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Elder Board Report
Semi Annual Report
July 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019

To say the least, July 1 to December 31 has been a very event filled half year. Never in my wildest dreams did we anticipate the last six month's events. I was asked to come back on the Elder Board after being off for several years. After talking it over with Linda and praying if this is what God wanted, I accepted the invitation. The Elder Board at that time consisted of six fine men. Three of these have turned in their resignation leaving us with the current three Elders.

The Elder Board meets the 1st & 3rd Tuesday mornings of the month. We follow a Master Agenda and make adjustments as needed. We start out each meeting with prayer, follow the agenda, and end our meeting praying over members and regular attenders of our congregation. There are eight lists in alphabetical order. We typically assign each Elder with those we are to contact asking what we might pray for. We do add those not on that week's list that have special health or spiritual needs. It is a joy to pray for our people. If you have a special need please let us know and we will cover your need in prayer.

As you are all aware, in September the Elder Board ask Pastor Rob for his resignation. It was an action that needed to happen. Unfortunately, when Rob left several other families left with him. We were all saddened at this but feel strongly that the Lord has been working this all out for our good and the good of His church. We have no malice against Rob or his followers but strongly feel we can now concentrate on the needs of this body of believers and moving to where God wants us to be working, trusting God as we move forward with HIS blessings. We thank God for every one of you who stayed and supports this ministry.

The Elder Board has also been working on updating our Statement of Faith and Position Paper documents. We obtained Grace Seminary's newly updated Statement of Faith and have updated ours to reflect their more detailed statement. You will be voting to accept the updated Statement of Faith at the Semi-Annual Meeting.

The Elder Board strongly believes that Pastor Kyle is qualified to be our Lead Pastor. We have had very strong support from many of you regarding Pastor Kyle. He will have the opportunity to candidate from mid-January up till the Semi-Annual Meeting. You will have the opportunity to vote to extend a Call to Pastor Kyle at the Semi-Annual Meeting.

We currently have thee Elders and are considering adding at least one more for you to consider at the Annual Meeting in July. Please be in prayer about this.

The Elder Board is totally committed to an evangelical thrust into the future. We challenge you all to consider your part in the Great Commission as we trust God for those who will come to a full knowledge of our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ, find this church as their home, trust God for to follow God's desire to see them baptized and become members of our church. Let's pray

fervently to see this happen. As Jesus challenged his Disciples in Matthew 28:18-20 "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nation, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age."

Let us, as a part of the body of Christ take Jesus' challenge very seriously by going out and making disciples, see them baptized and becoming true servants of Christ and productive members of Grace Fellowship Church.

May God bless us as a body in the days ahead.

In HIS service,

The Elder Board

Statistical Report
Semi Annual Report
July 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019

- There were no new members during this reporting period
- Total Members are 91
 - 2 Deceased since last reporting are:
 - Wanda Holm (8/19)
 - Bob Owens (8/19)
 - Members that were dropped since last reporting are:
 - Rob and Karen Borkowitz
 - Savannah Borkowitz
 - Tracy Keller
 - Nik and Heather Mullinex
 - Russ and Joyce Pierpont
 - Fred Saunhegrow
 - Christina Sletten
 - Matt and Amber Young
- There were no Baptisms during this reporting period

Respectfully submitted,
Jean Camarata
Office Manager

Annual Meeting Minutes from July 28, 2019

Brad Morris opened the meeting reading (*Psalms 5:3 "O LORD, in the morning you hear my voice; in the morning I prepare a sacrifice for you and watch."*) and prayed for the meeting.

47 members were in attendance.

He asked for the minutes of the semi-annual meeting to be approved. Judy Banes made the motion, Russ Piermont seconded, motion carried.

Annual reports had been turned in and available for the last two weeks for people to be reviewed. The audit report was done after the annual reports were printed and it stated that the books were in order. There was no report from the local mission's team after many attempts but Linda Morgan did report on the van ministry after the reports had been printed. Rubin Troupe made the motion for the annual reports to approved, Tracy Keller seconded, and the motion was carried.

Jim Murray reported on what the business team had done during the past year for repairs and upkeep of the parsonage, church building and parking lot. The breakdown of the finances for year was:

Cash in the bank totals: \$69,469.

Loan balance: \$185,883.

