June 9, 2019
Annual Business Meeting



GRACE
BAPTIST CHURCH

Table of Contents

Page	Ministry Report
2	Letter from Marc
3	Care Ministry
4	Children's Ministry
5	Community Outreach
6	Connections Ministry
7	Facilities & Operations
8	Global Outreach (International Missions)
9	Men's Ministry
10	Women's Ministry
11	Worship Ministry
12	Youth Ministry
13-15	Partner Organizations

Spring 2019

Dear Grace Family,

Thank you for participating in another year of helping others know and follow Jesus. I always thank God for your faithfulness in service, generosity, encouragement, and ministry so that together we can continue to fulfil God's purposes for us at Grace.

Coming out of my sabbatical in September I was refreshed, filled with love for our church, and overwhelmed by all that the cross of Christ and the Gospel means for us. The sermon series "Who are you?" addressed one of the most pressing questions for people of all ages in America today. We've been created in God's image as the beloved. In Christ, we are chosen and valued children of God and our identity is whole in light of the Gospel. Our church-wide journey through the Ephesians study provided a wonderful opportunity to engage in God's Word and with others in Life Groups. This was our first "in-house" video life group series. 5 new mid-week groups started and mid-week Life Group attendance nearly doubled to 200 people. Most importantly, we were able to grow in our understanding of what the Gospel is and how it impacts our everyday lives.

Since July 1, 2018, 192 visitors have recorded their attendance at Grace and 57 have become regular attenders. We came alongside 26 individuals who publicly declared their faith in Jesus Christ through baptism. Our staff team have been working together to clarify and build connection pathways for Grace members and attenders, and we recently enjoyed a connection lunch and launched an Alpha series for many who are new here at Grace.

In January, we filled the position of Executive Director with Barry Brits coming onto the staff, and in May we upgraded the Receptionist role to Office and Communications Administrator with Kelly Coates joining the team. We are appreciating the new focus they bring to the team and I am thankful for the additional time I have to focus on my pastoral gifts and seeking God for direction for our church family.

I hope that as you read this 2019 ministry update you will take the time to rejoice in the Lord's goodness. Whether it is 60 new people at a Celebrate Recovery new-comers classes, 405 kids and 168 volunteers working at VBS, the practical love and assistance we have shared in our local community, there is much to celebrate. I encourage you to take some time to thank God for his faithfulness to you in the last year and reflect on your own growth in your journey with Jesus. Also thank God for the power of the Gospel in the lives of adults, students and children to bring salvation in a hostile and confusing world. We need to shine like a city on a hill more than ever, so let's keep on encouraging one another.

Grace and peace,

Marc Peña
Lead Pastor

Care Ministry

Celebrations:

- Care Ministry leaders and workers came together for 3 Care Summit Workshops, encouraging one another and learning effective care ministry methods
- Benevolence Team prayerfully assisted many in financial need, giving out over \$13,500 in gift cards, paying bills and repairing vehicles
- Prayer Team received an increasing number of people coming forward for prayer on Sunday mornings. Name badges worn throughout the morning for easy identification for prayer needs throughout the building
- Over 30 copies of Journeying Through Grief have been given to those who have lost loved ones in the Grace family
- Divorce Care ran four 12-session classes this past year, averaging 8-12 participants in each class
- 26 individuals baptized this past year
- Celebrating the 7th year of Celebrate Recovery. CR had over 60 new people attend a Newcomers classes
- New leaders trained and certified to offer the Prepare Enrich evaluation to couples preparing for marriage and to encourage healthy marriages; premarital for 7 couples and 4 weddings

Looking to the Future:

- Launch DC4C (Divorce Care for Children); 2 people trained
- Training for people offering core support in Life Groups
- Bereavement Ministry set to offer Surviving the Holidays in the Fall 2019 to support those facing loss during the Holidays.

Prayer Needs:

- For new members to join the prayer team
- Prayer for CR expanding the current leadership team
- For those needing recovery, healing, and support to find their ways to CR, Divorce Care, and the Bereavement Support group
- Growing compassion, discernment and wisdom in congregation towards people in need

Children's Ministry

Celebrations:

- 405 kids attended VBS Shipwrecked in August, served by 168 volunteers
 - 60% of the kids at VBS did not attend Grace
 - 20% of the kids at VBS were unchurched
- Successfully launched Moms Connect, a program to help moms connect with others while equipping and mentoring them through motherhood from a Biblical perspective
- Renovated the Children's Ministry area with new carpet, paint, welcome desks, interactive displays, and a colorful, modern wall mural
- Collaborated with THRIVE to launch two successful outreach events for Stay 'N Play
- Developed and implemented Grace Family Challenge, an 8-week program that provided parents with activities to disciple their kids to create faith that sticks
- Hosted well-attended Family Fun Days (Skate Night, Davis Farmland, etc.)
- Averaging 45 families at Stay & Play every week
- Averaging 100 children (ages birth—5th grade) in attendance on Sunday mornings

