

# GRACE *and Truth*

# GRACE†

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For the law was given through Moses, but GRACE AND TRUTH came through Jesus Christ. (John 1:17)

## February, 2015



## Walking With God

by Steve Agal

One of the most important things we can do in 2015 is to walk with God! The verses in Genesis 5:18-24 talk about a biblical character named Enoch. We would like to study this man Enoch, one

of the brightest stars in the ancient Patriarchal Age. He was the seventh from Adam, and more than likely knew him. Let us see if we can learn anything from Enoch about walking with God. Let's look at:

- his transformation;
- his testimony;
- his teaching; and
- his translation.

### I. HIS TRANSFORMATION – He walked with God.

- His walk began at age 65, just after the birth of his son Methuselah.
  - His walk prior to that time might have been that which is stated in Ephesians 2:2: "... in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience."
  - Following that time, he might have walked as indicated in Ephesians 5:1-2: "And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma."
- After this transformation, he walked with God uninterrupted for 300 years.
- He must have agreed with God, as Amos 3:3 says "Can two walk together, unless they are agreed?"
- Walking with God revealed a union of hearts.

### II. HIS TESTIMONY – He pleased God.

- Hebrews 11:5: "By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, 'and was not found, because God had taken him;' for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God."
- God was pleased with Enoch because he chose to

walk with God, not the wicked world. Colossians 1:10: "... that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God."

- God was pleased with Enoch because of his full and trusting faith. Hebrews 11:6: "But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him."

### III. HIS TEACHING – Enoch prophesied for God.

Jude 14-15: "Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, 'Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they (Continued on page 5)



The Perky Penguins have been studying the first chapter in Ezekiel which is about Ezekiel's vision of God. The theme of the lesson was "Only God Is Awesome," so we made a poster with this title. Ann Bumb put the finishing touches on the poster and helped in the class. Pictured from left to right: Alex Greb, Evan Doerksen, Brooks Scott, Ari Hillebrand, Josiah Georgen, Savannah Jackson, and Zoe Manley. Photo by Carol Lawlis.

Visit our website at [www.indygrace.org](http://www.indygrace.org)

# Update on Men's Ministry at Grace

by Brady Ball

The Men's Ministry continues to meet each month, planning, co-planning, and leading or participating with anything from four to 138 people involved. We are using the church and off-site locations such as McDonalds and member's homes. This past year was a planning and exploration one with new leadership.

The Men's Ministry began last year with leadership from Bob Raber, Don Andry, Michael Smith and Ron Dodson. Approximately two weeks prior to the first Men's Ministry Breakfast, I took over the leadership and financial responsibility roles as deacon. Currently, the leadership remains with Don Andry and me, with assistance from Michael Smith. I openly note that Bob Raber got the ball rolling last year. Most of the credit goes to him, and everything we do is with the understanding and attitude that Bob would have brought to the group. It's our desire to glorify God and encourage our men and church to disciple others in every possible way.

## 2014 EVENTS

During the last calendar year the Men's Ministry planned and executed the following events:

- Men's Breakfast – with speaker and discipleship;
- Men's Retreat – work at Spring Hill and discipleship;
- Pacers Games (men and family) – fellowship;
- Golf Outing (men and family) – fellowship;
- Indians Baseball (men and family) – fellowship;
- Bob Raber Hog Roast – church event with discipleship focus;
- Grace Family Night (in conjunction with Women's Ministry) – fellowship; and
- Small Group Discipleship, using *Discipleship Essentials*.

We hope to repeat all of these events and are in the planning stages for 2015.

The Men's Ministry is looking forward to working closely with the Women's Ministry this year. We are discussing working together to host the church picnic and Thanksgiving dinner.

We hope to introduce these new events:

- a family breakfast (with Women's Ministry);
- a gun safety and firearm introduction event;
- family nights (with Women's Ministry); and
- a fishing and/or camping event.

## BUDGET

The Men's Ministry was provided a \$300 annual budget with expenditures made by leaders and those expenditures paid back from the annual budget. Each event requires members or participants to buy or pay for a small part of the event with that money placed into the Men's Ministry budget. That leader is then reimbursed.

At no point was the budget overdrawn or known to be in the red. Based on planning and spending advice from the elders and front office, the budget provided was managed with advice along the way with no known overages. I would like to invite any member who is willing to give to the Men's Ministry to do so, making note on the offering envelope.

## CONCLUSION

The Men's Ministry had a successful year in growing in Christ and awakening others to take small leadership roles at Grace. Leadership and men's participation at Grace is growing and we desire to grow and promote the Men's Ministry with gifts (talents) our members possess.

