

## EMAIL UPDATE

From: Pastor Scott Distler  
Date: 07/03/08

### 3<sup>RD</sup> SERVICE FEEDBACK

This week I sent out a letter and e-mail update detailing all of our plans to add a third Sunday morning service beginning in October along with many other plans for October. I appreciated this note which I received in return...*“Sounds FANTASTIC and we're EXCITED to be part of it all. Great way to keep us praying. Thanks for the opportunities!”*

### OFFICE CLOSED FRIDAY

Due to the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday, the church office will be closed on Friday. As a result, I will be taking my day off on Thursday this week.

### WORLD WAR II

In preparation for our Patriotic Celebration, my blog for Thursday will be entitled “*A World War II Vet Remembers.*” On Friday my blog will be entitled, “*A Tale of Two World War II Vets.*” You can access my blog at [www.folklisten.blogspot.com](http://www.folklisten.blogspot.com) or through [www.lgbc.org](http://www.lgbc.org).

### NEWS ABOUT THIS SUNDAY

This Sunday is our **Patriotic Celebration!** All the details are below. Don't miss this opportunity to invite everyone you know to this special celebration of our country and those heroes who protect its freedom and keep us safe each and every day!

- *The event will be held here at the church rain or shine and every part of it is FREE!*
- *TIME CHANGE! Our two Patriotic Celebrations will be held at 9:30 and 11:00!*
- *There will be nursery and our children's programs during both services!*
- *There will be no Youth Classes or Adult Bible Fellowship Classes!*
- *We will be giving special honor and a gift to all WWII Veterans in attendance!*
- *I will be preaching using the Bible my Grandpa used during WWII!*
- *Dress in casual summer attire!*
- *A free lunch will be served out of army mess tents following both services!*
- *Activities for kids of all ages including bouncies, a dunk tank and face painting will take place after both services!*

### AUDITORIUM/GYM RENOVATIONS

Our present auditorium in which we meet for worship on Sundays is also a vastly used multi-purpose building. I doubt there is a building used more diversely anywhere and it is badly in need of a facelift and strategic renovations to help our overall ministries. **Rick Bernhardt**, our Senior Administrator of **Morningstar Daycare and Lititz Christian School**, has spear-headed a renovation plan that I am very excited about. Our Educational Ministries also has a donor who is passionate about our over all ministry here at Grace Church and who is donating all the costs of this project. Praise the Lord! We are very thankful for this.

Over the months of July and August we will see a brand new floor put in which will be ideal for sporting events but still be very versatile allowing us to set up chairs for our Sunday worship services and other events. The inside walls will all be painted and basketball goals will be mounted on the walls which will fold up against the walls for non-athletic events. Bleachers will also be installed. However, the basketball goals and bleachers will all be hidden by strategically created multi-media curtains so as not to be seen for Sunday services and other events. These changes will not only bring athletic and aesthetic value to the building but will also greatly help the acoustics of the room as well. They will not only make our building more effective for our athletic programs, but also enhance our worship as well.

This project is scheduled to begin **July 7** and will take a few weeks to complete. The carpet will be removed the week of July 7 and the painting done. This means that we will be worshipping “**under construction**” in the auditorium on **July 13**. The new floor will be installed beginning the week of **July 14**. As a result, we will not be able to use the auditorium on Sunday, **July 20**, so we will be holding our worship services that morning in a large tent out on the soccer field (*nursery, kids program, youth and ABF classes will take place as usual inside the building*). Beginning **August 4**, the final phases of putting up the basketball standards, bleachers and curtains will be completed.

## **MORE NEWS FROM AFRICA**

Our ministry to hundreds of orphans in the Central African Republic through out *Birthday Gift for Jesus* giving last December is reaping huge benefits. Below is an exciting e-mail from Grace Brethren missionary, **Barb Wooler**, who will be here at Grace on **July 27**:

