

Deacon of the Day:

January

January 1: Vince Vega *(performing the duties)*
January 8: Rafe Shellooe
January 15: Scott Denny
January 22: Kevin Shea
January 29: Ernie Hall

February

February 5: Lars Sandberg *(performing the duties)*
February 12: Jeff Lancaster
February 19: Vince Vega *(performing the duties)*
February 26: Rafe Shellooe

Growing Together in the Knowledge and Grace of God

Weekly Calendar

Sundays:

Prayer: 8:15 am
Worship Services:
9:00 am & 11:00 am
Christian Education:
9:00 am & 11:00 am

Tuesdays:

GSTM: 4:00-10:00 pm
Home Fellowship Groups:
7:00 pm

Wednesdays:

Home Fellowship Groups:
7:00 pm
Senior High Youth Group:
7:00 pm

Thursdays:

GSTM: 4:00-7:00 pm
Junior High Youth Group:
7:00 pm
Grace. DVC: 7:00 pm

Fridays:

Grace. Berkeley: 7:00 pm

Grace Bible Church

P.O. Box 483
Mitchell, Indiana 47446

Dear Grace Bible Church,

Thank you for your generous Christmas gift, cards, love and support to me and my family. God has used your congregation to richly bless this ministry here in Indiana.

I also want to thank you for allowing Tony to come out last fall to speak at our Second Annual Family Conference, God used him to encourage and challenge us as a young congregation and me personally.

Also thank you for your ongoing monthly support, it is greatly needed and appreciated!

May God bless you in the coming year as you seek to glorify Him!

Because of His amazing grace,
Dave Mikulsky, Pastor/Teacher
Grace Bible Church of Mitchell, Indiana

From Pastor Tony Sanelli

2006: A CHANGE OF COURSE, OF COURSE

Why does it seem odd to us or feel like somewhat of a failure when our plans don't work out exactly as we intended? Are not sudden unexpected changes in direction a basic element of life in a fallen, yet God-directed world? The Scriptures teach as much. "The mind of man plans his way, but the LORD directs his steps" (Prov. 16:9). "Many plans are in a man's heart, but the counsel of the LORD will stand" (Prov 19:21).

A change of direction is not evidence that God has lost control, it is evidence that God is in control! We have many plans but only the counsel of the Lord will stand! Do we always plan exactly what the Lord intends will come? No! We live in a world in which God is the Sovereign architect of our lives and not the other way around. Often when our purpose seemed as clearly fixed and soon to be accomplished as a five minute drive to the grocery store, the Divine Architect sends some obstruction, some unexpected difficulty that sends us in another direction—His direction. And His direction is always the best.

Paul was turned aside from a wide field of labor to preach in a prison cell. But what letters were written in those prison cells! When David obediently traveled to visit his brothers at his father's request, little did he realize what great test of

his faith lied ahead in the form of Goliath. But what good came to many from that victory which resulted from the test of his faith! Thirteen years in slavery and imprisonment must have felt like a useless and painful change of direction for Joseph but it was the doorway to becoming Pharaoh's right hand man and God's instrument for saving Joseph's people from starvation and maintaining the promised line.

2006 begins with large sudden changes in direction for the staff and ministry of GBC. Only the Lord knows what good He will bring from them. At our recent Member's Meeting we informed the body that Tim Wat will no longer be an elder nor on staff at GBC. This was a sudden and unexpected turn. We were so close to appointing more elders and deacons and really beginning to feel like we were hitting our stride. This would be yet another set-back in the formation of a leadership and staff infrastructure that could meet the needs of our growing flock.

But sudden providential changes often issue in fruit we would have never harvested otherwise. Sometimes these quick alterations are discipline to wean us from our own devices, sins and ruts, that we may seek the Lord's direction and rely upon His help more diligently. *(Continued on page 2)*

January Calendar

GSTM Winter Quarter Begins
January 3

Youth Group Retreat
January 13-16

Hospitality Homes
January 22

February Calendar

Men's Retreat
February 3-5

College Retreat
February 17-20

Hospitality Homes
February 19

Office Closed for President's Day
February 20

FUTURE DATES TO REMEMBER

All-Church Retreat
May 19-21


Growing Together in the Knowledge and Grace of God

We have already begun to taste some of the first fruits.