1. Checking: \$22,063.
2. Savings: \$22,636.
3. Scholarship: \$24,770.

We had a loss for the year of \$34,575. That means that our actual income did not meet our actual spending by that amount.

Questions that were asked were:

Why doesn't the church apply for sales tax exemption? Answer, the state of Iowa does not allow for church to be exempt.

Why are there cement barriers in the parking lot? Answer, to prevent the semi-trucks from parking in the lot and damaging the parking lot.

Is there going to be a workday to clean up around the church? The outside of the church is looking pretty bad. Answer, Tim Staley was doing that, and no one has taken over since Tim is with the Lord now. A workday is being looked into, but nothing is on the calendar to date.

Brad answered the question between budget and actual.

A budget is what we are expecting to spend for the upcoming year. What we anticipate spending in the future.

Actual is what we did spend during the year. Looking back on what was actually spent.

Non-budgeted items are expenses that comes up that we had not anticipated.

Budget for July 2019-2020

Total budget is: \$319,050. (12% cut from last year)

To meet this budget, we will need \$26,588 monthly or \$6,136. weekly. If all members would increase their giving by \$10 per week, we would meet the budget for this upcoming year. We must do our part to financial support our church and the ministries. We will review our financial status in six months to examine our finances. If it hasn't changed, we will have major decisions regarding our church finances. If our budget is approved, you are stating that each of us are willingly to do our part.

Elders

Matt Young and Don McGriff are taking a leave of absence from the elder board. We want to thank them for their willingness to be on the board and serving in this capacity.

New elders that you will vote on today are Jim Grady (2-year term), Carl Meyers (3-year term) and Scott Blakesley (3year term).

Elected people are positions that have been appointed and asked to serve in several positions of the church.

A question was asked if the vote of confidence included the pastors. Answer was yes.

The ballots were handed out for voting. All were approved.

Recipients of the scholarship funds:

- Grace scholarship-Noah Blakesley \$1000/year
- Merit scholarship-Noah Blakesley \$1250/year and Blake Hottle \$1250/year

The air conditioner that runs the youth room needs repaired or replaced. It is a 3-ton unit and to fix it cost \$800 to 900. To replace the unit would be \$5700 plus 400 for the crane. To replace the unit to a 2-ton unit would be about \$500 cheaper. Dick Jensen looked at it and he recommends replacing it with a 3-ton unit. This bid is from Young Plumbing and Heating. The question was asked if we had received any other bids. Answer is no that Young's have always treated us well and the unit had just gone out this last week.

Any repairs over \$5,000 need to have a vote from the congregation. Terry Kuntz made the motion to repair the air conditioner. Autumn Borkowitz seconded. Motion carried.

The meeting was closed with two uplifting announcements.

1. The matching funds had been met so we were able to reduce our principal balance by \$160,548.

2. A check was received today for \$185,000 to loan the church. This is a huge savings of interest for the church so that our ministries here at Grace Fellowship will continue.

Meeting was adjourned.

Reporting,

Jeanette Grady

GRACE FELLOWSHIP RECAPS JULY 1, 2019 - DECEMBER 31, 2019

Weekly	Goal	Other General Funds	Total General Funds	Designated Offerings	Total Offering	YTD Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Dif FmBudget	\$	YTD Dif % FmBudget
July		\$32,562.12	\$32,562.12	\$18,659.00	\$51,221.12	\$24,542.31	\$32,562.12	\$8,019.81		32.68%
August		\$20,947.10	\$20,947.10	\$1,843.59	\$22,790.69	\$49,084.62	\$53,509.22	\$4,424.60		9.01%
September		\$23,685.78	\$23,685.78	\$877.00	\$24,562.78	\$79,762.50	\$77,195.00	-\$2,567.50		-3.22%
October		\$19,997.79	\$19,997.79	\$2,140.00	\$22,137.79	\$104,304.81	\$97,192.79	-\$7,112.02		-6.82%
November		\$21,979.00	\$21,979.00	\$1,429.00	\$23,408.00	\$128,847.12	\$119,171.79	-\$9,675.33		-7.51%
December		\$33,553.48	\$33,553.48	\$1,664.00	\$35,217.48	\$159,525.00	\$152,725.27	-\$6,799.73		-4.26%