*"A talent is a talent until it is used to serve God. At that point it becomes a gift of ultimate value, multiplying every time we use it."*  
 – Author Unknown

## your corner ...

by Jennifer Wilkerson

For this month in which love is the emphasis, I was all ready to quote some verses about God's love for us. But my search yielded some that speak of our love for Him as well!

A church marquee came to mind that questioned why America asked God to bless her when she wasn't blessing Him. Don't children of God do this sometimes? This Valentine's Day (and the 364 other days of the year) let's express the gratitude and worship owed to our Heavenly Father.

### DEUTERONOMY 6:5

*"And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might."*

### PSALM 70:4

*"Let all those that seek thee rejoice and be glad in thee: and let such as love thy salvation say continually, 'Let God be magnified.'"*

*This is a place to submit poetry/prose that is meaningful to you, or short testimonies about how the Lord is working in your life! For consideration, please email them to newsletter@indygrace.org.*

### MATTHEW 22:37

*"Jesus said unto him, 'Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.'"*

### 1 JOHN 5:3

*"For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments: and His commandments are not grievous."*

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## Fellowship Group Spotlight

### REFUGE

Jeff Stevens will be teaching from the Book of Judges which looks at the first 300 years of the history of Israel, from the time of the death of Joshua to the time of Samuel, the last of the Judges. This generation of Israelites, and every generation after that during this time period, fell into idolatry, they forgot the commands of God and there was a severe decline morally and spiritually. As each generation unfolded, idolatry would prevail, a foreign invasion would take place and oppress the people of Israel, they would cry out to God for help, and God would send a deliverer. This speaks clearly about the cycle of sin and its consequences, as well as God's love and willingness to send help when His people cry out to Him. The Refuge has a time of fellowship which includes sharing praises and prayer requests. **The Refuge class meets in room 115 at 9:00 a.m.**

### YOUTH GROUP (Grades 6-12)

On Sunday mornings, the Youth Group is beginning the series called *The God Who Saves*. Here we will look at the seven deadly sins and then move on to those who have been called. On Sunday evenings, we are beginning the "Anchors Away" program taught by Elijah Smith. This is a college level course that explains the various world views with a focus on the biblical world view. Parents are welcome to monitor the class. The cost for the material is \$20. Brady New is teaching the Book of Acts on Wednesday nights. The youth will also be challenged to memorize John 1:1-18 this spring. What a big challenge, but we know that they can do it! **The Youth Group meets in Room 117 at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings, and Sunday and Wednesday nights at 6:30 p.m.**

### LEGACY

Rich Witmer is teaching from the Book of Hebrews. The author of Hebrews is unknown but tells of the way Jesus went through suffering into glory, making a way for others to follow. As high priest, Christ offered himself as the atoning sacrifice, bringing others into a new covenant relationship with God. Believers are therefore called to persevere in faith, knowing that God will be faithful. **The Legacy Fellowship Group meets in the café at 9:00 a.m.**

### OWLS

Steve Agal is teaching a new study in Galatians with the OWLS Fellowship Group. Galatians was written by the apostle Paul to the churches in Galatia and contains the foundational Biblical truth that a person is justified by faith in Christ. After warning the Galatians not to desert the Gospel, Paul encouraged them to live out the freedom they have in Christ. **The OWLS meet in room 112/113 at 9:00 a.m.**

### WORD PROCESSORS

Ron Dodson and Mike Huff are currently teaching the Grace Evangelical Church Statement of Faith and will finish on February 8th. Each week the group has taken each statement and studied the Scriptures listed with added questions that relate to the topic. Starting February 15th, the Word Processors start a study on Colossians. Paul wrote his letter to the Colossians to correct the false teachings and practices that had arisen in the church, showing them that true doctrine and practice are found in the Lord Jesus Christ. **The Word Processors meet in Room 109/110 at 9:00 a.m.**

## News From the Children's Department

by Cristi DeHoff

The Children's Department has moved swiftly from Christmas to Valentine's Day! We are having a Valentine's Party/Service on Saturday, February 7th. We will meet at church from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m., then go to a local nursing home and share God's love with the residents. Please RSVP your whole family for this fun activity!

January is when we collect Goldfish Crackers. Any and all donations are greatly appreciated. They can be dropped off beneath the Children's Ministry bulletin board.

Vickie Hovenstine will be stepping down from her nine years of working with the children, and focus on our Noah's Ark ministry. She will still help and teach, but in a volunteer capacity. If you have any kind words of thanks and gratitude for her, please send them to Cristi DeHoff at [cristi@indygrace.org](mailto:cristi@indygrace.org).

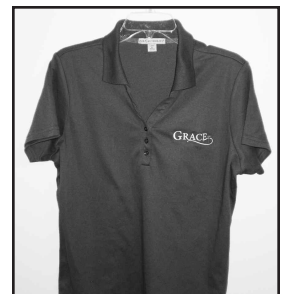
## Grace Logo Shirts

We still have a few Grace logo shirts left in stock from our last sale. Stop by the church office or contact Janet Simpson ([newsletter@indygrace.org](mailto:newsletter@indygrace.org)) to see the shirts or for more information.