The Lord had providentially lain on the heart of Kevin Shea to seek an early retirement from the banking world in order to give his time to caring for the flock. Now he is ready to give even more time. God give us more mature men like Kevin who want to spend their retirement not in self-indulgence but for the glory of the Lord!

After serving five years as our church Administrator the Lord was stirring Scott Denny's heart to seek a more pastoral expression of his ministry and further equipping to enable him to do so. This change of events has led Scott to make this change now. Vince Cuomo had desired to give a chunk of his time to the formation of a broader counseling ministry at GBC and evangelism training and the door is now wide open. Tom Kruggel has just completed his responsibilities as point-man for the building project and has earnestly desired to complete his preparation for the eldership in order to share the load in caring for the flock. He is now overseeing our worship ministry and pursuing further counseling training. Tim Menez has completed all his doctrinal exams and is ready to seek appointment and now has inherited areas of ministry from this unexpected change which he had already desired to oversee.

All of these changes may seem sudden but these men were already burning in their hearts to move in specific directions and the recent turn of events opened the door for them. I must admit this is not the way I had planned or envisioned it! But with unreserved confidence I once again yield to our Heavenly Architect. He knows the whole way—every step of the way. He alone knows the “end from the beginning.”

Do you have any plans for 2006? Sure you do. You might expect a change of course, of course. The God who fashions the hearts of all men means for your life, as well as our church, to display His truth and worth. Often this comes about through the refinement of our faith that takes place through God-sent sudden changes in direction. Plans that become thwarted may be harbingers of better things. Great letters came from prison cells. In the end, I believe we will all confess that these unexpected difficulties “turned out for the furtherance of the gospel.” 

Women of Grace

MINISTRY NEWS



Game & Gab Nights

Friday, February 24

Friday, July 21

Friday, October 27

Mark your calendars now and watch the Sunday bulletin and church bulletin boards for times and locations.

Winter Retreat

March 17-19

Camp Koinonia near Watsonville.

Our speaker is Marlean Felix from John MacArthur's church.

The topic is:

“Women Making a Claim to Godliness”
based on I Timothy 2:9, 10.

The cost is \$130. Sign-ups begin February 4.

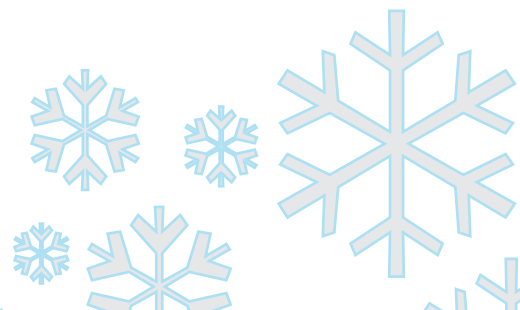


Ladies Tea

Saturday, May 6

In the Fellowship Hall.

More details to come.



Missions

“so I have strived to preach the gospel, not where Christ was already named...”
Romans 15:20

Today, God is continuing to redeem a people for Himself from every tribe and tongue. The Missions Ministry team invites you to participate this January in the process of mobilizing Grace Bible Church for greater impact in the world of missions. A place to start is by learning what we can pray about for missions. Our guest speakers all month long will help us expand our vision and our understanding. Please listen with open hearts and minds, and then pray about what you've learned.

Unreached People Groups (UPG) is an important strategy in missions. UPG are a culturally homogenous group who are currently isolated from a gospel witness by barriers of language, geography, race, and/or culture. They have no indigenous church capable of proclaiming God's good news, and the barriers prevent their contact with outside Christians. They will not hear the gospel until missionaries are sent. The apostle Paul understood this kind of ministry. In Romans 15:20 he says “so I have strived to preach the gospel, not where Christ was already named...” January 22nd, our missionary speaker is Phil Shively with New Tribes Mission. Phil and his family work in Papua New Guinea among tribal people. Come learn about their ministry and about Unreached People Groups. Then begin asking God if GBC might adopt one specific people group and commit to supplying the missionaries to go to this group, the funds to send them, and the prayer to support them. Perhaps on that day when the multitudes from every tribe and tongue are worshiping before God's throne, some from that specific UPG will be there praising God because GBC had the privilege of preaching the gospel in their corner of God's world where no one else had.