Treasurer's Report

Semi Annual Report

July 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019

*Cast your cares on the Lord and he will sustain you;
He will never let the righteous fall. Psalm 55:22*

General Financial Condition:

Grace Fellowship Church is in good financial condition as of December 31, 2019, one halfway through our fiscal year. All bills have been paid on a timely basis. The monthly payments on our mortgage have been made. Contributions for additional principal payments have been received and applied to the mortgage. (See below) After investing \$6,000.00 in a new air conditioner in the youth area, the church still showed a positive cash flow of over \$2,000.00 for the first six months of the year. Recognizing the financial effect of the staff changes for the last six months of the fiscal year, the budget has been amended. At this time, the only known, large expenditure ahead of the congregation is the repair/renovation of the Minnesota parking lot. Our church has been blessed by a faithful, attentive God and a generous, loving, church family.

Available Cash Funds:

Money held in one checking and three savings accounts:		\$90,126.35
Less: Money earmarked for special purposes		
Accounts payable, to be paid in January	-\$13,385.94	
Money contributed as memorial funds	-\$11,347.44	
Money contributed for youth activities	-\$ 4,495.69	
Money contributed for mission projects e.g. Go Team	-\$ 4,671.56	
Money contributed for scholarship fund	-\$23,071.34	
Money contributed for parking lot and other special uses	<u>-\$ 8,139.20</u>	
Total reserved money	-\$65,111.17	<u>-\$65,111.17</u>
Non-reserved funds available		\$25,015.18

Mortgage Information:

Balance as of July 1, 2019

		\$185,000.00
Principal paid in six, monthly installments	\$ 11,846.62	
Contributions as additional principal payments	\$ 3,883.00	<u>-\$ 15,729.62</u>
Mortgage balance as of January 1, 2020		\$169,270.38

Budget Information:

Budgeted expenses Jan 1 thru Jun 30, 2020	\$122,868.00
Weekly need to cover budgeted expenses	\$ 4,725.00
(Weekly need when starting this fiscal year was \$6,136.00)	

Respectfully submitted,
Russ Davis, Treasurer

**GRACE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH
TREASURER'S SUMMARY
12/31/2019**

	12/31/2019 (CURRENT MONTH)	12/31/2018 (PREVIOUS YEAR)	CHANGE ONE YEAR
CASH POSITION			
Checking	\$34,273.42	\$77,424.10	(\$43,150.68)
Community Savings	\$9,851.66	\$0.00	\$9,851.66
GB Investment Fund	\$22,865.81	\$22,413.40	\$452.41
GB Scholarship Fund	\$23,135.46	\$25,151.28	(\$2,015.82)
TOTAL LIQUID FUNDS	\$90,126.35	\$124,988.78	(\$34,862.43)
TOTAL RESERVES, FLOW-THROUGH AND LIABILITY ACCTS			
	(\$65,111.17)	(\$98,832.35)	
NON-RESERVED FUNDS	\$25,015.18	\$26,156.43	(\$1,141.25)
PROFIT AND LOSS YEAR TO DATE			
	CURRENT YEAR TO DATE	PREVIOUS YEAR TO DATE	
Total Income	\$156,863.62	\$156,513.44	
Total Expenses & Pymts	(\$154,710.18)	(\$179,953.68)	
INCOME/(LOSS)	\$2,153.44	(\$23,440.24)	

GRACE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH
Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual
July through December 2019