The hoodie and polo shirt are embroidered with blue and red. The t-shirts are screen-printed.

Listed below are the types of shirts, sizes and prices still available:

- One extra large, royal blue women's polo shirt, \$25 (*above*);
- One large, light gray hoodie sweatshirt, \$25;
- One extra large, royal blue t-shirt, \$10 (*left*);
- One extra large, black t-shirt, \$10; and
- One extra large, yellow t-shirt, \$10.



## 2014 Recap, Furniture, New Connection



**Bill Boone**

by **Bill Boone**

God blessed Servant's Heart with over 40,000 pounds of food donated throughout 2014. Our ministry touched lots and lots of folks last year. We served 486 new families and currently have 1,164 active families, in our data-

base. There were 3,747 monthly visits from those active families and for the year we touched 11,268 lives. These lives were just the client families that were touched. In addition, we had dozens of volunteer families who came to serve at the pantry as whole families, dads, moms and kids. What a blessing to see God touch young lives to serve the needs of others!

The furniture side of the ministry continues to be used greatly by God. Sometimes we receive a request and we already have the item in the warehouse. Other times we explain to the client that we don't have what they need at this time but eventually God will usually supply it. It is such a blessing to deliver God's provision to the families.

Recently, God has been using us to minister to families where a spouse or parent has been called home. This month one family was trying to clear out their house. The daughter (Linda) was trying to help her dad (Joe) finish up the process after working on it for six months. He got so emotional when he discovered his wife's dresser still had her clothes in it that he started crying. I pulled the guys outside for fifteen minutes to give Joe some space. God used us to help Joe and Linda close that chapter of Joe's life. We treat their possessions with respect because of

### **Pastoral Search Committee Update**

by **Tricia Sparks**

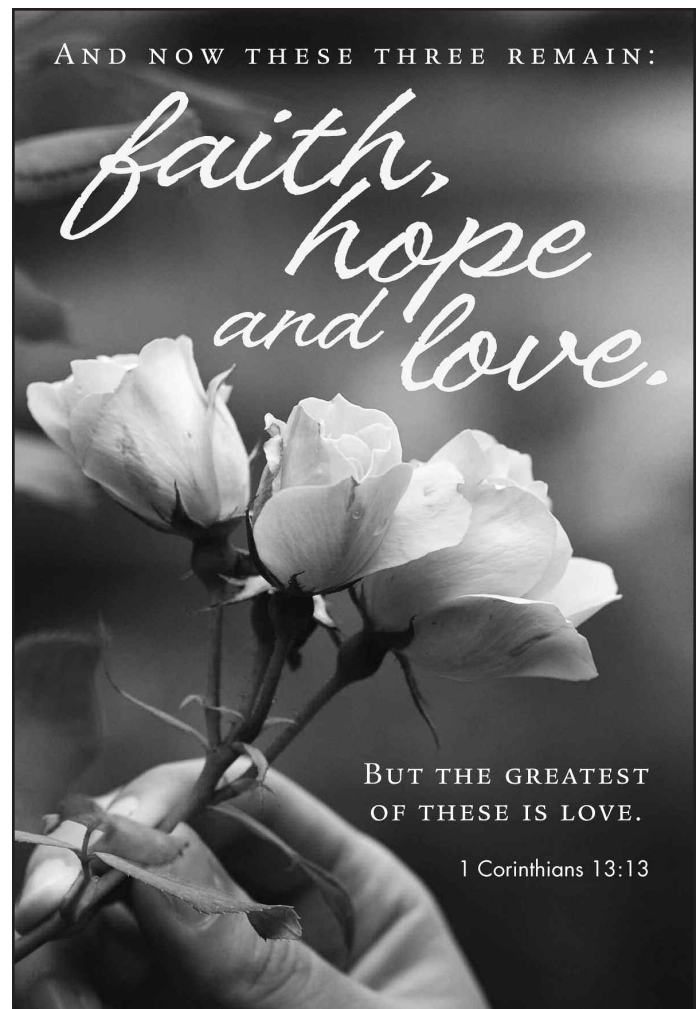
Thank you for your prayers as we search for a new pastor. This process has been exciting, tedious, rewarding and taken a considerable amount of time. Our sole purpose is to seek and find the pastor that God has already selected to lead the congregation of Grace.

After diligently working our way through over 50 applications, the committee has selected a handful of prime candidates to pursue. We are now in the process of scheduling phone interviews with these individuals over the next few weeks. After the initial phone interviews are conducted, the committee will arrange to meet with the top candidate(s) in person. After the personal interview, the committee will submit our recommendation to the Elder Board for their review and approval.

the memories they cherish in these things.