*“Thanks so much for the blessing you, the Missions team, Pastor Scott and the Lititz family has been to us as we have walked through our first year of full-service ministry to our orphans. We have walked through a lot of ‘first-time’ events ~ completing the center, dedicating it, purchasing one van and a second one to come, feeding kids daily, opening church-based schools (well, this has been our second full year at that) ~ I think it would have been scarier (humanly speaking) and certainly a lot leaner ~ without the Lititz family’s partnership. God has provided you all for such a time as this. What a difference you’ve made for 525 sponsored orphans at our center (Orphan center dedication ceremony and this van that will help transport them there next school year) and about 150 orphans in your HnH schools at La Doumie, Cattin and Sembegan GBC (Bossangoa). And though you are not in this to bless a missionary, I don’t know how to express how grateful I am that I didn’t have to wade into these waters without your help. Thank you, thank you!”*

## GRACE REACHES THE INNER CITY

Last weekend a group of men from Grace Church went down to help a needy family in inner city Philadelphia. Below is a report I received from [David Rice](#):

*“Wow, what an exciting day this past Saturday was. At 7am, men from LGBC met at Wal-Mart in Ephrata and then headed to Urban Philly to provide some needed home repairs to a family’s home. After arriving in Philly we stopped at the Urban Hope Training Center. After introducing the men to Jason Holt, Director at UHTC, we had prayer then proceeded to our work area. We shut down the narrow one way street for a few minutes in front of the house until we had the tools and materials unloaded from the two pickup trucks. It does not take long until you hear and see people of many different races, cultures and ethnic backgrounds all living close together in a very congested area. Through our efforts the banister and railing on the 2nd floor hallway was replaced and looked great when it was completed. Other items repaired were stairway railing post, threshold at rear door, electrical switches and clogged sink spigot. The men we were able to get a lot done in one day, and were able to encourage this family on their Christian walk.”*

## SUMMER COMMUNION

Mark your calendars! The next communion service will be Sunday, [August 3](#) at 6p.m. This will be a student-led communion and will feature the three-fold service “Momentum style”. It will be held outdoors behind the auditorium, so bring your lawn chairs! (Rain location is the auditorium). Teens will lead the entire evening, including worship by the youth worship band and testimonies of what God did at Momentum and on Operation Barnabas. Don’t miss it!

## IMPROVE YOUR LEADERSHIP SKILLS

Each summer we take many of our Staff and Elders to the Leadership Summit put on by Bill Hybels and the Willow Creek Association held via satellite at LCBC right here in our own backyard. This is absolutely the best conference on leadership you will ever attend. If you are a leader in any walk of life, you would greatly benefit by attending this 2-day conference. This summer the conference will be held on Thursday and Friday, [August 7-8](#). We would love to see a large group from Grace Church sharpen their leadership abilities in their homes, where they work and in our church by being part of the Leadership Summit. If you were to attend this conference live in Chicago by the time you paid your registration fee, travel, food and lodging you would spend over \$1,500.00. If you register through our church to this live simulcast at LCBC, your cost is only \$145.00 plus your lunch for those two days. To register, contact [Sheri Sell](#) at the church office (626-2155 or [slsell@lgbc.org](mailto:slsell@lgbc.org)).

## SIGN UP FOR CORE CLASSES

Once a month, we offer Core Classes on a Sunday afternoon which is the best way for people to get better connected to Grace Church. Our next Core Class Sunday will be on **August 10**. On that day we will be offering **Class 101** for those who are somewhat new to Grace Church and **Class 301** for those who are working through these classes. Free lunch and child-care are also provided. To register or for more information call or e-mail **Crissy Reedy** today (626-2155 or [CMReedy@lgbc.org](mailto:CMReedy@lgbc.org).)

**OPERATION BARNABAS** (written by **Janelle Brooks**, one of our teens ministering this summer on Operation Barnabas)

*“I would like to start off by saying how much I appreciate your prayers and support for all of us on OB. Without your contributions and support, I possibly wouldn’t be here today. God has worked so amazingly in the past 2 weeks. I could go on all day about how great our Lord is but instead I’ll give you some highlights. This past Wednesday we went down to skid row and the Lord worked through so many lost souls. Thankfully, all went well with that and everyone was safe. Yesterday my team started our 15 hour trip to New Mexico and after a few accidents, the bus is still running and everyone is uninjured. The Lord is awesome and I see Him working through every situation. I ask that you pray for our trip to Colorado, Iowa, and Indiana. Pray that we will have safe travels and that we will have a heart for the lost. Thank you so much for everything.”*

*Have a great weekend!*  
*Scott*