	Jul - Dec 19	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
40000 · CONTRIBUTIONS	152,346.27	166,226.00	(13,879.73)	91.7%
Total Income	152,346.27	166,226.00	(13,879.73)	91.7%
Gross Profit	152,346.27	166,226.00	(13,879.73)	91.7%
Expense				
29960 · Payroll Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
4000 · Reconciliation Discrepancies	(2.07)			
6999 · Uncategorized Expenses	6.41	0.00	6.41	100.0%
72000 · BUSINESS COMMISSION	117,005.48	119,609.00	(2,603.52)	97.8%
92899 · CARE MINISTRY	581.97	1,407.00	(825.03)	41.4%
93311 · CHILDREN'S MINISTRY	2,315.57	2,583.00	(267.43)	89.6%
93600 · YOUTH MINISTRY	1,399.23	2,904.00	(1,504.77)	48.2%
94000 · COMMUNICATIONS MINISTRY	38.30	378.00	(339.70)	10.1%
94500 · MISSIONS - GLOBAL	22,685.00	22,686.00	(1.00)	100.0%
94840 · MISSIONS - LOCAL	3,003.67	3,756.00	(752.33)	80.0%
95000 · WORSHIP MINISTRY	1,061.00	1,230.00	(169.00)	86.3%
95700 · DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY	615.62	1,005.00	(389.38)	61.3%
Total Expense	148,710.18	155,558.00	(6,847.82)	95.6%
Net Ordinary Income	3,636.09	10,668.00	(7,031.91)	34.1%
Other Income/Expense				
Other Income				
40110 · PARSONAGE	2,700.00	2,700.00	0.00	100.0%
40200 · MISCELLANEOUS	1,547.00	0.00	1,547.00	100.0%
41800 · INTEREST INVESTMENTS	270.35	0.00	270.35	100.0%
Total Other Income	4,517.35	2,700.00	1,817.35	167.3%
Other Expense				
96510 · NON-BUDGET APPROVED EXPENS...	6,000.00	0.00	6,000.00	100.0%
96540 · MISC NON-BUDGET EXPENSES	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
Total Other Expense	6,000.00	0.00	6,000.00	100.0%
Net Other Income	(1,482.65)	2,700.00	(4,182.65)	(54.9)%
Net Income	2,153.44	13,368.00	(11,214.56)	16.1%

GRACE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

Balance Sheet

As of December 31, 2019

	Dec 31, 19
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
11050 · COMMUNITY NATIONAL	34,273.42
11200 · GBIF 113733-02	22,865.81
11210 · COMMUNITY SAVINGS	9,851.66
11300 · GBIF-SCHOLARSHIP 113733-21	23,135.46
Total Checking/Savings	90,126.35
Total Current Assets	90,126.35
Fixed Assets	
15100 · Office Equipment	109.12
15300 · BUILDING IMPROVMENTS	786,327.43
Total Fixed Assets	786,436.55
TOTAL ASSETS	876,562.90
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	
89000 · Accounts Payable	10,288.31
Total Accounts Payable	10,288.31
Other Current Liabilities	
23000 · PAYROLL	3,197.63
27000 · FLOWTHROUGH	28,553.89
27350 · GRACE MERIT SCHOLARSHIP	23,071.34
Total Other Current Liabilities	54,822.86
Total Current Liabilities	65,111.17
Long Term Liabilities	
26000 · NOTE PAYABLE BUILDING LOAN	173,153.38
Total Long Term Liabilities	173,153.38
Total Liabilities	238,264.55
Equity	
30010 · Retained Earnings	500,455.32
39004 · CONGREGATIONAL BUILDING INVEST	135,689.59
Net Income	2,153.44
Total Equity	638,298.35
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	876,562.90

Business Team Report
Semi Annual Report
July 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019

Finances: Grace Fellowship Church remains in solid financial condition. See treasurer's report for assets, liabilities and the renovation loan balance.

Youth room air conditioner - it was determined that the unit needed to be replaced. This was done this fall at a cost of \$6,000. There was some duct and sealant work that was required at a cost of \$600.00. Young's Plumbing & Heating installed the unit. Thanks to Dick Jensen for overseeing this project.

Terms of Building Use - after a request was made to use the building on a regular basis, the Business Team determined that the building use policy needed to be revamped. The policy now addresses items such as security, supplies, snow removal, and others as a condition to use the building.

Inside window coverings - new window blinds and curtains were installed in rooms along the south side of the building. This puts the finishing touches on the window replacement project, and they look very nice. Thanks to Russ Davis for completing this work.

Youth trailer - it was determined that the trailer had not been used for quite some time and was no longer needed. It was sold for \$750.00. Thanks to Dan Rousselow for taking care of this....and if you know of someone looking for old church sign letters, we'd part with those too!

The Business Team strives to keep the church in good condition and handles many maintenance items ourselves.

Business Team members for 2019 - 2020 are Judy Baines, Brad Morris, Andrea Hottle, Dale Jeffries, Dick Jensen, Dan Rousselow, Jean Davis, Jerry Langham, Russ Davis, Larry Mullins, Jeff Kronschnabel, Rick Johnson, and Jim Murray.

