

Grace Bible Church Connection

September 2010

Get Connected and Grow in Grace!

By Pastor Larry Rupp

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen. 2 Peter 3:18 (ESV)

As we go into September, it is time to embark on another year of ministry. While things may look a little different, the focus is still the same: Love God, love people, and serve God and people. As we love God personally and as a church, we should come together for weekly worship. As we love God and people, we need to connect in smaller groups. In these groups we are involved in discipleship and we learn to love God more fully. We also connect with others, which gives us an opportunity to build relationships and thus, love others. The outflow of this love results in us serving God and each other.

We understand that you cannot be involved in everything nor should you. What we do ask is that you be involved in the Sunday worship service, a small group setting, and serve somehow in the church. Here are some ways you can get involved in smaller groups.

Women of Grace - Women of Grace will kick-off the year on September 20th, this year they will be doing another ***Beth Moore study, Esther***. See Cheryl Rupp or Bonnie Baker for details.

Men's Ministry – We will be starting a Men's ministry this September. The time and date are yet to be determined. We will meet one morning a week for one hour before the workday begins. We will read and discuss a relevant book focused on men's spiritual development and share a time of prayer. Stay tuned for more details.

Small groups – There are also some small groups forming. Dave Ashby will be reforming his afternoon small group bible study. The day and date will be forthcoming soon. If you are interested in a small group please see a pastor or sign-up on the sign-up table.

Sunday Adult Bible Study – At 9:00am Sunday morning we will be studying ***The Life of David***. Please consider coming to church one hour earlier on Sunday morning to be a part of this study. We share prayer concerns and have a great time interacting with God's word.

We have sign-up sheets for both ministry and service opportunities available at the sign-up table on the platform.



Get connected and Grow in Grace!

Phew...what a busy summer! I don't know about you, but it seems as if these past few months have just flown by. We're right on the verge of heading into Fall and that means that we will soon be returning to our familiar rhythms and routines after a fun-filled and exciting summer. But let me encourage you to keep doing one thing in all of the busy-ness of returning to school, coming back from vacations, etc.: keep reading. That's right. Stay in the Word. If you don't have time for any other reading, keep your time in the Bible as a priority and don't let anything claw it away from you. If you have a bit of additional time, seek out some sort of book that is helpful to your walk with God (if you have questions about what to pick up, see me and I'll help guide you towards something that I've found to be helpful in the past). You won't regret it and it'll keep you focused upon the One who is worth our time and efforts even in the midst of busy schedules.

A book that I started recently was wonderfully helpful for me - it is called "*The Work of the Pastor*" by a (now deceased) Scottish pastor named William Still. In it, Still makes the argument that the pastor's job is to shepherd the sheep. When you think of a shepherd, what images come to mind? For me, a shepherd is one who guides his flock to a place where they can eat. He also protects the flock and rejoices right alongside them when something great happens. He grieves alongside them when tough times come. All of these are the metaphors that the Bible often uses for pastors as under-shepherd servants.

Such thoughts are very similar to Still's definition in that he focuses upon the first of those thoughts: what does it look like to feed the flock? He argues, and I agree, that it means a steady, balanced diet of the Word of God. All too often I know that I get caught up in all of the other things of the world: life moves quickly and unexpectedly at times and yet again and again I must be constantly reminded that my highest priority is to serve the God that I love. Right under that should be to love and serve my family (spouse and children) and only after these would come work, hobbies, etc. Oh how often the order gets changed in our busy lives! We need to refocus and the Word of God does just that.

This Fall, make a point of getting into the Scriptures. If you don't know where to start, perhaps make it a goal to read through the New Testament this upcoming year. Or, if you not quite ready to tackle that, then why not start with the Old Testament. Genesis offers a great deal of insight into who God is and who we are which I've found it to be a very helpful way to recalibrate my life towards what God desires. For my part, I'll be delving into Hebrews in my personal time this Fall - it's a book that has often encouraged me while still yet confusing and challenging me too. That's the beauty of the Word of God - there's always more to unpack, more to learn, and more to understand.

Your Sunday school leaders, elders, and pastors will be doing all they can to give you a steady diet of the Word of God this Fall, just don't forget that you're allowed to make meals on your own as well!

-Pastor Kevin



Men's Ministry

Men aren't always thought of as spiritual leaders and humble servants in our world. Why not? How can we learn to serve as Jesus served? What would it take for us to learn from the Scriptures what it takes to be a man who seeks after God?

Grace Bible Church will be starting a men's ministry this coming September. Our goal is for men's ministry to be a challenging and exciting time of spiritual growth and training for the purpose of being better able to embody what it looks like to be a Christian man in today's world.

More details will be forthcoming, but in the meantime, please let us know of your interest by signing up at the information table or letting Larry know your contact information.

Women's Ministry

THIS FALL, THE WOMEN OF GRACE WILL BE GOING THROUGH THE BETH MOORE SERIES ON THE BOOK OF ESTHER "IT'S TOUGH BEING A WOMAN."



When: First meeting will be held on September 20, 2010

Monday nights @ 7pm

Where: Grace Bible Church

Questions? Want more information? Ready to sign up?

Cheryl Rupp 515-232-2821

Bonnie Baker 515-233-2727

(Workbooks are available at Ames Christian Supply)

**CHANGING LIVES
THROUGH JESUS CHRIST**

Grace Bible Church
308 Mathews Drive
P.O., Box 189
Gilbert, IA 50105

Staff

Larry Rupp - Lead Pastor

Kevin Miller - Pastor of Discipleship & Community

Phone: 515-232-1126

Parsonage: 515-232-2821

E-mail: gilbertefc@msn.com

Website: gracebible50105.org

Engagement

Amanda Jennings - Worship Director

Service Times:

Sunday Morning Prayer: 8:30am

Sunday School : 9:00 a.m.

Worship Service: 10:30 a.m.

*CONNECTING TO THE GILBERT AREA
WITH THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST*



***Wanting to join a small group this Fall?
Have an interest in studying a particular
topic or getting together over a specific
theme? Check out the clipboard on the
sign-up table. We are looking to put to-
gether affinity groups for those who have
similar interests and want to study in a
small group format.***

Elders

Deacons

Cal Dunshee 233-1397

Tom Lorntson 232-2371

Lynn Eubank 232-8406

Ed Cannon 388-4868

Wade Miller 232-9162

New Sermon Series Coming September

12th: 1 & 2 Thessalonians

Ministering to the Lord, His Church, and One Another

<u>Date</u>	<u>Nursery</u>	<u>Ushers/Greeters</u>	<u>Treats/Cleaning</u>	
09-05-10	Heather & Lindsay	Dave R. & Kirk	Edith	K & M Miller
09-12-10	Michelle & Carol	Wade & Annette	Knutson's	Eubank's
09-19-10	Anita & Susan	Marvin & Dick	- ? -	Rupp's
09-26-10	Edith & Cindy	Ed & Cal	- ? -	Joan & Baker's

Reminder: Please clean up and do dishes after treats.

If you are unable to serve your date, please find a replacement to switch with or a substitute.

Thanks for serving - we appreciate you!