Looking to the Future:

- Planning for VBS 2019: (August 5-9) - "ROAR: Life is Wild, God is Good," specifically launching two follow-up event
- Collaborating with Youth Pastor to help transition 5th graders into the middle school youth program
- Equip parents with tools to help disciple their children

Prayer Requests:

- For VBS Volunteers
- For workshop facilitators for this year's Summer Sunday program
- Teachers for Parenting classes

Community Outreach

Celebrations:

- Donated 142 Christmas Care shoeboxes to Pleasant Street Baptist Church for Worcester neighbors in need
- Supported Pleasant Street Baptist's summer backyard VBS
- Gave out 112 school backpacks and school supplies to three Hudson Elementary schools and to the Quinn Middle School
- Continued to provide food items to the Hudson Food Pantry
- Provided, delivered and served 360 meals at Our Father's Table; interacted with at least 5 life groups in preparation and serving of the annual meals
- Donated 185 pieces of thermal underwear to those in need in Marlboro
- Sent out more than 1,000 shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child (OCC), 188 from Grace Congregants
- The 2018 Builders For Christ (BFC) project assisted the Chinese Bible Church of Greater Lowell in Chelmsford, MA, with the construction of a new worship center. 15 adults and 20 youth from Grace volunteered
- Stay 'N Play on Wednesdays averaged 44 caregivers and 61 kids per week

Looking to the Future:

- Increasing awareness and recruiting more volunteers, while creating more partnerships in serving our local community needs
- For 2019, BFC will travel to Groton, CT to help build a new worship center for the Groton Bible Chapel
- Partner with more Grace Life Groups to serve the community

Prayer Requests:

- For an increase in the number of Grace members volunteering in local communities and projects
- For volunteers and those served to see God's love in action
- For the emotional, financial and physical needs of those helped by Grace's outreach efforts

Connections Ministry

Celebrations:

- 192 visitors since July 1st with a 32% retention rate; 57 have become regular attenders
- Further development of path for following up with people who complete a Connection card through pastoral phone calls/emails, connection gatherings, and pathway toward Life Groups and Ministry Teams
- Growing number of volunteers serving on the Welcome Team
- Welcome Desk updated with new desk, wall, and iPad preloaded with upcoming events, church website, and Life Groups along with registration capabilities
- Life Groups joined together in January for “Journey Through Ephesians”; we had 61 (adult) Life Group leaders and had a weekly attendance of 172—245 people during this series
- Launched *Alpha* as an open environment for people with questions about the Christian faith and about life
- Started a newcomer gathering that will continue on a regular basis helping to direct newcomers toward finding community at Grace
- *RightNow Media* has become a major resource for our Life Groups

Looking to the Future:

- Expanding and diversifying Life Group options
- Recruiting and resourcing new and emerging leaders and groups
- Researching and implementing best practices for our Welcome Team members
- Restructure our training process for Life Group leaders and Welcome Team members

Prayer Requests:

- For Grace to continue to grow as a community that helps people know and follow Jesus, specifically in our Welcome and Life Group ministries
- For our Welcome Ministry to continue to open the doors wide on Sunday mornings and special events
- For more “God sightings” and life-changing moments in our Life Groups

Facilities and Operations

Celebrations:

- Improvements: Children's Ministry check-in stations hardwired; carpet and hard flooring replaced in rear building, new paint in rear building, and new design in CM hallways; Changeover to LED lighting in overhead florescent fixtures 90% complete; restroom dispensers updated; new fire panel, fire pull stations along with childproof covers installed, smoke and heat detectors replaced throughout building, new fire sprinkler compressor tank and pressure switch installed and certified, and new fire system monitoring service brought online; recessed LED lighting added to Room 211; four storage containers emptied and removed from back lot
- Inspections: fire suppression system , emergency lights, fire extinguishers, fire alarm system, smoke detectors, fire sprinkler systems, boilers, backflow devices, and elevator
- Repairs/Maintenance: sprinkler system dry valves, switches and gauges in front building sprinkler room; entrance doors, emergency exit doors, AC compressors, fire sprinkler piping, HVAC air movers and circulator pumps, restroom fixtures, parking lot, and insect pests treated
- Emergency Operations Plan document drafted
- SafeChurch insurance risk assessment completed
- *Lead Youth* conference hosted

Looking to the future:

- Iron Sharpens Iron Marriage, Lead Youth, and Simply Beautiful conferences
- Improvements to landscaping and entrance aesthetics
- Continued cleaning of storage areas
- Continued evolution of custodial plan/coverage

Prayer Requests:

- Financial provision for updates and expansion

Global Outreach (International Missions)

Celebrations:

- Jake Downing joined the Global Outreach Team as the liaison to Grace Church staff
- Continued monthly prayer and financial support for workers serving in Central Asia, South Asia, Africa, South America, and internationals in Greater Boston area
- Praising the Lord for lives changed and new salvations as the workers strive to expand His kingdom
- Prayerfully and financially supported short-term mission trips taken by members of the Grace family

Looking to the Future:

- Investing in deeper relationships with harvest workers
- Exploring new opportunities to partner with harvest workers
- Strengthening connections between harvest workers supported by Grace and members of the congregation
- Sponsoring annual short-term mission trips
- Having “mission moments” monthly during service

Prayer Requests:

- For the workers we support around the world, for their protection and for fruitful ministry
- For emerging leaders who have a heart for international missions
- For wisdom and discernment for decisions and planning for future short-term mission trips
- For protection and provision for new believers in His Kingdom

Men's Ministry

Celebrations:

- Our monthly Saturday morning Men's Breakfasts typically host more than 50 men
- The various men's Bible studies weekly throughout the year
- Man Camp last November had 38 Grace men in attendance, more than double from 2017

Looking to the Future:

- Continue expanding small group/mentoring opportunities for men
- Increased involvement of men in Grace's ministries, especially younger men
- Increased attendance for Man Camp 2019

Prayer Requests:

- More men from outside of Grace to attend as guests for our Men's Breakfasts
- Men continue to grow in spiritual leadership in their homes and at Grace

Women's Ministry

Celebrations:

- 153 women registered for this year's retreat (56 new attendees)
- One known profession of faith during the retreat
- New women on the retreat team and leading workshops
- The excitement women continue to have for the retreat
- 90 women participated in THRIVE
- Trained 6 new small group leaders and 3 new large group speakers
- Experienced a significant growth in the number of 20-30 year old attendees
- Continued to partner with Stan'N Play to reach community moms (local outreach) and partnered with Retreat Team to assist mothers in remote areas (global outreach)
- Consistent weekly attendance for Ignite evening group
- Meaningful Bible study & strong sense of community experienced in the Sunday Grace Group
- 27 moms participated in Moms Connect the first semester, and 18 second semester
- Some "unchurched" moms from Stay 'N Play joined the group
- Participants enjoying community and expressing interest in staying connected over the summer

Looking to the Future:

- Continue to identify and train emerging leaders
- Engage more women in the retreat planning process
- Identify mentor moms to consistently attend Fall 2019 & Spring 2020 Moms Connect

Prayer Requests:

- For a smooth transition of leadership roles (THRIVE & Moms Connect)
- For solidifying curriculums for next year
- For new leaders to emerge
- For new people from diverse backgrounds and life stages to engage in women's events

Worship Ministry

Celebrations:

- 45 people serving
- Continued development of the leadership team and team members
- Weekly sanctuary attendance over 600
- Launched first churchwide video bible study (Walk Through Ephesians)
- Live stream attendance nearing 50 weekly
- Multiple worship nights with average attendance nearing 300
- Added 6 new instrumentalists
- Tech Team attended first ever one day sound conference

Looking to the Future:

- Move from two teams to four
- Develop training program for youth interested in worship ministry
- Potential upgrade to sound treatment and speakers

Prayer Requests:

- More volunteers
- Another skilled worship leader to join the team

Youth Ministry

Celebrations:

- Increased number of youth leading in Youth, Worship & Children's Ministries
- 10 new leaders to serve in Youth Ministry Team, including a monthly activity director
- 70 youth attended the Deep Freeze Retreat and challenged to experience a "renewed" life
- Berea Camp experience had an incredible spiritual/relational impact on the youth
- Five student-led Christian clubs in local public school campuses
- Puerto Rico Mission shared the Gospel with lots of youth and rebuilt five homes affected by Hurricane Maria

Looking to the Future:

- Continuation of our Family Fun Fellowships in various homes during the summer
- Partnering with Builders For Christ to help construct a sanctuary for Groton Bible Chapel in CT
- Reshaping our Middle and High School Life groups toward a stronger evangelistic impact
- Create more student-led life groups for people to know and follow Jesus
- Further equipping and encouraging our parents in discipling their youth

Prayer Requests:

- Additional youth leadership needed due to new opportunities and leaders moving/transitioning
- Strength and encouragement for our families experiencing spiritual distress/attack
 - Insight for our students and leaders on how best to share God's story and impact lives