Respectfully submitted,
In Him,

Jim Murray

Care Team Report
Semi Annual Report
July 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019

Greetings from the members of the GFC Care Team. The first part of the year has historically been a busy time for the Care Team, and this year is no exception. We have seen some changes this year, but we know God's timing is perfect.

The catastrophic damage at Lowell School early in the year was truly upsetting to students, parents and staff alike. Unfortunately, the damage was unrepairable for the fall school semester, and as we now know, for the year ahead as well. The Lowell administration did a tremendous job. Representatives of the Care Team met with the principal, and we all agreed it would be wise to suspend the Lowell Neighborhood Dinner Ministry, **after 20 years of doing it!** The staff had enough on their 'to do' list that it was thought to be the wisest course of action. Now we see that yet another year will go by without the school building, so we will evaluate and determine what our plans are moving forward.

The Care Team assisted with two Bread and Cup services during the first half of the year, helping to administer the elements on August 11, and October 13 of 2019. In addition, we helped to provide a 3 Fold Communion Service on Sunday afternoon, November 17. This was unique because we were able to honor the Neighborhood Thanksgiving Dinner. We were treated to a Love Feast of Thanksgiving style food and fixings. Thanks to all who helped, and who attended this important service!

We also saw some administration changes in the Hospitality Ministry. We changed the format of our Usher, Greeter and Coffee Hostess teams. The Care Team has assigned internal members to be responsible for each of the three areas of our Hospitality Ministry. As we 'work out the kinks' of this change, please be patient. It will work.

Diane has the responsibility of the greeter teams, Jim has the guidance of the coffee host/hostess (Thanks for joining Dean!) and Scott is giving some direction to the ushers. These are the 'go to' directors for each of the ministries. But we need help!

We had 2 days of instruction on September 22 and September 29 on the role of ushers. All of our men and women were able to attend one of the sessions. They were excited to move forward and fulfill the ministry opportunity. Thanks to you all!

If you want to serve in a meaningful way here, and have time, please see Diane, Jim, or Scott to get on a team! Many hands make light work, and we can give you some assignments and instructions.

Thanks to you, church body, and to you, Care Team, for your work!

Carl and Linda, Jim and Jeanette, Don and Diane, Scott and Beth

Children's Ministry Report
Semi Annual Report
July 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019

VBS – Held August 5th-9th in the mornings

- Had about 34 kids attend
- Theme was "Road Trip"
- Collected funds during the week for Titus Auto Garage - Ministry of Sam & Anna Danforth in South Africa
- Sunday, August 11th we held an all church lunch for the VBS kids to race their derby cars

Nursery - meet weekly year round

- The infant nursery is currently the only nursery staffed
- Volunteers serve once a month on a rotation basis: Andrea Hottle and Addison Grady, Jeff & Sheri Lesh, Elizabeth Clark, Rita Kehoe & Ivy Weber

Sunday School - meet weekly year round

- Classes are split up into two age groups right now:
 - Pre-K to K – Ron & Vivian Weimer - Lessons are taught using 1 Year of Sunday School Lessons For 3-5 year olds by Angela Powell.
 - 1st - 5th – April Schwartz - Lessons are taught using Truth78: Faithful to all His Promises: A Study for Children on the Promises of God

Children's Church - meet weekly year round

- PreK-2nd lessons are taught using curriculum from Discipleland
- Teachers teach once a month on a rotation basis and a youth helper is there each week as well: Esly Dwyer & William Jeffries, Elaine Clark & Jameson Clark, Brent & Carolyn Johnson and April Schwartz and Brooklynnie Jeffries

Written by Athena Grady

Discipleship (Adult and Youth)

Semi Annual Report

July 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019

What a wonderful time it has been since last July! The Lord has continued to work in wonderful ways in our ministry, and I'm so thankful for His grace. The Lord has allowed me to serve in many ways over this time of transition, and as I recount them briefly below, I pray your heart worships the Lord as mine does when I recount all He has done.

Worship – God worked in the heart of Scott Blakesley and Roger and Cindy Lear to take the oversight of worship ministry and this has been a wonderful blessing to me and our church! The Lord is using them greatly, and I hope you read Scott's encouraging report.