Lastly, many of you may remember Jason Beasley who served at Grace several years before going into the ministry. I was recently contacted by him and learned he now has a new position at the VA. He is a liaison to vets in need and I got a call from him last month. He heard that we were still giving away furniture and he asked if he could partner with us. He had a veteran who had lost everything in a fire. Jason gave me a list of things this couple needed. Just about everything that Joe and Linda gave us the week before was exactly what Welton and Delores needed. Tell me that isn't a God thing!

We are excited to be ministering on behalf of the folks of Grace Evangelical Church on the south side of Indy. We are needing volunteers for several spots on our teams. If you feel God calling you to get involved, please contact us at [info@servantsheartofindy.org](mailto:info@servantsheartofindy.org) or leave us a message at 788-9433.



**WALKING WITH GOD***(Continued from page 1)*

*have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him.”*

- He foretold the Lord’s return – the first actual proclamation of His return.
- He foretold the judgment upon ungodly:
  - deeds,
  - words, and
  - sinners.

**IV. HIS TRANSLATION** – His finest hour.

- Translated means “transplanted from earth, removed from earth, being taken up.”
- He was not found – Hebrews 11:5: *“By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, ‘and was not found, because God had taken him;’ for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God.”* His contemporaries sought for him as with Elijah (2 Kings 2:15-18).
- His finest hour was that he, and God did not want to be separated.
- His translations shows:
  - There is a future state; and
  - The body exists in the future.
- The world was being prepared for the resurrection and ascension of the Savior.
- Our need of walking with God.

God help us to walk day by day as if we, at any moment, will be taken up to be with the Lord!

**To Our Family at Grace:**

Allen and I want you to know how grateful we are for the way you have supported, encouraged, prayed, served and provided for every need our family has had for these past two years (really the past six). You have truly been the body of Christ in every way imaginable.

We heard so many people say our family has endured so many tragedies. That may be true; however, not a day goes by that I do not hear something on the news or from a friend that is tragic and I find myself thinking I am so glad that is not my cross to bear.

The Lord has blessed our family in oh so many ways ... too many to count. Who would have thought six years ago, as we stood in shock over our precious granddaughter’s grave, we would be burying her brave daddy next to her! Yet had we not endured the pain, spiritual awakening, and growth through her presence and her passing, we would not have been prepared to say goodbye to my momma, Allen’s daddy, dear, dear friends and of course the long suffering struggle our amazing Captain wrestled. Andy was never the same after Caden ... the cancer hit so quickly he hadn’t even had time to grieve. Now we know why the Lord blessed him and Cari with two strong sons so quickly. They would need time to form an undeniable bond on a solid foundation of faith with their daddy before he had to leave them.

Our daughter is strong, full of God’s grace and hope. She does not like people to see her cry. She always has a smile and like the Captain, never once complained or said, “Why me?” We are blessed!

So thank you for caring, thank you for loving, and thank you for being Jesus “with skin on” as the saying goes. You will never know the depth of the impact you have had on our lives.

If you would like to be encouraged in your faith, or have something you can use as a reference tool for someone struggling with trials in life, consider visiting our daughter’s blog site at [www.andyandcari.blogspot.com](http://www.andyandcari.blogspot.com). It will lift your heart and renew your strength in Christ Jesus.

In the shadow of His wings,  
Allen and Tricia Sparks

**FEBRUARY**

2/03 Andrew Smith  
 2/03 Stephen Scott  
 2/04 Jamison Sudler  
 2/05 Rose Hartman  
 2/07 Pat Witmer  
 2/08 Mike Monfreda  
 2/08 Jeff Spence  
 2/09 Ann Bumb  
 2/09 Danica Scott  
 2/10 Anna Williams  
 2/15 Joyce Young  
 2/17 Jim Brown  
 2/20 Vicki Raymann  
 2/20 Victoria Gayflor-Abbey  
 2/20 Pam Rutherford  
 2/20 Kayce Scott  
 2/24 Joseph Moore  
 2/24 Anita Stevens  
 2/26 Bunny Conlin  
 2/27 Seth Acree

**ANNIVERSARIES**

2/11 Bill & Sondra Belcher

*“To be fully seen by somebody, then, and be loved anyhow – this is a human offering that can border on miraculous.”*

– Elizabeth Gilbert,

*“Oh, to be married to the one you do love, and love most tenderly ... and devotedly ... that is bliss beyond the power of words to express or imagination conceive. There is no disappointment there. And every day as it shows more of the mind of your Beloved, when you have such a treasure as mine, makes you only more proud, more happy, more humbly thankful to the Giver of all good for this best of earthly gifts.”*

– Hudson Taylor