Once a church has begun, there are the critical tasks of bringing theological training and discipleship to pastors and leaders, preparing them to reach their community and beyond. Paul again established the pattern for this with Timothy in II Timothy 2:2, “The things you've heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.” It is essential that new churches are founded solidly on the truth of God's Word. Will you pray for the GBC family of missionaries who are not only starting churches, but also teaching in Bible schools and seminaries and discipling leadership for these new churches in Mexico, South Africa, Indiana, and California.

Even where churches have already been strongly established in the hearts and minds of the people, there can be great adversity for them. Voice of the Martyrs (VOM) encourages these persecuted Christians to fulfill the Great Commission, gives aid to the families of Christian martyrs, and emphasizes the fellowship of all believers by recounting the courage and faith of these persecuted Christians and the atrocities they have suffered. January 29th, David Witt from VOM will share with us personal accounts of persecuted believers around the world and how God is sovereign even in those circumstances. Pray for our brothers and sisters who are faithful under persecution.

This January, learn from our missionary speakers what God is doing in the world of missions. Then pray about what you've learned. Visit the GBC book table which will have a selection of missions biographies and other missions topics this month. Learn and pray. May God mobilize Grace Bible Church to greater participation in His world of missions beginning in January 2006.

Missions update

“begin asking God if GBC might adopt one specific people group and commit to supplying the missionaries to go to this group, the funds to send them, and the prayer to support them.”



Turkish Delight

Simple enough. Too much of a good thing can be a bad thing. Think quail and manna in the desert (Num. 11:31-32). Christians will remain divided over issues like alcohol and tobacco use, but the key to all God's good gifts is moderation. When the _____ (insert controversial substance here) takes control of the individual, the individual is no longer in control. Edmund was driven to the things that he did because he was being controlled by his desire for just one more taste of the Witch's "Turkish delight."

The women

Even though Susan and Lucy are not women, they are still female and this qualifies. Just as two women first saw Jesus in His resurrected body, Lucy and Susan are the first to see Aslan conquer death. This is an interesting parallel mainly because it's such a strong argument that the Bible was written truthfully and factually. Women were not considered to be worthy witnesses, and if, as liberal scholars claim, the Bible was written, not as the Word of God, but as a work of man, this embarrassing little detail would most certainly have been left out. To the first-century Jewish mindset, the Messiah would not trifle Himself with women, He would have first appeared to men. Lewis seems to pick up on this and make it a part of his own story as well. These are just a few of the many parallels between the Bible and Narnia. There wasn't enough space to cover the idea of the waiting period in Narnia, before the children appear to fulfill the prophecy, just as there was the waiting period between Malachi's prophecy to close the Old Testament and the arrival of John the Baptist. Or the turning of the stone statues into flesh. Or any number of ways that Narnia parallels the biblical narrative. Mel Gibson summed it up best when he spoke to Diane Sawyer in reference to The Passion of the Christ, "I hope the movie makes people want to read the book." How true. Perhaps Narnia can reignite our passions for the real story...The Word of God.

1. Lewis quote from Andrew Coffin, "The Chronicles of Making Narnia," WORLD (December 10, 2005), 23.
2. Ted Baehr and Tom Snyder, Frodo and Harry: Understanding Visual Media and its Impact on Our Lives (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2003), 20.
3. C.S. Lewis, The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe (New York, NY: Harper Trophy, 1994), 155.
4. C.S. Lewis, Wardrobe, 163.

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Children's ministries

The World of CE!

Greetings GBC family! I hope that your holidays were wonderful...more full of the Lord's blessings than the world's distractions! As we head into the new year, it's already time to start gearing up for what's coming next. But before we get there, we ought to thank the Lord for His work over this last year. As we began 2005, we also began the transition of leadership from being managed by a part-time volunteer mom to a being placed on the plate of a full time paid staff member. As our Sunday School program had grown, it had become to much to as for a volunteer to manage. As we made the transition, the Lord blessed us with a very smooth one and Liz Jones is still around to help out whenever and wherever she can.