Youth Discipleship – God has allowed and prospered the discipleship of youth and adults to continue with fruitfulness since last July; we haven't skipped a beat! The youth have studied practical theological topics and are now in 1 Peter, and have continued to grow in their knowledge of defending their faith through the faithful work of Troy Renaud teaching apologetics in their Sunday School class. Troy is doing a wonderful job!

Adult discipleship was continually blessed by John Thrall who finished Hebrews at the end of 2019. Now, the Lord is granting a blessed time studying 1 Thessalonians, and the discussion and lessons have been rich to the glory of the work of the Holy Spirit. I have greatly enjoyed the study and preparation for these lessons. As I have told the class, the fact that 30+ people are gathered in a room to study the word of God together and accept what they read as the word of God is a supernatural work of the Holy Spirit! Praise the Lord!

With Joy in Christ,

Pastor Kyle

Global Missions Report
Semi Annual Report
July 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019

In November we joined Encompass in “Persecuted: A Global Prayer Event” where thousands of churches around the globe will joined together to pray for those in our movement facing such atrocities. We also shared a short video about it. We also shared a video update from the B. family on their ministry.

In December we once again supported the Gideons International and their Bibles for Jesus program. We also sent small financial Christmas gifts to each of our missionaries.

Team Members: Athena Grady, Don McGriff, Diane McGriff, Jim Grady, April Schwartz and Deb Johnson

Local Missions Report
Semi Annual Report
July 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019

- A. Joyce Helfer continues to do her duties with many different ministries. (see separate report under Partners In Education)
 - 1. Pen Pal Journals
 - 2. Christmas for Pen Pals
 - 3. Adopt A Family
 - 4. Teachers' Luncheon – Lowell School
- B. Van Ministry
 - 1. Changed their name to "Grace in Motion"
 - 2. We've cooked many meals during the year encouraging different groups and new visitors to have a time to get to know each other in a smaller setting. Great time to invite a friend to church with a free lunch.
 - 3. We provide rides back and forth to church and activities, doctor visits, hospital and home visits and phone calls.
 - 4. We encourage ladies to share their different gifts in crafts. It's a great time of learning something new such as wood burning, making greeting cards, hats on a loom, crocheting, rock and button art and sign language. We have a great time having lunch together afterwards.
- C. We have a group that goes out to eat Sunday after church. Anyone is welcome.
- D. We intend to do a lot more things with local missions in reaching out to the local neighborhood with more personal contact.
- E. We are looking at "Church Service" on the grounds providing food, games, sermon, and music to make Grace Fellowship more visible to the neighbors.
- F. "Picnic in the Park" is also a possibility with potluck and games.
- G. We would also like to get involved with the jail ministry.
- H. Thank you to Gina Thrall work with Love Inc. Great job!

We would like to thank the many that have stayed faithful to this ministry:

- 1. Rides to doctor appointments
- 2. Rides to church and activities
- 3. House calls, hospital and phone calls
- 4. Help in the kitchen
 - a. Setting up tables and chairs

- b. Help with cooking and cleanup
- c. Putting things away and taking tables down
- d. Decorating
- e. Monetary donations
- f. Jean's help in the office

Thanks to everyone who has helped at one time or another! Couldn't do it without you! I, Linda, also plan to take extra classes with Love Inc. to further assist me in the ministry.

Sincerely submitted,

Linda Morgan, Joyce Helfer, Gina Thrall

Men's Ministry Report
Semi Annual Report
July 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019

MEASURE OF SUCCESS

(anonymous)

*When sunset falls upon your day
And fades from out the west,
When business cares are put away
And you lie down to rest,
The measure of the day's success
Or failure may be told
In terms of human happiness
And not in terms of gold.*

*Is there beside some hearth tonight
More joy because you wrought?
Does some one face the bitter fight
With courage you have taught?
Is something added to the store
Of human happiness?
If so, the day that now is o'er
Has been a real success.*