Partner Organizations

The Elders oversee the support of these partner organizations:



The Baptist Convention of New England exists to support New England evangelical churches. They help connect more than 350 churches located across Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine to resources, which includes training opportunities, other local churches and partners across the United States, global mission work, and their own dedicated staff. Forty percent of the member churches are non-Anglo and worship in almost 20 different languages every week. (www.bcne.net)



Berea's mission is to create and continuously develop programs which appeal to children, teens, adults and families such that they respond to the message of Jesus Christ within the context of meaningful relationships and memorable experiences. Today, Berea serves over 680 churches and 10,000 people annually. The elements of Berea's ministry consists of Camps & Retreats on their lakefront properties in both NH and ME, Regional Events dispersed around New England, and Rental availability for schools or church events. (www.berea.org)



Clearway was founded in 2000 out of a passion to serve women and their families who are facing an unplanned pregnancy. We reach the right woman, at the right time, with the right services to help her successfully navigate a life affirming decision. Clearway's success rate demonstrates that if women are provided a compassionate and effective alternative to an abortionist, they will choose life for their unborn child. (www.clearwayfriends.org)



The Deaf Ministry at Grace began in February 2018 when a family requested interpretation. Since then, 5 additional families with deaf family members are enjoying learning God's word in their own language. The future goal is to continue to reach the local deaf community, drawing them to Grace, and to provide interpretation in order for the deaf to communicate with our Pastors and others at the church.

Partner Organizations



Hope Community Church, led by Pastor Logan Loveday, is a new church plant sharing the hope of Jesus to all people in Marlboro and the MetroWest of Boston. Hope Community started preview services on November 4, 2017. Services are held on Saturdays at 6PM at 420

Maple Street, Suite 2, 2nd Floor, Marlborough. Their mission is to reach Marlborough and beyond with the hope of Jesus by making disciples and planting churches.

(www.hopemetrowest.church)

Our Father's Table is an ecumenical outreach program which feeds the poor and homeless in the Marlborough area. Founded in October of 1986 by local citizens dedicated to fighting hunger, Our Father's Table is a ministry that serves free dinners to the community on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday nights at 5PM, at New Hope Church, 204 Main Street, Marlborough. The ministry is entirely supported by private contributions, as Our Father's Table receives no public funding and no grant monies. To learn more about volunteering with Our Father's Table, contact Kathy Flinkstrom at kflink@comcast.net.



Located in Worcester at 165 Pleasant Street, Pleasant Street Baptist is a multi-ethnic church, meeting on Sundays at 10AM. Originally founded in 1841, the church

faced closing their doors in the early 2000's, but since the arrival of Noel Williamson in 2006 and Josh Chambers in 2017, the church has been able to have a meaningful impact for Jesus in the center of Worcester. In addition to supporting Pleasant Street Baptist financially, Grace has participated in and supported the annual Coat Drive at Pleasant Street Baptist in past years.

(www.pleasantstreetbaptist.org)



TEAM SHARING Inc, is a national organization of parents who have lost a child to Substance Use Disorder (SUD). Through social networking, community activism, grief services and advocacy, TEAM SHARING provides support and friendship to grieving families while working to raise awareness of Substance Use Disorder and its impact on our communities. (www.teamsharinginc.org)

Partner Organizations



Teen Challenge New England & New Jersey exists to bring life changing hope to addicts and their families and was one of the first Teen Challenge ministries founded in the United States. Established in Boston in 1964, strategic expansion established sites in all six states of New England and in New Jersey. The corporate headquarters is in Brockton, MA. Life-changing recovery programs provide a faith-filled approach for helping drug addicts and alcoholics transform their lives. More than 400 adult men and women can be cared for in the Teen Challenge homes. (www.tcnewengland.org)



Teen Challenge Rhode Island is the Women's Center located in Providence. Teen Challenge is answering the call to be equipped for adults and teens who have been sex trafficked. The staff of the adult home for women in Rhode Island and the teen home in Massachusetts has been trained to take victims of this terrible crime. Ninety-five percent of trafficked girls are forced to take drugs to control them or they themselves use drugs to ease their pain due to the trauma they experience. Teen Challenge is an ideal place for them to find healing for this quandary. No one should be enslaved to anything or anyone because God gives us power to be FREE!

Walter Mutti/The Logos Encounter: Walter and his wife, Jane, have been serving the Lord full time since 1987, when they joined New Tribes Mission (now Ethnos360). In 2005, they were forced to leave Venezuela and returned home to Berlin, MA. After much prayer, fasting, and counsel, they began a ministry of evangelism and discipleship in the New England area. One way they accomplish this is by leading home discipleship groups that run for approximately two years using a method called Firm Foundation from Creation to Christ.