This year has also seen us move out of the modular units and into the new (bigger!) classrooms. We have assigned substitutes to specific classes so that the sub situation is easier to manage. In addition, we have also added CE Helpers into the equation, having 2 of our youth ministry students working during each hour of Sunday School to assist both kids and teachers with various tasks. Lastly, we have also begun to use a new curriculum, called "Generations of Grace", that we are quite pleased with. It really has been a year of blessing as we have continued to see the Lord's faithfulness to us as we have continued to grow. He has met our needs at every turn. As we approach this new year, there are still little things here and there to shore up, but no major changes that are foreseen in the near future. We will soon have at least one and possibly two teacher openings to fill during the second service hour and still have one opening for a sub during first hour, Tiny Tots. As summer approaches we will also need to start putting together a team of those who would like to assist with giving some of our regular teachers and substitutes a rest for a couple of months. If you are interested in helping in any of these areas, please contact me in the church office or track me down on a Sunday and let me know!

My special thanks to all of our teachers, substitutes and helpers that give so much of themselves for the sake of bringing the Gospel to our children, while ministering directly to them and indirectly to parents. I encourage you all, whether you have children or not, to pray for and encourage all those who serve. May we see the Lord continue to bless us this year as we continue to seek Him and His grace!

In His Service,
Chris

Regular Prayer Times

Sunday Morning:
8:15 - 8:45 am; Room 203

Fridays:
7:00 am; Men's Prayer; Fellowship Hall

Birthdays to Celebrate

JANUARY

Samuel Albert ~ 1
Thomas Roshanah ~ 1
George Fox ~ 4
Sheri Sanelli ~ 4
Don Ribergaard ~ 6
Ken Davey ~ 12
Barbara Telle ~ 13
Antonio Sanelli ~ 19
Tim Albert ~ 20
Anna Upton ~ 23
Phyllis Carstensen ~ 27
Nicholas Denny ~ 27
John Kamp ~ 27
Jeffrey Lancaster ~ 27
Bryce Axe ~ 28
Alexa Knight ~ 29
Greg Dresdow ~ 30
Debra Lynch ~ 31
Alicia Bookman ~ 31

FEBRUARY

Brandon Ribergaard ~ 3
James Clopton ~ 5
Jane Hawkworth ~ 5
Gina Menez ~ 8
Bill Lynch ~ 8
Dwain Botelho ~ 8
Ed Simmons ~ 9
Joshua Becker ~ 10
Jordan Sanelli ~ 11
Jordan Axe ~ 12
Mary Lancaster ~ 12
Christine Weston ~ 13
Susan Rickman ~ 14
Madeline Sandberg ~ 14
Marj Smith ~ 14
Erin Hammack ~ 16
Morgan Ribergaard ~ 18
Carolyn Copland ~ 18
Joann Spier ~ 23
Janet Balsiger ~ 24
Glenda Becker ~ 24
Jeanne Morgan ~ 24
Emily Stephens ~ 24
Nathan Morgan ~ 26
Keith Telle ~ 27



News and Events

Christian Education

January 8 marks the beginning of a new quarter for Adult Sunday School. This year we are offering two adult electives as well as two other mainstays (Fundamentals of the Faith and Getting Acquainted with Grace). During the first service, we are offering three adult classes: Getting Acquainted with Grace, which meets in Room 203, and an expositional study of 2 Timothy is led by Vince Cuomo and meets in the Fellowship Hall. During the second service, we are offering the video series by Dr. Paul Tripp, War of Words. This class will be led by Dwain Botelho and meets in the Fellowship Hall.

Beginning January 15, Fundamentals of the Faith II will be offered during the first service as the second part of the FOF series and will touch on some of the deeper fundamental doctrines of the Christian faith. This class will be led by Bill Moore and meet in Room 202.

GSTM

The Grace School of Theology starts its Winter quarter on Tuesday, January 3. We are privileged to have the school meeting right here at GBC. All of their classes are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays. On Tuesdays the classes offered this quarter at GBC are: Exposition of John and Pneumatology and Ecclesiology. On Thursdays, Elemental Greek II is offered.

Beginning Thursday, January 5 and February 9, a 2 unit 5-week class is offered, Principals of Spiritual Leadership and Practical Evangelism respectively. For more information you may call GSTM at 676-1639 or visit them at www.gstm.org.