The GFC Men's Ministry continues to be active in public ways that are easily seen and earnestly appreciated. The **Wednesday morning breakfast** at Chick-Fil-A continues to grow in number. It is a wonderful time when 8 to 12 men gather for fun, earnest talk about concerns of our church, our community and the world. Prayers for the meal, each other and the church family are offered. A devotion is shared and discussed. Often, this gathering can last 2 hours from 6:30 to 8:30 but the time flies. Men come and go as their schedules dictate. The **Monthly, Saturday morning breakfast** meets the first Saturday of the month at Crossroads Perkins. Breakfast starts at 7:00 and typically last 1.5 hours. It is a great time of food, fellowship, prayer, music and a devotion or other presentation. Both gatherings of Christian men who love Jesus and their Christian family act as a spiritual recharge, according to the faithful attendees. Bantering, confessions, tears, laughter and words of encouragement are often shared with trustworthy men. There is plenty of room for more to check out these opportunities to grow their appreciation for Christian men and what strength and encouragement comes from it.

The Men's Ministry takes seriously the responsibility to help preserve and strengthen family life of the church. An example is the **"Almost Annual Fall Family Fest"** held last October 12th at the Grady Farm. Many have expressed their love of this family gathering and many attended this past year. Grady's are wonderful hosts and provided a cozy, heated venue on a chilly night. Congregation members provided an amazing selection of wonderful foods. Dale and Jerry took the culinary prize with fantastic BBQ ribs and wings. Talents of the church family were showcased with music selections that were just great. It was a wonderful night, celebrating the church family and sharing the love of Jesus. Pastor Kyle announced that the word "Almost" will

be dropped from the title, definitely making it an “Annual” event. **Decorating the church for Christmas** continues to be another example of the Men Ministry concern for the successful, happy family life of the church.

Many acts of Christian love, concern and responsibility are carried out **privately and without fanfare** by men of the church. The poem found at the top of the page is illustrative of the activities of men in active, Christian ministry at Grace Fellowship Church. The aged and sick are visited. Calls are made. Extra funds are shared for those in need. Repairs are made for those who need help. Most of the maintenance and repairs in our church building are done by men who unselfishly step forward and share their money, time and talents for the benefit of all.

GRACE MENS MINISTRY

Partners In Education with Lowell Elementary School

Semi Annual Report

July 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019

Activities this past six months:

- Held a back-to-school lunch for the teachers and staff
- Collected school supplies for the students and teachers
- Recruited forty-eight people to be pen pals with nearly 56 second graders
- Delivered bags of small gifts to the second graders for monthly birthdays
- Adopted a family with 5 daughters for Christmas. Each girl received several presents and the family received dishes, laundry soap, and many other practical items
- Attended a meeting every month with other Partners at Lowell
- Saved Hy-Vee receipts; Box Tops for Education; Kwik Star Moola milk caps and donut circles, etc.

Many thanks go to:

- All who are willing pen pals
- Those who contributed to and helped prepare the staff lunch
- All who helped with shopping, packaging, and delivering the school supplies and the adopted family
- Everyone who prays for Lowell

The staff, students and parents were happy to learn that they will be rebuilding Lowell Elementary in the same location. The school should be open for the 2022 school year. They will stay at the temporary location until then.

Please keep the students and staff at Lowell Elementary in your prayers.

Note: There is currently no Good News Club as we were presented with obstacles we were unable to overcome with the closing of the old Lowell building. We are still hopeful that we may be able to find another location suitable before the end of this school year.

Joyce Helfer, PIE Coordinator

In Acts 1:8b Jesus tells his followers “. . . you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere – in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Lowell School is a part of our Jerusalem mission.

Women's Ministry Report
Semi Annual Report
July 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019

Our first event was again in October.
After a devotion and prayer, we began our task. There were twenty-one wonderful Christian women who made 25 blankets in just under 2 hours. The blankets were given to House of Hope for children. We ate a lunch provided by Women's Ministry then we enjoyed bingo. Everyone got a prize and there was a lot of laughter and fun.

Our 2nd event was our traditional Cookie Exchange in December.
The number of attendees was down from the previous year but the fun still was high. As always, the event started with a devotion and a prayer before we ate a meal. We sang Christmas carols and had a surprise appearance by some men of the church that sang and entertained us with their singing talent and laughter.

Our spring event is coming April 2020. We are still in the planning phase. We were able to get Abby Turpin to be a guest speaker.

Respectfully submitted

Rae Jean Jeffries.