Looking for a Few Good Men

Our sixth annual Men's Retreat is just around the corner! We have set aside February 3-5 for our weekend away. (Yes. That is Super Bowl Weekend, but you will make it back in time for the game should it be on your "To Do" list for

the weekend.) We'll head to Wolf Mountain (around Auburn) Friday night and return Sunday afternoon. These weekends always proved to be a sweet time of fellowship and encouragement in the Lord. Our special guest speaker will be Pastor David Hegg. David is the pastor/teacher for Corona Evangelical Free Church in Corona, CA.. He also serves as a faculty member at The Master's College. His theme for the retreat will be "Your Life, God's Workmanship". Sign-ups for the retreat will begin January 8.

Citizens' Corner

"For you created my inmost being; You knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise You because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, Your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in Your book before one of them came to be.."

Psalm 139:13,15-16

On January 22, 1973, the United States Supreme Court ruled that "State criminal abortion laws, like those involved (in Roe v. Wade), that except from criminality only a life-saving procedure on the mother's behalf without regard to the stage of her pregnancy and other interests involved violate the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment, which protects against state action the right to privacy, including a woman's qualified right to terminate her pregnancy." This 7-2 decision by the Supreme Court legalized abortion nationally. Soon, thereafter Sanctity of Life Day (now known as Sanctity of Human Life Week) would mark the anniversary of this decision.

On January 21st, you can show your support for Life by participating in the second annual WalkforLife • West Coast. For more information go to www.WalkforLifeWC.com.

(The following article is written by Eric Rauch, Dir. Of Communications, for American Vision Christian Ministry)

BEHIND THE WARDROBE

If you are one of the half a jillion people preparing to see the first episode of the Chronicles of Narnia this weekend, here is yet another article to add to the hype and hysteria. By most reports from the pre-screeners, "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" is receiving high marks for quality, familyfriendliness, and authenticity. As with most movies based on best-selling books, the purists have been grumbling about a few "that wasn't in the book" issues, but overall it looks to be pretty faithful to the C.S. Lewis classic. While much has been made of the biblical allegory style of the Chronicles of Narnia, very few people "see beyond the surface" of this deeply meaningful set of books. Yes, Aslan is a Christ figure and the White Witch is a Satan/Devil figure. But if you stop there, you will miss many of the other parallels that aren't quite as obvious. As you watch the movie, take notice of the details. C.S. Lewis knew he could never hope to improve upon the Gospel story, he simply wanted to retell it: "I said, 'Let us suppose that there were a land like Narnia and that the Son of God, as he became a Man in our world, became a Lion there, and then imagine what would happen.'"¹ It isn't so much that we can find a biblical reference behind every tree in Narnia, but that the real biblical story was so much a part of C.S. Lewis that it shines through in his writing. So, intentional or otherwise, let's look for some of the parallels.

The Wardrobe

The wardrobe itself is the portal to Narnia. The children did not simply imagine themselves in Narnia, they actually went there. The other children thought Lucy was losing her mind because she insisted on sticking to the "I walked through the wardrobe into a snowy, cold world and met a faun named Mr. Tumnus" story. The other children didn't believe until they got snow all over their own shoes. Similarly, we can't make anyone believe the Gospel of Christ. We can make the most rational, reasonable, evidential, emotional or heated pleas in the world and still not get someone to "see things our way." Only God can do this: "Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Rom. 10:17).

Magic

Magic in Narnia is really just the law of God. "Lewis uses magic as a synonym for laws that God has written into the universe."² We are told of deep magic and deeper magic in Narnia. Deep magic makes it possible for Aslan to die in Edmund's place and satisfy its requirements. "And now, who has won? Fool, did you think that by all this you would save the human traitor? Now I will kill you instead of him as our pact was and so the Deep Magic will be appeased."³ But Deeper Magic is something the Witch knows nothing about. Deeper magic brings Aslan back from the dead. As Aslan tells it:

Though the Witch knew the Deep Magic, there is a magic deeper still which she did not know. Her knowledge goes back only to the dawn of time. But if she could have looked a little further back, into the stillness and the darkness before Time dawned, she would have read there a different incantation. She would have known that when a willing victim who had committed no treachery was killed in a traitor's stead, the Table would crack and Death itself would start working backward.⁴ The Witch is a created being, just as Satan is. Satan can read the word of God, but he will never truly understand it. Deep Magic in Narnia is the law written on tablets of stone, but Deeper Magic is the law written on tablets of human hearts (2 Cor. 3:3). The letter of the law and the spirit of the law is what is contrasted here with the two "deep magics."

(continued on page 6)