Worship Ministry Report

Semi Annual Report
July 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019

Over the last 6 months Grace Fellowship Church has gone through a challenging period of pastoral transition. The Worship Ministry of GFC has adapted during this time to continue the mission of preparing biblical, Christ centered worship services for the glory of God and the edification of the church.

To assist in the transition, Scott Blakesley volunteered to assume the weekly responsibilities of song selection, planning the order of service, preparing the slides, leading worship team rehearsals and serving as worship leader. Roger and Cindy Lear continued to offer their vast experience and musical knowledge to help lead the worship band with excellence. At Christmas time, Roger directed our GFC Choir in an outstanding Cantata, entitled “Mary Did You Know”. We performed the cantata at Friendship Village on December 11th and at GFC on December 15th. Many commented how blessed they were by the cantata and that it was among the best they had ever heard from a church choir our size. Cindy also graciously serves as our Special Music/Offertory Coordinator, scheduling specials each week representing every age and music style within our church family. She has many ensemble pieces, i.e. Octets, Men’s Quartets, planned in the near future that we think you’re going to like.

While Pastor Kyle continues to play acoustic guitar on Sundays, these changes have afforded him more time to focus on his pastoral duties with the youth as well as serving as our interim Lead Pastor. He will still serve as worship leader on the weeks that Scott is away on military duty. We are so thankful that God brought Kyle to serve at GFC and we thank him for his outstanding and faithful leadership in the worship ministry.

The *Worship Ministry Oversight Team* has been renamed the *Worship Leadership Team* and is now comprised of Roger Lear, Cindy Lear, Drew Glenn, Kyle Dwyer, Theresa Renaud, Gabby Blakesley and Scott Blakesley (Chair). We are always looking for creative ways to ensure our services are relevant and meaningful. If you have suggestions, please let us know. We brought back our *Song of the Month* practice to continually introduce new worship songs that encourage and challenge our hearts and faithfully proclaim the truths of God’s word. The idea with this is that we sing the song each week of the month, and by the end of the month we have learned a great new song together to add to our repertoire. We also plan to re-introduce some classic favorites of the past.

Finally, we are always looking for new talent to join our team. If you love to sing, play an instrument or have a great ear for running sound, we can definitely use your help. Over the last few months, several folks have volunteered to help us make a joyful noise to the Lord. You can too. Russ Davis, Theresa Renaud and Don Penn have joined our team as vocalists, and Merrill-Lee Pick and Lucas Grady joined our band as drummers. We especially need help at this time on our Sound Team. Dick Jensen has faithfully served as our primary sound tech for over 45 years

and would like to start the process of handing off the baton. We thank Dick from the bottom of our hearts for his amazing dedication, kindness and selfless service to our Lord and our worship ministry. We also thank Kelly Parker and Drew Glenn who so skillfully serve on the Sound Team each week. Last but certainly not least, we could not keep our singing on track without our dedicated slideshow operators. Please join us in welcoming David Pick, Addison Grady and Trinity Renaud to the Video Team and thank them and Brad Morris for faithfully serving in this very important role.

For Christ's Renown,

The Worship Leadership Team

Associate Pastor Report
Semi Annual Report
July 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019

Preaching/Transitional Ministry – We give glory to the Lord for what he has done during the time of transition. Believe it or not, March 1st will be the 22nd consecutive sermon that I have been allowed to preach here at Grace and the Lord is blessing the ministry of His word. Thank you all for sharing with me how the Lord is blessing you through His word on Sunday mornings. We praise the Lord that He is deeply changing hearts and uplifting His body through the ministry of the Holy Spirit in the word of God proclaimed!

It has been a blessing to me to be able to walk with some of you through sickness and visit you in the hospital during your illness. It is my joy to pray with you while you are sick, that we may glorify the Lord together in your comfort and healing. I have had the joy of meeting with many of you one on one and I rejoice in how God is working in each and every one of your lives.

We have the blessing this semi-annual meeting to be able to vote in several new members who have diligently met with me and demonstrated their faith in Christ and desire to love and serve Him here at Grace with us! Praise God for new members who love Christ and love His Church!

It is my joy and crown to serve the Lord among you here, and I pray the Lord's continual blessing on us all as we step into a new frontier of ministry this year!

With Joy in Christ,

Pastor Kyle